

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE TWENTY SECOND MEETING OF THE
UK NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR ANTARCTIC RESEARCH
Thursday 15th June, 2017, 13.00
British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge**

Present:	Prof. J. E. Francis	Interim Chair, British Antarctic Survey
	Dr J. A. Jackson	Secretary, British Antarctic Survey
	Prof. J.A. Dowdeswell	Scott Polar Research Institute
	Mr. S. Colwell	British Antarctic Survey
	Miss Archana Dayal	UKPN/APECS, University of Sheffield
	Mr H. Burgess	NERC Arctic Office
	Prof. J. Turner	British Antarctic Survey
	Dr T. Bracegirdle	British Antarctic Survey
	Dr R. Larter	British Antarctic Survey
	Dr J. Baeseman	SCAR Executive Officer, Cambridge
	Prof. E. Wolff	University of Cambridge
	Prof M. Bentley	University of Durham
	Dr D. Bakker (by Skype)	University of East Anglia
	Dr H. Griffiths	British Antarctic Survey
	Prof J. Smellie	University of Leicester
	Dr K. Hendry	University of Bristol
	Dr P. Whitehouse	University of Durham
	Mrs K. Gosling	British Antarctic Survey
	Dr H. Peat	British Antarctic Survey
	Dr N. Johnston	British Antarctic Survey
	Dr A. Fox	British Antarctic Survey
Apologies:		
	Prof D. Hopkins	Royal Agricultural University
	Prof. P. Convey	British Antarctic Survey
	Prof. M.J. Siegert	Imperial College London
	Dr R. Bingham	University of Edinburgh
	Dr A. Jungblut	Natural History Museum
	Dr A. Leeson	Lancaster University
	Dr S. Doubleday	Foreign and Commonwealth Office
	Dr J. Rumble	Foreign and Commonwealth Office
	Dr. A. Hicks	Medical Director, BASMU
	Prof. J. Wadham	University of Bristol
	Dr. H. Beadman	Natural Environment Research Council
	Dr K. Hughes	British Antarctic Survey
	Prof L. Peck	British Antarctic Survey
	Prof E. Murphy	British Antarctic Survey

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Jane Francis welcomed everybody to the meeting, noting that she is standing in for David Hopkins as Chair in his absence. She led a series of short introductions around the table.

2 TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE UK NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR ANTARCTIC RESEARCH ON FRIDAY 6th MAY 2016 (*paper*)

The Chair presented the minutes from the last meeting. No amendments were requested and the minutes were accepted as a true record of the twenty-first Committee Meeting.

3 MATTERS ARISING INCLUDING ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING (*paper*)

All actions arising from the 20th meeting have now been addressed. The Chair informed the group that Eric Wolff has now become the Royal Society representative to the UKNCAR. Nominations for the incoming UKNCAR Chair and Secretary were put forward to the UKNCAR in the last 12 months. These nominations have subsequently been approved by the Royal Society. Mike Bentley and Katie Gosling will become the UKNCAR Chair and Secretary respectively at the twenty-third UKNCAR meeting.

4 UKNCAR MEMBERSHIP AND ELECTION OF NEW CO-OPTED MEMBERS (*paper*)

Last year the UKNCAR expanded to include UK chairs of SCAR research programs, action and expert groups, and representatives to Standing Antarctic Committees. The consequence of this is that committee membership is now rather large. In order for the UKNCAR to remain focussed, there is a need to review and if necessary re-define the purpose of the committee (see Item 7).

5 REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF BAS

Jane Francis provided an update on recent and upcoming changes at the British Antarctic Survey and across NERC. She noted that several capital projects are currently underway. The RRS David Attenborough is still on track for completion in 2018, to then undergo a year of sea trials and the first polar season in 2019. Major modifications to the wharf at Rothera and extensions to the wharves at the island bases are planned. While this work is underway there are plans to modernise base infrastructure at Bird Island, Signy Island and Rothera, to save money by running projects concurrently. The building work is anticipated to last 5 years, and science support is anticipated to continue throughout this period.

The relationship between BAS and NERC is also changing, with BAS, the British Geological Survey (BGS) and NERC shortly to be placed under 'UK Research and Innovation' (UKRI), an umbrella body that will oversee all research council activities. The Centre for Ecology and Hydrology and National Oceanography Centre are anticipated to move out of UKRI. In 2015 and 2016 BAS took Sir John Kingman (chair), Sir Mark Walport (chief executive UKRI) and Rebecca Endean (Director of Strategy UKRI,) to the Antarctic for a visit, which was very successful.

