

ISAP Annual General Meeting 2015

Friday 18th September 2015, Copernicus Science Center, Warsaw, Poland

Minutes

Members in Attendance

Kate Armstrong, Christophe Benech, Meriç Berge, James Bonsall, Hannah Brown, Rebecca Cannell, Paul Cheetham, Philippe De Smedt, Mahmut Drahor, Robert Fry, Ekhine Garcia, Heather Gimson, Angus Graham, Chrys Harris, Alois Hinterleitner, Pete Horne, Paul Johnson, Roman Krivanek, Lena Kuehne, Mike Langton, Neil Linford, Paul Linford, Klaus Löcker, Cornelius Meyer, Joep Orbons, Nikos Papadopoulos, Andrew Payne, Salvatore Piro, Apostolos Sarris, Armin Schmidt, Arne Starnes, Kristian Strutt, Julien Thiesson, Immo Trinks, Lieven Verdonck, Andreas Viberg, Piotr Wroniecki, Benno Zickgraf.

(38 out of 239 paid members (as of 18 Sept 2015) = 15%, hence the quorum of 10% was reached)

1. *Apologies* Actions

Apologies were received and noted from Chris Gaffney, Duncan Hale and Yasushi Nishimura.

Thanks were expressed to the organizer of the International Conference on Archaeological Prospection 2015, Tomasz Herbich and his team.

2. *Minutes of the Previous Meeting (2 December 2014, London)*

The minutes had been made available on the web and were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Matters arising

- The ISAP Fund: This will be discussed under the Report of the Management Committee.

3. *Annual Report of the Management Committee*

Prizes and Studentships

The ISAP Poster Prizes (Eur 50 each) for the best poster in each of the three ICAP2015 poster sessions went to: P Milo (poster 11), C Harris (poster 32) and A Fediuk (poster 67). These posters were selected by common vote, open to all conference attendants, and this was deemed to have been a good method.

The ISAP Young Professional Bursaries (Eur 200 each) for ICAP2015 went to E Garcia, M Kucukdemirci, M Noviello and FX Simon.

For the December 2014 NSGG meeting ISAP provided £20 bursaries for each of nine young professionals who are ISAP members and presented at that meeting (H Brown, R Fry, L Kuehne, F Pope-Carter, M Saunders, A Starnes, L Verdonck, H Webber), and £50 for the best poster (H Brown).

ISAP Fund

The first round of the ISAP fund has just closed. Six very good applications were received and reviewers were being sought. Since such a search will be a recurring issue, the Chair suggested forming an ISAP Review College as a more sustainable solution.

ArchaeoLandscapes International

The EU funded network *ArchaeoLandscapes Europe* (ArcLand) is finishing its work now. Through this network many interesting projects, meetings, publications and student exchanges have been funded. It is suggested to keep this network of institutional partners together and form a new association, *ArchaeoLandscapes International*. This would initially operate without funds, but is in an excellent position to be involved in new grant applications. The Aerial Archaeology Research Group (AARG) and ISAP have been asked to be its two founding members. The Management Committee considers this to be a very good opportunity to showcase ISAP activities to a wider community and to lobby jointly and internationally. Cesar Pacero-Oubina will be the unpaid interim Project Officer. Whenever ISAP intends to promote activities to a wider audience, it will consider *ArchaeoLandscapes International* for this, since it is bigger than ISAP or AARG alone.

EAC Guidelines for Archaeological Geophysics

The European Archaeological Council (EAC) had commissioned ISAP to write their second set of guidelines, for archaeological geophysics. The authors of these guidelines, who are all ISAP members, have compiled a document that was eventually approved by the EAC and is now close to production. Since the last AGM, when A Schmidt was pessimistic about the date of publication of these guidelines, there has been considerable progress. Since the EAC comprises the heads of the National Heritage organisations, it is anticipated that this information will be disseminated to the European national heritage boards.

International Conferences on Archaeological Prospection

Expressions of interest were requested to be sent to the ISAP Chairman for hosting the 13th International Conference on Archaeological Prospection (ICAP) 2019. One detailed application has already been received. Anyone else interested should get in contact with the management committee as soon as possible.

