

**THE SCI'S SCIENCE & ENTERPRISE GROUP
4th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
6 December 2012**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

<http://www.soci.org/Membership-and-Networks/Technical-Groups/Science-and-Enterprise-Group>

When SEG was formed it had a clear aim to be the focal point for SCI's delivery on its core message of "where science meets business". It was envisaged as being fundamentally different from the Technical Interest Groups (TIGs), as it would seek innovative ways of going beyond events and publications into value-adding services to support members and the wider community.

It is my pleasure to be able to present to the AGM of the Science & Enterprise Group a summary of our activities between 8 December 2011 and 6 December 2012.

The current officers are:-

Chairman:	Richard Bahu
Hon. Secretary:	Chris Drew
Hon. Treasurer:	Simon Conway
Communications Officer	Bernard Carey
Programme Coordinator	Peter Reineck

Richard Bahu is stepping down as Chairman but will remain as a co-opted committee member to ensure he can contribute to the future development of SEG. Peter Reineck has been nominated by Richard Bahu for the post of Chairman and is willing to accept the role. No other nominations have been received.

Other officers have indicated their willingness to continue in their current roles for the next year.

Co-opted Members of the Committee are:

Lambros Antoniou, Martin Elliott, Carlos Harrison, Kirsty Hewitson, Stuart Jordan, Patrick Kitt, Clive Thomson, Thomas Moore and Pete Moores. Note, Kirsty has stepped down from the Committee as she is now working overseas.

SEG was very ably supported by Ms Jacqui Colgate from SCI during the year.

Group Statistics

The Group statistics below were taken from the SCI database on 1 December 2012.

Total Members 264

Type of Membership

161 Ordinary Members; **8** Life; **54** Students; **17** Concessionary; **3** Academic Partner - Member; **12** Academic Partner – Student; **32** Corporate Partner Member; **1** American – Member; **1** Student Prize winner; **1** Family; **3** Lampitt Medalist.

Age range (185 members)

25% 45-54; **19%** 35-44; **17%** 55-64, **17%** 25-34; **14%** 65-74, **4%** under 25; **4%** over 74.

Previously reported at the AGM in 2010, the Group statistics below were taken from the SCI database on 1 August 2010.

Total Members 283

Type of Membership

131 Ordinary Members; **9** Life; **70** Students; **16** Concessionary; **25** Academic Members; **32** Corporate Members;

Gender

191 Male/ **75** Female **19** Unknown

Age range (215 members)

24% 36-45; **22%** 46-55; **20%** 26-35; **19%** 56-65; **8%** under 25; **4%** over 70; **3%** 66-70

Groups that members are also members of

1. Fine Chemicals (**35%**)
2. Biotechnology (**26%**)
3. Materials Chemistry (**21%**)
4. Environment (**14%**)
5. Young Chemists panel (**18%**)

Top 4 Companies/Organisations members are from

1. GlaxoSmithKline
2. AstraZeneca
3. University of Sheffield
4. University of Birmingham

Comparison of the two sets of data shows that total membership has declined and is increasingly older ie over 45. This suggests that more needs to be done to engage with younger members and to increase benefits to older members ie those in mid-career and those towards the end of their careers. Clearly, SEG activities are of interest to a significant number of non-members and should further promote the benefits of SCI membership.

Initiatives

Over the past three years, SEG has worked up a number of initiatives which were strongly aligned with its aim. The most significant were:

- Open Innovation – support for independent consultants
- Mid-career support – services and information across 5 key topics

- Reputation – campaign at the core of the chemical industry's future

There has been strong verbal support for the aims of SEG from both SCI management and the Board, but this has not translated into practical and material support. None of the initiatives have therefore progressed beyond concept, and it seems clear that any future initiative emanating from SEG is unlikely to progress further at present without a significant change in SCI support mechanisms.

SEG appreciates that SCI has limited resources, both people and finances, and is constrained by its charitable status and charter, however these should not be seen as insurmountable obstacles to taking any new initiative forward.

Committee Meetings and Events

The thirteenth committee meeting was held on 14 March 2012. The fourteenth committee meeting was held on 21 June 2012 as a joint meeting with the Chemical & Industrial Consultants Association (CICA). The fifteenth meeting was on 24 September 2012. Minutes of these meeting are available in the Group's SCI online download area.

The Chairman would like to acknowledge the enthusiasm and hard work of the committee and particularly, those who have been critical to the success of SEG events.

Provisional 2013 Committee Meeting Schedule:

14 March @ SCI
20 June @ SCI
12 Sept @: SCI
5 Dec @ SCI with AGM.

Brief details of all meetings organised are as follows.

Using LCA to add value and grow your business 25 April 2012 - Joint with NNFCC. The event was cancelled due to lack of registrations. No plans to try again in future.

Joint meeting with CICA 21 June 2012 - Presentations covered "Communicating Sustainable Reputation, the new CSR" (Peter Reineck and Bernard Carey, CICA), "Role of Consultants in the Open Innovation Process" (Richard Bahu) and "How CICA Creates Value in Science and Technology" (Barry Langdon, CICA). Some 20 attendees.

Processing Lignocellulosic Biomass 8 November 2012 – Joint event with UK CPI held at Wilton Centre, nr Middlesbrough. Some 80 attendees. Poster session.

More crop per drop 29 November 2012 - Joint with Aqua Enviro. Some 60 attendees. Poster session.

Planning of future meetings:

Peter Reineck maintains a comprehensive events list. The latest version can be found in the Group's SCI online download area.

There was significant concern during the year about the marketing and selling of events by SCI due to a lack of internal resources. Future SEG event budgets should include sufficient funds for employing external marketing and sales support eg telesales.

Richard Bahu
Chairman