

# Minutes of the 13th Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 5th April 2017, 1300 (local time)

Room G2, Level 6, National Oceanography Centre, Southampton, UK



## 1. Attendance, Welcome and Apologies for absence

### 1.1 Attendance

Victor Abbott • Iman Abdel Hamid • Helen Atkinson • Christopher Baxter • Andy Brown • Richard Cattermole • Ed Cheesman • Becky Conway • Sean Cullen • David Currie • Will Dann • John Dillon-Leetch • Tom Ford • John Fraser • Chris Harper • Ross Havery • David Hitchcock • Jesper Hoejald • Ian Holden • Adam Humphrey • Gordon Johnston • Gwyn Jones • Nigel Kelland • Peter Kelly • Dick New • Ann Ngo • Stephen O'Connor • David Parker • John Pinder • Mark Poole • Mike Postle-Hacon • Tim Powell • Mark Quinn • Roger Scrivens • Mike Sebbage • Laurie Smith • Carol Stern • Mike Tranah • Martin Webb • Martin Wikmar

### 1.2. Welcome

Chairman Ian Holden thanked everyone for attending the 13th AGM of THS UK and noted that although the Society had been incorporated for 14 years, it had evolved from THS (now IFHS) which celebrated its 45th anniversary on 24th March – a birthday shared with at least three members: Peter Kelly (Hon. Treasurer), Laurie Smith and John Dillon-Leetch (Chairman of the Education Committee). He left members to draw their own conclusions about which one of them was closest in age to the Society!

### 1.3 Apologies for absence were received from

Trish Buxton • Andy Dare • Matt French • David Goodfellow • William Heaps • Hayley Santer • Simon Squibb • Rick Read • Ian Russell • James Williams

## 2. Consideration and acceptance of the Minutes of the 12th AGM held on 16th March 2016

The Minutes were accepted without amendment.

*Proposed by:* Mike Tranah    *Seconded by:* John Dillon-Leetch

## 3. Consideration and acceptance of the Report of the Management Committee and Financial Statement for the year ending 31st March 2016

The Report was accepted without amendment.

*Proposed by:* John Fraser    *Seconded by:* Nigel Kelland

## 4. Appointment of Auditors to audit the Society's accounts for the year ending 31 March 2017 and authorisation of the Board to fix their remuneration

Helen Atkinson (Manager) and Peter Kelly (Hon. Treasurer) reported that the current accountants continued to provide excellent service and therefore recommended that Simpkins Edwards LLP of Michael House, Castle Street, Exeter, EX4 3LQ should once again be appointed as the Society's auditors and financial advisers.

*Proposed by:* Roger Scrivens    *Seconded by:* Victor Abbott

## 5. Consideration of the Reports from:

### • Honorary Treasurer

Noting that the last set of audited accounts have been available to download from the website since the start of the year, rather than review those in detail, Peter decided to update members on the various centrally-held (i.e. not in the Regions) bank account held by the Society, their functions and day-to-day operation.

He noted that Helen operates a Manager's account from which she pays all of the Society's day-to-day operating costs and into which all the income from subs, advertising and events other than Hydro conferences is deposited. He also operates a Treasurer's account and linked savings account. In addition, the Society has an Education Fund account which is used to fund some of the Society's educational projects such as the new Alan Ingham Award and the hydrography awareness website. This fund is topped up by member donations and, since 2014, by a percentage of the income THS UK receives when it organises and hosts Hydro conferences.

Finally, THS UK maintains an account which is primarily used when it is organising Hydro conferences. This arrangement ensures that Hydro income and expenditure is kept separate from all other transactions, ultimately making it easier to account for the conference and determine the correct distribution of any proceeds between IFHS, the IFHS Education Fund and THS UK (including its Education Fund) in accordance with the profit sharing formula specified in the Guidelines for Hydro Conferences.

## •The Regions

Ian referred everyone to the Regional reports in the latest issue of *Soundings* before inviting their representatives to report on the highlights and any recent developments:

*The Hydrographic Society in Scotland by Ed Cheesman on behalf of Andy Dare, Chairman:*

The Hydrographic Society in Scotland (THSiS) has continued to run a programme of evening meetings on a variety of topics during the autumn, winter and spring, with a break from June to October. Attendances have typically been 40-60 people.

