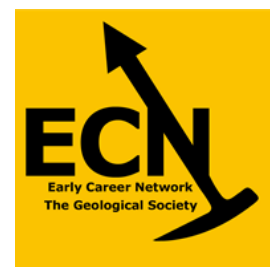


# EARLY CAREER NETWORK

## COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES



Date: Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (14:30)

Location: via Zoom

Present: Matt Sharp (Chair), Alex Christopher (Secretary), Deborah Thomas (Treasurer), Dan Hope (Regional Specialist Group Liaison), Huw Richards, Matt Webster, Simon Groom, Serdar Aldanmazlar

Apologies: Joshua Hughes, Thomas Skiggs

### 1) MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

No correction required.

- Geosoc website page has been updated but a full review of ideas to populate this page remains underway (**DT, AC, MS**).
- The ECN has now held a number of successful events and maintains relationships with some speakers for possible future events.
- ECN now has 650+ followers on LinkedIn, with ~400 following in June and July following our events.
- **MS** has communicated with Jane Watson Summit 2021 organisers that the ECN wish to be involved but only in a limited way.
- A geosoc email address should be pursued in order to run a possible newsletter which doesn't end up in email 'junk' folders.
- **AC** to look into Hoodsuite social media platform but for now access should be given by **MS** to those who do not have access to current social media accounts (e.g. **SG** for Twitter).
- **MS** expenses remain outstanding.

### 2) ECN EVENT REPORTS

- a) Panel Event – ‘**The effects of COVID-19 on the Geosciences and related industries**’ held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 11:30 (BST) via Zoom. Hosted by **JH** with support from **MS, HR**.

This event was this Committee's inaugural event. Principally, it was a 1.5-hour panel event with several predefined questions directed at the panel members by **JH**. In addition, additional questions were added to the discussion from audience members via **MS, HR**.

Panel members: **Dr Karen Hanghøj** (*Director of the British Geological Survey*), **Dr Mike Daly** (*Visiting Professor at the University of Oxford and President of the Geological Society of London*), **Dr Bob Foster** (*Independent Consultant Geologist, specialising in mineral exploration & former President of the Society of Economic Geologists*), **Lauren Ballarini** (*Technical Director and Service Lead for Hydrogeology & Hydrology at Wardell Armstrong LLP*), **Neil Hutchinson** (*Managing Director (Geosciences) of RSK Group*).

- Feedback from the event has been overwhelmingly positive from panel participants, students, academics and young professionals.
  - At peak viewing ~130 people were engaged.
- b) Short Course – **DeBeers Institute of Diamonds ‘Diamond Foundation Course’**. Interested participants were invited by the ECN to apply to the ECN for one of the 100 spaces available on the short course free of charge. **JH** processed large number of applicants and selected 100 names based on several criteria including those with fellowship membership etc. Successful applicants have 4 months to complete the course from July 2020.
- Feedback has been very positive, and the course has been well received by participants that have completed it. This has really boosted our online profile considerable (on LinkedIn).
  - The course has also enabled the ECN to significantly boost our mailing list not only in numbers but also in terms of global reach.
- c) Short Course – **‘A free online introduction to ioGas’** in collaboration with IMDEX, The Early Career Network (GSL) and the Early Career Professionals Committee (SEG) held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 09:00 (BST) via Zoom. Led by **HR** (ECN). Delivered by IMDEX's **Dr James Cleverley** (*Global Product Manager - Geoscience*) and **Dr Dave Lawie** (*Chief Geoscientist & Chief Technologist*).

This 4-hour short-course was open to anyone (no membership of the GSL or SEG is required) and was intended to help a broad spectrum of geoscientist and geoscience-related professionals.

- Feedback indicates the event was well received across the board.
- At its peak ~280 people were engaged.
- One possible area of improvement internally is finding a way around the lag-time between the Zoom call and the Youtube stream.

