

## **SUMMARY OF THE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP IN AVIATION METEOROLOGY (SIGAM) MEET OF SEPT. 19. 2013**

The meet continued using the set-up of 2012's meet, focussing not on topics for discussion, as was the case in 2011, but rather on SIG activities and direction.

We started with a discussion on Society representation (rep) at the General Aviation Safety Council (GASCo) and the UK Flight Safety Committee (UKFSC). Noteworthy for the meet was to explicitly state the SIG involvement in the rep factor, and where its empowerment starts and ends. As an addendum to the below minutes, for the time being, the committee sub-group designed for keeping reps updated on their counterpart's rep activities will consist of two members instead of three. James Morrison and Bob Lunnon are the GASCo and UKFSC reps, respectively. For the time being there is no "standby rep", as James and Bob have both expressed interest and availability to stand in in case one can't make it to their or the other's meet.

Aviation Meteorology literature was discussed, more in the prospect of keeping alive or enhancing existing literature, and looking at new projects. SKYBRARY was introduced, which has shown to be of interest up to the Chief Exec level. We will have more news in the near future on that aspect. It has also to be acknowledged that there are members who wish to publish books on their own, and one of the challenges will be to be able to balance personal and Societal interests, both of which are important to the SIG.



*Attendees of the Sept. 19, 2013 meet in RMetS headquarters in Reading. From left to right: Michael de Villiers, James Morrison, George Anderson, Jacob Kollegger, Ed Pooley, Bob Lunnon. Photographed by Liz Bentley.*

## Minutes of Aviation SIG, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at R Met Soc HQ

### Attendees

Jake Kollegger

Bob Lunnon

Ed Pooley

James Morrison

Michael De Villiers

George Anderson

(Liz Bentley [new Chief executive of the Met Soc] joined us for fairly informal discussions over lunch)

### **1. Recap of the 2012 meet and follow-up.**

Although there was discussion nominally under this agenda item, most of the topics were addressed under other explicit agenda items.

### **2. Representation at UK FSC and GASCo**

The background to this is that an earlier Chief Executive of the Society, Paul Hardaker, had been very keen for the SIG to have a role in recommending representatives and pressed for the then (the time of the 2012 annual meeting) representatives to be replaced by SIG members with some urgency.

Jake was keen that in the future any changes in representation should be considered on a longer time scale.

Jake reminded us of his understanding of the relationship between the SIG, the representatives and the Chief Executive of the Society, as follows:

“The SIG is to be informed of any irregularities of Representative inputs, be it lack of annual reports, non-attendance in meets, or other issues the Chief Exec may have, in order to be kept in the loop on rep activities.

Our Reps can send summaries of any meets to the SIG for publishing in the newsletter, as has been done in the past, but the annual report goes to the Chief Exec, and not the SIG.

The SIG is not the direct link between Rep and Chief Exec, as the Rep reports directly to the Chief Exec. The Chief Exec and Rep, however, can either individually or together approach the SIG on matters, be they support, advise, consultation, etc.”

Ed Pooley also proposed the following, seconded by Jake, and agreed to be the other members:

“The Reps in future may have 3 or 5 year terms, to be decided, in order for the Reps to realistically commit to a set number of years and not necessarily indefinitely. This allows as well for feedback on performance, what support is needed for them to do their job effectively, etc.”

Jake explained that he had tried to engender a situation whereby the GASCo rep, as with the FSC Rep, will have a dedicated stand-by rep, in case he cannot make it to meets for whatever

reason. The goal here was to always have a presence at these meets, and thereby increase the exposure of the RMetS in these meets.

There was some discussion about widening the pool of possible representatives. Ed asked how many R Met S members were regular fliers (i.e. pilots) – it was hoped to answer this at next membership survey. George suggested that some Met Office (military) aviation forecasters might be suitable/willing. There was some discussion of requests to provide expertise, highlighted by Michael's involvement in a Channel 4 programme about the AF447 accident. Althea Howard and her team is in the process of creating a membership survey which will include questions pertaining to aviation meteorology as well.

### **3. Meetings for 2014**

Bob is organising the RMetS Wednesday meeting on January 15 on turbulence, Imperial College, London.

There will be a meet in Brussels organised by the Flight Safety Foundation European Advisory Committee (Ed is a member of the committee) probably addressing aviation hazards. Ed explained that the meeting would probably be in May/June, would be free to attend, and could well be on weather risks in aviation.

Jake explained that he was keen to have a relatively small meeting on fuel icing in 2014. This was partly motivated by an incident in which the aircraft he was flying exhibited rapid systematic fluctuations in the reported fuel remaining – this was thought to be due to the combination of low temperatures and water in the fuel adversely affecting fuel tank sensors. He is pursuing this with others working in this area.

Ed recommended a meeting on icing, particularly in light of the fact that the Ice Water Content understood to have been encountered by AF447 was outside the design atmosphere.

It was noted that Emma Irving (Reading University) was doing a talk on the REACT4C project in Reading Town Hall on 2/10/13.

### **4. Aviation meteorology literature and associated issues**

Jake introduced this issue explaining that it covered not only Mike Wickson's book "Meteorology for Pilots" as he had mentioned before but literature in general, and how to preserve, conserve, and distribute the information and/or literature in order to help enhance aviation meteorology knowledge.

A specific issue, which was introduced to the majority of members, was SKYbrary, for which the link is

<http://skybrary.aero/index.php/Portal:Weather>

Skybrary, to put it simply, is like wikipedia and is open source for all, free of charge. On the main page you will find logos of ICAO, FSF, UK FSC, Eurocontrol, etc. These organizations are involved in providing information (via manpower provided by its employees) on various topics in aviation and made available on a world-wide basis. The weather page is in need of editing, and it was requested if the SIG would consider doing this. We in the meet agreed that it would be interesting and worthwhile to look into this. On the one hand Liz Bentley may be interested in having the RMetS logo next to those mentioned above, and on the other we are the only real SIG in Europe capable of doing this, increasing our exposure yet again. The idea would be to edit 3 weather articles in that weather page per month by a panel of about 3-4 people, for peer review. The preliminary questions were, would we be interested in doing something like this? Time and effort was what was requested, with no commercial or remunerative issues.

Ed explained that he is one of the committee with overall responsibility for Skybrary. He proposed that the SIG be part of a trial for 6 months to assess progress. He said there needed to be a point of contact to fire off articles to potential reviewers, and it was agreed that Jake could fill that role with support from HQ staff.

Bob agreed to talk to the chairmen of the RMetS education and journals committees, and Jake agreed to talk to Liz Bentley. It was noted that, for example, one of the attendees was hoping to complete a book on Aviation Meteorology when he retired, so there would be competition from conventional media.

There being no other issues of discussions or questions, the meeting ended at 1500 local time.