

London & Southern Counties Minerals Industries Institute



ANNUAL REPORT OF COUNCIL - YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE 2025

The Council of the London & Southern Counties Minerals Industries Institute (MinSouth) has pleasure in presenting its Report for the 2024-2025 session, ending 30th June 2025.

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

President:	Mark Davis
Vice Presidents:	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:

Mark Burnett	2024
Colin Morrish	2023
Simon Kocher	2022
Mike McLoughlin	2021

Elected Councillors:

Alan Bozeat	Vanada Karpati
Patrick Cox	Stuart MacGowan
Pat Foster	Alex Norori-McCormac
Maia Galberg	Aymone Schendel
Geoff Hooper	Sue Struthers
Ian Jackson	Michael Wilkinson
Gawen Jenkin	Karin Tynelius

Co-opted Councillors:

Robert Bacon
Iain Duncan
Clive Hallett
Michael Forrest
Andrew Hindmarch
John Monhemius

Councillors Resigned During Year:

Anya Hurd

PRESIDENTS REPORT:

The 2024/2025 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 its activities. We also struggle with those who book online but fail to attend.

Our financial situation remained stable, allowing us to sponsor the Young Persons Lecture Competition and several student lead events, mainly field trips. Cost for venues have shown an increase this year and the MinSouth council continues to look for alternatives.

Presentations included 1/ Risk based approach for safety reviews of tailings dams & mine water management dams by Sam (Meysam) Safavian, Technical Director, SLR 2/ DryFlow Magnetics use in decarbonising the steel industry by the inventors Brett Boynton and Jon Robbeson and 3/ Integrating Prospectivity by Nial Tomlinson, Principal Exploration Geologist, SRK Exploration. One online meeting with Jamie Graham of IOM3 A Membership & Chartership Evening – Explaining the Process. This proved to be very informative for those wishing to become Chartered Engineers.

The two joint events were the BTS and WIM talks. The BTS (British Tunnelling Society) presentation at the Institute of Civil Engineers by a team from the Woodsmith Project in North Yorkshire. A landmark Anglo American mining development featuring a 37-kilometre tunnel to transport Polyhalite from Whitby to Teesside via conveyor. The WIM (Women in Mining) was a fire side chat looked at Redefining the World of Mining Exploration: Crafting Blueprints for Change presented by Alex Buck, VP ESG at Endeavour Mining and former MD at Women in Mining UK interviewing 2024 WIM100 Sonia Scarselli, Executive VP Exploration at Endeavour Mining.

The Young Peoples Lecture Competition was of a very high standard with presentations on Porphyry Endowment from Propylitic Minerals, Tailings Storage Facility Stability and Coupled Groundwater-Surface Water Modelling Workflow. The winner, Nile Phonseela, went on to the regional finals. Thanks goes to Andrew Thake for coming in as one of the judges.

The Prestige Lecture this year was given on Lithium from minerals to mining by Roland Chavasse, the Secretary General of the International Lithium Association (ILiA), Roland has a wealth of experience with rare and critical elements. Since 2016 he has specialized in metals association management.

As President, I wish to offer a huge thank you to all the presenters for their contributions and time.

I would like to thank the MinSouth Council for their support this year, with special acknowledgements going to Paul Griffin, Mike McLoughlin, Gordon Stove, Sue Struthers, Colin Morrish and Anya Hurd. I also wish to wish the incoming President, Patrick Cox good luck during his tenure and take this opportunity to welcome all, new and old members to council for 2025/26.

My predecessor, at the end of his tenure used the words of the immortal Bilbo Baggins, I will quote Douglas Adams – “So long, and thanks for all the fish!”

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 and in person on Thursday 10th October 2024 when Mark Davis was appointed President.

7 technical meetings were held during the year. All the technical meetings were hybrid with both physical and on-line attendees. It is worth noting that on-line attendees now exceeds physical attendance. This is a trend since the COVID period in 2020. The technical meetings included joint events held with the British Tunnelling Society (Feb) and Women in Mining (April), and the Young Persons Lecture Competition (March).

The Annual Quiz was held in June.

Average registered attendance for the technical meetings was 51 persons (42 - 2023/24). The increase in numbers was due particularly to the well attended joint session with WIM. The number of physical attendees was 25 (22 – 2023/24) and on-line attendees 26 (20 – 2023/24). It remains MinSouth's desire to continue holding physical meetings for the foreseeable future.

