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**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
THE BRITISH GEOTECHNICAL ASSOCIATION**

Held on Thursday 12 June 2014 at 13:30h  
at the Institution of Civil Engineers London, SW1P 3AA

*Present:* Dr C O Menkiti (Chairman)  
Mr N A Smith (Hon. Secretary)  
Mr P J L Eldred (Hon. Treasurer)  
over 50 Members

1. NOTICE OF MEETING & ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Dr Menkiti confirmed [in accordance with Statute 6] that due notice of the date of the Meeting had been given more than three weeks previously. A quorum was established by a show of hands.

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRITISH GEOTECHNICAL ASSOCIATION HELD ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2012.

The Chairman asked if any corrections to the minutes were required. No comments were made. Mr Powell proposed and Dr Standing seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was passed without dissent.

3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE PERIOD JULY 2013 TO JUNE 2014.

Dr Menkiti spoke to his written Chairman's report, a copy of which is appended to these minutes.

The Chairman then thanked all the retiring Committee members – Dr Dineen and Messrs Powell and Wood. Dr Menkiti also wished to thank Ms Fleming for her hard work in support of the Association.

4 PRESENTATION OF THE SOCIETY'S ACCOUNTS FOR 2013 AND BUDGET FOR 2015

The Honorary Treasurer, Mr Eldred, presented the accounts for 2013, which had been circulated previously. He noted that the total income, at £127.6k had been slightly higher than in 2012. Expenditure had been £128.6k, but the deficit had been more than outweighed by investment gains of £10.8k. Mr Eldred asked whether there were any questions on the accounts. No questions were raised, so he then requested a proposer and seconder for the approval of the accounts – Mr Talbot proposed and Dr Hellings seconded. The proposal was approved on a show of hands without dissent.

Mr Eldred then spoke about the Budget for 2015, which had also been circulated to members. The predicted income was approximately £126.2k, allowing for the absence of income from an Annual Conference. (It was hoped that the Edinburgh conference would generate a surplus, but the accounts for that conference are being dealt with separately.) The predicted expenditure of £135.7k, included an additional evening meeting in June. The budget deficit for 2015 would be around £9.6k.

Turning to subscription levels, Mr Eldred advised members that the cost to BGA members for *Ground Engineering* would increase by £2 next year and it was felt necessary to pass on this increase to members, as only a small proportion of the total subscription (after deducting *GE* and international society subscriptions) is received by the BGA to fund its activities. Mr Eldred confirmed that the budget figures had been based on the increased subscriptions. Mr Eldred referred to discussions regarding a web-based version of *GE*, but no indication of the effect on subscription levels was available to date. Mr Eldred then asked for questions on the proposed budget and subscription increases. There were no questions, so Mr Eldred asked for a proposer and seconder for the subscription increases and associated budget. Mr Talbot proposed acceptance and Dr Greenwood seconded. The proposal was approved on a show of hands with no dissent.

5. CONFIRMATION NEW MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Hon Secretary reported that 156 ballot papers had been received. From a strong field of seven, the successful candidates were Ms Ainsworth. Dr Preene and Dr Sim, who were duly elected to serve on the Committee until June 2017.

6. PRESENTATION OF THE ASSOCIATION'S PRIZES AND AWARDS.

The following awards and prizes were presented:

- Winner of the Cooling Prize 2014 – Ms K Jones
- Winner of the MSc Dissertation Prize for 2014 – Mr V Dubasaru
- Winners of the BGA Medal for 2013 – Prof S Springman and Drs A Thielen, P Kienzler and S Friedel

7. XVI ECSMGE - Edinburgh 2015

Dr Menkiti showed a graph of numbers of abstracts submitted vs time, culminating in slightly over 1020 when the period for entries closed. Submissions had come from more than 65 countries, with over 20 from each of Australia, India, Iran and the USA. Authors of successful abstracts had been notified and asked to submit their papers by September 19. There had been a problem with some emails from the organisers falling foul of spam filters, so Dr Menkiti asked anyone experiencing difficulties to contact the organisers. Sponsorship and exhibition space had been selling well, with over 40% of the exhibition space already sold.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Dr Menkiti referred to the forthcoming review of EC7 and asked all members to consider which clauses need amendment and to inform the BGA for a co-ordinated BGA response or directly comment to the BSI.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday June 17 2015 at the Institution of Civil Engineers.

The Annual Conference resumed after the AGM

## **BGA Chairman's Report – BGA AGM 12<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

It has been an exciting and productive year for the BGA. We have continued to develop and implement the themes identified in our 2020 Vision Statement. I report in more detail below.

*ISSMGE Paris Conference Sept 2013* – this had a high level of UK representation with high prominence of BGA members. As an example, there were a high number of honours to BGA members (e.g. Honour Lectures and Awards for Professors Jardine, Burland and Bolton). We need, collectively, to sustain this level of influence and participation by making the ECSMGE in Edinburgh next year as successful as possible.

*BGA Evening Meetings* – these have continued through the year with improved vigour and “sold-out” or near “sold-out” attendance of about 200/ event. Discussions have been vibrant and audience survey results generally indicate satisfaction levels of 90%-100%.

*BGA Early Career Group* – have had an excellent first year, with exciting and vibrant meetings. Recent topics include: “Designers and Contractors: Conflict or Co-operation?” by Paul Nowak of Atkins and “Boots, Computers and Engineering Judgement,” by Prof Burland. Attendance numbers have been up to 160 per event, but are typically about 100 per event and surveyed satisfaction ratings are as high as those for the evening meetings. To date, the events have been held at various locations across London to optimise participation. They have been sponsored by several companies who the BGA thanks.