The Region's major events of 2016 included hosting both HydroFest 2016 at Aberdeen University and participating on the Geomatics Industry Day at Shell's offices on the other side of town on the same day in April. Learning from the 2015 feedback HydroFest was revised once more, resulting in a very positive event and format which will be repeated this year. The programme was simplified and focused and provided more time for interaction and a lunch period shared with industry professionals. Attendance was on the low side with 39 students and 7 corporate personnel, but was better than anticipated considering the ongoing downturn in our market. The IOGP Geomatics Industry Day was a joint IOGP, IMCA and THSiS event on the theme of 'competitive geomatics expertise and support – innovation, efficiency and standardisation initiatives'. Presentations were given by E&P operators, services companies, contractors and representatives from IOGP, IMCA and THSiS.

In May THSiS held its second Lectures for Schools event in an even larger theatre at the Aberdeen University. Acting on the 2015 feedback the new programme included more interaction including a two-seater ROV simulator game (courtesy of Forum) enabling schools to race head-to-head, a poster competition and questionnaires. All of this on top of previous prizes for best questions and the cool survey gear section demonstrating 3D laser scanning. Overall attendance was in excess of 450 from both Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire schools with very encouraging feedback from the schools which have all asked to come back this year.

The annual half day joint seminar with the SUT was held at the AECC in June, this time on the topic of 'Cost Efficiencies – More Bang for your Buck'.

The current season began with the annual Golf Outing at Kemnay Golf Club in September and a Quiz Night – accompanied by a buffet-style mountain of help yourself haggis, neaps and tatties – in October. The 2017 Annual Members Dinner at the Chester Hotel in February was well-supported with 163 attendees and an entertaining after dinner speaker. The customary charity raffle raised a total of £3,488 for MapAction, who provide much needed mapping services following natural disasters to aid in relief efforts, and the Archie Foundation, the local Aberdeen children's hospital charity.

Finally, the geomatics.org initiative has now been given the green light by both THSiS and BP (who have both provided the funding). THSiS will therefore be involved in the daily operations of this throughout 2017 and 2018.

*The Hydrographic Society in Ireland by Seán Cullen, Chairman:*

Seán noted that there currently weren't many active members in Ireland. He reported that about three months earlier there had been a meeting between the Navy, the Marine Institute, INFOMAR and THSiS in Ireland to discuss the scope for developing a hydrographic training course within Ireland but unfortunately there was insufficient interest to get this going. Sadly, a recent coastguard helicopter crash had, once more, flagged up the need for hydrographic training and Seán suggested that maybe some good may now come out of this tragedy.

*North West Region:*

Ian noted that although Hayley Santer had now moved away from the Region, he was now living in the area once more and that they were both keen to try to organise more local meetings before too long. They would also be keen to hear from other members willing to get involved in the Region.

*East Anglia Region by Mike Tranah on behalf of Simon Squibb, Chairman:*

Mike began by conveying Simon Squibb's apologies that he was unable to attend the AGM again.

The Region had another interesting year in 2016: rather than trying to organise a number of short evening events, the focus was much more on extended multi-speaker events. The first, in June, held in collaboration with the East of England Energy Group (EEEGr), was an afternoon symposium entitled *Innovations in Surveying the Marine Environment*. It attracted upwards of 70 delegates and seemed to be well-received by all. The second major event was held at the University of East Anglia in October, again attracting a good crowd. This gave the chance for engagement with one of the region's premier higher education establishments. A follow-up event was held at UEA in March and a report on this event will be ready for the next issue of *Soundings*. Unfortunately, the latter did not generate as much interest as the first event at UEA – this seemed to have much to do with bad timing and bad luck as many hoped-for attendees were otherwise engaged.

The AGM was held in December prior to a presentation by Richard Salisbury on the search for MH370 which helped to attract high attendances.

There are pros and cons to the various approaches which could be taken in the Region. Due to the size of the area it is often difficult for some to justify travelling significant distances for a short evening event that may entail an overnight stay. However, half-day events obviously entail a lot more organising, larger premises and usually some form of catering and thus costs are significantly increased. Over the last year, this seems to have been compounded by the core Committee members being busier than ever in their various professional endeavours, thus making it increasingly difficult to organise events for The Hydrographic Society.

That, said the Region is collaborating with EEEGr on another event this June. As last year, it will be held at the Norwich City football ground. Fortunately, much of the organising for these events is done by the EEEGr staff and the only real onus on us is sourcing speakers. This year's venture is a full-day event, or rather two half-day events, with the survey forum in the morning and a wind energy forum in the afternoon. Delegates will have the choice to attend one or other or both and a discount for THS UK members has been negotiated.

