Minutes of the Meeting

Those present:
Suzy Bingham, Secretary  Keri Nicoll             Michael Pollock
Mark Dutton, Newsletter Editor    Ian Strangeways

Item 1. Apologies
Apologies were received from Steve Colwell, Mike Brettle, Stephen Burt & Dave Bullock. Michael Pollock from Environmental Measurements Limited attended the meeting prior to the committee evening visit to Culham Centre for Fusion Energy.

Item 2. Agreement of agenda
The agenda was agreed.

Item 3. Minutes of last meeting
The minutes of the Committee Meeting & AGM held on 19th October 2012 were agreed as being correct.

Item 4. Items arising
Actions from the previous committee meeting & AGM were considered and the following matters were discussed:

SIG on Facebook – MD showed the Facebook page he’d created for the SIG. It currently has the same information as is found on the SIG webpage. The Facebook page is to promote the SIG (particularly to students) & to be a means of discussion between members. MD has raised the question with RMS as to whether the RMS logo can be used. It was suggested that MB could send an email to members to publicise the page once MD had determined whether the logo could be used. RMS Yorkshire Centre & the Aviation Met SIG are on Facebook. A Facebook page was thought to be a better means of discussing matters than a blog site because a blog site would cost money & also because people often already had Facebook open on their computers.

Action:   MD to find out if the RMS logo can be used, to enquire whether there is an RMS webpage (& if not, any particular reason why not), to send MB details to send to members & to send to SBI for inclusion on SIG webpage.
Update of SIG membership PDF for manufacturer members to display at exhibitions – MD had produced a PDF including a symbol to take mobile phone users directly to the SIG webpage.

**Action:** MD to check whether it’s OK to use the Facebook logo, & to include Facebook link on PDF. MD to send out to all members who are manufacturers for use on any stands they may have at exhibitions. MD to include PDF in Newsletter.

Paul Fransioli asked about SIG committee/members sitting on the ISO committee but they’d need to be approved by BSI. He’s also looking for individuals who may be able to review new ISO documents. MD reminded the committee of the discussion at the previous committee meeting. It was suggested that MB may be able to write a paragraph to be included in the Newsletter

**Action:** MB (if he thinks it’s a good idea) to write a paragraph to include in the Spring Newsletter.

How can we attract more members? - SC suggested this subject be discussed at this meeting. It was agreed that the following could increase membership numbers: (1) finding a new committee member working in academia in the north, (2) hold joint meetings with northern SIGs/centres, (3) invite any northern SIG/centre committee members who will be attending RMS/EMS conference in Sept. to a tour of the Reading observatory (on the same day as the SIG AGM) to have an informal chat about holding joint meetings, (4) make use of teleconferencing/skype/webcasting for AGMs/committee meetings/meetings to attract more members from further afield, (5) have a stand at the RMS/EMS conference & continuing into the Amateur weekend offering the chance to win a prize (rain gauge from EML, cost price paid by SIG) if they sign up to be members (free membership for first year) (6) offer a monetary prize for a student/school essay, (7) promote the SIG through USB stick/mug printed with SIG details.

**Action:** MD to ask Dr Mark Wilkinson if he would like to be a committee member (possibly using skype for committee meetings).  
**Action:** KN to arrange observatory tour at Reading. 
**Action:** MD to arrange stand at RMS/EMS/Amateur weekend. 
**Action:** SBi to send email to members of other SIG/centres to tell them of observatory tour where we can have an informal chat about joint meetings.

**Item 5. Treasurer’s report**
MB tabled a statement of the SIG’s accounts, showing the net assets to be £4313.79. MB’s report covering the period 19/10/2012 to 13/3/2013 stated that the SIG’s overall financial position remained healthy. Membership is 56 (noting that this is the time of year
when membership fees are being collected & members are found to have left). MB had proposed, & it was accepted, that membership fees remained at the current level. MB had noted that the SIG could pay reasonable expenses if required to allow meeting organisers to invite speakers who otherwise may not attend.

