

Society news

Edited by

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The Editor welcomes news items about members of the Society and their activities.

Please send electronically to:

weather@rmets.org. We hope this Society news page will appear bimonthly.

Welcome to new members

D. P. Anderson (Barrow, USA), C. Baldwin (Nottingham), P. F. Brice (Henley), C. E. Bryden (Exeter), J. D. Carlson (Stillwater, USA), P. Connolly (Manchester), J. Cook (Reading), C. V. Cox (London), K. de Nys (Antwerpen, Belgium), J. E. DeBerry (Shreveport, USA), K. A. T. Eames (Norwich), P. D. Earnshaw (Exeter), M. D. Eastin (Altoona, USA), S. Engelstaedter (Oxford), I. Farquhar (Linlithgow), C. A. T. Ferro (Reading), L. A. Hinton (Melbourne, USA), A. Keil (Exeter), M. L. Khandekar (Unionville, Canada), C. McSweeney (Norwich), Y. Miura (Tokyo, Japan), K. P. Morley (Orpington), K. Mychals (Torquay), V. Nicolas-Perea (Detling), J. Noel (Douglasville, USA), A. G. O'Carroll (Honiton), E. A. O'Lenic (Alexandria, USA), O. P. G. Persson (Boulder, USA), D. J. Price (Stirling), J. G. L. Rae (Exeter), S. C. Rockliffe (Crawley), I. D. Rule (Winkleigh), Y. Sasaki (Akit, Japan), C. Schneider (Aachen, Germany), G. S. Sciacca (Pembroke, USA), M. J. Street (Chize, France), M. J. Swann (Norwich), G. Tefera Diro (Reading), L. Tryhorn (Carlton, Australia), S. Tukova (London), J. C. Walker (Oxford), P. J. Walters (Manchester), S. Watkin (Exeter), I. R. White (Loughborough), K. M. Willett (Norwich), E. L. Yates (Bristol).

Deaths

The Society is sad to hear of the recent death of Dr R. Frith, an Honorary Member who served the Society in many capacities throughout his professional career. Dr Frith has specifically asked that there should be no obituary published and has made provision for a small legacy to be paid to the Society. The President, Officers and Council, on behalf of the Society, extend their condolences to the family.

The Society is also sad to record the deaths of: Sir H. C. Pereira (Teston) and P. C. Spink (Ulceby). We offer our condolences to their family and friends.

Chartered Meteorologist (CMet)

The following Fellow has been approved by Council for accreditation as Chartered Meteorologist of the Royal Meteorological Society:

Dr Joan **Bech**

If no objections are raised in writing by 15 August 2005 to the Secretary of the Accreditation Board, then this accreditation automatically becomes effective from that date. Objections must provide evidence that the Fellow concerned does not meet one of the criteria set out in the leaflet *Details of the Accreditation Scheme*.

New membership benefits

The Council is pleased to announce a raft of new benefits of Society membership after agreements between the RMetS and a number of other similar organisations.

Reduced fees for joint memberships

The Society has reached agreement with the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society, the Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society, the New Zealand Meteorological Society and the Institute of Physics, whereby any member of the RMetS paying a full subscription for their membership is now entitled to the appropriate grade of membership of all or any of these other organisations at a 25% discount from the applicable rate. The same reciprocal arrangement applies; those who are fully paid-up members of any one of these organisations can obtain the appropriate membership of the RMetS at a 25% discount from the normal membership fee. These arrangements will apply from membership renewals due on or from 1 January 2006. Joint membership offers all the benefits of both Societies, including membership rates for journals and for conference and meeting

registrations. Those paying the reduced rate for membership will not receive a paper copy of *Weather* free but will have free access to *Weather* online.

New chartered qualifications

The Society can now offer members a route to a new Charter qualification. The Society is a founding Constituent Body of the Society for the Environment and has recently been awarded a licence by that Society which permits us to use our CMet process to award the alternative qualification of Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) on their behalf. The requirements for and objectives of the CEnv are similar to but not the same as those of CMet and it may be that they are more appropriate for some of our members.

Full details of this scheme may be obtained from the Executive Director or from the Society website (www.rmets.org).

Society recognised by UK Government and EU

By virtue of Statutory Instrument 2005 No.18 promulgated on 9 February 2005, the Government has recognised the Society as the 'Regulating Body' for the profession of meteorology within the UK. This has the effect of conferring upon the CMet qualification full recognition throughout the EU as a professional qualification at the highest level. The NVQs also have EU recognition at the appropriate level through a generic process applicable to all NVQs.

This means that anyone holding a CMet qualification or an NVQ can practice meteorology as a profession at an appropriate level in any EU country without the need for further qualification or proof of competence. Of equal importance in these days of global information delivery, it means that those who hold these qualifications and are practicing meteorology in the UK but delivering product to other EU countries, are covered in their customer's country so far as any local requirement to demonstrate professional competence is concerned.