The Committee has been looking at other ideas and are not afraid to shamelessly 'borrow' ideas from other Regions and is thus are hoping to run a fundraising Quiz Night in early May. They are also looking into collaborating with other bordering Regions and have already had a few tentative conversations with the Southern Region.

*Southern Region by Mark Poole, Chairman*

Mark reported that the Southern Region is working to address the perennial challenges associated with the geographic distribution of the regional membership and of finding suitable meeting venues. The main focus has been the programme of monthly evening events, which will include a barbecue at Sonardyne's offices in September.

The Region continues to coordinate with RIN, SUT and others to promote relevant events to members, the next of which will be a joint meeting with the RIN on 'The Navigation of Navigation' by Professor David Last at Warsash Academy in late April. The Region will also be helping to promote the Society at this year's Marine Measurement Forum at BP's offices in Sunbury, which will be preceded by the networking event at The Magpie – both of which will take place within the Region.

Finally, the Region would be very pleased to welcome anyone who would like to join the Committee to support the development of Society activities locally.

*South West Region by David Parker on behalf of James Williams, Chairman:*

In James's absence, David reported that South West Region events continue to be well-attended by existing and new members. In the past 12 months, there have been numerous entertaining and informative presentations from existing members such as Nigel Kelland talking about his Sonardyne days; Matthew Quartley, from Valeport, gave an insightful talk on Brexit and other diverse talks have covered topics including shipwrecks, flooded reservoirs and virtual reality in hydrography. Members have also been entertained by both Valeport and the Fugro Academy who both provided great food, drink and entertainment including a fascinating talk on the search for MH370. The Region also saw the welcomed return of its Hydrographic Quiz Night in which the current chairman's team, much to his embarrassment, came last!

In April 2016 the Region ran its 3rd Annual Student Presentations Evening where 11 students each gave a 5-minute presentation on a topic of their choice (usually their dissertation) followed by Q&A. Next month the Region will be hosting the 4th outing for this event, with 13 students already confirmed as presenting as well as industry attendance from three of the largest dredging companies in Europe and two well-known commercial survey companies. The Committee are confident that it will be the best event to date and see it as a very encouraging sign that our industry is on the way back up!

The Region would like to thank all of its sponsors for their continued support and in particular, Valeport who are by far the most generous corporate sponsor and repeatedly help the Region in many invaluable ways.

Finally, James would like to thank the Committee for their hard work, especially Paul Edge who kindly writes up the majority of our evening talks for *Soundings*. David also added his thanks to James for doing a great job and bringing in some great ideas to the Region.

*Middle East Region by John Fraser, Chairman:*

John reported that the Middle East Region is increasingly active, with a loyal following of regular members and recurrent visitors attending events, which are mainly held in Abu Dhabi, UAE. Evening meetings are on the last Tuesday of the month between November and May. The frequency of meetings is variable: either monthly, bimonthly or when there is another relevant local event taking place bringing more potential attendees to the Region.

Having taken over the Chair late last year, John was immediately keen to reach out and both communicate with existing members and attract new ones. He has therefore already issued two Regional newsletters and has a new social event in the planning for members before the discomfort of the summer dessert heat begins.

Last November's meeting was exceptionally well-attended, with standing room only, to listen to guest speakers from Horizon Geosciences, Fugro Survey Middle East and UTEC Survey. The host venue, The Club in Abu Dhabi, again offered a welcoming ambiance in which the Society also welcomed visiting delegates from the ADIPC conference

and exhibition. In December the Region held its first AGM for a while, which enabled members to discuss topics ranging from future events locations to the format and future Society co-operations. New Committee members Matt Suchley and Eric Bouwknecht were welcomed with both bringing experience and enthusiasm to the team. The new Committee then held its first meeting in January.

In January, the Region welcomed QPS to discuss 'Multibeam bathymetry artefacts – how to identify them and how to fix them'. This meeting was also attended by visiting delegates from the Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure GCC conference in Dubai. In March Teledyne Marine presented several case studies demonstrating application innovation – involving both dredging and construction support. As always, the Region is particularly grateful for the support it receives from industry, which contributes both knowledge and also financially towards covering the costs of each meeting.

The Region continues to face local administrative and legislative matters, and the Society is grateful to those offering experienced advice in matters regarding our 'charitable' status. At this time, it is important to clarify that this Region of The Hydrographic Society UK hold no finances or assets owing to legislation within the UAE. John expressed his thanks to his my fellow Committee members who therefore support and facilitate each of the Region's events on a case-by-case basis.

