



# **ROYAL METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**Patron: HRH The Prince of Wales**

**President: Professor Geraint Vaughan, PhD, FRMetS**

**The 157<sup>th</sup> Report of the Council**

**1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007**

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## THE SOCIETY'S MISSION

*Advancing the understanding of weather and climate,  
the science and its applications for the benefit of all*

### Public Benefit

The Charities Act 2006 requires all charities to explain in their Annual Reports how their activities provide benefit to the wider public, or sections of it, in achieving their aims. The Act lists 12 main charitable purposes that would be regarded as for public benefit. In the Society's case the public benefit of our activities falls into three of these categories:

**(b) *The advancement of education.***

The Society works with teachers and children at both primary and secondary levels to promote understanding of weather and climate, and runs interactive projects such as *MetLink International* to both stimulate the interest of children in meteorology and to improve the quality of teaching material and resources in schools, which are made freely available. At higher education levels the Society awards scholarships to encourage students to study meteorological sciences. The Society also helps with the development of careers in meteorology through its work on National Occupational Standards and its award of chartered status.

**(f) *The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science.***

The Society publishes four world-leading science journals and has a comprehensive meetings programme open to all with an interest in weather and climate, which include free public National Meetings, Local Meetings to encourage a focus on global, national and local issues and Conferences, to bring about the advancement of the science of meteorology. Grants and bursaries are awarded annually to encourage interaction between scientific groups both in the UK and internationally, and to allow attendance at meetings and conferences. The Society also subsidises an Annual Student Conference that brings together those involved in post-graduate studies from across the country.

**(i) *The advancement of environmental protection or improvement.***

The Society is at the heart of the debate on global warming and climate change. It plays a particularly important role in communicating some of the more complicated scientific and technical issues to the public at large and enabling them to understand and engage with what is one of the most important global issues that we face today. The Society also has several popular publications that promote a public interest in the environment. The Society is also working on the development of a quality standard for the provision of weather and climate services. The aim of this standard is to promote high quality services employed in the protection of the environment.

The Society's website has a wide range of information and content that is freely available to all those with an interest and serves all of the categories mentioned above. This year the Society has invested significantly in making its website more accessible and informative, providing a wide range of educational, scientific and professional material. The Society also provides its popular monthly publication *Weather* free to all members.

In what follows, this Annual Report provides more detail on the particular contributions made by the Society during 2007.

## THE YEAR JANUARY – DECEMBER 2007

### A brief review of the highlights

The year began with the transition of the publishing programme over to the new Society Publisher Wiley-Blackwell. A transition on this scale never goes without a hitch, but it was a significant achievement by all concerned with hard work and dedication within the Society team to ensure that this process went as smoothly as possible. As part of the process the Society's four main science journals were redesigned to present a more coherent portfolio of publications. One immediate benefit from the new partnership with Wiley-Blackwell was that the Society's journals were made available free to over 70 developing countries as part of the international publishing aid programmes AGORA (Access to Global On-line Research in Agriculture) and OARE (On-line Access to Research in the Environment).

At the beginning of February the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) launched its long awaited report from Working Group 1 of the Fourth Assessment Report. The Society strongly supported the findings of the IPCC and was an active participant in briefings to the media, and other interested organisations, about the report's findings. The Society also played an active part in the Royal Society's meeting on the IPCC report, and later in March the Society held a public event at St John's College Oxford, in partnership with Sense about Science, aimed at helping to understand some of the myths and misconceptions about weather and climate predictions. The event was very well attended and was accompanied by a publication which is available directly from the Sense about Science website '<http://www.senseaboutscience.org.uk/>'.

As well as informing the public, the Society has an important role to play in providing independent, authoritative advice to Government. The Society regularly contributes to the work of Government and some examples in 2007 included providing input to the consultations on the Climate Change Bill, the UK's Civil Space Strategy, the Natural Environment Research Council's Strategy, the National Curriculum, a Charity Commission review of public benefits and a House of Commons inquiry on the funding of Science Centres. The Society also regularly provides briefings for politicians from across the parties, and this year also provided input to the brief for the UK's Permanent Representative with the World Meteorological Organization for the 4-yearly meeting of the World Meteorological Congress.

The Society was particularly privileged to receive a visit from the Governor of the Bank of England and members of the Monetary Policy Committee, during their tour of the South-East. The Society invited a selection of representatives from its Corporate Members to a meeting with the Monetary Policy Committee. The Society presented the Governor with an inscribed rain gauge to mark the occasion of his visit.

The Society had another very successful meetings programme in 2007, which included meetings on the subject of marine forecasting, the interaction of forests and the atmosphere, global circulation modelling, the Indian climate and the monsoon, and atmospheric electricity. The Society was also very privileged that Dr Chris Davis from the National Centre for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in the USA gave the Society's Symons Lecture, and Professor Simon Tett from the University of Edinburgh gave the 2007 Margary Lecture.

The Society revised the presentation of its meetings programme to give a more integrated perspective to the range of Local and National Meetings. The decision was also taken to use a range of venues for the National Meetings so that they would be truly national and accessible to a wider number of people from across the UK. The Society piloted a new initiative of providing facilities and refreshments for a poster session following on from some

of its National Meetings. This has proved so successful that it is now offered to meeting organisers for each of the National Meetings.

This was also a main Conference year, and on this occasion the conference was held at Heriot-Watt University. There were 314 participants with a range of international as well as UK representatives. The Society also ran a weather forecasting competition for schools and were delighted that the winners of the Primary School prize were able to attend the conference to collect their prizes, which were kindly sponsored by Scottish Power. The main Conference was preceded by another very successful Student Conference with 58 participants, the highest number yet at one of these events. The Student Conference is organised and run by the student community and this initiative goes from strength to strength.

Attendance was not just high at the conferences. The Society has also noticed the remarkable growth in attendance at meetings in the North West Local Centre, which are regularly attracting around 100 attendees. This is down to the tremendous hard work of Dr Andrew Russell and Dr Emily Norton who have done a fantastic job. All of the work of our Local Centres depends on very dedicated volunteers and we would not be able to have such a comprehensive mix of Local Centres and events without their hard work and dedication, for which we owe them all a debt of thanks.

In April the Society said good bye to Malcolm Walker as the Education Resources Manager, after many years of dedication to raising the quality of meteorological education. However the Society was delighted to welcome Malcolm back as the new Chairman of the History Group. In Malcolm's place the Society was also delighted to appoint Dr Sylvia Knight as the new Head of Education and Continuous Learning. The new post brings together the work of both the Education Committee and the Accreditation Board, and also involves a greater focus on the promotion of careers within meteorology.

In 2007 the Society was awarded its first externally funded research contract, to work with the British Atmospheric Data Centre (BADC) in a NCAS (National Centre for Atmospheric Sciences) led project to develop a model for a new meteorological subject-based repository for publications and for the concept of a data journal.

A major development in 2007 was that the Society is working together with both customers and providers of weather services to develop a quality standard. The aim is to provide a framework which will promote the adoption of best practice, drive up the quality of services across the sector, and help to develop the private sector markets for weather services. The Standard will be managed and developed by an Advisory Council made up from voluntary members of the customer and supplier community. In the autumn of 2007 the Council approved the proposal to progress to the Pilot Phase of the project.

Another significant development was that, at its Autumn meeting, the Council also approved the newly proposed changes to the Governance of the Society. The Council has moved to a quarterly programme of meetings and is looking to reduce in size slightly whilst remaining representative of its wider membership. Council will be serviced by two new Committees which will replace the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Development Implementation Group.

The first is the House Committee, which will have responsibility for reviewing and developing, on behalf of Council, the key functions that underpin the general activities of the Society in order to achieve the charitable aims. This will include the review of policies, procedures, the archives, the financial performance against business-as-usual activities and overseeing the management of investments. It will also take responsibility for membership

and a Society audit function, which to date have not been an identified responsibility of any of the Society's Committees.

The Second new Committee is the Strategic Programme Board. The Programme Board will report directly to Council and will oversee the development of initiatives to support the achievements of the Society's strategic aims. The Programme Board will be responsible for reviewing investment cases for new strategic initiatives on behalf of Council, proposing a programme of strategic investment initiatives, making recommendations to Council on proposals for new large-scale strategic partnerships and reviewing the benefits delivered from the Society's strategic investments.

The final major programme of work in 2007 was the redevelopment of the Society's Website. Whilst many users will have noticed that the look and feel of the site has changed, what they may not perhaps have noticed is that the underpinning technology has also been refreshed and updated. This has been critically important for the future development of the site as it is now one of the Society's strategic delivery platforms, with over 4 million visits a year.

On the Website you will be able to find all the old favourites, together with a whole host of new and interesting material around Weather and Climate, including the Severe Weather Warnings, live satellite data, climatology, climate change multimedia resources and some of our new merchandise, including the very popular mugs, the new Weather Watchers 3-Year Log Book (reviewed on Radio 4) and our new Society umbrellas.

Finally it was with great pleasure that the Society noted that Professor Sir Brian Hoskins (a past President of the Society) received a knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours List and Dr Geoff Jenkins received an OBE in the New Year Honours List for his services to climate science.