The relocation of the Halley IV base was successfully completed this year, putting it on the safer side of the crack in the Brunt Ice Shelf. However in October another crack, called the 'Halloween' crack, opened up. As a consequence, Halley has been closed this winter for safety. The situation will be reviewed next season when the stations open for the 2017/8 summer.

In discussion, it was queried how long the existing polar ships will remain in support of Antarctic operations. Jane confirmed that the lease for the Ernest Shackleton will be terminated at some point in the next few years, but the James Clark Ross will remain in service a little longer to allow some overlap with the new ship. Two ships will be required throughout the Antarctic construction period to maintain science support as well as supporting the rebuilds. Kate Hendry noted that a lot of polar ships (Argentina, Australia, South Africa) are being refurbished over the next four years, so the 2019/20 season could possibly have a reduced number of research ships supporting science.

Prof Tim Wheeler (Director of science and innovation at NERC) is currently deciding how best to build science programmes around the new ship.

6 SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANTARCTIC RESEARCH

6.1 Standing Scientific Group (SSG) Reports

6.1.1 Geosciences SSG

No report on Geosciences was received.

6.1.2 Life Sciences SSG

This was held as an open meeting at Kuala Lumpur and was well attended. The group worked on the SCAR Code of Conduct on the use of wildlife in research, which is currently being finalized. The SCAR Biology conference is shortly to take place in Leuven in July 2017.

6.1.3 Physical Sciences SSG

This was also held as an open meeting at Kuala Lumpur and was well attended. A call for funds was also issued to assist members with travel. A new Expert group (FRISP, Forum for Research into Ice-Shelf processes) and a new Action group (TATE, Tropical-Antarctic Teleconnections) have both been approved. TATE will tie in with John Turner's current work and may be of interest to other UK scientists as there are many groups working on Antarctic-Tropic linkages. Such SCAR groups which have potential for interest outside the main community need to work hard to ensure active, wider engagement.

It was noted that many SCAR groups have produced important papers which can spin out into independent research programs. The recent SCAR review acknowledged the internationally collaborative value of SCAR discipline groups in this way. At the last OSC, GRAPES and SERANT prepared a new joint SCAR SRP titled RESOURCE (Radio Sciences Research on AntarCtic AtmosphEre). BAS, via Mark Clilverd, is included as one of the lead proponents.

6.2 Update on Scientific Research Programmes (*paper and oral reports*)

6.2.1 Past Antarctic Ice Sheet Dynamics (PAIS) (*oral report*)

Rob Larer reported on three recent expeditions involving UK PAIS members: the Antarctic Circumnavigation Expedition (ACE) cruise, wherein BAS scientists Hodgson and Perren obtained samples relevant to their work on Southern Hemisphere changes to westerly winds over the past several hundred years. The RV Polarstern PS104 expedition to the Amundsen Sea embayment saw the first use of a robotic sea-floor drilling system in Antarctica. This was conceived as a collaborative project between AWI, BAS and the MARUM group of the University of Bremen. 50% of UK funding was contributed by the NERC UK-IODP Programme, enabling involvement of scientists from UK HEIs. 56 m of drill cores were recovered from 9 sites and preliminary indications are that they range in age from Cretaceous to Quaternary. The cores have all been CT scanned and were split and sampled at MARUM during the week beginning 15th May. The results will provide new constraints on the pre-glacial history of West Antarctica, the development of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet and its response to past climate changes. A EUROFLEETS2 cruise took place in the Ross Sea on RV Explora, including NOC scientist Jenny Gales (now University of Plymouth). Multibeam bathymetry, seismic data and sediment cores were collected from the outer

continental shelf and slope of the eastern Ross Sea. Results will provide new insights into the interaction of glacial and oceanographic processes in the region and improve the survey data package available for planning the IODP drilling expedition on the JOIDES Resolution, scheduled to take place next season. James Smith et al. published a paper in *Nature* based on sediment cores recovered from beneath Pine Island Glacier ice shelf through BAS collaboration with a US-led project that used hot water drilling to penetrate the ice shelf and investigate the sub-ice cavity. Results show that the present phase of ocean-driven rapid retreat began in the mid-20th century and its onset may be related through a climate teleconnection to an intense phase of El Nino activity in the tropical Pacific at that time.