He noted the continued testing market conditions and the challenging nature of business facing a lot of members in the Middle East. With a lot of expats currently leaving the region, it is hoped that the remainder of the year provides stability and opportunities for all, with the Society demonstrating a strong foundation and objectives from which everyone can benefit.

#### • International Federation of Hydrographic Societies

William Heaps sent his apologies and asked Ian to refer members to his two most recent columns in *Soundings*. In those reports he had noted that there had been some lethargy in IFHS over the last 18 months and that, combined with financial concerns, had resulted in some uncertainty over the last year. However, the better news is that organisations such as the IHO want to hear our views and feedback via the Federation and the IFHS Student Award is gaining strength every year. The financial position is not helped by the 20% VAT THS UK has to charge the Federation for their Service Charges (use of our office, equipment, shared insurance etc and, of course, Helen's time). You will have read how we believe we have now have resolved this issue with THS UK getting free IFHS membership in exchange for a greatly reduced service charge.

In *Soundings* No. 69, William reported that the member societies' representatives were able to meet face-to-face for the first time in a number of years and this was productive, with more cohesion and progress than the usual bi-monthly Skype Board meetings. It was agreed that the Federation needs to work even harder at engaging all the member societies and the individual and corporate members of those organisations. Ian stated his belief that the only way in which the Federation will develop is from the ground up, rather than the top down, and felt that everyone is guilty of making assumptions.

#### 6. Confirmation of Regional Directors

Ian confirmed the current Regional Directors as:

East Anglia	Trish Buxton
International	Vacant
Ireland	Seán Cullen
Middle East	John Fraser
North West	Vacant
Scotland	Andy Dare
Southern	Mark Poole
South West	David Parker

As a matter of record he also noted that at the 2016 AGM Peter Kelly was elected Hon. Secretary and Paul Aldersley as Student & New Graduate Director with both due to serve in the post until the conclusion of the 2018 AGM, that he (Ian Holden) would commence his second two-year term as Chairman of the Board at the conclusion of the AGM (subject to Item 9), Helen Atkinson continues to act as the Company Secretary and that William Heaps is the THS UK representative on the Board of the International Federation of Hydrographic Societies.

#### 7. Election of Honorary Secretary

Ian reported that one nomination had been received for the post of Hon. Secretary: William Heaps. The nomination was endorsed by the meeting which unanimously re-elected William to this post for another two-year term.

*Proposed by: Gordon Johnston    Seconded by: David Parker*

#### 8. Election of International Director

No nominations had been received for this vacant post and Ian asked members to forward the details of anyone who might be willing to be co-opted – either to him or to Helen, after the meeting.

## 9. Election of Elected Director

Ian reported that there was currently one post available for an Elected Director (two-year term) – which were open to all Individual members. One nomination had been received for him, and Ian asked the meeting whether there were any objections to this. Ian's nomination was endorsed by the meeting which unanimously elected him.

*Proposed by: Mark Poole    Seconded by: Becky Conway*

## 10. Announcement and presentation of inaugural Alan Ingham Award prizes

Ian reminded members that the Society has always been a keen advocate of the next generation of hydrographers. It therefore gave him great pleasure to ask John Dillon-Leetch, Chairman of the Education Committee, to introduce the Alan Ingham Award and announce the inaugural winner and runner(s)-up.

John began by summarising some of the very positive work currently being undertaken by the Education Committee and its plans for the future. He noted that after a slow start the Committee had gathered momentum over the last year and, with imminent addition of a new member representing THS in Scotland, now had five active members in addition to himself, Helen and Ian. He conveyed his pleasure at seeing so many current students, including all of the shortlisted candidates for the Alan Ingham Award, recent graduates and fellow academics attending the AGM and playing an active role in the Society. He noted the importance of industry offering students assistance with the practical aspects of data collection for their dissertations studies and/or work placements and internships and all but guaranteed that the learning process would turn out to be two-way. John reminded members that the Society was keen to establish a directory of companies which may be able to offer students and graduates internships and encouraged everyone to ensure that their organisation completed and returned one of the forms which had been previously distributed with *Soundings* and was also available to download from the website.