*Website* – our new updated website is now ready and will be uploaded to the internet very shortly. The Members’ Area, which will provide enhanced services that will only be available to members, is under development.

*XVI ECSMGE, Edinburgh, 2015* – arrangements are progressing well. Abstract submission was fantastic, with more than 1020 abstracts received. Abstracts have been reviewed and authors notified. The next deadline is for paper submission by 19<sup>th</sup> September 2014. Sponsorship and Exhibition space up-take is progressing at pace with greater than 40% already taken up to date.

*Membership*: - membership numbers remained steady through the recession. We hope to grow numbers from here leading up to the Edinburgh conference.

*Ground Forum*: the BGA is a member of GF and participates in its activities. GF successfully lobbied to keep geotechnical engineering and related jobs on the home office priority list. Current GF activities include attacking the skills shortage by promotion of courses for specialist training, such as MSc funding, involvement in BIM, lobbying for a more rigorous national flood response/planning programme and interaction with the Parliamentary Scientific Committee on a range of issues of interest. The GF also allows the BGA to interact with the Federation of Piling Specialists, AGS, Ground Source Heat Pump Association, British Drilling Association and others bodies who are members of GF.

*Interaction with other Societies*; The BGA continues its good interaction with IGS, OES, EGGS and BTS, mostly via joint evening meetings.

*Regional Groups:* liaison and coordination with the regional groups continues, via the annual BGA-Regional Groups meeting in November. Interaction also occurs via other activities such as, the Touring Lecture, Cooling Prize, BGA MSc Prize, YGES, BGA sponsored places for EYGEC and IYGEC, and ISSMGE Technical Committee activities. Interaction is increasing in the build up to the Edinburgh conference, as regional participation is both welcomed and promoted.

*Special Lectures:*

- Rankine Lecture: this was held on 19/3/2014 and was given by **Prof Guy Houlsby** of University of Oxford. The lecture was entitled “Interactions in Offshore Foundation Design”. As usual, it was sold-out and had a wide, international live on-line following. The next Rankine Lecture will be by **Dr Suzanne Lacasse** of NGI in March 2015. She will be the first female Rankine Lecturer.
- The Geotechnique Lecture was given by **Prof Lidija Zdravkovic** on 13/11/2013 entitled “Geotechnical numerical analysis: a road map”. The lecture was sold-out, and also had a wide following on the live webcast that was provided by the BGA.
- The John Mitchell Award Lecture was given by **Drs Mike Long and Chris Menkiti** on 15/1/2014, entitled “Short and long term performance of retaining structures – transferable lessons from Dublin”. The lecture was very well attended (physical attendance and online) and was well received.
- Touring lecture: the next touring lecture will be by **Prof Eduardo Alonso** of UPC, Barcelona, Spain. It will be entitled “Rapid Landslides” and will be held on 4th – 6th November 2014 at Sheffield, Manchester & Newcastle Upon Tyne.

*Workshops and Half Day Seminars:* no workshops or seminars were directly organised by the BGA in the past year. However, the BGA supported and co-hosted a workshop on “Wave Propagation and Soil Stiffness: Particle-Continuum duality”, held in Bristol on 20 & 21/3/2014 to coincide with the BGA Rankine Lecture. A total of 71 participants attended from UK, Argentina, Japan, Portugal, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, USA, Mexico, Australia and elsewhere. The workshop was jointly organised by TC101 and TC105 with support from the BGA, ICE and ISSMGE.

*Relationship with ICE:* currently, the relationship with the ICE is excellent and much improved. The efforts of Mr Mike Chrimes (ICE Director of Engineering Policy and Innovation) is recognised and greatly appreciated. Mike retires next month after 37 years of dedicated service to the ICE. He has given the BGA a huge amount of support and encouragement during his tenure.

*ISSMGE:* - the BGA hosted the Board Meeting of the ISSMGE in London on 18 & 19/3/2014. GCG kindly provided their facilities free of charge and the BGA is grateful to GCG for this contribution. The ISSMGE Board had a successful meeting and I took the opportunity to present to the Board the most prestigious lecture by BGA (the Rankine Lecture) and the history and activities of the BGA.

*Next AGM and Annual Conference:* There will be no Annual Conference next year, as emphasis will be on Edinburgh 2015. BGA prizes next year will be particularly prestigious as they will be presented in Edinburgh in front of the huge audience of the conference. The next AGM will be on 10/6/2015.

*Publications:*

The Manual of Geotechnical Engineering (MOGE) – sales are going very well, with the second print run likely to be sold out. Errata are welcomed (send these to the BGA). Errata will be collected, coordinated and responded to by BGA and corrections will be placed on BGA website.



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*Other Key Events*

- Sir Alec Skempton: centenary celebration of his birth is being held today, revolving around the BGA Annual conference. There is also a celebration dinner here at the ICE after the conference.
- Nicholas Ambraseys Memorial Symposium: this was held on 19th March 2014, before the Rankine Lecture. It was held as a joint BGA-SECED-Imperial College event at the Royal Geographical Society in South Kensington. The event was well attended and well received by the public. (Prof Ambraseys was a past Rankine Lecturer.)
- ISRM Müller Award 2015: Prof John Hudson has been nominated by the BGA as a candidate for this award. The honour is awarded by the ISRM based on international reputation and contribution to the field of rock mechanics and geological sciences. Prof Hudson and his contributions are extremely well known throughout the rock mechanics community. The decision on the recipient of the Müller Award 2015 will be taken by the National Groups of the ISRM, by secret ballot, during their Council meeting in Sapporo, Japan, on 13/10/ 2014.

Dr Chris Menkiti  
BGA Chairman  
11/6/2014