The 12th ICAP will be hosted by the University of Bradford in September 2017. The Chair gave a brief presentation on Bradford. The city is served by an international airport (LBA) with good links to Amsterdam and London Heathrow. Rail links to the even bigger international airports in Manchester and London are also good.

4. ***Financial Statement***

The Financial Statement was presented as summarised below. The Society had a positive balance of accounts of approximately £16,140 in September 2015. The balance looks healthy and there was slightly greater income than expenses.

ISAP financial summary 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015		
Opening bank balance:	Sterling	Euros
Sterling	£13,389.38	
Euros		€ 520.67
Receipts:		
Subscriptions	£2,526.05	€ 430.00
Donations		€ 17.00
Bank interest	£8.20	
Advertising	£0.00	
Cash loan NSGG 2014	£163.00	
Total receipts	£2,697.25	€447.00
Payments:		
Student Bursaries	£780.00	
Prizes	£459.00	
Bank Charges	£129.51	
Total payments	£1,368.51	€0.00
Net surplus/deficit	£1,328.74	€ 447.00
Closing bank balances	£14,718.12	€ 967.67

ISAP financial summary 1 April 2015 to 31 August 2015		
Opening bank balance:	Sterling	Euros
Sterling	£14,718.12	
Euros		€ 967.67
Receipts:		
Subscriptions	£219.06	€ 20.00
Donations	£0.00	€ 0.00
Bank interest	£4.07	
Advertising	£300.00	
Total receipts	£523.13	€20.00
Payments:		
Student Bursaries	£40.00	
Prizes	£0.00	
Bank Charges	£9.92	
Web hosting	£150.13	
Repay NSGG2014 loan	£163.00	
Total payments	£363.05	€0.00
Net surplus/deficit	£160.08	€ 20.00
Closing bank balances	£14,878.20	€ 987.67

5. *Election of Officers to the Management Committee*

As already proposed by W Neubauer in Vienna in 2013, it was suggested to appoint two members as Editors, and now also two members as Conference Secretaries. This proposal was agreed by the majority of attendees by show of hands. The presented list was therefore accepted as the new ISAP Management Committee until the AGM in 2017.

- Chair: Armin Schmidt
- Vice-Chair: Gregory Tsokas
- Conference Secretaries: Chris Gaffney & Kate Armstrong
- Conference Vice-Secretary: Tomek Herbich
- Honorary Secretary: Immo Trinks
- Editors: Hannah Brown & Paul Johnson

6. *Next AGM 2016*

The next AGM was preliminarily scheduled for December 5th or 6th 2016 in London. It will be organized by Historical England in collaboration with the NSGG.

7. *Any Other Business*

Open publication of prospection data

K Armstrong raised concerns on behalf of A&M Roseveare about requirements to publish prospection data (and plots) on open access portals, which has lately

been requested by councils and planning officers in the UK, with regards to developer funded projects. The main concerns relate to illicit excavations. Could ISAP as an organisation do something about this?

The Chair explained that although current UK legislation requires depositing data (“make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible”; National Planning Policy Framework 2012, paragraph 141), but that “publicly accessible” does not have to mean “open access”. The Chair suggested that if members wished ISAP to lobby for a *specific* way of data publishing they should raise this issue on the ISAP email list. More information on the practice of councils and their requirements is needed. K Armstrong suggested continuing this discussion on the ISAP email list.

The Chair commented that open access is *not* mandated for applications to the ISAP fund, although archiving in some form is required.

Organisation of continued professional training workshops

With reference to Larry Conyer’s conference presentation, who had pointed out that sometimes we may overlook important aspects in GPR data, K Armstrong suggested to organise workshops as skill refreshers adjunct to conferences (e.g. on their first or last day), making it easier for commercial organisations to attend.

The Chair suggested to pass this idea on to the organisers of the next conference. Whether such workshops could be classed as “Continued Professional Training” (CPT) would have to be checked.

J Bonsall suggested as possible topics Python scripting, and the analysis of GPR data. The chair suggested that ideas for topics for such training courses should be emailed to K Armstrong (Conference Secretary) and the Chair.