## **MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND PLANS FOR 2008**

In early 2008 the Society is hoping to finalise two new strategic partnerships that will advance the breadth and depth of the Society's publishing programme. In addition the Society will complete the review of its Journal Portfolio that began in 2007, and undertake a review of the benefits realised from the move of its publications' production, subscription management and delivery to Wiley-Blackwell.

The Society also has three further review programmes for 2008. It has been around 13 years since the membership was last surveyed – and times and people's requirements have changed. The Society is carrying out a survey to find out how to improve services for members and subscribers, and to make sure that we continue to provide real value to those that join and support us. The new Membership Review Group will be looking in detail at all the responses we receive and making recommendations on how the Society can improve what it has to offer to its membership, both current and potential.

Turning to the Society's work on professional development, the Accreditation Board is putting together a strategic framework that will help to grow and develop all of its professional development and careers programmes as a coherent programme of activity. It is expected that this will lead to several new initiatives including the development of a new Chartered Qualification (with a working title CMetTech).

Finally, in 2008 the Society will complete the first draft of its new Education Strategy. Early discussions suggest that this will include a much greater emphasis on the professional development of teachers, a new programme of work around public engagement and the re-design of MetLink to service a much broader community of schools and enthusiasts.

## THE WEATHER OF 2007

2007 will long be remembered for the summer flooding which affected so many parts of the country, but it was by no means wet throughout. Indeed the early-spring and most of the autumn were notably dry, and April was an outstandingly warm and sunny month. Although much was made of the fact that the three-month period May-July was wetter than any other May-July period in almost three centuries of records, it was certainly not the wettest three month period on record at *any* time of the year – in fact it ranked 43rd, which means that it has a probability of recurring once every five to six years.

Furthermore, the major flooding events were caused by individual downpours which were far from unprecedented. There seemed to be something of a mis-match between these severe but not unprecedented rainfall events on the one hand, and the extreme and destructive floods on the other. Rainfall does, of course, make a very important contribution to flooding, but it is not the only contribution. The wide-ranging human influences on river catchments in general, and flood-plains in particular, also play a major part. Those tasked with learning lessons from the disasters of summer 2007 will have to look further than mere meteorology to understand what happened.

### The Year 2007

The Central England temperature for the entire year stands at 10.6°C which is 0.8degC above the averaged for the standard reference period 1971-2000. The only warmer years in three and a half centuries of records were 1949, 1990, 1999, 2002 and 2006. Rainfall, averaged over England and Wales, totalled 1001mm over the year, just seven per cent above the long-term normal, making it wetter than 2006 and 2005, but not as wet as 2004. The sunshine aggregate of 1635 hours, again averaged over England and Wales, was some five per cent above normal – rather less than in 2006 but a little more than in 2005 (the usual caveats about the change from Campbell-Stokes recorders to electronic sensors apply).

### Temperatures

The outstandingly warm weather which had begun in May 2006 continued for the first half of 2007, and the 12-month period May 2006 to April 2007 was the warmest, as measured by the Central England Temperature (CET), in 348 years of records, beating the previous record which was set in 1994-95. The CET for the first half of 2007 was 1.8 degC above the 1971-2000 mean, but for the second half of the year it was 0.1 degC below the average. In spite of their very unsettled nature, both May and June were warmer than average, possibly indicating that the underlying warming trend in the climate was clearly evident during the most inhospitable of seasons, but that suggestion was countered by July which was 1.2 degC cooler than normal.

As measured by the CET, notable months were January which was the warmest since 1921, April which was the warmest in the entire record, July which was the coolest since 1993, and August which was also the coolest since 1993. After the extraordinary heat-waves of summer 2006, provisional data suggests that, for the first time since 1993, there was no individual daily maximum temperature (recorded under standard conditions) of 30°C or more anywhere in the UK during 2007.

### Rainfall

January and February were both wet months, especially in western parts of the UK; southwest Scotland was badly hit during January with repeated bouts of flooding in the Glasgow area, while February was wettest in south Wales and southwest England. A long dry spell set in across southern, central and eastern England during the second week of March, and there was very little rain in these districts for eight weeks, the drought only coming to an end around May 7. Some places in southern England had no measurable rain

during the entire month of April, and averaged nationally it was the driest April since 1957. Heavy rain in May – the wettest since 1967 – triggered flooding episodes in Shropshire, Herefordshire and the northern Home Counties, but these were eclipsed by the disasters which were to follow in Yorkshire and the Midlands during June, and again in the Midlands and the Thames Valley during July.

June was the wettest over England and Wales since 1865, and July the wettest since 1936. Persistently dry weather followed from the last week of July onwards, and the last five months of the year, from August to December, constituted the driest such period since 1947.

### **Sunshine**

The main features of the year's sunshine were the exceptionally sunny April and the very dull June. The remaining months of the year did not differ greatly from the long-term average, and as a consequence annual sunshine totals were generally within 10 per cent of the norm. April was the sunniest in 127 years of records with the sole exception of 1893, while June was unprecedentedly gloomy in eastern Scotland and northeast England.

Arguably the most extraordinary statistic of the year was the fact that Aberdeen recorded appreciably less sunshine during June (when the sun is above the horizon for 17 hours each day) than it had done during the previous December (when the sun is up for barely six hours per day).

### **Newsworthy Events**

Apart from all the broken records – always good copy in newspaper and broadcast newsrooms – the weather also hit the headlines on other occasions. A severe gale swept the country on January 18, the wind gusting over 80 mph; 19 people died, thousands of trees were uprooted, and there was a good deal of structural damage. Heavy snow fell in many parts of the country during the second week of February leading to traffic chaos and school closures; snow lay 35cm (14in) deep in upland districts of Wales and northern England, and there were also reports of 15cm (6in) as far south as the Chiltern Hills in Bucks, Herts and Beds.

Although the autumn was, in general, the quietest for decades, a severe north-westerly gale in the North Sea on November 8-9 triggered a major storm surge – the worst since 1996 – which threatened to engulf low-lying coastal districts of eastern England, although mercifully the surge did not coincide with the high tide and serious flooding therefore did not materialise.

## FINANCE

The accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007 are appended to this Annual Report. The Auditors' report as usual appears as the front page and certifies that in their opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the Society's affairs as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007. The format of these accounts meets the requirements of the Charity Commissioners.

The RMetS continues to be in a good financial state. The expenditure for the year exceeded the income by some £69,000, but the investment revaluation gains of £50,000 resulted in a net deficit of only £19,000. The investment gains reflected the continuing market recovery of equities during 2007, but since the Balance Sheet date the valuation has fallen due to concerns about the US economy. This could well recover by the end of 2008 and it is felt that no provision in the 2007 Accounts is required.

All of the Society's journals were published by Wiley-Blackwell for the first time in 2007 and they paid us 75% of the estimated net income during the year as required by the new publishing contract. This was broadly in line with the tender projections. However with the weakening of the US dollar the remaining 25%, due to be received in March 2008, will bear exchange losses caused by Wiley-Blackwell invoicing in dollars. During 2007 Publications continued to be a major source of income for the Society and resulted in an overall contribution of about £195,000, but this included residual income from 2006 due to the change in accounting treatment following the change in publishing.

The Resources Expended for the year included scholarship grants of just under £38,522 (2006 £29,525) as approved by Council, which accounts for the increase in the 'Grants and Scholarships' line.

Membership subscription income has increased to £147,360 from £136,856 in 2006, despite a slight reduction in membership numbers. Administration Support and Establishment Costs that are apportioned against activities in the Accounts were once again marginally lower than in the previous year.

Both the income and expenditure from Meetings were increased substantially from the 2006 figure as there was no major conference during that year. The RMetS biennial conference, together with the Students Assembly, held in Edinburgh in September 2007 made a deficit of £30,000 after apportionment of staff costs and overheads. The RMetS National meetings (Wednesday meetings) cost £34,600 (2006 £32,700)

Staff costs were marginally lower than in 2006 despite inflation increases, as the previous year included one-off costs associated with the change of the Executive Director to the Chief Executive. The Head of Education, Malcolm Walker, retired during the year and was replaced by Sylvia Knight. The staff complement otherwise remained constant through the year.

The notes to the accounts are largely self-explanatory and provide more insight into the way the numbers have been derived.

## MEMBERSHIP

The following table shows the Society's Membership at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007 with comparative figures for 2006.

<b>Grade of Membership</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
Honorary Member	20	20
Life Fellow	41	42
Fellow	1849	1795
Associate Fellow	854	852
Associate Fellow (student)	96	174
Corporate Body	69	70
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2929</b>	<b>2950</b>

The Society learned with regret of the deaths in 2007 of the following:

William Balchin, W Yorks; Harry Bitton, Bedford; Christopher Blake, Switzerland; Bill Burroughs, Guildford; Stanley Casswell, Cumbria; Joseph Cochrane, Cambridge; Paul Crispin, London; George Duller, Devon; Tony Hollingsworth, Reading; Denis Hunt, Suffolk; Roy Lewis, Devon; Brendan McWilliams, Wexford; Alan Martin, Notts; Michael Miles, Oxford; Mowbray Pearson, Edinburgh; William Ritchie, Huntingdon, Cambs; Paul Savidge, Essex; Jack Shannon, Bolingbrook, USA; John Simpson, Cambridge; Keith Taylor, Lancs; Herbert Walker, Norfolk; Christopher Walker, Newbury; Henry Westwood, Dunfermline; John R C Young, Oxford.

## LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

This year saw a large scale review of material held at the Society. Much of the Society's holdings are now in the National Meteorological Archive, Met Office, Exeter, where the facilities for storage and study of the Society's archives are excellent. A further batch of material was placed in the archive in the second half of 2007. More detail on the content of the National Meteorological Archive can be found at

'<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/corporate/library/index.html>'

## AWARDS AND PRIZES

The Society is delighted to announce that it will make the following Awards in 2008 for the year 2007:

**The Mason Gold Medal**

to Professor Tom Choularton, University of Manchester

**The Buchan prize**

to Dr Andrew Staniforth, Met Office

**The L F Richardson prize**

to Dr Andrew Charlton-Perez, University of Reading

**The Adrian Gill prize**

to Professor Peter Read, University of Oxford

**The FitzRoy prize**

to Dr Geoff Jenkins, Yateley

**The *International Journal of Climatology* Award**

to Dr Ricardo Trigo, University of Lisbon

**The Society Outstanding Service Award**

to Mr Rodney Blackall, Milton Keynes

**The Gordon Manley Weather Prize**

to Professor Andreas Fink, Institute for Geophysics and Meteorology, Cologne, Germany

**The *Quarterly Journal Review* Award**

to Mr Dave Thompson, Met Office and

Dr Magnus Liskdkog, Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute

**The James Paton Prize**

awarded, by the Scottish Centre, to Ms Vera Reeve

## EDUCATION

### Change of Personnel

Malcolm Walker retired as Education Resources Manager in April 2007. Malcolm worked over many years in promoting Society outreach in the field of education. He was the British lead in founding the EWOC (Education: Weather, Oceans and Climate) series of international conferences and his selfless contribution of time, energy and enthusiasm will long be remembered by all those who worked with him.

Malcolm was replaced by Sylvia Knight in the new position of Head of Education Services and Continuing Learning.

### Strategy Review

Our present strategy initiative finishes at the end of 2008 and a preliminary meeting to explore the objectives for the next five years was held in Manchester on 14<sup>th</sup> August. A report was submitted to the Education Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> October. Teachers and other targeted experts are currently being recruited to populate two advisory groups (one focused on the secondary school teacher, the other on interaction with the general public). These groups will report back to the Education Committee.

### Internet projects

The online weather observation project, MetLinkInternational, ran continuously through 2007 with an intensive observation period in January/ February. 114 schools/ individuals in 27 countries entered data into the database in this period. An article on MetLink has been submitted to the 'Teaching Geography' magazine.

A working group was set up to examine the future of MetLink, and as a result of this an online teacher consultation is currently investigating the weather data needs of teachers in the UK. It is proposed that MetLink will evolve into a year-round project that is less demanding on Society staff time, and that it becomes a one-stop shop for weather and climate data and related teaching materials.

Whilst the future of MetLink is being decided, a last intensive observation period has been scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

Due to the lack of interest, the online project called *RainCatch* did not run in 2007 and has been abandoned.

### Institute of Physics

Malcolm Walker and Sylvia Knight attended IoP Education Board meetings in 2007. Several possible areas of collaboration have arisen and include:

- The Environmental Physics group are proposing developing weather and climate teaching resources. Geoff Jenkins attended the initial planning meeting. It is hoped that the Society will work closely with the IoP on the development of these resources.
- Sylvia Knight will present a climate change lecture/ workshop at a 'physics update' course for teachers in 2008.
- The IoP is developing a portfolio of activities for school science clubs. The Society will contribute a few meteorological activities.
- The Society contributed an article on clouds to a themed edition of 'Physics Education'

### **Scottish Earth Science Education Forum**

A new model that answers the problem of geographical isolation in the delivery of teacher Continuing Professional Development in the field of Earth Science has been supported by the Society. Negotiations have taken place at ministerial level with the Scottish Parliament where the principle was enthusiastically received. It may be possible to adapt some of the IoP materials for use within this context.

### **Earth Science Education Forum for England and Wales**

The Society continues to subscribe to this forum, but no interaction has been possible in 2007.

### **Royal Geographical Society**

The Society is working collaboratively with the Royal Geographical Society in making a bid to the British Council. This will propose making data and climate change teaching resources available to teachers in a selection of countries worldwide.

### **Royal Society of Chemists**

The Society was approached by the Royal Society of Chemists, who are writing a set of 'A' level climate change teaching materials. Sylvia Knight critically reviewed these materials and has agreed to advise the update of their existing GCSE climate change teaching resources, planned for 2008.

### **Open University**

The Society has agreed to collaborate with the Open University on the production of an entry level course S189 "Understanding the Weather". The key points of the partnership are that CloudBank images will be made available to the OU free of charge. The Society logo would be used on course materials. Critical review of course materials would be carried out by a person approved by the Society. Registration on the course would qualify an individual for student membership of the Society. The course has been slightly delayed, but Sylvia Knight has critically reviewed chapters 1-3 and expects to review the remaining chapters in January 2008.

### **British Association**

The Society proposal for a Climate Change Question Time at the 2008 BA festival of science has been accepted. Sylvia Knight is investigating collaborating with the BA to produce meteorological activities for its CREST (CREativity in Science and Technology) and CREST Star scientific investigation award scheme. The 2008 MetLink intensive observing period falls within National Science Week and is being promoted in the National Science Week programme.

### **Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition**

A proposal for a collaborative Society exhibit at the 2008 exhibition was not accepted. However, another proposal will be submitted for the 2009 exhibition.

### **Other contact with Teachers and Students**

Malcolm Walker manned a Society stand at the annual conference of the Geographical Association in April 2007. Sylvia Knight gave a talk on 'teaching climate change' at the annual conference of the Association of Science Education in January 2008. Two students will represent the Society and give talks on climate change at Scott Wilkie primary school in London in January 2008. Sylvia Knight is developing a 'meteorology ambassador' scheme linked to the highly successful Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Network 'Science and Engineering ambassadors' scheme and Royal Geographical Society 'Geography ambassadors' schemes.

## MEETINGS, LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

Meetings, lectures and conferences continue as a key activity of the Society, facilitating communication and collaboration between members, the wider scientific community and the public. Meetings are only possible because of the voluntary work of the meeting organisers and the Society's Meetings Committee, the dedication of the Society staff and the commitment of those who attend the meetings. Many thanks are extended to those who have contributed in 2007.

### Wednesday National Meetings

Wednesday (now renamed National) meetings are aimed at a "broad meteorological audience" and during 2007 were usually held on the third Wednesday of each month at the Zoological Society Meeting Rooms in North London. However, occasionally the meetings were held outside London in order that they would be more accessible to a UK-wide audience. The following meetings took place in 2007:

January:	Marine forecasting
February:	The interaction of forests and the atmosphere
March:	The International Polar Year: challenges in polar science
April:	The past, the present and the future of global weather and climate modelling (held at Reading University)
May	The Symons memorial lecture, delivered by Dr Chris Davies
June	The Indian summer monsoon
October:	Observing and detecting climate change (incorporating the Margary lecture)
November:	Space weather: from mud to magnetopause (jointly with the Royal Astronomical Society)
December:	The electrifying atmosphere

Feedback forms are collected at every meeting and summary statistics for the whole year are given below. The average attendance at the meetings in 2007 was 76 people (compared with 78 in 2006, 97 in 2005, 85 in 2004 and 95 in 2003). Feedback forms collected at the meetings have been analysed and the following statistics produced.

Content	%	Quality of Presentation	%	Level of Specialisation	%
Very Interesting	63	Consistently Good	42	Too Specialised	5
Reasonably Interesting	35	Mostly Good	53	About Right	93
Disappointing	2	Patchy	5	Too General	2
		Poor	0		

These are very similar to previous years.

### Saturday National Meetings

Saturday meetings are aimed at the non-specialists and, in recent years, have benefited from co-sponsorship by other organisations. The following meetings were held in 2007:

October:	A joint meeting with the General Aviation Safety Committee
November:	Weather and Sailing

These were essentially repeats of successful meetings held in 2006 but held in different locations.

## **National Conferences**

The Society's Student Conference was held from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2007 at the Edinburgh Conference Centre, Heriott Watt University, and was followed by the main Biennial Conference of the Society from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> September.

Some 58 participants attended the student meeting and a total of 314 participants attended the main Biennial meeting. The programme committee put together an interesting set of plenary talks and parallel sessions. A new innovation at this biennial meeting was the introduction of plenary debate sessions where somewhat controversial subjects were discussed. Many delegates found these debates stimulating. Social highlights included the conference dinner, a display of traditional Scottish country dancing and a malt whisky tasting.