In terms of future plans, a SCAR-PAIS conference is planned for 11th September in Trieste; about 200 abstracts have been received. Many scientific drilling projects are coming up, including expedition 374 to the Ross Sea, then the Amundsen Sea (Exp. 379), then the Scotia Sea (Exp. 382), both in 2018/19, to drill for the ice-rafted debris record. A mission-specific platform IODP expedition (Exp. 373) that aims to use the BGS Rockdrill 2 to recover Cenozoic sedimentary records from the Adelie Land margin has been deferred until 2020/21 at the earliest. A scientifically-approved IODP proposal to drill sediment drifts on the continental rise in the Bellingshausen Sea and off the Antarctic Peninsula is still awaiting scheduling.

6.2.2 AntClim²¹

Tom Bracegirdle (current AntClim²¹ chair) provided an update on AntClim²¹, noting that the goal of this group is to use paleoclimate data to improve climate predictions. This group has become a good way to promote UK modelling work in this field within the Antarctic community. He noted that currently there is a lot of climate modelling focussed on next IPCC report, and that data from Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP) models will be available next year. There is a need to make these models available and useful to SCAR. In October, the Great Antarctic Climate Hack is due to be held at Scripps (with remote contributors), which will bridge the gap between non-expert and expert community and feed in new diagnostic tools to the process. The partly remote nature of this event is also intended to open up the opportunity to emerging Antarctic nations to join in. A *Nature* paper is about to come out on future expansion of ice-free areas in the Antarctic Peninsula, led by Aleks Terauds, with AntClim²¹ modelling data provided for their ice-free model. AntClim²¹ remains a very active and productive group.

6.2.3 AntEco and AntERA (*paper*)

An update was provided by AntEco co-chair Huw Griffiths, who noted the focus of this group on ecosystems and communities. Their recent focus has been to facilitate attendance at the upcoming SCAR biology meeting, including support for 3 early career research scientists and attendance by scientists from 13 countries. A collaboration between BAS/SCAR has also brought a 3 month placement for a student to visit BAS and conduct a MPA review of the region, to be reported to CCAMLR and published in CCAMLR Science. Whilst there are >300 people on the AntEco mailing list they have found greater uptake of AntEco opportunities via Facebook, particularly from early career scientists. AntEco and AntERA had a cross-program workshop in Barcelona in 2015, which

generated an ideas paper on physical and biological data. This is intended for submission shortly.

6.2.4 SERCE (*paper*)

Pippa Whitehouse (SERCE co-Chair) provided an update on SERCE which currently has 17 steering group members from 12 countries and is expanding rapidly. Their SCAR funding supports activities on a global scale, including funding for small workshops and summer schools to bring together people for knowledge exchange, travel funds for early career researcher or people from countries with emerging Antarctic programs. SERCE have supported scientists from 21 countries this year. Two educational activities are planned in 2017: Glacial Seismology Training School in June 2017 and a workshop on 'Glacial Isostatic Adjustment and Elastic Deformation' in Iceland in September. In March 2018 a workshop is planned on Antarctic Heat Flux (to be held in Australia), and in May a Polar Geodesy summer school (to be held in Russia).

6.3 Update on SCAR Expert Groups

6.3.1 ACCE

The ACCE report is produced annually for the Antarctic Treaty meeting, providing regular updates on the status of the ozone hole, sea ice etc., This year it was distilled into a brief summary paper, which is very accessible to readers and was well received by the Treaty meeting. There is a Wiki of the book (http://acce.scar.org/wiki/Antarctic_Climate_Change_and_the_Environment), which is updated periodically based on the annual updates. There is a need to add more up to date material to the website, so ACCE are looking for 2-3 months of SCAR funding to develop this.

6.3.2 ICED (*paper*)

Nadine Johnston presented recent work on ICED. The 'Integrating climate and ecosystem dynamics in the Southern Ocean' (ICED) program has been running since 2008 and is led by UK scientists and co-sponsored by SCAR. One goal of ICED is to improve governance of the Southern Ocean, facilitated through its links to CCAMLR. The CCAMLR Scientific Committee take an ecosystems-based approach to measure ecological interactions in the Southern Ocean, but does not explicitly consider climate impacts within their models. SCAR and CEP input into Treaty Consultative meetings has highlighted this issue, and there is now formal recognition of the knowledge gap, and that ICED can play a role to help redress this and assist with Southern Ocean fisheries management. A joint ICED-CCAMLR workshop is planned in April 2018 which will focus on projections of change in Antarctic krill populations and fishing patterns and serve as a model for projecting the impacts of future change on other species and regions across the Southern Ocean. This will be held alongside an ICED co-sponsored International Conference on Marine Ecosystem Assessment of the Southern Ocean (MEASO). This conference will provide a forum for presenting ICED community and individual syntheses, recent science, and consideration of future scenarios and projections of change in Southern Ocean ecosystems, and is co-sponsored by SCAR programs (AntECO, AntEra, and IMBeR and CLIOTOP).