Introducing the Society's new Alan Ingham Award – named in memory of its founder – John thanked Helen and Becky Conway, in particular, for all their work on the development of the scheme. Noting that the scope of the award scheme would be explained in more detail in *Soundings* No. 71, he explained that the overall winner would receive a prize of £500 as well as being THS UK nominee for the IFHS Student Award (and the chance to win £1,500 and a funded trip to the next Hydro conference where they would present their paper) and that up to two runners-up would each receive £150. The winner and the runner(s)-up will also have their papers published in *Soundings*.

John reported that, following submission of abstracts, three candidates had been shortlisted for Phase 2 of this year's entry process and had consequently written and submitted 2,000-word papers based on their dissertation projects. The submissions from the three candidates – two current final-year BSc students at Plymouth and one 2016 graduate from the MSc at UCL – had all greatly impressed the judges and the final decision had been very tight. However, he was delighted to present runner-up prizes to both Thomas Ford (*Evaluation of accuracies achievable utilising combined terrestrial and vessel-based 3D scanning, aerial and vessel-based photogrammetry and multibeam systems for structural marine asset survey projects*) and Christopher Baxter (*Crowdsourced bathymetry: utilising the crowd to obtain high-quality depth data*) before announcing William Dann (*Bathymetric data derived from free source satellite imagery*) as the inaugural winner. John congratulated all three candidates on the quality of their research work and wished them well as they embarked on their new careers – noting that all of them had come to hydrography after first experiencing work in other fields. He urged all members to read their papers in next issue of *Soundings*.

## 11. Announcement of Fellowship(s) of The Hydrographic Society UK

Ian was pleased to announce that two nominations had been accepted by the Fellowship Committee this year.

He noted that both recipients have given the industry and the Society their greatest support over the years. Their common-sense approach to tasks, technology and customer-support is, perhaps, something which is being lost in the modern business world.

Not wishing to reveal the recipients' names until calling them up to receive their awards together, Ian disclosed that the first new Fellow began his career with the Decca Navigation Company in 1965 and has since devoted his life to surveying and all its facets – those which take place on the golf course! On the takeover of Decca he transferred to Racal which he eventually left in 1986 to join Geodata. In those days surveying was primarily undertaken using the microwave Trisponder system and, in 1987, he left Geodata to start a company whose primary objective was to support Trisponder which soon evolved to also specialise in DGPS and other survey systems and software. This individual has always supported the Society's educational aims and, not only employed apprentices before they were again fashionable but, also enthralled school students during a schools visit to Hydro8.

The second new Fellow was born at a British military hospital in Wuppertal, Germany. It is understood that he started his career at Gardline before moving to Oceonics and then MK Services. At around this time he also studied Environmental Science with the Open University. He returned to Oceonics in 1992 prior to its rebranding as Seatronics. Like today's first fellow this person is also passionate about golf. He established the East Anglia Region and served on the Board of THS UK for nine years. He is proud that his son is now forging a career in the hydrographic community too.

Ian then invited Laurie Smith and Mike Tranah to come up to receive their fellowships recognising Laurie's "lifelong dedication to the hydrographic technology and passionate championing of the Society and young hydrographers" and Mike's "outstanding contribution to the Society and tireless commitment to its East Anglia Region". He noted that further details will be published in *Soundings* No. 71.

## 12. Address by the Chairman

Ian began by noting that he was pleased to note that the recession within our industry appears to have reached the bottom of the cycle and many companies are now experiencing greater volumes of work. That is not to say it is not challenging. At 2016 AGM he reported that in the previous period membership had held steady; over the last year our individual membership numbers have remained stable once again, although we sadly lost approximately ten corporate members through acquisition and insolvency. For new subscription year, he noted that Helen had reported that corporate members are renewing far earlier than last year and that we had already gained six new corporate members.

Ian thanked the Regional representatives for their earlier reports which demonstrated just how strong the Society continues to be at a grassroots level with excellent support in all areas. He noted the Society didn't host any centrally organised major events last year with much of the focus being on new developments such as the Alan Ingham Award. He indicated that members may have already read that THS UK will be hosting the 59th Marine Measurement Forum (MMF) at BP in Sunbury-on-Thames on 7th July and that it is hosting a 'then and now' themed networking event at The Magpie in Sunbury the previous afternoon. The latter will give members and the hydrographic community the opportunity to meet and review how the profession has developed over the 45 years since THS was founded and consider what the future holds. For example, some of our younger members may not have heard of systems such as Microfix, whereas the older members may not be aware of the many GNSS systems available today.

