

IfA Scottish Group committee meeting

Wednesday, 27 January 2010 3pm

Headland Offices, Edinburgh

Present: Ellen McAdam (Chair), Dan Atkinson, Kirsty Dingwall (Treasurer), Candy Hatherley, George Geddes, Peter Hinton (IfA Chief Executive), Eila Macqueen, Daniel Rhodes (Secretary)

1. **Apologies** **Action**
Graeme Collie

2. **Minutes of previous meeting**
All present agreed that the minutes of meeting 13 November 2010 were a true and accurate record of the meeting. GG has spoken to Angela Gannon at RCAHMS about the role of Prospect in Scotland. She suggested talking to Alan Denny. A joint IfA/Prospect event was suggested to promote partnership. Archaeology Scotland (AS) are now represented on the Group by EMq but she may not be able to attend all the meetings. Joint working of the two groups is considered important and the two organisations should work together to promote standards in archaeology and the work of archaeologists.

All other action points are still active.

3. **Budget** **CH/DR**
The budget for 2010/11 was distributed with an understanding that further money would be required if the group wished to take part in more conferences. Partnership (eg with Historic Scotland (HS)) was suggested to develop events and share costs. A request will be made to Council for some of the money to be used for training purposes, though the group recognises that this would be dependent on the amount of outside funding which was also received. The Group also wishes to have a stand at the IfA conference; CH and DR will be in attendance.

It was confirmed that the Group's marketing material came out of central IfA funds rather than the Group's fund. There was discussion about joint working with AS, discounted joint membership was suggested, directing community groups to IfA and IfA standards etc. PH suggested that AS should write something for publication in *TA*.

4. **Consultations Update** **PH**
PH
It was reported that BEFS is seeking representation from SGIfA: a member for the group should attend the quarterly AGM, PH to discuss with BEFS. Both PH and DA sit on the Historic Environment Working Group (HEWG). DR is happy to attend on behalf of the Group and the IfA and will distribute paperwork to the group.

PH reported that IfA agreed with the BEFS response to the 'Permitted Development Rights for Domestic Micro-Wind Turbines and Air-Source Heat Pumps Consultation'. This response also contained a statement questioning the two-week timescale given for the consultation in light of the current wave of government consultations.

The group was informed that the National Marine Plan is coming up for consultation in February and that Tim Howard is working on the Scottish and UK marine consultations from a UK wide perspective. The role of IfA Groups in consultation responses was discussed. PH clarified that the Institute uses the expertise of its Special Interest and Area Groups to gather information and advise, but the submissions are sent from the Institute by office staff.

5. Training

The Group's Desk-Based Assessment training course is to go ahead on 18 February 2010 at RCAHMS in Edinburgh. DR to distribute course flyer to email distribution list, CH to distribute flyer to Scottish Universities. **DR**
CH

6. SGIfA 5-year plan

There was discussion about the IfA strategic plan for the next ten years, which emphasises public engagement. PH explained that the full version was not yet available: PH to forward full document to EM. There was discussion about the skills levels of new graduates, following comments by attendees on the writing skills course, and whether IfA should offer entry level training either alone or with other organisations. PH explained that training should be multi-purpose and cross organisational as is supported by HLF, and that the NVQ and NOS offer basis for accreditation. DR will contact Liam Whitby about his research into graduate skills shortages and invite Kenneth Aitchison to speak to the group about training. CH to contact Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust to look into whether the group can support their outreach programme. **PH**
DR
CH

The group discussed what training could be offered in the short to medium term future. The group aims to devise a five-year plan with training as a key element. PH outlined IfA's current funding bids to HS for training courses and reminded the committee that CPD is a personal endeavour which employing organisations should support. Training courses that were suggested covered field skills, maritime archaeology and building recording.

PH suggested that the main focus of the five year-plan should be partnership development with other organisations to build strong links and develop a programme of events. EM commented that the archaeological community is fragmented in Scotland and that SGIfA is more likely to be successful in political lobbying and raising its profile if it forms strategic alliances. Funders are increasingly looking for evidence that groups are able to do this. EM to send the five-year plan draft/notes to the rest of the group for discussion. The five-year plan **EM**

should be completed in time for the next group AGM. EMq agreed to provide the group with information on the context of Scottish archaeology and future developments.

EMq

7. Newsletter

DR will circulate a call for contributions for the Groups newsletter in week ending 7 February 2010. **DR**

8. AOB

None.

9. Date of next meeting

26/03/10 Edinburgh (RCAHMS), 3pm.

21/05/10 Glasgow (Kelvingrove), 3pm