## **Special Interest Groups and Local Centres**

A large number of Special Interest Group and Local Centre meetings were held in 2007, too many to report details here. The new format for the meetings notice (see below) should provide a clearer guide to forthcoming meetings.

## **Strategy for Society Meetings**

A meetings committee away day was held in May this year in order to discuss a number of different strategic issues. The following conclusions were reached:

1. To publicise all of the meetings of the Society under a single meetings programme with a rebranding of the Wednesday and Saturday discussion meetings as "National Meetings";
2. To continue with a programme of monthly National Meetings, frequent Local Centre meetings and the Student and Biennial Conferences;
3. To hold a greater number of National Meetings outside London;
4. To supply slightly more information about the background, aims and objectives of all the meetings of the Society;
5. To organise, on a case-by-case basis, a poster session and refreshments at some National Meetings;
6. To align the award of the Symons Gold Medal with the Symons Lecture and to alternate this with the equivalent Mason Gold Medal and Mason Lecture such that they align to the year of the relevant medal award.

## PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION

### WMO Meteorologists

Following the activity of last year, there have been no further requests for the granting of *acquired rights* from within the UK. However, following a request from SERCO, six of their aviation forecasters practising in the United Arab Emirates were recognised as having the competencies and experience that one would expect for those seeking acquired rights. Although the Society has no authority outside the UK, SERCO felt that, in the absence of a similar process locally, this exhibited best practice. Most of the forecasters had also been trained in the UK. A small charge was made for the service to cover the Society's administrative costs.

(*Acquired rights* recognise that the qualifications and experience of existing forecasters may be regarded as degree equivalent so enabling them to conform to the guidelines in the revised WMO 258 and, in particular, the requirements of ICAO for forecasting for international civil aviation. These requirements came into force from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007.)

### National/Scottish Vocational Qualifications (N/SVQs) in Weather Forecasting (level 4) and Meteorological Observing (level 3)

The assessment centres at the Met Office and the Maritime Warfare School, Hydrographic and Meteorological Training Group (MWS-HMTG) have jointly awarded 15 Weather Forecaster (level 4) and 19 Meteorological Observation (level 3) NVQs. Following the closure of the centre operated by Weathernews (UK) Ltd no SVQs have been awarded. It is desirable there should be an assessment centre operated by a private sector organisation, and a replacement is currently being sought by the Society.

### Chartered Meteorologist and FRMetS

The work of the Course Evaluation & Continuous Professional Development Panel continued in assessing the Continuing Professional Development returns from CMets, evaluation of courses, and advising on applications for the use of the appellation FRMetS. This is summarised in the table below, which also provides information on the number of new applications for CMet and their outcomes.

2007 Chartered Meteorologist (CMet) Applications				
Applications in progress at 1/1/07	New accreditations granted during 2007	Accreditations refused/withdrawn during 2007	Applications in progress at 31/12/07	Total number of CMets at 31/12/07
2	3	0	3	56
<b>CPD Returns</b>				
<b>Number of returns reviewed</b>		<b>Number of returns not approved</b>		
29		0		
<b>Applications for the public use of FRMetS – existing Fellows</b>				
Applications for public use	Applications approved	Applications refused	Total numbers of FRMetS (existing Fellows) at 31/12/07	
25	25	0	210	

The Course Evaluation Panel approved courses from the University of Birmingham and the University of Leeds as providing the minimum level of knowledge required by a CMet.

During 2007 the Accreditation Board:

- introduced a Code of Practice that will be introduced for FRMetS, similar to that for CMet;
- reduced fees for CMet for those taking a career break. This was approved by Council in October 2007.

## **Chartered Environmentalist & Chartered Scientist**

### ***Chartered Environmentalist***

The one application has now expired as the applicant was unable to arrange for the provision of reports from referees. The applicant has been informed that if they wish to progress this they would now be required to re-submit their application.

### ***Chartered Scientist***

No applications have been received for Chartered Scientist.

# PUBLICATIONS

## Introduction

This has been another busy year for Publications. The transition to Wiley-Blackwell has gone very smoothly, and we are pleased with the outcome. But we have much more to do! Promoting our journals overseas, especially in North America and in the emerging markets of China and the Far East, is a priority. And with the expert knowledge and backing from Wiley-Blackwell, we have made a start. We need to review our portfolio of publications and assess them in terms of their scope, their ability to attract papers on the latest 'hot topics', and their performance against the competition. The outcome of this exercise will be a strategy for ensuring that RMetS continues to publish internationally leading journals.

Professor Roulstone moved from Acting Chairman to Chairman in October 2007, and Dr Shuckburgh moved from Acting co-Chair to co-Chair. It is envisaged that Prof Roulstone will step down in October 2008, whereupon Dr Shuckburgh will take the Chair of the Committee.

Below are some of the highlights from the reports from the journals.

## Quarterly Journal

The transition to the new format has gone smoothly, and informal feedback to the Editors indicates that the new style has been well received. Volume 133 of the *QJ* comprised eight regular issues plus three small special issues; ADRIEX, EAQUATE and COST723.

The number of full-length papers published in 2007 was 203 Research Articles (141 in 2006); 16 Notes and Correspondence (11), 1 Review Article and 2 (4) book reviews. The ISI impact factor for *QJ* has increased marginally this year from 2.033 to 2.045. (The *QJ* impact factor has fluctuated between 2 and 2.7 over the past 5 years.) The Board has solicited review papers from prominent scientists, which will help to improve the impact factor.

The number of articles submitted to *QJ* during 2007 was 220 (187), of which seven were for ADRIEX, seven for COST723 and seven for EAQUATE. 39 papers were rejected in 2007. The Editorial Board has taken the decision to remove the category "major revision" as this was leading to papers lingering in the system, sometimes for more than 18 months. The decision has been made to either accept papers as they stand or to accept subject to minor revision with a time limit for revisions of two months. More substantial revisions are very much encouraged where appropriate, but such papers are formally rejected, and therefore no time limit is imposed for resubmission.

There were a number of changes to the Editorial Board during 2007. Professors A Blyth, S-E Gryning and Dr M N Jukes retired, and we take this opportunity to record our thanks to them for all their hard work. Dr A Brown, Professor S E Larsen and Professor Mu Mu joined the Board. Professor Mu Mu's appointment is noteworthy in that he is the first Associate Editor based in China.

## International Journal of Climatology

Papers submitted in 2007 covered a wide range of topics with some evidence that the Editorial published in January 2006 has resulted in the number of papers in the broad area of applied climatology increasing as well as those that focus on climate modelling. Papers based on the analysis of observations or re-analysis data however still tend to dominate with scales of analysis ranging from the small to global.

The time between submission and first decision continues to improve with an average of approximately 70 days for research articles; in 2006 this was 94 days. The Journal therefore continues to provide a rapid peer-reviewed publication process.

The Journal also continues to attract papers from a wide range of countries indicating its status as a truly international publication; papers from 92 countries were received in 2007. India was the dominant country with papers mainly focused on the summer monsoon over the Indian subcontinent. Submissions from Chinese and Spanish climatologists also had strong regional flavours whereas those submitted by authors in the USA and the UK tended to have a wider geographical focus. Noteworthy was the number of papers submitted by Iranian climatologists in 2007, which until recently, has been an under-represented.

The Impact Factor for the Journal in 2006 was released in mid 2007. It increased from 1.622 in 2005 to 2.332 in 2006. This is the highest impact factor for IJOC to date, placing it 13<sup>th</sup> out of the group of 48 in the ISI grouping Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences – some five places higher than in 2005.

In summary, in 2007 the Journal met all its objectives including timeliness and rapidity of the publication process, an increase in exposure and the impact factor as well as serving as a vehicle for the publication of papers in climatology from a wide range of countries.

### **Atmospheric Science Letters**

We expected the journal would receive its first Impact Factor rating last year. However, this has not been awarded, and we now expect that this will take another year. It is essential that publication deadlines are met, and this is now occurring. It is anticipated that a “respectable” rating will not be achieved for a further two years after first award of an ISI rating. Quality is difficult to assess currently, but we now have very high quality papers on numerical modelling.

The Board is collaborating with Wiley-Blackwell’s marketing team to produce increased circulation. As an electronic journal, most access is via “institutions”. This year we have taken on several new Associate Editors, in New Zealand, India, China, and also in the area of atmospheric chemistry. It is also hoped to recruit a student to the Board, and we have recruited a Post Doctoral Research Associate.

The number of papers being submitted is still increasing. In 2007, the number of papers submitted increased by ~ 20%, with a corresponding increase in copy. Last year, from previous growth, we were expecting 10% increase. We estimate that by the end of 2008 we shall be approaching the copy targets that were set when the journal started.

### **Meteorological Applications**

The Editorial Board met three times in 2007. It is planned to continue with this frequency of Editorial meetings. It is also considered timely to reflect on the future direction of the Journal. By its nature, *Meteorological Applications* covers a wider subject area than the other RMetS journals. When planning the future of the Journal some thought should be given to targeting key subject areas in the atmospheric sciences for reviews, keynote papers and updates, thereby broadening the Journal’s market and attractiveness to readers.