Last year Ian reported that THS UK and IMarEST had signed a formal Cooperation Agreement in 2015. Since then we have been discussing establishing a joint Hydrographic SIG (Special Interest Group). This is very much in its infancy with website software changes required at IMarEST to enable our members to gain access. In the background, we are working with IMarEST to develop a route to a specific hydrography professional accreditation. This is likely to be based on the Canadian and Australian system with the hope that such schemes will form the basis of an international professional qualification. The Cat A and B IHO/FIG accredited courses will feed into this qualification.

Ian hoped that members would have read, in the last issue of *Soundings*, that the Cat A and Cat B accreditations for courses have recently changed. This is affecting UK course providers and is a development being discussed within the Society, with any concerns being relayed to the IHO via the IFHS. Ian noted that the UK one-year MSc model does not appear to dovetail with the new requirement for Cat A. Further, he reported that although the profession might be more used to the IHO feeding down to it, in reality, they are equally keen to receive direct involvement and opinions from practitioners who don't have the constraints of member state politics or policies.

One of the key developments of the last year had been the establishment of the Alan Ingham Award by the Education Committee which ultimately led to the presentation of the prizes to inaugural winner and runners-up earlier in the meeting. Award winner, Will Dann will now be the THS UK nominee for the IFHS Student Award for 2017. He reminded all students in the audience that they also have the opportunity to submit an abstract for presentation in the Student Section at Hydro17, where they would have the chance to win the £500 prize for best presentation. THS UK hopes that Alan Ingham Award will grow from strength-to-strength and everyone is already looking forward to reading the entries for next year's award. He reminded students considering entering for 2018, that the closing date is the 31st December 2017. Ian also praised Paul Aldersley, who had been THS UK nominee for the 2016 IFHS Student Award, resulting in the publication of the paper based on his dissertation being published in *Soundings* No. 68, and Mark Quinn who presented at Hydro2016 in Rostock, Germany in November.

Finally, he reminded everyone that there are a number of vacant positions on the Board, noting that all the existing Board members have a finite amount of available time and new members would therefore be much-appreciated.

In concluding, he proposed a vote of thanks to Helen, the Society's only employee, for all the work she has undertaken since the last AGM and for keeping everyone in order! Finally, he hoped everyone would enjoy the rest of Ocean Business and looked forward to seeing many of them at The Magpie and/or MMF59 in July and at Hydro 17 in Rotterdam.

## 13. Open Discussion

Ian opened the floor to members wishing to raise any topics or questions.

- David Currie asked whether any consideration had been given to broadcasting evening meetings in some way to enable members living or working outside of the catchment areas for the Regions to benefit from the content. Ian noted that, under the terms of the Cooperation Agreement, the Southern Region had already made use of IMarEST TV to record both the speakers and presentations at one of its meetings and that this meeting could now be accessed via the Society's website. He reminded all Regions that IMarEST had offered to make the

recording/editing software available for any Society events so that they can be similar recorded. However, he cautioned against over-reliance on technology for remote delivery of presentations because of the equally important networking aspect of Regional meetings.

Helen also reminded everyone that the slide presentations (and few video recordings) of past Regional meetings and seminars and larger centrally-organised events such as Digital Hydro, the UXO Surveys seminar and Hydro conferences were also available on the Downloads page on the website. She noted that this is consistently one of the frequently visited pages on the website.

- Nigel Kelland asked to publically acknowledge the phenomenal increase in the standard of *Soundings* and its range of subject matter which improved issue-by-issue and wished to thank Helen for her ongoing hard work.
- Richard Cattermole asked for an update of the proposed joint Hydrography SIG with IMarEST and whether it was active and open to THS UK members. Helen reported that although THS UK had been in discussion with IMarEST about this matter, the operating model and access portal currently used for all of IMarEST's other SIGs didn't allow for non-member access. In addition, THS UK felt that the SIG's discussions should be member-led rather than steering committee-led which was the exact reverse of the operating practices adopted for IMarEST's other SIGs. Although it is taking longer than anticipated, it is hoped that IMarEST can develop a mechanism to enable non-members to be actively involved in a SIG in the near future. Helen indicated that the plan was for THS UK to have an initial steering group of six or seven well-established industry personalities who would each be shadowed by a younger member with a view to those members eventually running the SIG.

#### **14. Any other business**

There being no other business, Ian thanked everyone for attending and expressed his hope to see them all at the next AGM which was expected to take place during Oceanology International 2018.