EARLY CAREER NETWORK
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: Wednesday 14th January (13:00 GMT)

Location: via Microsoft Teams

Present: Rachael Sims (Vice-Chair), Ellen Mullarkey (Secretary), Jocelyn Barker, Courtney Garbutt, Dan Hope (Chair), Jean-Jacques Ferguson, Mabi Awei, Ayesha Landon-Browne

Apologies: Carlisle Vyphius, Alex Christopher, Will Downes (Treasurer), Ellie Smith

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (Hybrid, Burlington House) – Actions Arising

Item	Actionee	Target Date
Collate feedback to provide to GSL on careers day	RAS	December 2025
GSL Early Career Focus Group – emails to be found and reviewed	EM	December 2025
Budget to be reviewed and planned for 2026 – by March/April 2026	WD	April 2026
South Wales RG collaboration/sponsorship	CG	February 2026
London Field Trip – Follow up	DH	January 2026
Sponsorship for ECN – LinkedIn campaign	JB	December 2025

CHAIR UPDATE (DH/RS)

1. Committee structure 2026/27
    a. Highlight Terms of reference
    b. Outgoing committee members and requests to step down
        i. DH to step down in May. RS to step into Chair-elect role. Ideally new vice-chair will take over Chair role in the next 1-2 years.
        ii. Three committee members due to retire in May.

c. Seats
    i. Science Committee Seat - Vacant in 26/27
    ii. Professional and Chartership Seat - Chair to fill
d. Nominations of officers to be voted in at May 2026 AGM - Can people start to have a think about this. (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, SGL)
e. 2026 Committee recruitment plan
f. Query if science committee rep should be an executive position. DH – No, executive roles have similar responsibilities as a small part of role.
g. Proposed to recruit two more committee members in February, with overlap when members retire in May.
    i. Two rounds of recruitment – 2x Feb, 2x May. Allows for better candidates and spread throughout the year.
    ii. Advert to be made and distributed in January. Deadline as end of Feb **(JJF)**

TREASURER UPDATE (WD)

2026 Finances

1. ECN budget increased to £1250 for 2026; can carry over remainder.
2. Targets for sponsorship/collaborations/speakers – excel sheet to be created & managed by WD (& one other?)
3. Put together budget for Mohamad in March **(WD)**
4. Need sponsorship
    a. Ask for small amount for specific events e.g, £250
    b. Find sponsorship in different ways e.g, use of venue
    c. Regional group collaborations
    d. South Wales Regional Group **(CG)**
    e. Mott McDonald may sponsor trip in the London area (Gilberts Pit) 2026 Q2. **(DH)**
    f. Sponsorship pack slides/LinkedIn Post **(JB)**

EXTERNAL COMMITTEE UPDATES

1. Professional and chartership committee – DH
    a. **DH** to circulate minutes for membership and chartership. Greater number of people applying for chartership. 60% got chartered, 30% deferred. This is an improvement on previous years.
    b. Training course enrolments are down. Cost is factor.
    c. Positive viewpoints about careers day. ECN to feedback to them – action to send back form **(EM)**
2. Regional Groups meeting – CG
    a. RS attended. Nothing to report.
3. Science committee – ALB
    a. November. A lot of input for events that GSL hosts. If we have ideas for training course etc, that would be the place to propose it.
    b. Early career update to be added to their agenda **(ALB)**.
    c. Sub committee meetings for professional and special interest groups – March 26th. ECN require rep at event **(CV)**
    d. Add funding opportunities to newsletter after next meeting in Feb **(ALB)**
4. Specialist Groups – CV

EVENTS

1. 2025 Event Summary
    a. January - Members Survey
    b. April - Wildcard EC Award
    c. May - EC Award Final and Social
    d. September - Scotland Summer Social
    e. November - GSL Career Day, Committee meeting
    f. December - Resourcing tomorrow, Public Lecture

    Overall, a really successful year.