Following the success of publishing two supplement/special issues on applied meteorological aspects in the past two years it is recommended that this practice continues, and some thought should also be given to the possible commissioning of papers arising from European and wider international conferences (possibly through links with the European Meteorological Society). A key activity during the coming reporting period should be the

development of these ideas, possibly under the oversight of one nominated Editorial Board member.

An improved marketing strategy, and improved perceptions of the Journal in the user community, should lead to an increase in subscriptions for *Meteorological Applications*. The development of special issues and invited reviews in topical areas will enhance this. It has been an editorial policy to publish papers in as many aspects of applied meteorological sciences as possible (within the remit of the Journal and the bounds of peer review and scientific rigour). The Supplement on *Weather, Agriculture and Farmers* was published in March 2007. The practice of providing book reviews has recently been re-introduced. These broaden the scope of the journal in terms of material covered, and provide additional, and hopefully useful, information to readers.

## Weather

An active marketing campaign run by Wiley-Blackwell continues to focus upon international sales, notably in North America. This links with an editorial aim of increasing the number of articles and news items based on this region (currently we receive more submissions based on weather and climate in both Africa and Asia than North America). The latest recruit to the Editorial Board has relevant first-hand knowledge of the climate of North America.

We have a healthy submission rate of articles allowing us to maintain a variety of topics in each issue. However, the Editorial Board recognise the importance of commissioning articles (at no cost) on specific topics that increase the relevance of *Weather* to readers. This is based on two assumptions:

- i) *that there is value in promoting the dissemination of educational material in view of the wide readership of Weather, possibly including review articles;*
- ii) *while there is no need to duplicate the considerable coverage of climatic change in the media, Weather might be a suitable outlet for the views and reflections of the climate science community or those who may be affected by climatic change.*

As a result, the following content priorities were identified during 2007:

### *Regular series*

1. **Tropical weather and climate:** a 9-part series, mostly written by Jim Galvin, provides a series of review articles on this subject. This commenced in September 2007 and will run until autumn 2008.
2. A proposed **education** / review series: planned from autumn 2008 with the proposed working title '*From observations to forecasting*' will bring together articles highlighting advances in meteorological observations and how these are used to enhance weather forecasting capabilities. This will include review articles on such topics as automation in observing networks, developments in satellite and radar observation, ensemble forecasting, developments in models and Model Output Statistics.
3. **Viewpoint series:** it was decided in 2007 to commission articles for this series rather than rely on fairly limited range of topics submitted previously (with benefits in terms of quality and balance of opinions published). The first invited article was by Prof Mike Hulme (September 2007) and this made a useful contribution to boosting the coverage of climatic change. Several other potential contributors have been identified and invited to contribute to the series.

4. **Weather in my Life:** a new series of personal reflections on an individual career either in meteorology or affected by meteorology, often by subjects in the public eye. The first two contributions (by Michael Fish and Sir Patrick Moore) were published in the January and March issues respectively. Three more are in preparation at the start of 2008 (two by former *Weather* editors). It is hoped that this series will ensure that *Weather* will continue to provide more than a collection of research articles in each issue.

Although the supply of articles is fairly buoyant, the number of letters submitted for publication has been disappointing in 2007. This is particularly unfortunate in view of the central position of our subject in the media (though this may be a reason). We have recently appealed for letters and this has led to a modest response. We feel there is scope for development of the Letters pages as a forum for debate on topical aspects of the climate change debate and for consideration of current weather events.

### **Society News**

The Society has worked hard this year to follow up on the suggestion at the last Annual General Meeting to include more regular issues of Society News and more detail on the wide range of activities on-going in the Society. This year's contributions have been very well received and as such we intend to continue building on this in the coming year.

We value the opportunity Society News gives to provide information to the Membership and we would welcome any suggestions from members of what they would like to hear more about.

### **Acknowledgements and special thanks**

The Committee, the Editors and the Editorial Boards would like to thank the Head of Communications and Publishing, Ms Virginia Robins, and the Publishing Assistant, Mrs Alison Hunter, for their continued support, hard work, and attention to detail – thank you!

Mrs Hunter has continued to provide a much-appreciated, valued and important link between the Editorial Board and Wiley-Blackwell.

# THE EUROPEAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY (EMS)

## EMS Membership and Society Representation

The EMS is now an Association of 35 Meteorological Societies from 29 European countries. In addition it has 28 Associate Members made up of National Meteorological Services (eg. Met Office, Deutscher Wetterdienst and Météo-France), international institutions (eg. ECMWF and EUMETSAT) and commercial companies. In the last year there has been one new Associate Member: Azeraeronavigation Enterprise, Azerbaijan.

The Society continues as a permanent member of the EMS Council with Dr David Burridge being the EMS President. Two other members of the Society are on the EMS Council:

- Dr Bob Riddaway is Chairman of the EMS Publications Committee
- Dr Howard Lyne is Chairman of the EMS Accreditation Committee.

The following meetings have taken place:

- 16<sup>th</sup> EMS Council in Beograd, Serbia, attended by Dr Burridge, Dr Riddaway and Dr Lyne;
- 17<sup>th</sup> EMS Council and 9<sup>th</sup> EMS General Assembly in El Escorial, Spain, attended by Dr Burridge and Dr Lyne.

## Strategy Implementation

The Strategy Implementation Group (which includes Dr Burridge, Dr Riddaway and Dr Lyne) recommended that the EMS focus on a small number of central objectives:

- To contribute to the advancement of the meteorological sciences;
- To promote best practice and assist in the development of applications of meteorology for the benefit of the public and economic activity;
- To promote public understanding and the appreciation of meteorology;
- To provide advice on and contribute to the development of environmental policies in Europe;
- To help all Members in the development of their activities and to foster cooperation between them.

Also the Group proposed a restructuring of the working bodies of the EMS.

The Strategy Implementation Plan was discussed at the 9<sup>th</sup> EMS General Assembly and Member Societies and Associates were asked to discuss the analysis and proposed objectives and provide input to the Strategy Implementation Group. The Group would then present a revised Strategy Implementation Plan to the 18<sup>th</sup> EMS Council.

## Annual Meetings

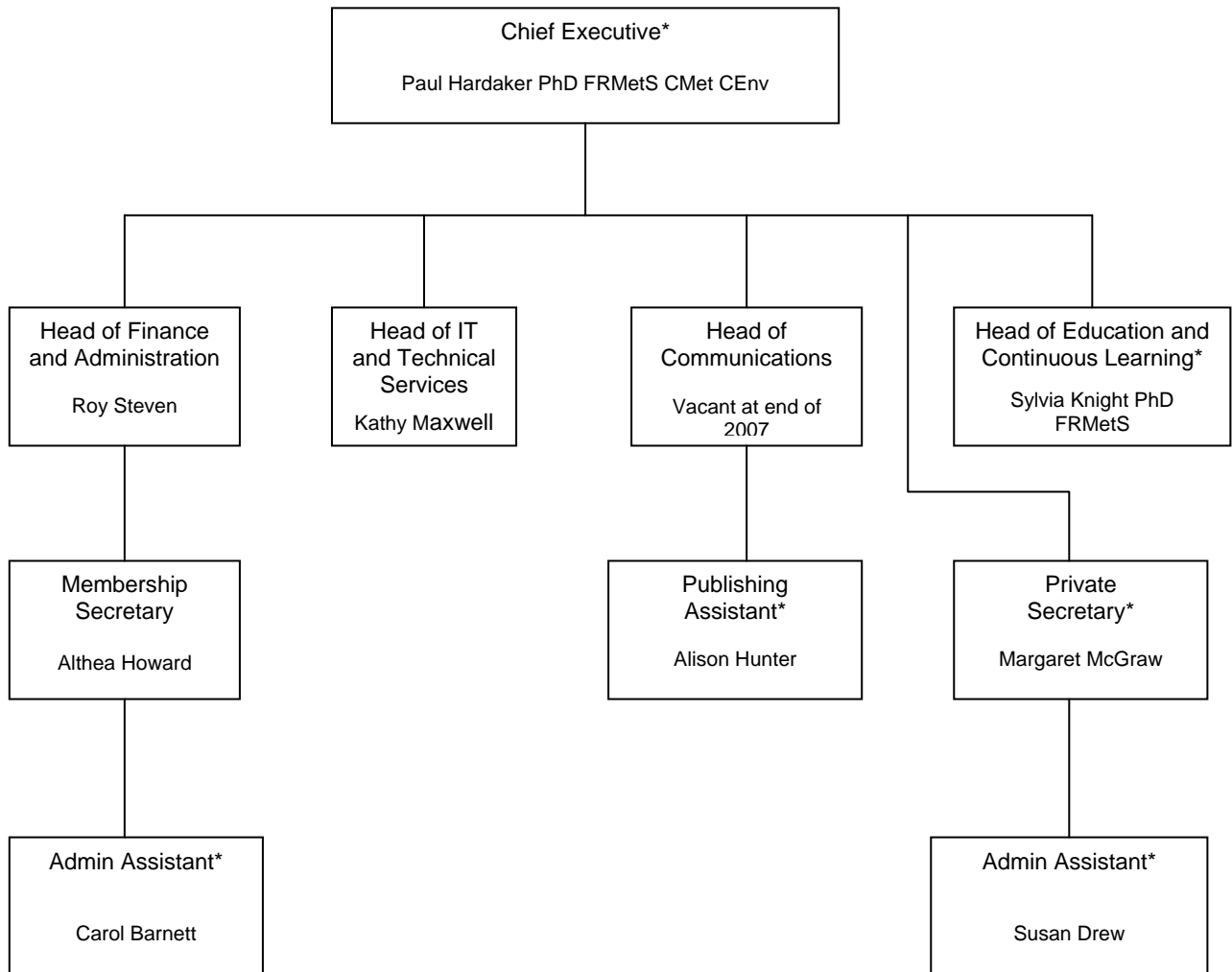
The 7<sup>th</sup> EMS Annual Meeting and 8<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Applications of Meteorology (ECAM) were held in El Escorial, Spain, from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> October 2007.

