



AGM – Tuesday 22 November 2022

Questions & Comments via Zoom chat

From Chris Zgoda To Everyone 18:12 PM

what are the plans for return to In-person monthly evening meetings, in Aberdeen and London? Even if at some cost they were and should be the mainstay of the society. Zoom is no substitute for the interplay between members but accept can involve a wider participation. So how about hybrid events - even if less frequent

The PESGB remains committed to resuming in-person lectures for the membership and there is a working group from Council which is considering different options to make these events financially viable. Before the lockdown the monthly lectures cost the society in the region of £18- £20 (per person per event) and this cost is not sustainable. In person events (conferences and lectures) are an important part of the Society.

From Gavin Ward To All Panelists 18:15 PM

The Geological Society is facing crippling rent increases at Burlington House and is likely to move. PESGB will need to find another venue.

This is being considered by the working group on return to in-person lectures.

From Phil Mollicone To Everyone 18:20 PM

Was the increase of income due to PETEX?

There was a positive impact through the cost reduction measures that were made in 2020, feeding into the numbers in 2021. You are correct in that most of the income resulted from a successful PETEX. PESGB Conferences made a profit of £118,824 which was driven by PETEX in November 2021.

From Colin Percival To Everyone 18:21 PM

What was the impact of Petex on the 2021 numbers?

PETEX made a profit over and above the staff costs required to organise the event leading to a profit of £118,824 for PESGB Conferences (up from £35,442 in 2020). The majority of this profit was only realised in the two weeks before the event, as delegates and exhibitors understandably left decisions just before the conference due to the uncertainty around the COVID landscape.

From Graham Heard To Everyone 18:23 PM

How much did the GeolSoc cost for a monthly meeting and what are we looking to continue or replace as a venue?

The to host a lecture in the GeolSoc, several years ago was around £1,000 to hire plus drinks and staff costs per evening. However, in the current inflationary environment, these costs will have certainly increased. The working group is considering options around venues, which may vary between lecture.

From Colin Percival To Everyone 18:24 PM

Well done to all the team

From Phil Mollicone To Everyone 18:24 PM

What was the average historical attendance?

On average around 60 members.

From Ali KARAGUL To All Panelists 18:25 PM

Well done to everyone involved for the healthy status of our Society.

From Graham Heard To Everyone 18:25 PM

Thanks! Perhaps Imperial or Kings Uni? – That is a great idea, and will be considered by the working group.

From Sarah-Jane Kelland To Everyone 18:28 PM

Is it a requirement for a charity to have audited accounts?

It is only a requirement for charities whose income is over £1,000,000 and we are far from that threshold. The benefits from the proposed upgrades to the accounting process and in being able to manage the business in a more responsive way, as we would get a clear view of the accounts every quarter. We can also file much sooner to the relevant year-end date and would requires less organizational resource to do so. The cost saving is ~£ 5,000, which represents around 90 memberships. We believe that the proposal facilitates enhanced financial management of your society.

From Ali KARAGUL To All Panelists 18:28 PM

Having our meeting place within a University would allow us to be more visible within the future colleagues.

From Adrian Burrows To Everyone 18:29 PM

Will the quarterly accounts be public or committee only?

They would be for internal management purposes only and would not be made public. The year-end accounts, with end-of-year adjustments would be made public and presented for acceptance of members at the AGM. The move to quarterly verified accounts by external auditors with end of year consolidation and submission of accounts will enable more responsive P&L management of the Society. However, if a member would like to speak to the Treasurer about the finances at any point, then this could be facilitated as it is your society.

From Sarah-Jane Kelland To Everyone 18:30 PM

Do the plans for the next 3 years show turnover of more than 1 million?

We do not expect this to be the case. If this unlikely scenario were to happen, we could quickly move to an audit to fulfil our statutory obligations.

From Glenn Morley To Everyone 18:30 PM

We can't see ourselves who is here . . . you say 34. But we can't see how many are here

Maria took a photograph of the screen.

From Sarah-Jane Kelland To Everyone 18:33 PM

Have you canvassed the sustaining members about whether they are happy to have un-audited accounts?

No, this is a governance question, and the Sustaining Sponsors are not involved in governing the PESGB. The proposed new upgrades to the accounting process are not about reducing oversight but increasing it. The move to quarterly verified accounts by external auditors with end of year consolidation and submission of accounts will enable more responsive P&L management of the Society, which we believe can only be a positive for sustaining sponsors. This year our annual accounts were only completed with the audit some ten months after the financial year closed.

From Oliver Whitfield To Everyone 18:41 PM

Does this mean we can look forward to a yearly membership directory in pdf format?

The printed directory is not being produced anymore as the data is all available to members online through the VC platform, and it is updated every day. We have found that as soon as the directory is published in hard copy it is out of date. The membership directory can be accessed from:

<https://members.pesgb.org.uk/members/addressbook>

From Phil Mollicone To Everyone 18:41 PM

A large part of the reduction in numbers must be from people leaving the industry. Do we have any idea if some are leaving to go to other societies?

There is no evidence to suggest that this is the case.

From Tim Papworth To Everyone 18:41 PM

When was the membership number error discovered?

February 2022

From Phil Mollicone To Everyone 18:42 PM

"if" not "is"

From Richard Walker To Everyone 18:42 PM

Good to hear Maria's optimism but why do you think the membership is likely to rise in the near future?

The lowering of membership churn through active management is a good leading indicator. In 2020 the churn was 12%, in 2021 7% and in 2022 3%.

From Dave Lewis To Everyone 18:49 PM

What proportion of the membership are retirees?

Members are not asked to say when they retire, we have age data but it is unclear as to whether members are working in the industry,

From Ali KARAGUL To All Panelists 18:54 PM

Hopefully, with more inclusive Charitable Objectives, we can aim to attract younger generation to our society.

From colin murray To Everyone 18:55 PM

A return to in person evening lectures would undoubtedly help to attract new members and retain retirees etc - historically this was the reason many of us became members. Perhaps the committee should consider prioritising and early return to these meetings and also providing some subsidy from funds - you are likely to see a positive return in terms of membership increase

The President is keen to ensure that the role played by my experienced members of the society is recognised and their engagement is maintained. We are committed to returning to in-person lectures and please see our earlier responses on this.

From Jim Munns Epsom To Everyone 18:59 PM

Just a comment on the role of retirees. I think that the "Old Timers" SIG has negative connotations and is backward looking. I would prefer that the Society attempts to positively engage with "us" retirees in an inclusive way!

From Dave Lewis To Everyone 19:00 PM

I agree with Jim's comment

From Tim Papworth To Everyone 19:02 PM

Suggestions welcome. We tried to find alternative names but so far without success.

From Chris Zgoda To Everyone 19:02 PM

suggest a new name for the group. It was debated 2-3 years ago within the group and could not come up with a better name for the group

From Phil Mollicone To Everyone 19:02 PM

OT name may not be optimum, but the group and activities are very forward looking

From Tim Papworth To Everyone 19:03 PM

Thanks Phil for your support!

From Phil Mollicone To Everyone 19:03 PM

No worries, Tim

From Graham Heard To Everyone 19:05 PM

If GESGB is to gain more members will there be outreach to those geoscientists involved in other aspects of energy other than petroleum? Advertise in GeolSoc Geoscientist?

This is an option.

From Ali KARAGUL To All Panelists 19:09 PM

Thank you all.

From Dave Lewis To Everyone 19:09 PM

Thank you for an informative AGM

From Howard Nicholls To All Panelists 19:09 PM

Well done GESGB and thanks for all your hard work

From Martin Durham To Everyone 19:10 PM

Thank you Julian, Maria and James