6.3.3 IPICS (*paper*)

Eric Wolff introduced the International Partnerships in Ice Core Sciences (IPICS), which continues to operate as a forum and advocate for ice core science, connected to SCAR, PAGES and IACS. Eric has now stood down as co-chair and

an election for new chairs is currently underway. Among the IPICS priority projects, the one on oldest ice (aiming to collect an ice core in Antarctica up to 1.5 million years old) is the most visible. A funded European project is carrying out geophysics and rapid access drilling to verify a possible drill site, with the aspiration to start drilling around 2020. The UK (BAS) played a major role in the activity around Dome C last season. Australia, China, Japan and the USA also have significant activity aimed towards site selection. The last interglacial continues to be an important priority for IPICS; among other UK activity, Eric Wolff has recently won an ERC project in this area. IPICS2k has operated under the auspices of the PAGES Antarctica2k project; it has produced synthesis papers on temperature and accumulation rate, the latter led by Liz Thomas. A new white paper on the use of ice cores to understand ice dynamics is almost complete. A novel initiative has been the "Saving Ice Memory" project, which plans to store ice from vulnerable ice caps and glaciers in permanent repositories in Antarctica: IPICS has provided a letter of support for this.

6.3.4 OpMet

OpMet is focussed on meteorological data and observations, and works closely with the World Meteorological Organisation Panel of Experts on Polar and High Mountain Observations, Research and Services (EC-PHORS). Steve Colwell sits on this Panel and chairs the Antarctic Task Team. OpMet are looking to strengthen this relationship by setting up a Memorandum of Understanding to formalise the SCAR/WMO linkages. OpMet funding from SCAR goes towards travel to attend the annual Meteorology and Climate workshop held in the US in June. They also maintain webpages with EC-PHORS providing current news on Antarctic meteorology and resources so that people can check the quality of their data.

6.3.5 AntVolc

AntVolc is a joint UK/Italian initiative that was adopted by SCAR in 2015 to counteract the decline in research into Antarctic volcanism & to foster new ideas for a new generation of scientists. Membership has now reached 90 persons, up from 75 in 2016. John Smellie took over as Chair after the SCAR OSC in August 2016, with a term of office of 2 years. A dedicated website has been released, hosted at University of Barcelona (<https://antvolcscar.wordpress.com/>). The principal deliverables for AntVolc have been defined together with a schedule for their completion. The second AntVolc workshop is scheduled for 22-24 November 2016, in Barcelona. An AntVolc session dedicated to *bipolar* magmatic, tectonic & geodynamic investigations will take place at POLAR2018. The first major deliverable of AntVolc, a landmark review volume titled '*Volcanism in Antarctica: 200million years of subduction, rifting & continental break-up*' is now underway. It will be published as a Memoir of the Geological Society, London, with completion in late 2018/early 2019.

6.3.6 ANTOS (paper)

The Antarctic Near-Shore and Terrestrial Observation System (ANTOS) is an Action Group established in 2014, to coordinate a cross continent and cross-national program scale assessment of environmental variability and change at temporal and physical scales relevant to Antarctic terrestrial, freshwater and very nearshore marine biota. They held a Town Hall meeting during the recent SCAR OSC which was well attended. UK scientists including Pete Convey and Cath

Waller from U. Hull. Discussions are ongoing within the ANTOS steering group to standardise designs for the three 'tiers' of complexity of the planned stations.

6.3.7 SCAGI (paper)

The report on this topic was presented by Adrian Fox. Accurate, comprehensive and reliable geographic information is needed to support Antarctic science, operations, environmental management and tourism. The main roles of SCAR SCAGI are to: 1) Coordinate maintaining and developing the geographic framework for Antarctica through national geospatial agencies, and 2) Provide an arena for raising awareness of national programme activities through national reports, sharing of experience and best practice, and for highlighting opportunities for collaboration between agencies. SCAGI delivers a range of geographic information products through its various projects: Antarctic Digital Database (ADD); Air Operations Planning Maps; Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica (CGA) and SCAR MAP Catalogue.