The 8<sup>th</sup> EMS Annual Meeting and 7<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Applied Climatology (ECAC) will be held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, from 29<sup>th</sup> September to 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2008. As with previous events the convenors of sessions will have the opportunity to arrange publication of conference papers in "*Advances in Science and Research*". This is an open-access journal established by Copernicus. The EMS Annual Meetings in 2009 and 2010 will be held in Toulouse and Zurich respectively.

## Other issues

- **President and Vice-Presidents.** Currently the EMS President has to have been a President of a Member Society. Similar but slightly less restrictive criteria exist for EMS Vice-Presidents. It was agreed by the 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly that the eligibility criteria for EMS Presidents and Vice-Presidents should be widened with the only criterion now being membership of a Member Society.
- **Website.** The EMS website was re-launched on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2007. The website is at [www.emetsoc.org](http://www.emetsoc.org).
- **Memorandum of Understanding.** A Memorandum of Understanding between the EMS and European Severe Storms Laboratory e.V. (ESSL) was signed on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2007. This formalises the existing collaboration between the two organisations.
- **Awards.** A new award has been established. This will be given to a person who has made distinguished contributions to the development of meteorology in Europe and will be named the *EMS Silver Medal*. The recipient will receive a medal which will be presented during the EMS Annual Meeting at which he or she will be asked to give a lecture.
- **Finance.** The outcome for 2006 was a surplus of income over expenditure of nearly 15,000 Euro due largely to the success of the Annual Meeting in Ljubljana. A smaller surplus of about 2,000 Euro is expected for 2007 due mainly to the impact of the increase in the Executive Secretary's hours from part-time to full-time. The budget for 2008 has been set which includes expenditure exceeding income by 2,300 Euro.

# STAFF



\* Part-time posts

Malcolm Walker retired as Education Resources Manager in October 2007 and the Society welcomed Dr Sylvia Knight as his successor in a new post of Head of Education and Continuous Learning. This brings together the work of the Education Committee and the Accreditation Board.

The Head of Communications and Publishing, Virginia Robins, left the Society in November and interviews to replace her will be held early in 2008. The new Head of Communications role retains many of the functions of the previous role but also now has greater responsibility for the broader stakeholder communications of the Society.

## REPORTS FROM LOCAL CENTRES

Local Centres provide particular opportunities for members to meet and promote the Society's aims and activities. Annual subventions are provided to encourage and support such activities. None of this could happen without the dedication and initiative of a relatively small number of prime movers – who would welcome offers of assistance.

### East Anglia Centre

#### Committee

James Dent (Chair and Treasurer)

Marigold Penkett (Secretary)

TBA (Events' Coordinator/Deputy Chair)

#### Activities

During the year, the Centre held six meetings at which the approximate average attendance ranged between 15 and 25:

- Development and use of weather buoys, John Kington, University of East Anglia;
- Polar mesocyclones and their impact on the NE Atlantic, Dr Grant Bigg, University of East Anglia;
- Do (or how to help) politicians understand meteorology, Prof Paul Hardaker, Chief Executive, Society;
- Air pollution, history and art, Peter Brimblecombe, School of Environmental Sciences, UEA;
- Polar ice cores in Greenland and Antarctica: records of past climate changes, Dr Regine Rothlisberger, British Antarctic Survey;
- Farmer approaches to water management, scheduling and sensing. What can and cannot be achieved in water economy, Colin Noble, Plantsystems Ltd, Wisbech.

#### *Meetings planned for the future*

A programme of further meetings is planned over the period to June 2008:

- Members' presentations: The oceanography of a small Norfolk Broad, Jamie Kettle and Claire Hughes, University of East Anglia;
- Rainfall and landslips in the Highlands and elsewhere, Dr Mike Winter, Transport Research Laboratory, Scotland;

#### *Other activities*

No summer visit was held this year.

The Centre held its Christmas function on 14<sup>th</sup> December at the University of East Anglia Sports Centre.

#### Finance

Income for the year was £929.40 (Subvention = £650.00). Expenditure for the year was £809.23. The current funds in hand and at the bank are £175.70.

## Scottish Centre

### Committee

Professor D Fowler (Chairman and Vice-President for Scotland), Mr R C Tabony (Secretary), Mr M J B Rogerson (Treasurer), Mr M Becker, Mr C J Brown, Mr I D Cameron, Mr G G Meldrum, Mr G A Monk, Mr D C Paterson, Miss M G Roy, Dr D Stevenson.

### Activities

During the year the Centre held six meetings at which the average attendance was 25. The following talks were given:

- Windstorms and insured loss in the UK, Richard Hewston;
- Troposphere to stratosphere transport - a Lagrangian approach, Yu Liu ;
- What weather forecasts can and cannot do for the yachtsman, Frank Singleton;
- Air traffic control, Gordon Sandford;
- Climate change: understanding the past, predicting the future, Gabriel Hegerl;
- Coping with sea level change, Jim Hansom;
- Why do thunderstorms form where they do? Keith Browning;

#### *Meetings planned for the future*

- Tropopause folds and their influence on meteorology, Geraint Vaughan;
- Air quality and transport, Debbie Ross;
- Pollution transport by weather systems, Victoria Sinclair;
- Solar influence on tropospheric circulation via the stratosphere, Isla Simpson.

#### *Other activities*

A visit to the Air Traffic Control Tower at Edinburgh Airport was made on 15<sup>th</sup> June and was attended by 12 people.

A joint meeting with the History Group was held in the Heriot-Watt University on 7<sup>th</sup> September. Organised by Marjory Roy, the all-day event celebrated The Life, Achievement and Legacy of Alexander Buchan (1829 – 1907). This was attended by 23 people.

The Buchan Memorial Meeting followed the Society's Biennial Conference, in which the Scottish Centre was heavily involved. The Programme Committee was chaired by Prof Fowler and other committee members formed the Local Organising Committee (Messrs Paterson, Brown and Meldrum plus Miss Roy). The efforts of the LOC were highly commended by those attending the conference. The Centre administered the Schools Competition, which attracted 53 expressions of interest.

The James Paton Prize for 2007 is awarded to Mr Neil Barker for his photograph of a snow shower that appeared in the November addition of *Weather*.

### Finance

Income for the year was £1723.25. Expenditure for the year was £1441.73. The current funds in hand and at the bank are £1270.75.

## North East Centre

### Committee

Chairman: Dennis Wheeler  
Treasurer: Ken Cook  
Secretary: Patricia Uttridge

### Activities

During the year, the Centre held nine meetings at which the approximate average attendance was 20:

- Climate change: the North East's response, Adrian Hilton, Climate Change Co-ordinator, North East;
- Studying environmental and climatic change using tree rings, Dr Rob Wilson, University of Edinburgh;
- Weather in art, Dr John Thornes, University of Birmingham;
- Broadcast meteorology, Paul Mooney, BBC TV, North East;
- Trends in drought and flood magnitude: do they exist? Terry Marsh, Centre for Environmental Hydrology;
- Antarctic ice sheets and climate change, Dr Michael Bentley, University of Durham;
- A life on the ocean wave: mercury and aneroid barometers at sea, Dr Anita McConnell, University of Cambridge;
- Holiday 2030: will it be Benidorm or Blackpool? Dr Allen Perry, University of Swansea.

### *Meetings planned for the future*

- From Belgrade to Washington and back: Socialist meteorology and the Eta model, Dr Vladimir Jankovic, University of Manchester;
- Early meteorological observations from London and Paris, Richard Cornes, University of East Anglia;
- Plague, famine and pestilence met me on all sides: climate, colonialism and disease in the nineteenth and early twentieth century Uganda, Dr Georgina Endfield, University of Nottingham
- Arctic climate variation – what the whales can tell us, Bernard Stonehouse, Scott Polar Research Institute.