The MinSouth presentations in 2024/25 were:

- Oct: *Risk based approach for safety reviews of tailings dams & mine water management dams*
Sam (Meysam) Safavian – SLR
- Nov: *Decarbonisation of the steel industry*
Brett Boynton/Jon Robbeson - DryFlow
- Jan: *Integrating Prospectivity : Mineral Systems, Machine Learning and Sterilisation/Enhancement from Previous Exploration*
Niall Tomlinson – SRK Exploration
- Feb: *The Woodsmith Project*
Joint Lecture with BTS
- Mar: *Young Person's Lecture Competition*
- Apr: *Redefining the World of Mining Exploration: Crafting Blueprints for Change*
Alex Buck / Sonia Scarselli – Endeavour Mining
Joint Lecture with WIM
- May: *International Lithium Association Review*
Roland Chavasse – ILA
- June: *Annual Quiz*

In addition a Membership & Chartership Evening was held online with Jamie Graham of IOM3

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:

- *Tailings Storage Facility Stability and the Effect of Excess Pore Water Pressure*
Noah Evans
- *Coupled groundwater-surface water modelling workflow to support risk assessment of an abandoned underground coal mine due to natural mine water rebound*
Nachayada Phonseela
- *Porphyry endowment from propylitic minerals: a study of the greenrocks of the Chimborazo District, Chile*
Fin Issacs

The winner was Nachayada Phonseela who received a £250 cheque. The runners-up both received £125 each. Council expresses thanks to all the student representatives for encouraging submissions.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES:

Mining Quiz:

A mining themed quiz was held in June. Julian Aldridge acted as Quizmaster for a further year for which the Council were most appreciative.

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 Media and Online Presence:

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. The current statistics for our social media and online platforms are:

LinkedIn: Our LinkedIn page has garnered 690 (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: 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: 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 4.4k Views, up 55% from last year. We added 52 subscribers, 63% more than the previous year. This brings the total up to 162.

COUNCIL MEETINGS:

9 Council Meetings were held during the year. These were held before the General Meeting each month (apart from June) plus an additional on-line meeting in September 2024.

FUNDING:

The IoM3 sponsored the society a total of £3,230 in 2024/25 (£3,649 - 2022/23). MinSouth also received corporate sponsorship of £4,000 in 2024/25 (£2,800 - 2023/24)

Gold:	Bara Consulting WAI Behre Dolbear
--------------	---

Silver:	Knight Piésold WSP Golder
----------------	------------------------------

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 also 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. Prizes totaling £500 were awarded at the Young Persons Lecture Competition. Donations were made during the year to Leicester SEG and Oxford SEG both for £600 and to the Ecton Mine Trust for £600. Total Student Sponsorship and Support was £2,300. We received a refund of £600 from the previous year for an unused grant.

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.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

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

	2025	2024	2023*	2022
Total Income for the year to June 30 th	£7,695	£5,028	£9,015*	£7,175
Total Expenditure for the year to June 30 th	£9,897	£9,955	£6,753	£8,018
Excess of income over expenditure	(£2,202)	(£4,927)	£2,262*	(£843)
Total Cash held as of June 30 th	£20,857	£23,059	£27,986	£25,724

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.

2024/2025					
Opening Cash	Clydesdale			23,058.96	
	Paypal				23,058.96
Receipts	IoM3 funding	3,230.50			
	Sponsorship	4,000.00			
	Memberships	150.00			
	Merchandise	-			
	Quiz	-			
	Raffle	-			
	Other	314.22			
			7,694.72		
Payments	YPLC	672.95			
	Student IoM3 Membership	-			
	Sponsorship	1,200.00			
	Meeting Rooms	5,443.42			
	Items for Sale	-			
	Prestige Lecture	-			
	Honorariums	1,250.00			
	Website	14.39			
	Quiz	1,234.43			
	Misc	82.00			
	Charges	-			
			9,897.19		
Surplus/Deficit				- 2,202.47	
					20,856.49
Closing Cash	Clydesdale			20,856.49	
	Paypal			-	
					20,856.49

The grant received from IoM3 for the year was £3,231 compared with a comparable £3,649 the year before. Sponsorship amounted to £4,000 (£2,800) and other income £464 (£531).

On the expenditure side, all meetings bar one were held physically which saw catering costs increase to £3,213.

Total Expenditure was £9,897 compared with £9,955 the previous year.

The net result was the Society saw decrease of funds for the year of £2,202 (£4,927). This is in line with the intention to reduce budgeted funds to nearer the £20k or 2 year's funding level.

Cash reserves stand at £20,856 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 Pat Cox every success in his year of office.

Mark Davis
President 2024 – 2025

September 2025.