Minutes of the Meeting

Those present:
Steve Colwell, Chairman   Stephen Burt
Mike Brettle, Treasurer   Ian Strangeways
Suzy Bingham, Secretary   Keri Nicoll

Item 1. Apologies
Received from David Bullock, Dick Saffell & Mark Dutton.

Item 2. Agreement of agenda
The agenda was agreed.

Item 3. Minutes of last meeting
The minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 24th March 2011 were agreed as being correct.

Item 4. Items arising
The actions were considered and almost all had been carried out or were to be dealt with under later agenda items. The two exceptions were:

ISO sub-committee on meteorology – there hasn’t been any contact with Paul Fransioili (ISO) & so there was nothing to report on the subject of whether there is any role for the SIG. In the future, if there is any clarification to report then the subject will be put back on the agenda.

Aspirated screen trials – Suzy Bingham reported that the Met Office were not considering aspirated screen trials at present. She reported that Dave Moore at the Met Office had spoken with Keri Nicoll on the subject at the summer AGM. Dave said that the Met One screen claimed to be the best in the world. He liked the feature of 2 concentric cylinders for drawing air over the sensor but not that it was made from metal. Dave suggested that if there was a requirement for the Met Office to do a trial then he’d recommend trying the Met One, Vector & others mentioned in a Japanese paper.
Steve Colwell suggested another aspirated screen he used which had 2 cylinders & was plastic. Stephen Burt & Reading University are doing separate trials with good results so far. It was stressed by committee members that the Met Office would be left behind if they did not do a trial. Also that a trial could show which screen would be most suitable for the UK & if there would be a step change in data sets should aspirated screens be introduced at sites.

(Action: Suzy Bingham to ask Met Office why there is no trial planned.)

Item 5. Treasurer’s report
Mike Brettle tabled a statement of the SIG’s accounts, showing the net assets to be £4226.23. He reported that it was a good year as it seemed to be a year that the 3-yearly subscription members paid. Mike Brettle said that the SIG had ~60 members.

Item 6. Newsletter Editor’s report
Mark Dutton was unable to attend the meeting & so sent a tabled draft copy of the Autumn 2011 Newsletter, which the committee discussed and took the following actions.

(Action: Suzy Bingham to remind Aidan Green of the Newsletter deadline (end of October) for the WOW summary. Also to provide the minutes of this committee meeting)

(Action: Steve Colwell to ask speakers at the BAS meeting to send him a summary of their talk so that he can put them together as a report. This he will then send to the committee & it will be included in the Newsletter.)

Item 7. Past meetings
About 25 attended this meeting at BAS. The meeting went very well with a good & broad range of presentations. Good links were made particularly between BADC & COL. It is hoped that BADC will lead on how to archive COL data. It was noted that there was a problem with online registration. It was remarked that the ice core tour was particularly fun & very interesting. Steve Colwell who organised the meeting was congratulated on its success.

Item 8: Future Meetings
- Meteorological measurements for dispersion methods – Manchester Metropolitan University, 28 March 2012
  Mike Bennett is organising this meeting.
  (Action: Steve Colwell to contact Mike to ask if he requires any help. If there is a list of speakers then this can go into the Newsletter, Weather insert (both required by end October) & on the SIG webpage.)

- Summer visit & AGM – TBD, Summer 2012
  At the last summer AGM Mark Dutton expressed an interest in orgainsing a visit to somewhere in the north of England. As Mark was unable to attend the committee meeting then this could not be discussed much further but it was thought to be a good idea if travel wasn’t too difficult.
Stephen Burt described the ideas he had for an Oxford summer meeting which he was jointly organising for the RMetS. A climate based programme is being planned for the 6, 7 & 8 July 2012 including a Radcliffe Observatory tour & dinner, Bodleian Library tour, History of Science Museum tour & talks. The SIG AGM could take place on the Friday afternoon with a possible SIG excursion & then for those interested this would lead into the RMetS events. Ian Strangeways was thanked for his offer to speak on uncertainties in climate science.