### *Other activities*

This year's Gordon Manley Lecture was held on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November in the Geography Department of the University of Durham. The speaker was Professor Jim Fleming, Colby College, Maine, USA. His lecture was titled: The Climate Engineers: Fantasies of Control. Attendance was c50.

### Finance

Income for the year was £2001.28. Expenditure for the year was £1666.51.  
The current funds in hand and at the bank are £863.82.

## West Midlands Centre

### Committee

Dr Ian Phillips (Chairman since July 2006)

### Activities

During the year, the Centre held three meetings, at which the approximate average attendance was 20:

- Climate change, pollen seasons and allergies, Prof Jean Emberlin, Director of the Pollen Research Unit, University College, Worcester;
- The history of numerical weather prediction, Dr Brian Golding, Met Office;
- Polar lows and their impact on the NE Atlantic, Prof Grant Bigg, University of Sheffield.

### *Meetings planned for the future*

- Operational forecasting of tropical cyclones, Mr Julian Heming;
- Issues in meteorological observing networks, Dr Ian Strangeways.

### Finance

There was no income during the year. Expenditure for the year was £1111.00, all of which was paying for speakers' expenses. The current funds in hand and at the bank are £225.40.

## East Midlands Centre

### Committee

Ernie Pepperdine

### Activities

No meetings were held, and none are planned for the moment. If any members would like to assist with the revival of the Centre, they should get in touch with the Chief Executive in the first instance.

### *Other activities*

The Secretary continues to produce the broadsheet *Weather Front* quarterly by post and monthly on the website.

### Finance

Income for the year was £200.00. Expenditure for the year was £270.00. The current funds at the bank are £355.00.

## North West Centre

### **Committee:**

Andrew Russell, Hugo Ricketts, Hazel Jones. Sylvia Knight, Jenny Crowley, Emily Norton, Marie Ekstrom

### **Activities**

During the year, the Centre held five meetings at which the approximate average attendance was 60:

- Transport, weather and climate
- Weather and climate modelling
- The frontiers of atmospheric science: Postgraduate research presentations
- Observing and understanding clouds
- The future climate of the UK

### *Meetings planned*

- A programme of four further meetings is planned:
- Extreme events
- Brewery tour and tasting
- UK climate impacts
- Café scientifique: Who pays for climate change?

### **Finance**

Income for the year was £750. Expenditure was £500. Current funds in hand and at the bank are £300.

## REPORTS FROM SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

### Atmospheric Chemistry

#### Committee

Convenor: Dr Howard Roscoe, BAS. Local organiser: Dr Paul Monks, Leics.

There is no formal committee, but an ad-hoc group of advisors that includes Dr Hugh Coe (Manchester), Dr Robert MacKenzie (Lancs), Dr Anna Jones (BAS) and Dr John Remedios (Leics), as well as others from time to time.

#### Activities

During the year, the Group held one meeting at which the attendance was 55: Tropical composition, from boiler to freezer, at Leicester on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2007.

#### *Meetings planned*

One further meeting is planned in 2008:

The urban atmosphere from the street to the region, at Leicester on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

#### Finance

There is no annual membership fee for the Group.

Income for the year was £478.00 Expenditure for the year was £489.15.

The current funds in hand and at the bank are £1531.51.

### Data Assimilation

#### Committee

Keith Haines, Alberto Troccoli, Mike Fisher, Bruce Ingleby

The Group has a mailing list of approx 60 names.

#### Activities

During the year, the Group held one meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> October at the Met Office, Exeter, at which the approximate attendance was 40.

#### *Meetings planned*

Two further meetings are planned in 2008:

- Data assimilation in biogeochemical and ecosystem modelling, NOC, Southampton
- Non-linear and non-gaussian aspects of data assimilation.

#### Finance

There is no annual membership fee for the Group. There was no income and no expenditure. There are no funds in hand or at the bank.

## History of Meteorology and Physical Oceanography

### Committee

Malcolm Walker (Chairman), Sara Osman (Hon Sec), Mick Wood (Hon Treasurer), Margaret Deacon, Alan Heasman, Joan Kenworthy, Howard Oliver, David Pedgley, Vernon Radcliffe, Dennis Wheeler

### Membership

The approximate membership of the Group for the year was 73.

### Activities

During the year, the Group held two meetings at which the approximate average attendance was 22:

- AGM and Meteorology and World War 1 – part 2;
- The life, achievement and legacy of Alexander Buchan and visit to Mount Stuart House on the Isle of Bute.

### *Meetings planned*

- Public Weather Services during the past 50 years and AGM;
- The meteorology and physical oceanography of the Southern Ocean and Antarctic Edge during the 1920s and 1930s;
- History of tropical seasonal forecasting, starting with the classic papers of Walker and Bliss.

### *Other activities*

Two newsletters were published during the year.

### Finance

The annual membership fee for the Group is £5.00.

Income for the year was £726.34. Expenditure for the year was £369.75.

Current funds in hand and at the bank are £1889.01.

## Meteorological Observing Systems

### Committee

Jonathan Shanklin (Chairman), Mike Brettle (Treasurer), John Prior (Secretary), Andrew Overton (Newsletter Editor), Mike Bennett, Dick Saffel, Ian Strangeways, Jonathan Wright, Stephen Burt

The approximate membership of the Group for the year was 50.

### Activities

During the year, the Group held three meetings at which the approximate average attendance was 35:

- Standard urban measurements, University of Birmingham;
- AGM & Summer Visit, CEH Wallingford;
- Climate measurements for the future, University of Reading.

### *Meetings planned for the future*

A programme of two further meetings is planned over the period to December 2008:

- Operational use of observations, Spring 2008;
- Summer visit and AGM, Atmospheric and Radio Research Station, Chilbolton, July 2008

### *Other activities*

Newsletters, Spring and Autumn

Preparation of guidance for the installation and operation of meteorological sensors (for the approval of the Society Accreditation Board and Council)

### Finances

The annual membership fee for the Group is £5.00.

Income for the year was £339.00. Expenditure for the year was £62.10\*

\*Society HQ handled some income and expenditure for meetings.

The current funds in hand and at the bank are £4001.17 (£1398.96 current account and £2602.21 30 days account).

There was no activity reported by the following Groups:

**Dynamical Problems**  
**Physical Processes**  
**Satellite Meteorology and Oceanography**

The following Centres and Groups are currently not functioning because there are no volunteers willing to run them. If any members would like to revive any of these they should get in touch with the Chief Executive in the first instance.

**Association of British Climatologists**  
**Weather Forecasting**  
**South West Centre**

## **MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL (TRUSTEES OF THE SOCIETY)**

From 1 January to 30 September 2007 the constitution of the Council was as recorded in the Annual Report for 2006.

From 1 October 2007 the following Council held office:

### **PRESIDENT**

Geraint Vaughan, DPhil

### **VICE-PRESIDENTS**

Philip Eden, MSc

Alan O'Neill, PhD

Julia Slingo PhD

### **VICE-PRESIDENT FOR SCOTLAND**

David Fowler, PhD, CBE

### **GENERAL SECRETARY**

Bob Riddaway, PhD

### **TREASURER**

David Carson, PhD

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

Matthew Collins, PhD (Chair, Meetings Committee)

Geoff Jenkins, PhD, OBE (Vice Chair, Education Committee)

Howard Lyne, PhD, CMet (Chair, Accreditation Board)

George Meldrum, MSc (Chair, Education Committee)

Ian Roulstone, DPhil (Chair, Publishing Committee)

Emily Shuckburgh, PhD (Vice Chair, Publishing Committee)

### **ORDINARY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

Susan Ballard, BSc

Stephen Burt

Andrew Charlton PhD

Fay Davies, PhD

Trevor Davies, PhD

Elizabeth Morris, PhD

John Pyle, DPhil

Dominic Reeve, PhD

David Richardson, BSc

### **EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

Penelope Tranter, BSc, CMet, Editor of *Society News*

John Hirst, Chief Executive of the Met Office and UK Permanent Representative to WMO

## MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2007

The Committees listed below are the standing Committees of the Society. Membership of Working Groups and similar *ad hoc* bodies are not detailed.

