

London & Southern Counties Minerals Industries Institute



ANNUAL REPORT OF COUNCIL - YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE 2021

The Council of the London & Southern Counties Minerals Industries Institute (MinSouth) has pleasure in presenting its Report for the 2020-2021 session, ending 30th June 2021.

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

President:	Mike McLoughlin
Vice Presidents:	Simon Kocher Richard Roethe
Honorary Treasurer:	Paul Griffin
Honorary Secretary:	Clive Hallett
Membership:	Andrew Hindmarch
Sponsorship:	Sue Struthers
Communications:	Colin Morrish

Continuing Past Presidents:

Sue Struthers	2020
Stuart MacGowan	2019
Roger Emmott	2017
Robert Bacon	2016

Elected Councillors:

Gavin Bowyer
Geoff Hooper
Alan Stainer
Iain Duncan
Alan Bozeat
Mark Burnett
Colin Morrish
Mark Davis
Ian Jackson
Andrew Hindmarch

Co-opted Councillors:

John Monhemius
Michael Forrest
Stephen Barnett

Councillors Resigned During Year:

None

PRESIDENTS REPORT:

2020/21 continued as 2019/20 year finished – Covid 19 made physical meetings impossible due to lockdowns and government advice. However, with our newly appointed Communications Officer, we were able to continue with virtual meetings using GoToMeeting. We also introduced lunch-time ‘Snap’ meetings, to cover subjects which were of general interest to members and to inform them of new developments by companies and organisations. The virtual meetings have allowed more people to attend than previously participated in recent physical meetings. We have even had attendees from other continents! The meetings were recorded and are available for viewing on MinSouth.org.uk. There are quite a large range of subjects covered there now. The first videos were put up in April 2019.

Both our joint meetings with Women In Mining and the British Tunnelling Society were virtual. Despite using various conferencing software, the Communications Officers’ Eventbrite ticket purchase system allowed the Treasurer, Paul Griffin, to collect the number of attendees for IOM3’s records ensuring that we will get continued funding from IOM3 for this year and following years. We tried to have a virtual sundowner using GoToMeeting and have moved onto Wonder.me which is more like a networking program and perhaps we will continue with it once the physical Sundowners return, but at different times so as not to conflict with the Sundowner, say at lunch time.

The Young Persons Lecture competition heat was also held online, however in place of enjoying beer and pizza whilst the judges discussed the presentations the attendees were entertained by Gavin Bowyer who gave a presentation on the merits of MinSouth. The heat was won by Alex Lipp, from RSM.

We did not allow covid to interfere with the Christmas Quiz, it was held online, Julian Aldridge, our Quiz Master was in attendance and a good night was had by all. The joint winners were “Anglo American” and “Wine-to-bill reconciliation”. We even had a team from Toronto attend.

The post of Communications Officer was introduced so that some assistance could be given to the Honorary Secretary whose position was becoming overwhelming. In addition to Colin Morrish being appointed Communications Officer, there was a changing of the guard of Honorary Secretary, with Clive Hallet taking on the role from Ian Jackson and Sue Struthers taking up the Sponsorship role which was formerly Clive’s domain. Without the help of these individuals MinSouth would grind to a halt and I am very grateful for the help they have given me this year. I would also like to thank Ian Jackson on behalf of MinSouth for his secretarial duties over the last few years. Ian may not have the secretary title any more but he was much in evidence through this last year coordinating the CSM response below.

As a result of the news that the University of Exeter decided to “pause” its undergraduate course in Mining Engineering at the Camborne School of Mines, MinSouth Council sent a letter to the university expressing its disappointment at this development. We have subsequently been pursuing ways in which MinSouth members can assist in raising the profile of our industry to young people and to make them aware of the opportunities which exist for a career in mining and its related disciplines.

Finances are still tight in the long term. Room rental increased substantially in 2019/20 and we will find it difficult to afford to return to our preferred venue, the Counting House, on a long-term basis once physical meetings are restarted unless some other income is found. Attempts were made to charge companies for making presentations at the Snap meetings but so far with no success. I should add that IOM3, 297 Euston Road have introduced a room charge in 2021 for evening meetings.