There is increasing representation from new countries within this group. Recent highlights include a new Working Group to review the guidelines for Antarctic place-naming; an update on progress with production by US agencies of a Reference Elevation Mosaic of Antarctica at 8m resolution with <2m elevation accuracy; a planned workshop on the use of UAVs for detailed and rigorous small scale mapping, and the scanning of an international archive of >500,000 aerial photographs of Antarctica collected since the 1940s. At present the focus is on the oldest photos which are most vulnerable to degradation, including 50 rolls of film from BAS which will be digitised and archived within three years.

Update on SCAR Treaty activities

- 6.4** Jane Francis reported on the recent Treaty meeting, noting that there will be a SCAR Lecture as a plenary lecture at the start of this meeting, bringing science firmly into the foreground. This year, there were substantial discussions around WMO, SOOS and the International Hydrographic Office, and how the data provided from these fora should be considered in policy development. This meeting in particular showed how SCAR science is feeding forward productively into Treaty discussions and policy considerations. In this regard, the Antarctic Environments Portal (<https://www.environments.aq>) is considered to be a very useful resource for making the science accessible, providing short and clearly written peer reviewed articles which can be used by policy makers. UK scientist David Walton is currently editor in chief. It was noted that next year's Treaty meeting will be held in Ecuador.

Update on SCAR Activities (paper)

- 6.5** SCAR Chair Jenny Baeseman presented on this topic, drawing attention to the new strategic plan for SCAR. SCAR have also produced a membership guide listing expectations on how information is collected, active groups and programs and summaries of their purpose. They shortly plan to circulate this information within the UK community to encourage greater involvement. She noted that since the SCAR 60th anniversary is in 2018 they are looking for ideas to promote and celebrate this landmark. They also need to archive 60 years of papers, and this is currently underway, with papers being scanned and then put online in 2018. A new website is also under construction to improve accessibility for scientists who are not involved in SCAR, including a virtual "SCAR Library" which

is intended to make it easier to find SCAR and Treaty documents through a new search function. SCAR are also now producing a monthly electronic newsletter and invite SCAR members to provide content for this letter. This newsletter is also intended to promote national SCAR activities, highlighting a country or two every month. UKNCAR agreed that it would be nice to highlight UK activities and JAJ **agreed** to compile some highlights for this purpose. JB noted that more recent national SCAR reports have become a table of participating scientists and less often include research highlights. However this information is important for highlighting national contributions and also demonstrating the value of the SCAR program within national communities. In this regard the group noted that a recent UK SCAR highlights document was provided to the Royal Society, compiled by JAJ. JB also noted that there is a 'get to know SCAR' section within the newsletter, which highlights different SCAR groups regularly, and encouraged members to send activity updates to SCAR in order that they can be highlighted.

FUTURE SCIENCE DEVELOPMENTS

- 7** Mike Bentley proposed discussion around the role and use of UKNCAR within the UK community. He noted that much of UKNCAR activity focussed on providing reports on SCAR activities. In particular reporting of UK SCAR activities to the Royal Society seems to be working well, demonstrating the active and contributory role the UK plays in Antarctic science, and how that feeds into Antarctic Treaty policy. In this regard, SCAR is a powerful committee for the UK to be involved in, and this is appreciated within the Royal Society. While this line of communication seems to be working well, feedback of UK SCAR activities into the UK community could be stronger.

Inspired by the recent re-focus of the Royal Society GERC committee, MB suggested that UKNCAR could in future take a small number of science themes to explore in more detail at each meeting with a view to considering future directions for that science theme in the UK. For example, using the six science priorities from the Horizon scan to set the priority topics for the next six years. UKNCAR could then provide a short paper on this topic, helping to prime certain areas of research in the UK. The group agreed that this could be a good approach for future meetings, also noting the importance of such discussions being held within the broader UK Antarctic community too. In this regard, they agreed that discussions on the first priority topic should be initiated at the 2018 UK Antarctic conference in Durham, organised under UKNCAR. The UKNCAR agreed that it would be useful to increase awareness of its existence and purpose at the next Antarctic Conference, and that organising a UKNCAR-hosted session would be a good way to achieve this.

