

SGIfA Committee Meeting 4/11/10

Present - Dan Rhodes, Kirsty Dingwall, Candy Hatherley, Mel Johnson, Phil Richardson, Kenneth Aitcheson, Andrea Bradley, Mary Peteranna (via conference call)

Introductions of everyone to Mary Peteranna

Dan Rhodes opened the meeting and welcomed the new members. The aims of the meeting were to review the last 12 months and to look at the plans for the next 12 months. Before this he invited Mary Peteranna to summarise the feedback from members in the North.

#### FEEDBACK FROM THE NORTH

General - MPA - had emailed archaeologists based in the north of Scotland to get feedback on what they thought about SGIfA and what they would hope to get out of it. The reports back were largely not positive - eg waste of time, remote, only a member for CV, more acting as a union, CDP/PDP takes up too much time, not useful, not effective, desire for training.

A discussion followed about what was wanted for northern members and how this could be effectively provided. Contact had been previously made with Orkney College, Aberdeen University and UHI via Candy Hatherley and the possibility of joint ventures discussed but had gone no further. The potential for using e-learning was discussed although it was recognised that the networking opportunities offered by face to face meeting were also important.

The issue of CDP/PDP was also discussed, not just in relation to the north. Possibilities were considered of how to make this easier.

ACTION POINT - MPA to take contacts from CH

ACTION POINT - Ask KA to look at costing how to create e-learning resources

ACTION POINT - AB to produce an easy guide to CPD/PDP for distribution.

Anglocentricity - The newsletter was one way this was meant to be addressed, but it seems not to be reaching individuals in the north. A north specific edition of the newsletter was considered, but it was felt better to have the normal newsletter, with certain issues highlighted.

ACTION POINT - MPA to pull through stories covering the north and forward to DR for newsletter.

Standards - MPA indicated the issue of standards was coming from both sides, to do with both substandard work being conducted and the monitoring of substandard work. The suggestion was that the IfA is unwilling to chase up substandard work. Some of the problem seems to be over why Highland Council don't specifically ask for IfA status for approved list.

MJ asked if this could be because it is mostly sole traders in the north rather than ROs.

There followed a discussion over the value of RO status.

It was felt beneficial to publicise better how many complaints are received/dealt with etc, either through the website or The Archaeologist.

ACTION POINT - DR to suggest to IfA to publicise this information in some official and regular form.

Also led to discussion about the role and involvement of ALGAO, who we have no real contact with currently. This needs to be improved.

ACTION POINT - DR to approach Dave Strachan of PKHT to begin discussions.

## REVIEW OF 2009-10

Training - good that we managed the two courses, but the execution could have been better. We have a reasonable start but need to improve. The potential of e-learning needs to be considered but we will need funding to look at this seriously. We also need to establish where we will be getting future funding for training from.

Discussion of planning event for February - given requests of members from the north, idea of Ceramics Course in Inverness was met with approval. This could be organised between CH and MPA and new Inverness Archive might be a possible venue.

Budgets - need to submit new budget for 2011-12 by March, so discuss and agree by next meeting. There is an ongoing issue with the fact the accounts are still held in Reading, and how this is managed and recorded. We recognise that it would be useful to have a budget for our own promotional material, eg posters and stands for use at conferences.

ACTION POINT - AB to speak to accounts and try and work out an improved system for recording/approving expenses etc

ACTION POINT - ALL to think about requirements for coming year budget for discussion at next meeting.

Cross-partnerships - Getting involved with ALGAO led on to discussion of improving relations across various bodies in Scotland. Suggestion that RCAHMS should be standing members on the committee, and that we need to improve contact with universities generally, and potentially organisations like Forestry Scotland.

Consultations - Review of how we go about this and what we achieve - we do manage to contribute fairly effectively, largely through BEFS, but we probably need to make a stronger stand as SGIfA rather than IfA as a whole.

We do not currently get much direct input from members to put into consultations, although we do respond to consultations. We also need to improve the sharing of information with members etc.

Potentially we could use the website more but we need to have discussions with new Communications person to see what we could do.

## ADMIN

Meeting Dates for 2011 -

Friday 4th Feb 3pm  
Friday 6th May 3pm  
Friday 5th August 3pm  
Friday 14th October AGM

Newsletters -

December  
March June

Issue of Chair

Dan Rhodes nominated as Chair by KD, seconded by CH.  
Agree to leave Secretary as rotating until March.

## SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

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