Item 6. Newsletter Editor’s report
Mark Dutton presented a draft copy of the Spring 2013 Newsletter & asked for any material to be submitted before 1st April. The committee discussed the material required & the following points were actioned.

**Action:** SBi to email MD the details of the Weather on other Planets meeting.
**Action:** SBi to email relevant people at the Met Office for any material.
**Action:** MD to include Facebook page & ask for new committee members in Newsletter.
**Action:** MB (if he would like & has chance) to write a report from AMS 2013.

Item 7. Past meetings
KN jointly organised the Weather & Sport meeting with the IOP at Stratford Town Hall on Saturday 20th October 2012. Around 40 people attended. Talks included 2 Met Office speakers, a glider pilot, a sports engineer & a Wimbledon forecaster. A guided tour of the outside of the Olympic Stadium was given. A report will be in the Spring Newsletter.

Item 8: Future Meetings

- **Culham Centre for Fusion Energy**, Oxfordshire, evening visit for committee members, Wed. 13th March 2013.

- **Summer visit jointly with SE Centre**, Culham Centre for Fusion Energy, Oxfordshire, 1815 Wed. 12th June 2013.

- **AGM (& committee meeting)**, Thurs. 12th Sept 2013, to be held at the RMS national conference/EMS.

**Action:** SBi to book room, ask about a day pass for RMS stands & to enquire about car parking.
**Action:** MB to email members about the suggested date to ensure no conflicts.

- **Weather on other planets**, Wednesday 6th November 2013, British Interplanetary Society, London. IS & SBi have arranged with BIS to hold this meeting jointly. Piers Sellers (astronaut) has accepted to either talk live from NASA or to send a pre-recording. Topics of talks were discussed & it was decided that a talk on the use of radiosondes on other planets didn’t fit in with the other topics. Speakers have been recommended. The charge for the meeting is under discussion with BIS.

**Action:** IS to email BIS the intended list of speakers & then to email an invite to speakers individually.
Weather measurements for renewable energy sources, Spring 2014. MB, SB & KN. It was acknowledged that there was some difficulty in finding a venue for this meeting as almost all the companies in the field are based in Scotland. KN offered to become involved with organising particularly to involve northern centres/SIGs. The observatory tour to be organised by KN at RMS/EMS in Sept. was thought to be a good place to discuss the organising of the meeting with northern groups however initial organising would have to begin sooner.

Future measurements for climate monitoring, Autumn 2014. IS & SC. An example is the US Climate Reference Network.

Advances in precipitation detection & measurement, Spring 2015. As SPICE (Solid Precipitation Intercomparison Experiment) will end in Nov. 2014 the date for a meeting was set for 2015. MB, MD, SB.

Summer visit, Oxford, 2015. Joint visit/meeting possibly joint with History Group. SB is organising a meeting for RMS to be held at the Radcliffe Observatory to commemorate 200 years of continuous met obs & so the SIG visit could be held in conjunction. SB

Lightning detection. As a follow up to the meeting held in 2002.

Air pollution monitoring.

Rothamstead for a summer visit/AGM.

Item 9. Any other business

The SIG committee congratulated Steve Colwell who was awarded the polar medal in the Queen’s New Year’s Honours. The Queen approved the award for outstanding achievement & service to the UK in the field of polar research.

The SIG committee congratulated Ian Strangeways who was awarded the RMS’s 2012 Vaisala award in recognition of contributions to the field of observation & instrumentation. The award is given to those whose work does not naturally lend itself necessarily to publication in the scientific journal literature but is of significant value to the science of meteorology. It is also given to recognize those making outstanding contributions to the work of national & international meteorological field campaigns.

Item 10. Date of Next Meeting

The next AGM & committee meeting will be held on Thursday 12th September in a room at Reading University during the week of RMS/EMS conference.
**Action:** SBi to book a room through RMS HQ, to ask for RMS/EMS passes, to ask about car parking.

**Action:** MB to send email to members notifying of AGM & asking if this date is OK.

The meeting closed at 1610.

Suzy Bingham, Secretary
21 March 2013