During this year, IoM3 have been in discussion with all of its Local Societies to develop a Memorandum of Understanding in order to put the relationship between the Institute and Local Societies on a firmer footing. The Agreement between MinSouth and IoM3 has now been finalized and Council has agreed to follow a dual membership agreement with IoM3, enabling MinSouth to have its own membership records and a direct

relationship with its members, such that we will continue to contact our members through Mailchimp notices unless informed otherwise.

We received the sad news in November that Stephen (Steve) Barnett, Past President 2012/2013, passed away following a long battle with prostate cancer. His wife Jane will be arranging some form of “celebration” of Steve’s life when she is able to return to the UK from Australia for those wishing to attend.

All that remains for me is to say is I wish the new president Simon Kocher every success for 2021/22.

MEMBERSHIP:

The Society is an Affiliated Society to the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (IoM3). Most attendees to the Society events are IoM3 members who have elected to be notified of Society events. In addition, there are a number of affiliate members who have joined MinSouth directly and are not members of IoM3

MEETINGS:

General Meetings:

The MinSouth AGM was held online on Monday 8th October 2020 where Mike McLoughlin was appointed President.

In addition to 8 evening technical meetings and 1 social event (quiz) there were 4 lunchtime “Snap” sessions held during the year. These included joint events held with the British Tunnelling Society (February) and Women in Mining (May), as well as the Young Persons Lecture Competition (March).

Average attendance for the top 8 technical meetings was 65 persons (45 - 2019/20). This is a significant increase and appears to be as a result of the use of online meetings during the year. It is anticipated that physical meetings will re-start by Oct 2021, but it is hoped to still continue with online access.

The MinSouth presentations in 2020/21 were:

Oct:	Underwater robot trials at Ecton	Steve Henley
Nov:	Low carbon, Low cost, Low risk, High value-adding technology Modifying your modifying factors with the sue of sensors	Gordon Stove Andrew Bamber
Dec:	Mining Quiz	
Jan:	Should mining be allowed on the Moon or Antarctica?	Debate
Feb:	North Yorks Polyhalite Project	Craig Sewell/Jason Fawcett
Mar:	Young Persons Lecture Competition	
Apr:	Progress at Scotgold’s Cononish Gold mine	Richard Gray
May:	Blockchain technology for the mining Industry	Tanya Matveeva
June:	Tin, uses, market and new mines coming on stream in Cornwall	Owen Mihalop

The “Snap” lunchtime presentations were:

Feb:	Greener mining: Is it achievable and how?	Tim Patterson
Apr:	Challenging the orthodoxy of traditional InSAR ground motion surveys	Andy Sowter
May:	Revealing ground deformation precursors using satellite InSAR	Stephen Grebby
June:	Metal Innovations: Tunnelling Machine	Gareth Thomas

The Council expresses thanks to all authors for their time and effort spent in preparing and presenting papers at MinSouth events. It is recognised that pressure of work leaves little free time for such voluntary, learned society contributions.

Masterclasses:

There was a Masterclass held in November 2020 on Nordic Mining.

Young Persons' Lecture Competition:

The local heat of the Young Persons' Lecture Competition was held online. The selected presentations were:

Alex Lipp	All the world in a grain of sand? Geochemical surveying by unmixing of large river sediments
Alex Moss	Exploration for LCT Pegmatites in Leinster, Ireland
Finley Goodwin	The Tin Bearing Pegmatites of Uis, Namibia

The winner was Alex Lipp who received a £200 cheque. The runners-up received £100 each.

Council expresses thanks to all the student representatives for encouraging submissions. Also, for the ongoing support from Golder Associates and Saint Barbara LLP who not only financially support the event but also provided expert judges for the evening.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES:

Mining Quiz:

A mining themed quiz was again held in December.

Mining Sundowner:

Although the Sundowner is not formally a MinSouth event, it has traditionally been supported by MinSouth members. It is on the last Thursday of every month. Physical attendance was disrupted over the past year due to the pandemic but physical meetings should continue in the future. Thanks are due to organising committee which includes Michael Forrest representing MinSouth.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Web Site:

The web site provides comprehensive information and news on MinSouth activities. The site has now been updated and moved to a new server. The Council expresses its thanks to Mike McLoughlin for his help with the new site.

Social Networking:

The move to the use of online presentations during the year has also resulted in a significant increase in use of social media. During the year there were 1,128 views of recorded presentations compared with just 88 the year before. The MinSouth LinkedIn site has 541 members (510 2019/20) and Twitter account with 731 followers (677 2019/20).

COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Ten Council Meetings were held during the year. These are held before the General Meeting each month. There was an additional meeting in September 2020.

FUNDING:

The IoM3 sponsored the society a total of £1,538 in 2020/21 (£3,516 - 2019/20)

MinSouth received corporate sponsorship of £4,150 in 2020/21 (£4,650 - 2019/20)

Gold:

Bara Consulting
CSA Global

Silver:

Golder Associates
Knight Piesold
St Barbara
Behre Dolbear

Bronze:

SP Angel

MinSouth is most grateful to the IOM3 and all sponsors for their ongoing support. This sponsorship allows MinSouth to pursue its objective of supporting the education and development of the next generation of mining professionals.

The Council wish to thank Sue Struthers as Sponsorship Secretary for her efforts in engaging with our sponsors.

SCHOOLS PROGRAMME:

MinSouth continued its educational support through the year. Specifically, this involved maintaining contact with the Earth Science Teachers Association, (ESTA) and including information and teaching materials for both teachers and students on the MinSouth website.

STUDENT PROGRAMME:

Sponsorship and Support:

MinSouth is continuing to sponsor university students. The total support given to Students over the past 10 years now totals £28,000. This year MinSouth sponsored Katie McCann (RSM) with a £1,000 award, and Elin Jones (Holloway) and Christina Bellis (RSM) with £500 each to assist through their undergraduate studies. In addition, prizes of £400 were awarded at the Young Persons' Lecture Competition.

Student Sections:

MinSouth continues to support Student Sections at several universities including the Camborne School of Mines and the Royal School of Mines. We continue to reach out to other institutions running appropriate courses with the aim of encouraging further student participation in our activities.

CHARITABLE DONATIONS:

No donations were requested during the year:

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Society's Annual Statement of Accounts are summarised below:

	2021	2020	2019	2018
Total Income for the year to June 30 th	£5,763	£10,739	£10,754	£10,445
Total Expenditure for the year to June 30 th	£2,490	£7,227	£ 5,702	£16,531
Excess of income over expenditure	£3,273	£3,512	£ 5,052	(£6,085)
Total Cash held as of June 30 th	£26,567	£23,293	£19,781	£14,729

2020/2021			
Opening Cash	RBS		23,292.47
	PayPal		1.00
			<hr/> 23,293.47
Receipts	IoM3 funding	1,538.25	
	Sponsorship	4,150.00	
	Memberships	75.00	
	Merchandise	-	
	Dinner	-	
	Raffle	-	
	Other	-	
		<hr/> 5,763.25	
Payments	YPLC	400.00	
	Student IoM3 Membership	-	
	Sponsorship	2,000.00	
	Meeting Rooms	-	
	Items for Sale	-	
	Prestige Lecture	-	
	Honorariums	-	
	Website	-	
	Dinner	-	
	Misc.	90.00	
	Charges	-	
		<hr/> 2,490.00	
Surplus/Deficit			<hr/> 3,273.25
			26,566.72
Closing Cash	Clydesdale		26,565.72
	PayPal		1.00
			<hr/> 26,566.72

The impact of the COVID pandemic was evident both in receipts and expenditure when compared to previous years. On the receipts side, the funding from IoM3 was reduced as the result of the grant formula being changed to reflect the use of online meetings, and also in the timing of payment such that only 1/3rd was paid before the year end (June 30th). This effectively reduced the grant received in the year to only £1,538 compared with £3,517 the year before. On the expenditure side, the need to hold the presentations and meetings online meant that there were zero catering and venue hire costs. Also, there were no requests for travel sponsorship in the year. This allowed for greater sponsorship of students with 3 students being supported compared to just 1 the previous year. Expenditure was still substantially reduced to £2,490 compared with £7,227 the previous year.

The net result was the Society saw an increase in funds for the year of £3,273.

Cash reserves stand at £26,566.72 as of 30th June 2021

SPECIAL THANKS:

The President wishes to express his sincere thanks to all Councillors for their support throughout the year, despite often hectic work schedules. Without the willing support of the councillors the post of President would have been a lot harder.

Finally, Council wishes incoming President Simon Kocher every success in his year of office.

Mike McLoughlin
President 2020 – 2021

September 2021.