2. Map out 2026 Event calendar
    a. Discuss Parliamentary event and nominate a few ECN representatives
        i. 29th March 16.00-18.00
        ii. Multiple members interested, so person to be chosen at random **(DH)**

3. EC Award 2026
    a. Agree ideal dates for Final, RG, Wildcard, Semi
        i. All agree that semi-final may be required to narrow down finalists. Wildcard entrants could be in semi-final depending on numbers.
    b. Create taskforce
        i. Sponsorship Lead
            1. **ALB** with support from **DH**
            2. Reach out to science committee
            3. Ensure all sponsorship is vetted by GSL
        ii. Regional Group Support Lead
            1. **CB**
        iii. Wildcard/Semi-final Lead
            1. **JJF** and **EM**
            2. Wildcard should be held regardless of number of entrants to ensure standard is met and provide the opportunity to the candidate to present in front of an audience and receive feedback.
        iv. Final Lead - organise trophy
            1. Lead **TBC**
            2. Organise trophy
            3. Consider not using GSL catering. ECN could supply bottled refreshments. Quote for catering should be obtained.
    c. Immediate actions arising
        i. Confirm date with Geolsoc **(RS)**
            1. Final – 27th May 2026 (Burlington House)
            2. Wild card – 23rd April 2026 (Online)
            3. Regional Group finals (by end of March)
            4. Preference is for evening slot (5/6-8pm).

ii. Email RG groups **(CG)**
    1. Email template from 2025.
iii. Post on Social Media **(JB)**
iv. Sponsorship **(ALB/DH)**
v. Enquire with Alisha if event could be marketed to attendees of Public Lecture **(JB)**

NEWSLETTER CONTENT - JB

1. Early career award kick off **(JB)**
2. Geoscientist article for ECG Award 2026 **(JB)**
3. Science committee news/funding opportunities **(ALB)**
4. Statistics of newsletter reach to be provided **(JB)**

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – All

1. Petroleum Early careers keen to do collab event**.(DH)**
2. CG is public outreach lead for Arup. She ran 5 sessions and 6 more to come. **CG** to publicise ECN at events.
3. Photo competition. Still open. Advertise **(RAS)**
4. Portsmouth University collaborative event **(RAS)**
5. Field Trip #1 – London area – **DH/EM** (Gilbert's Pit?) – Collab with EGGS/Hydrogroup/SERG – Possible sponsorship by Mott MacDonald for a drinks/coffee after? – Date TBC – February 2026, on a Saturday morning? – may need prep work by 2-3 volunteers to clear some bramble/shrubs.
6. Field Trip #2 Scotland - **LS**
7. Field Trip #3 South Wales / Southwest – **ES/CG**
8. Field Trip #4 East Midlands – via Pick Everard?/local RG
9. "An interview with incoming GSL President" - **LS**
10. Careers/technical "lecture series" – multi sector – Lead to be appointed, 1 to be organised per committee member
11. Online webinars – **JJF/AM**

2026 Events Calendar

Month	**Event/Description**	**Lead**
January	ECN Photo Competition	RAS
February		
March	19th – GSL Voice of the Future Parliamentary Event. Required nomination and a back up person.	DH
April	Wildcard	JJF/EM
May	• ECGA Final & AGM • Sponsorship lead	ALL/RS ALB/DH

	• Regional group support lead	CG
June		
July		
August		
September	Public Lecture	
October		
November	GSL careers day?	
December		

Item	Actionee	Target Date
Chair update – Advertise 2x committee positions	JJF	January 2026
Create budget for 2026	WD	March 2026
Collaboration with South Wales Regional Group	CG	December 2026
Promote sponsorship pack on Linkedin	JB	Complete
Circulate minutes of Membership and Chartership meeting	DH	Complete
ECN to provide feedback on careers day	EM	January 2026
Ask Science Committee to add ECN update to agenda	ALB	February 2026
Attend March 26th sub-committee meeting	CV	March 2026
Voice of the Future parliament event – nominate persons	DH	January 2026
Reach out to possible sponsors for ECGA	ALB/DH	February 2026
Email ECGA information to RGs	CG	January 2026
Obtain quote for ECGA catering	?	January 2026
Organise ECGA trophy	?	February 2026
Confirm ECGA dates with GSL	RD	January 2026
Post ECGA event on social media	JB	January 2026
Enquire with Alisha if event could be marketed to attendees of Public Lecture	JB	January 2026

Newsletter: Science committee news/funding opportunities	ALB	February 2026
Distribute newsletter statistics	JB	Complete
Photo competition – publicise/close	RAS	February 2026