

London & Southern Counties Minerals Industries Institute



ANNUAL REPORT OF COUNCIL - YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE 2024

The Council of the London & Southern Counties Minerals Industries Institute (MinSouth) has pleasure in presenting its Report for the 2023-2024 session, ending 30th June 2024.

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

President:	Mark Burnett
Vice Presidents:	Mark Davis Anya Hurd
Honorary Treasurer:	Paul Griffin
Honorary Secretary:	Gordon Stove
Membership:	Andrew Hindmarch
Sponsorship:	Sue Struthers
Communications:	Colin Morrish
Web Master:	Mike McLoughlin

Continuing Past Presidents:

Colin Morrish	2023
Simon Kocher	2022
Mike McLoughlin	2021
Sue Struthers	2020

Elected Councillors:

Robert Bacon	Gawen Jenkin
Alan Bozeat	Stuart MacGowan
Pat Foster	Alex Norori-McCormac
Clive Hallett	Aymone Schendel
Geoff Hooper	Karin Tynelius
Ian Jackson	

Co-opted Councillors:

Iain Duncan
John Monhemius
Michael Forrest
Andrew Hindmarch

Councillors Resigned During Year:

Richard Roethe
Isobel Mackay
Bianca Depres

PRESIDENTS REPORT:

The 2023/2024 year continued with the hybrid meeting model implemented by the Society since the ending of COVID -19 restrictions. As a general trend, the Society has observed that on- line attendance is generally higher than in person attendance. At the same time, we continue to be faced with declining, total attendance numbers, an apparent inability to attract new members, or select speakers and topics that are able to attract substantial and maintained interest in the Society and it's activities.

Our financial situation remained stable, allowing us to sponsor the Young Persons Lecture Competition (<https://minsouth.org.uk/2024-minsouth-branch-young-persons-lecture-competition/>), several student lead events as well as the IOM3 Future Challenges for Mining discussion panel on the 10 July (<https://www.iom3.org/resource/future-challenges-for-mining.html>).

Olympia Pilch, COO of the Critical Minerals International Alliance, was the guest speaker at the AGM, where she gave a thought provoking and insightful talk on Critical Raw Materials and the UK. Andrew Smith presented Imery's British Lithium's Green Barrow Project in November, with Bill Cooper presenting Imery's kaolin operations. Due to a combination of railway strikes and lack of uptake, the annual quiz was regrettably cancelled. However, on 8 February, MinSouth held a successful joint meeting with the BTS on the Tuen Mun–Chek Lap Kok Link, a road project in the New Territories, Hong Kong

The Young Peoples Lecture Competition (<https://minsouth.org.uk/2024-minsouth-branch-young-persons-lecture-competition/>) ran in March, with three competitors, viz: Alex Vickers (Oxford), Vanda Karpati (Imperial) and Erin Thompson (Leicester). The winner of which was Alex, for an interesting and thought provoking talk on natural hydrogen. We then moved to Scotland, with Fraser Gardiner presenting on the Arthrath Nickel-copper sulphide Project in April. Two general talks followed, with Dr Sarah Gordon presented on ESG for the joint MinSouth – WIM UK meeting, and Dr Ed Sides (PERC Chair), providing the Prestige lecture. Due to work commitments (Sarah) and sickness (Ed), both lectures were presented virtually.

I would like to thank the MinSouth Council for their support this year, with special acknowledgements going to Paul Griffin, Mike McLoughlin, Gordon Stove and Colin Morrish. I also wish to wish the incoming President, Mark Davis "voerspoed" for his tenure.

In the words of the immortal Bilbo Baggins ".... this is The End. I am going now. I bid you all a very fond farewell".

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 Thursday 12th October 2023 when Mark Burnett was appointed President.