### 3) WIDER ECN INVOLVEMENT

- a) **AC** and **DH** attended the GSL Student Enrolment Summit on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020 via Zoom. 50 delegates gathered to identify and understand the reasons behind a declining number of students enrolling on geoscience degrees in the United Kingdom and how the community can begin to address this. The meeting was attended by representatives of academia, industry and other key geoscience

organisations and stakeholders.

The key aim of the meeting was to and implement an action plan that identifies the short, medium, and long-term interventions required to effectively raise student awareness, interest and uptake, and identify the group or groups best placed to lead on specific measures raised at the meeting.

A summary of key discussion points and possible actions was given by **AC** and **DH**. For full detail of this see attached notes provided the summit organisers ('GSL Student Enrolment Summit Meeting Notes').

#### 4) ROLE/PURPOSE OF THE ECN IN WIDER EC GEOSCIENCE SPACE

- a) **MS** started a discussion on the what the Committee believes should be our focus. **SG** outlines the 'gap' between degree, fellowship and career. **AC, DT** suggested that expanding into degree-fellowship transition may be a good idea, but the Committee should be mindful of other organisations that cater for such people.

##### ACTIONS:

- **DH, AC** - Find out what organisation/groups cater for the degree to fellowship space within the GSL.
  
  - b) **MS** started a discussion on whether the ECN should act as an umbrella group which brings together groups directed at young professionals or a stand-alone overarching group. It is decided that it is best that we act as an umbrella group and aim to increase ties with GSL groups directed at young professionals alongside such groups outside the society.
- ##### ACTIONS:
- **DH** – Organise a regional specialists' group conference to allow a discussion on further integration and a larger plan for events etc going forward for young professionals within the GSL.
  
  - c) It was recognised that the ECN has benefitted tremendously from the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of increasing participation and global reach. Some concerns were noted that this may not continue forever, however, the Committee expects the success to continue for the medium term. Despite this the Committee discussed tentative plans for future events when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted e.g. a field course to Charnwood Forest in spring/summer 2021 **AC?/DT?**, a machine learning course (**TS**), geotechnical course **DH**.

## 5) FUTURE EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

### a) FutureGeo 2.0

The Committee was approached by former member Tom Blackhouse for some potential collaboration with the FutureGeo 2.0 event following the success of the previous event which gained 1000+ viewers. This event is to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and will focus on opportunity and inclusion in the Geosciences. Committee members are asked to check their availability for this event.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/futuregeo-20-tickets-115712959577>

### b) GSL Virtual Career Day

Potential involvement in a GSL Virtual Career was discussed. Some Committee members outlined their past experiences with such events and their current involvement.

### c) GSL CPD Training Course Programme

It was agreed that the ECN should push any CPD events and would also consider running some courses in the future if possible (with sponsorship where possible). Committee members were also encouraged to attend 'The Chartership Application Process with Shaun Richardson' on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/inaugural-gsl-online-training-course-the-chartership-application-process-tickets-116608640583?ref=estw>

### d) Other future events

**(TS)** requested some feedback on the proposed machine-learning orientated course prior to the meeting. The Committee is in agreement that this course looks to be a good one and should go ahead after the removal of COVID-19 restrictions (Spring/Summer 2021?). Sponsorship would be ideal.

**SA** suggested a 'Geology in building environments' short course for a small to medium sized group. This could possibly cover the HS2 project and things alike. Preference would be to do this in person, but **MS** suggests that this could also be done virtually.

**DT** put forward tentative idea to put on field courses in regional areas away from London to increase inclusion and reach. Charnwood Forest (**AC?**), Jurassic Coast etc.

**DH** put forward potential collaborations with the Equipe Group for some geotechnical orientated courses. <https://www.equipegroup.com/about/our-company>

**DT** continues to maintain contact with Iain Stewart and will liaise with him re a potential end of year/new year event on a topic of his choosing.

6) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- None

7) NEXT MEETING -TBC