CAA Oslo

A Stamnes mentioned the upcoming 2016 CAA meeting in Oslo and asked for topics and suggestions. The Chair suggested proposing sessions on the CAA website.

Representation of women in archaeological prospection

C Harris raised a question about the representation of women at different levels in archaeological prospection. While at university or during fieldwork, no inequality is felt. However, when attending conferences the committees are noticeably comprised of men, as have been session chairs during this and past meetings.

C Harris reported that Rinita Dalan (Minnesota State University) who as an academic has a prolific publication record shares these concerns and feels that a gender bias is more the rule than the exception. During the discussion it was noted that the leadership positions in archaeological geophysics tend to be filled by men. It is disappointing and feels disconnecting that this recognised issue is not addressed, even by women being more present in committees.

The Chair appreciated this topic been brought up. He himself had noticed during this meeting a few occasions in which people referred to geophysicists in the male form (“he”). He recalled that about half of his MSc Archaeological Prospection students were female, but that the percentage was less amongst professionals. The Chair commented that two women were just elected to the

ISAP Management Committee and to increase the ratio further female ISAP members are encouraged to volunteer for these positions in future.

K Armstrong noted that there were more men than women on the list of invited speakers during this meeting, and that people should try to address this by considering whether there are equally good women who could be invited. During the discussion female ISAP members stressed that they wanted to be considered for conference positions because “we are good at the job, not because we are women”. Quotas were not deemed an appropriate solution. The organisers of the next meetings (including K Armstrong for ICAP 2017 in Bradford) would be reminded of this. H Gimson added that it is important to differentiate between this gender issue and the issue of representation of commercial archaeological geophysicists in ISAP and ICAP, an issue she had raised before.

C Benech mentioned that at the ICAP meeting in Paris in 2009 there had been exactly the same number of women and men as session chairs, and that it was not a problem to find a natural equilibrium.

The Chair asked that any ideas as to how ISAP could support female members and for increasing the contribution from commercial archaeological geophysicists should be emailed to him.

Diversity of ICAP attendants

J Bonsall raised the point that, while this ICAP has probably been the most diverse with geoarchaeologists, geochemists and geographers contributing, there were still not very many archaeologists attending. Furthermore, there are not many young researchers attending. What could be done to encourage these groups more?

The Chair responded that the ISAP bursaries can be seen as a step in that direction, supporting young professionals. Partly as a result several young Polish members have attended this conference. The conference session on archaeological feedback had resulted in the attendance of a few more archaeologists. Maybe this could be a “standing session” in future conferences.

M van Leusen explained that he thought that “archaeological prospection” includes, beyond geophysical prospection also field surveying, which should appeal directly to archaeologists and that this could be stressed more.

P de Smedt asked whether the EAA could be a good platform to instigate more interest amongst archaeologists for geophysical prospection in archaeology.

K Armstrong suggested that ISAP could provide bursaries to attend other meetings. The Chair noted that this had been discussed before and the Management Committee had decided against such expense.

P de Smedt stated that ISAP as archaeological prospection community has a responsibility to educate the archaeological community. He mentioned that in Flanders, given the lack of commercial companies in the field or developer led archaeology, feedback suggested the need to increase awareness.

The Chair reminded members of the steps that are already being taken: the EAC guidelines will be available to European heritage departments (i.e. archaeologists) and *ArcheoLandscapes International* could be used to lobby at an international level.

M van Leusen suggested the idea of putting together a research agenda as proposed in his conference paper, furthering innovative research that ISAP finds

important, to actively support applications to funding agencies. The Chair responded that this could be considered if members required it; this could be raised on the email list. Resources would have to be allocated to such a task.

K Armstrong mentioned the efforts of a soil group to form an EU funded COST action, separate from ISAP, and for interested colleagues to get in touch with her.

The Chair closed the meeting at 19:29 and thanked for the contributions.

The meeting was chaired by the ISAP Chairman, Armin Schmidt, minutes were taken by the new ISAP Honorary Secretary Immo Trinks and finally accepted by the Chair on 15/11/16.