8 technical meetings were held during the year. Unfortunately the Annual Quiz had to be cancelled at short notice due to rail strikes. Of the technical meetings, 1 (Dec) was held on-line only (due to lack of venue) and the rest (7) were hybrid with both physical and on-line attendees. These included joint events held with the British Tunnelling Society (Feb) and Women in Mining (May), and the Young Persons Lecture Competition (March).

Average attendance for the technical meetings was 42 persons (65 - 2022/23). The drop in total numbers of attendees (including on-line) displays a downward trend which is of concern. The number of physical attendees was 22 (36 – 2022/23) and on-line attendees 20 (43 – 2022/23). This may have consequences for the size and type of venues that we can use for future physical meetings. It is MinSouth's desire to continue holding physical meetings for the foreseeable future.

The MinSouth presentations in 2023/24 were:

Oct:	<i>Whats in Store for UK's Critical Mineral Future</i>	Olimpia Pilch - CMIA
Nov:	<i>Lithium ?</i>	Andrew Smith – British Lithium
Dec:	<i>The Past, Present & Future of Kaolin Expolitation in Cornwall</i>	Bill Cooper - Imerys
Jan:	Quiz	Cancelled
Feb:	<i>Hong King TMCLK: Challenges for Sub Sea Tunnels</i>	Antoine Schwob - Bouygues
Mar:	Young Person's Lecture Competition	
Apr:	<i>North East Scotland Exploration</i>	Fraser Gardiner - Aberdeen Miner'ls
May:	<i>The Beauty of Interconnected Natural Resource Ecosystems</i>	Sarah Gordon – Sataria
June:	<i>CRIRSCO Reporting and the UNFC</i>	Ed Sides –CRIRSCO

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.

Young Persons' Lecture Competition:

The local heat of the Young Persons' Lecture Competition was held at the Royal School of Mines. The selected presentations were:

Alex Vickers (Oxford University)	<i>Natural Hydrogen: A new frontier?</i>
Erin Thompson (Leicester University)	<i>The magmatic controls on Ni-Cu-PGE mineralisation in the Platreef, northern limb of the Bushveld Complex, South Africa</i>
Vanda Karpati (Imperial College)	<i>Evaluating Europe's Mining Renaissance</i>

The winner was Alex Vickers who received a £200 cheque. The runners-up both received £100 each. Council expresses thanks to all the student representatives for encouraging submissions. Also, for the ongoing support from WSP Golder for sponsoring this event and for CSA Global and Knight Piésold, two of our other sponsors, for providing our judges.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES:

Mining Quiz:

A mining themed quiz was unfortunately cancelled due to industrial action.

Trip to Ecton Mine:

A field trip to Ecton Mine took place the 18th May. A group of MinSouth members and several students joined the trip.

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.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Web Site:

The web site provides comprehensive information and news on MinSouth activities. The Council expresses its thanks to Mike McLoughlin for his help with the site.

Social Networking:

Social Media and Online Presence

As of 9 July 2024, MinSouth continues to expand its reach and engagement across various social media platforms, reflecting our ongoing commitment to connecting with members, stakeholders, and the broader community. Our online presence is crucial for sharing industry insights, promoting events, and fostering professional relationships. The Council expresses its thanks to Colin Morrish for his help with developing our Online Presence.

Below are the current statistics for our social media and online platforms:

LinkedIn: Our LinkedIn page has garnered 431 followers. This platform remains a key channel for professional networking and sharing industry-related content, including updates on events, webinars, and industry news.

X(Twitter): Our presence on X (formerly known as Twitter) has grown to 847 followers. This platform allows us to engage in real-time conversations, share quick updates, and connect with a global audience of professionals and enthusiasts in the mining and resources sector.

Eventbrite: The MinSouth Eventbrite account has 47 followers. Eventbrite is instrumental for managing and promoting our events, enabling easy registration and ensuring our events reach a targeted and interested audience.

YouTube: Despite having technical problems recording some of the lectures this year there were 2.6k Views, up 20% from last year. We added 33 subscribers, 43% more than the previous year. This brings the total up to 112.

