Committee Meeting
held from 12.45 to 15.40 on Monday 12th April 2010
at 104 Oxford Road, Reading.

Minutes of the Meeting

Those present:
Mike Brettle, Treasurer & Acting Chairman       Andrew Overton, Newsletter Editor
John Prior, Secretary        Stephen Burt
Steve Colwell                 Mike Bennett
Ian Strangeways

Item 1. Apologies
Mark Dutton, Dick Saffel, Suzy Bingham

Item 2. Agreement of agenda
The agenda was agreed.

Item 3. Minutes of last meeting
The minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 2nd November 2009 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 one exception was:
ISO sub-committee on observations - Mike Brettle reported that there had been an exchange of emails with Paul Fransioli but there was still uncertainty about what help the ISO sub-committee were seeking from the SIG. (Action: Mike Brettle)

Item 5. Treasurer’s report
Mike Brettle tabled a statement of the SIG’s accounts, showing the net assets to be £4120.42.

Item 6. Newsletter Editor’s report
Andrew Overton reported that he had plenty of material for the Spring 2010 Newsletter, which is ready to be sent out once the minutes of this meeting are finalised.

Item 7. Committee & Officers 2010/11
Steve Colwell will take over as Chairman wef the 2010 AGM. Suzy Bingham (Met Office) has offered to join the committee, but was unfortunately unable to attend today. Andrew Overton is to step down from the committee at the 2010 AGM, and so a vacancy for a
Newsletter Editor has arisen. Options for replacing Andrew were discussed. It was suggested that Suzy Bingham should be asked if she would be willing to prepare the next 2 Newsletters, which could just contain minutes, reports and announcements of meetings (Action: Mike Brettle to ask Suzy) and that Mark Dutton should be asked if he was willing to become Editor (Action: Ian Strangeways to ask Mark). In addition, the vacancy would be advertised again in the Newsletter (Action: Andrew Overton).

It was agreed that it would be desirable to have representation from another university eg Birmingham, Leeds, Kings College London or Reading (Action: Mike Brettle to email contacts)

**Item 8: Future Meetings**

- **150th anniversary of the founding of the British Rainfall Organisation** - London, 17 April 2010, organised jointly with the History SIG. Stephen Burt summarised arrangements for this, and it was noted that Julian Mayes would be writing a summary that it might be possible to use for our Newsletter.
- **AGM and Summer Visit** - Chilterns Observatory, Whipsnade, 9 July 2010. Our booking for this has been confirmed with the Dell Farm Schools Centre. A draft programme was tabled. It was agreed that the cost of lunch and refreshments (£10 per person) would be met by the SIG and that a donation would be made for use of the Centre. A simple (email) registration would be needed to ensure that the number attending is no more than 30. The practicalities and timings need further discussion with Philip Eden before the programme is put on the RMetS web site (Action: John Prior & Stephen Burt)
- **Unmanned aerial systems** – Cardington, 23 Sept 2010
  Steve Colwell and John Prior have been liaising with Phil Anderson, BAS about this joint meeting with the COST project. The SIG may be asked to provide financial assistance for lunch etc. Further details about this and the schedule are expected following the COST meeting 19-22 April, hopefully in time for the Spring Newsletter. (Action: Steve Colwell & John Prior)
- **Measuring surface met variables from satellites.**
  Ian Strangeways reported rather slow responses from contacts. It was agreed that this meeting was potentially very interesting so should be pursued. Timing likely to be Spring or Autumn 2011 and venue possibly London, Oxford or ECMWF. Potential speakers need to be contacted, using suggestions provided by the Met Office and Oxford University (Action: Ian Strangeways to consider content and possible dates, preferably before the AGM)
- **Data transmission, presentation and archiving** – BAS, Cambridge
  A meeting covering local data display, transmission and archiving, for either Spring or Autumn 2011. Potential sources of speakers include the manufacturers, Met Office and BADC. (Action: Steve Colwell to consider content and possible dates, preferably before the AGM)
- **Joint meeting with WCSIM** – John Prior had re-established contact with Robert Seaman, WCSIM, and asked him to consider collaboration over the satellite measurements meeting with the SIG organising the meeting, if WCSIM could offer use of their London venue. A formal response is awaited. WCSIM also plan to set up and collect data from an AWS in central London, and there may be scope for SIG involvement. More news on this is awaited. (Action: John Prior to maintain contact with WCSIM)
- **Developments in lightning detection**, had been suggested for 2012. As well as technical developments, this would include a description of how lightning occurs and
data applications eg by National Grid, risk management, transport. It was felt that Met Office would be well placed to source speakers (Action: John Prior & Suzy Bingham)

- Other possible subjects - air pollution modelling and climate change/ instrument change were mentioned. It was agreed that a table of past and future possibilities would be helpful to the committee (Action: John Prior)

**Item 10. Amateur Met Symposium**
A draft programme had been circulated for the weekend of 4th / 5th September at Reading University, including presentations, small exhibition, posters etc. Stephen Burt explained that COL had made proposals and a new draft programme is expected shortly. This will need email discussion (Action: John Prior and committee)

**Item 11. Any other business**
None.

**Item 12. Date of Next Meeting**
Monday October 18th 2010 was suggested and it has been confirmed that the RMetS HQ meeting room is available then.

The meeting closed at 1540

John Prior, Secretary
27 April 2010