### **Accreditation Board**

Accreditation Board Chairman  
M Brettle, A Eccleston, D Grimes,  
A Hisscott, S Noyes, D Richardson,  
D Selway, C B H Stevenson, D Swannick,  
R Wilderspin

### **Awards**

President (Chairman)  
Nominated Vice-President  
Editor, *Quarterly Journal*  
Editor, *International Journal of Climatology*  
Editor, *Meteorological Applications*  
Editor, *Atmospheric Science Letters*  
D Anderson, M Beran, K A Browning,  
J M Huthnance, J F B Mitchell

### **Editing (*Meteorological Applications*)**

P J A Burt - Editor (Chairman)  
Representatives of Wiley-Blackwell  
J Bech, L Carvalho, L Chapman,  
C G Collier, J Curtin, K James,  
T A Lachlan-Cope, C Y Lam, G Marshall,  
R Potts, C Power, P Ryder

### **Editing (*Quarterly Journal*)**

P L Read and I Roulstone - Joint Editors  
(Chairman),  
Copy Editors  
O Alves, E Andersson, S Belcher,  
P Benard, A Blyth, A Brown, P Clark,  
H Coe, M Fantini, P Francis,  
W W Grabowski, T Haine, A Korolev,  
S E Larsen, S Lewis, B Liley, J Purser,  
E Richard, R Seager, R Swinbank

### **Editing (*Atmospheric Science Letters*)**

Alan Gadian - Editor (Chairman)  
Representatives from Wiley-Blackwell  
G Austin, A Bott, S Ghosh, W Grabowski,  
S-E Gryning, K Haines, P Hardaker,  
H Hendon, E Highwood, C Jones,  
R Jones, S Malinowski, G McFiggans,  
J McQuaid, A Miller, M Pritchard,  
A Russell, D Schultz, J Thielen,  
J Vanneste, D Woolf, Y Yin

### **Editing (*International Journal of Climatology*)**

G J McGregor - Editor (Chairman)  
Representatives from Wiley-Blackwell

### **Education**

Education Chairman  
R Brugge, J Clayton, M J Harris,  
G J Jenkins, G C Johnson, S Knight,  
C W Prowse, R Reynolds, R W Riddaway,  
K Shepherdson

### **Finance and General Purposes**

President  
Vice President (President Designate)  
Treasurer (Chairman)  
General Secretary  
Chairman, Publishing Committee  
S Burt, R Gurney, T Guymer,  
E Shuckburgh

### **Meetings**

Meetings Chairman  
N Chappell, R Forbes, A Overton,  
D Parker, A Rudd, A Troccoli, S Webster,  
H Weller, C Wood, S Woolnough  
Representatives of Special Interest  
Groups and Local Centres

### **Publishing**

Publishing Chairman  
Joint Editors, *Quarterly Journal*  
Editor, *International Journal of Climatology*  
Editor, *Weather*  
Editor, *Atmospheric Science Letters*  
Editor, *Meteorological Applications*  
Editor, *Society News*  
Treasurer  
General Secretary  
K Haines

### **Weather Board**

J C Mayes - Editor (Chairman)  
G D Anderson, A Charlton, S Davenport,  
E Hanna, S Moseley, M Shahgedanova,  
B Sinha, M A Town, P E Tranter,  
D A Wheeler

## OTHER REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED BY COUNCIL

**Editor, *Atmospheric Science Letters***

A Gadian

**Editor, *International Journal of Climatology***

G R McGregor

**Editor, *Meteorological Applications***

P J A Burt

**Co-Editors, *Quarterly Journal***

I Roulstone, P L Read

**Editor, *Weather***

J C Mayes

**Editor, *Society News***

P Tranter

**Honorary Librarian**

E Harris

**Chairman, Course Evaluation & Continuous Professional Development Panel**

A Eccleston

**Representative on Flight Safety Committee**

J B Stewart

**Representative on General Aviation Safety Committee**

G A J Bowles

**Representative on European Meteorological Society Council**

D M Burrige

**Representatives on Board of Society for the Environment**

R W Riddaway

P J Hardaker

**Representative on Science Council**

P J Hardaker

## WITHOUT WHOM

During the year the following Officers and Council members retired from office. Their successors are shown above.

Vice Presidents:

Professor C G Collier

Prof F W Taylor

Ordinary members of Council:

Mr G A J Bowles

Prof K Haines

The Society depends heavily on the valuable work done by those who hold voluntary office and we record the thanks of the Society to all of them for their services.

## Appendix 1: BACKGROUND TO THE SOCIETY

The British Meteorological Society was founded in 1850 and was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1866. In 1883 the name was changed to the Royal Meteorological Society. A separate Scottish Society had existed from 1855, but in 1921 was merged with the Royal Meteorological Society. The Society is a United Kingdom Charity with a national and international reach and reputation.

The Royal Charter states that the Society was established “for the advancement of Meteorological Sciences”. That remains the aim of the Society and includes advancement of applications of the science and related sciences, including climatology and climate science, the interaction between the atmosphere and the oceans, and environmental awareness. Copies of the Society’s Charter and By-Laws are available on request.

The Society’s Annual Report and Annual Accounts are submitted to the Annual General Meeting by the Trustees, the Society’s Council, who are elected or re-elected each year at the Annual General Meeting. The Annual Report illustrates activities during the year which reflect Council’s policies in pursuit of the aim of the Society.

The Royal Meteorological Society (Registered Charity No 208222):

Address: 104 Oxford Road  
Reading RG1 7LL  
Telephone: 0118 956 8500  
Fax: 0118 956 8571  
E-Mail: chiefexec@rmets.org  
WWW: <http://www.rmets.org>

Bankers: Lloyds Bank plc  
High Street  
Bracknell RG12 1BT

Solicitors: Bristows, Cooke and Carpmael  
10 Lincoln’s Inn Fields  
London WC2A 3BP

Auditors: Porter Garland  
Portland House  
Park Street  
Bagshot, Surrey

Investment Advisors: Rathbone Investment Management Ltd  
159 New Bond Street  
London W1S 2UD

Investment Powers:

By-Laws 82 and 83 read:

- 82 The monies of the Society which are not subject to any specific trust purpose, and which are not required to meet current expenditure, may be invested in any securities quoted in the official list of any recognised Stock Exchange in the European Union or placed on deposit with a reputable organisation. Council may only delegate its powers to select and make investments to the extent permitted by the provisions of The Royal Charter and Trustee Act 2000.
- 83 The Society’s premises shall not be sold or disposed of except with the sanction of a General Meeting of Fellows.

## **Appendix 2: POLICY STATEMENT ON THE ROLE OF THE RESERVES**

### **Principal Objective**

To maintain and make use of capital reserves to:

- Ensure the viability of the Society on a year by year basis in the long term
- Enable the medium to long-term development of the Society's aims and objectives

### **Background and Introduction**

The Society derives its primary annual income from a combination of members' subscriptions, sales of publications, miscellaneous and income from investments. The Society holds three types of investments: Tangible Assets, a General Reserve and a Legacies Fund. Council first approved the policy on management of these two last items on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2001 and this is kept under regular review.

Historically the only major demand (> £100,000) on the reserves has been the purchase of the Oxford Road Headquarters, pending the sale and resolution of the problems with the previous Headquarters (James Glaisher House, in Bracknell). Other demands have been comparatively small (~£50,000 spread over several years) and relate to upgrade of the IT equipment.

The medium and long-term strategy of the Society has been formulated by Council, is overseen by the Society's House Committee and is being implemented by the Chief Executive, who reports to Council four times a year. This policy statement provides guidelines on how the reserves may be used *inter alia* to fund non-recurring costs resulting from proposals made by the Society's strategic development programme. Individual items of expenditure will be presented for Council approval in the normal way.

### **The Annual Budget**

The annual budget covers the income and expenditure of the Society in all its activities, including the reserves. Council sets the budget for the Society and at each meeting received a forecast of out-turn against the budget. For the purposes of the management accounts, the budget and in-year reporting are broken down into two parts: the General Activities, which relates to the day-to-day operational work of the Society, which includes items such as the maintenance of Tangible Assets for example, and the Development Activities, which define the Society's income and expenditure related to its strategic development programme.

The General Activities will normally be budgeted to balance. The budget for the Development Activities will be set by taking account of the gains on the reserve available for investment in the Society's charitable objectives. This is informed by the Charity Commission's guidelines on the ratio of turnover to capital reserve.

### **The Reserves - Tangible Assets**

Tangible assets, which comprise the premises, the furnishings and equipment are essential for conducting the business of the Society and are an effective way of providing "rent free" accommodation. These will be routinely maintained primarily through the annual budget at a level appropriate to provide accommodation and facilities to support the normal operational activities of the Society. This includes committee meetings, but not necessarily Council meetings and the regular Society meetings and

conferences. Major changes would be funded on a case by case basis through the General Reserve and could include external contributions (e.g. on appeal).

### **The Reserves - The General Reserve**

The role of the General Reserve is basically to provide a degree of financial robustness to the long-term survival of the Society. The General Reserve will:

- provide some resilience against “single event” failures, e.g. a significant failure of a large conference (~£100,000);
- allow front-loaded spend to save measures (~£100,000);
- allow some “one-off” expenditures on an opportunist basis (~£100,000);
- allow a recovery period for significant changes in the income/expenditure balance (~£150,000);
- create a margin for medium term market fluctuations (~£100,000).

For this model to work at these sorts of levels over a long period the fund needs to have a topping up mechanism. This has to be through income or growth in the market. This gives a target value of the General Fund which is approximately equivalent to the turnover of the Society.

### *The Legacies Fund(s)*

The policy for these funds is to protect and grow them. Subject to this policy, capital gains and dividends are used to support, in a sustained manner, benefits primarily to individuals through Grants, Awards and Bursaries. More details on these funding schemes are available on the Society’s website at [‘www.rmets.org/activities/awards/grants/index.php#legacies’](http://www.rmets.org/activities/awards/grants/index.php#legacies).

The number and level of grants and bursaries will be determined by the level of available of funds and by second priority call on the General Fund.