We are committed to further enhancing our digital footprint and leveraging these platforms to facilitate knowledge sharing, industry collaboration, and community building

COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Ten Council Meetings were held during the year. These are held before the General Meeting each month plus an additional on-line meeting in September 2023.

FUNDING:

The IoM3 sponsored the society a total of £1,698 in 2023/24 (£3,636 - 2022/23). Another £1,951 was received from IoM3 prior to the year start and accounted in 2022/23 but relates to the 2023/24 period. For comparative purposes total IoM3 funding was £3,649.

MinSouth received corporate sponsorship of £2,800 in 2023/24 (£3,300 - 2022/23)

Gold:	Bara Consulting
Silver:	Knight Piésold WSP Golder
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 wishes to thank Sue Struthers as Sponsorship Secretary for her efforts in engaging with our sponsors.

STUDENT PROGRAMME:

Sponsorship and Support:

MinSouth continues to sponsor university students. The total support given to Students over the past 14 years now totals £33,500, with 30 students having received grants. This year MinSouth sponsored Charlotte Robinson (Oxford) with a £1,000 award, and Benjamin Johnstone (CSM) with £500, to assist their undergraduate studies. Prizes totaling £400 were awarded at the Young Persons' Lecture Competition and a further 5 student memberships of IOM3 were funded by MinSouth. The Society also funded the travel costs of the 4 students who went on the field trip to Ecton Mine.

Donations were made during the year to Camborne School of Mines for the International Student Week for £500 and to Oxford SEG for £600.

Total Student Sponsorship and Support was £4,071

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 profession.

OTHER DONATIONS:

MinSouth sponsored the IOM3 for £600 towards the Global Mineral Professionals Alliance (GMPA) meeting in London 10th Sept 2024.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

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

	2024	2023*	2022	2021
Total Income for the year to June 30 th	£5,028	£9,015*	£7,175	£5,763
Total Expenditure for the year to June 30 th	£9,955	£6,753	£8,018	£2,490
Excess of income over expenditure	(£4,927)	£2,262*	(£843)	£3,273
Total Cash held as of June 30 th	£23,059	£27,986	£25,724	£26,567

Note*

The income for 2023 included the early payment of £1,951 of IoM3 Grant that normally would have related to the following year (23/24). For comparative purposes, the income should exclude this amount and therefore would be £7,064 for 2023 and £6,979 for 2024, and the excess income over expenditure would have been £311 for 2023 and (£2,976) for 2024.

		2023/2024			
Opening Cash	Clydesdale Paypal			27,986.36	
					27,986.36
Receipts	IoM3 funding	1,697.50			
	Sponsorship	2,800.00			
	Memberships	250.00			
	Merchandise	-			
	Dinner	-			
	Raffle	-			
	Other	280.58			
			5,028.08		
Payments	YPLC	1,007.88			
	Student IoM3 Membership	100.00			
	Sponsorship	3,562.67			
	Meeting Rooms	3,213.19			
	Items for Sale	-			
	Prestige Lecture	-			
	Honorariums	1,500.00			
	Website	250.99			
	Dinner	-			
	Misc	314.25			
	Charges	6.50			
			9,955.48		
Surplus/Deficit				- 4,927.40	
					23,058.96
Closing Cash	Clydesdale Paypal			23,058.96	
				-	
					23,058.96

The grant received from IoM3 for the year was £1,698 (see note above) compared with £3,636 the year before. On the expenditure side, all meetings bar one could be held physically which saw catering costs increase to £3,213.

Total Expenditure was £9,955 compared with £6,753 the previous year.

The net result was the Society saw decrease of funds for the year of £4,927. This is in line with the intention to reduce budgeted funds to nearer the £20k or 2 year funding level.

Cash reserves stand at £23,059 as of 30th June 2024.

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 Mark Davis every success in his year of office.

Mark Burnett
President 2023 – 2024

September 2024.