The status of Regulating Body also gives rise to other important responsibilities for

the RMetS. Under certain circumstances it will be for the Society to rule on the equivalence to external standards of basic qualifications and professional training, particularly in the case of those forecasting for civil aviation, which the International Civil Aviation Organisation has recently decided shall be subject to legal constraints. Full details of this can be obtained from the Executive Director. Members who are engaged in this type of professional activity, either on their own account or for their employers should satisfy themselves that they meet these new requirements. (Action is already being taken by the Met Office and by the Royal Navy on behalf of all their employees who may be affected.) The Society will exercise these new responsibilities through its Accreditation Board and Council.

RMetS awards MSc and undergraduate scholarships

The Society has announced the award of its first two full-time MSc scholarships and three undergraduate vacation scholarships for 2005/06. These scholarships represent a new initiative from the Society in support of the continuing development and strength of meteorological science.

The MSc scholarships, each valued at £11 330, have been awarded to Fiona Mitchell, an undergraduate at Keeble College, Oxford and Vivien Bright, a graduate from the University of Cardiff, who will both take up places on the Applied Meteorology MSc at Reading University in September 2005.



Fiona Mitchell



Vivien Bright

The undergraduate scholarships have been awarded this year to Jonathan Robson, William Morgan and Carolyn Cook, three Reading meteorology students who have obtained summer vacation placements in meteorological research groups associated with other universities or joint research teams. We wish them all well with their work.

Reports of the work done by all of these students will appear in due course on the Society website.

These scholarship schemes are open to any suitably qualified and endorsed applicants, although there is no guarantee that awards will be made in any year. Applications for the 2006/07 academic years are open until 31 March 2006. Full details are available from the Society or from the Society website.

Society Fellow receives prestigious award

Congratulations to Dr Paul Williams, now a research fellow at Reading University and a Fellow of the RMetS, who was recently awarded the 2004 Blackwell Prize by the Royal Astronomical Society for the best UK doctoral thesis in the physics of the Earth's atmosphere. The prize, including a cheque for £1000, was presented at a Royal Astronomical Society meeting in London on 14 January.

Dr William's doctoral research was carried out in the Atmospheric Physics department at Oxford University (1999–2003). The main findings of the research were described in an article in April 2004 ("Storm in a teacup", *Weather*, **59**, pp. 96–98). Further details can be found at www.ras.org.uk/html/education/04prizes.html and general details about the Blackwell Prize can be found at www.ras.org.uk/html/education/blackwll.html

The photo shows Dr Williams receiving the prize from Prof. Kathryn Whaler, the President of the Royal Astronomical Society.



Rupert Ford Travel Awards

Two awards have been made this year from the Rupert Ford Fund to support short-term study periods away from the applicant's home institution. The first award was made to Gerald Thomsen from Munich who will travel to study the formation of convergence lines over North-East Australia at the

Darwin Regional Centre for Dynamical Meteorology and Oceanography and the School of Mathematical Sciences, Monash University.

The second award was to Ms Vivienne Payne of Oxford University to allow her to study at the University of Colorado, Boulder under David Noone, on the observations and modeling of isotopic concentrations of stratospheric water vapour from satellite data.

The Fund now welcomes applications for support for travel in 2006. Full details are available from the Society or from the Society website.

Quality of weather forecasts

Anyone who has followed recent correspondence in *Weather* will know that the quality of weather forecasts is a topic of continuing interest and importance. The Society has recently established a contract with independent expert consultants with a view to establishing a methodology and metrics which can be used to assess the quality of various types of weather forecast on a 'level playing field' basis. Funding for this project has been provided by the National Meteorological Programme Commissioning Group, an independent, government body charged with ensuring that the government obtains value for money from the meteorological products and services that it purchases.

It is anticipated that the draft report from the consultants will be delivered and discussed in a seminar at the Exeter Conference in September 2005.

Exeter conference well on track

We have received over 400 submissions of abstracts for the RMetS 2005 conference which will be held at Exeter University from the 12 to the 16 September 2005. The Society's Annual Awards Dinner will be held at Exeter University on the evening of Thursday 15 September. This year we are fortunate to have generous sponsorship from IBM which will enable us to make a very modest charge for the dinner and we look forward to a good attendance. The dinner is open to ALL members of the Society whether or not they are attending the conference. Details from the Society or from the Society website.

Second Student Assembly

The second Student Conference will be held over the weekend preceding the main Exeter conference. It will also be at Exeter University and is open to all PhD Students undertaking research in meteorology or any related field. Full details are on the Society website.