(Action: Stephen Burt to speak to Paul Hardaker about this & to report back to the SIG committee over email.)

- **Weather & Sport – London, Saturday meeting, October 2012**
Keri Nicoll is leading the organisation of this meeting, linked to the 2012 Olympics. It is to be a Saturday main Society meeting jointly organised with the Environmental Physics Group (EPG) with 6 speakers. Keri has 3 confirmed speakers (Jim Trice, Met Office – Sailing, Mike Molyneux, Met Office – Observations in the Olympics, David James, Sheffield Hallam – Sports Engineering).
Other possibilities are a speaker from Race Met Radar Systems (Formula 1), a sports biomechanical engineer, & a Met Office golfformula 1 forecaster. Other ideas were: shooting, gliding, cycling, paragliding, horse racing, hot air ballooning & a celebrity speaker.
The date will be 13, 20 or 27 October 2012. It was noted that some Met Office staff are under contract not to speak about their Olympic work until 2013 but Jim Trice will confirm whether this can be lifted so that he can speak at the meeting.
The preferred venue is the Olympic Park but it is uncertain whether this can be booked before the end of the Olympics. Keri has other possibilities: East London Centre (~£1000 for room hire & catering), Holiday Inn (~£1000), Old Town Hall, University of London. Ian Strangeways suggested Wimbledon as an alternative.
It was suggested that RMetS paid for the room, EPG for the catering & the SIG for the Olympic Park tour.
Keri was congratulated on her organising so far.
(Action: Steve Colwell to check with Paul Hardaker on whether the Society can pay for the room fee)
(Action: Keri Nicoll to check whether the Olympic Park will do a tour. To continue search for speakers & a venue.)
(Action: Mike Brettle to ask Alan Lapworth for suggestions of speakers from the British Gliding Club.)

- **Lightning – Location TBD, Spring 2013**
It was suggested that Vaisala may like to organise this meeting as they have a global lightning system. Possible speakers: Alec Bennett, a speaker from Bath, & Vaisala. Other areas which could be linked with this meeting: energy companies & lightning, cosmic rays, storm chasing, military short range VHF detectors, forecasting lightning & aircraft protection. Keri Nicoll volunteered to help organise this event.
(Action: Mike Brettle to contact Dave to ask whether there would be a speaker from Vaisala & whether Vaisala would like to organise the meeting.)

- **Summer visit & AGM – TBD, Summer 2013**
The RMetS national conference (& European meeting) will take place & it is proposed that the SIG AGM be arranged alongside this, similar to the Exeter RMetS national conference in 2011.

- **Advances in Precipitation Detection & Measurement – TBD, Autumn 2013**
  Stephen Burt & Mike Brettle offered to organise this meeting. Steve Colwell offered to talk on BAS trials, Ian Strangeways on snow gauge, aerodynamics, the history, & different types of precipitation. Darren Lyth was suggested as a Met Office speaker.

Other possible subjects of meetings for 2014 include “Observations of planetary atmospheres” (possibly joint with British Astronomical Association), “Next steps in Climate Monitoring” (covering the US climate reference network and SIG-initiated research). Rothamstead for a summer visit & AGM.

**Item 9. Any other business**
Ian Strangeways suggested that meetings should be recorded, perhaps by videoing & putting on the internet. Keri Nicoll & Steve Colwell strongly disagreed with this suggestion as, from a research aspect, work discussed at a meeting may not have been published or may still be under development. It was remarked that members of the audience who are particularly interested in a speaker’s work tend to contact the speaker directly.
Keri Nicoll noted that Bob Pritchard had asked if a special Weather issue could be published on Weather & Sport. Keri declined as the meeting would be after the Olympics & there would be a problem with one of the Met Office speakers if they were under contract not to publish.

**Item 10. Date of Next Meeting**
Thursday 1 March 2012, in order that the Newsletter can be sent with an advert for the Manchester meeting later that month. It was confirmed that the RMetS HQ meeting room is available then.

The meeting closed at 1500.

Suzy Bingham, Secretary
6 October 2011