It was also noted that another strategic consideration for UKNCAR is future funding and support for Antarctic research within the UK. For example, the recent Global Challenges Research Fund offered by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy is not a good fit to most current Antarctic research. Consideration of the strategic directions for Antarctic research must also keep changing funding patterns in mind to maximise fit to UK scientific strategy.

The committee noted that while the recent increase in size to include more SCAR contributors has been useful for gathering information on activities, the committee size and focus on SCAR activities can reduce the capacity of the committee to complete focussed work. In this regard it was suggested that future UKNCAR updates are provided to the Secretary via a standard reporting template (using a similar structure to that developed by SCAR), for circulation within the Committee prior to the annual meeting. During the meeting, no further activity updates would be discussed unless they require group discussion, leaving the UKNCAR more able to focus on their priority topics and more strategic discussions.

MB agreed to continue thinking about more ways to improve UKNCAR dissemination into the community

UK POLAR NETWORK (*paper*)

- 8 The UKNCAR applauded the recent work of the UKPN and noted that this is a very active group within APECS.

UK POLAR DATA CENTRE

- 9 Helen Peat advised the UKNCAR that NERC is planning to change how it funds data management with the intent of making data centres more integrated although they will still be managed by individual research centres. NERC will commission the data centres from 2018. One combined response to the Commission call is requested, similar to a Large Grant proposal. Six awards will be given to the five datacentres, with one awarded for cross-centre collaboration. The funding model for the accession of data from NERC grants will also change, with top slicing of a small percentage of funds from Discovery, Large and Strategic grants to support datacentres, a process which will be trialled for one year. Depending on grants that NERC fund, this will proportionally translate into support for data centres relevant to that grant. NERC are also planning to make NERC data available for use by business through a project called the 'Dodona' which is seeking consortium bids for funding. In discussion it was asked whether the UK Polar Data Centre still collects data from the UK community. In response HP noted that NERC-funded work is priority, and all other activities not supported by funding are conducted on a best endeavours basis.

THE UK ANTARCTIC AND ARCTIC POLAR PARTNERSHIP, UKAAP

- 10 Henry Burgess reported on UKAAP, which draws together a community of scientists and stakeholders relevant to both poles. The 25-strong Steering Committee has just been rejuvenated. Their role is to enhance communications across polar community, identify key research gaps, questions, opportunities to collaborate and consult, increase the visibility of polar research and draw in non-polar scientists. UKAAP have also helped to rejuvenate IASC membership- through UKAAP offices there have been reappointments to the IASC Working Groups. The community have recently developed a UKAAP 'vision' document which lays out the philosophy and vision for the UK role in Arctic science. Future funding and demand management is a perennial discussion topic for UKAAP. The next plan is to put together a vision document for social science in the Arctic which should be put together as a concept this coming autumn. A short, public-focussed high-level document about the importance of polar research for the UK community is also planned and may be launched at the next Arctic conference

in Oban this September. One area of focus is how best to support research which spans both polar and non-polar regions, funding-wise. There has been good recent Arctic investment from NERC, but funding for inter-regional work can be more difficult to obtain. HB proposed to add a standing agenda item at future UK Antarctic/Arctic conferences on interdisciplinary work (i.e. polar and non-polar). He also proposed for the new UKNCAR chair to join the UKAAP committee to enhance the relationship and communication between the two committees. MB agreed to join the UKAAP committee.

ROYAL SOCIETY

11 Communications

- 11.1** Eric Wolff is now the Royal Society representative for UKNCAR. No other communications were received.

SCAR subscription

- 11.2** The UK subscription to SCAR has in the past been paid in full by the Royal Society. For 6-7 years Royal Society has reviewed subscription funding and so far have agreed to continue funding. However they wish to reduce their payment to just under half of the subscription fee. Options for finding funding from other sources are being explored by JF.

12 NERC UPDATES (*paper*)

The group reviewed the success rate data for grant success rates for 2013-2016 in the NERC Discovery (standard) grant calls, broken down into grants with a 5-50% polar component and those with a >50% polar component. Grants with a majority polar component continue to show disappointing success rates (<10%). However it was noted that polar proposals have had very good success rates within recent NERC strategic calls. The latest call for Highlight Topic ideas closed on the 16th May and have now gone to the Strategic Programme Advisory Group for consideration. The closing date for Strategic Programme Area ideas is 7th September. The panel meeting for the joint NSF-NERC Thwaites Glacier programme will take place on 12-13th June, but outcomes will not be communicated until early October after logistics requirements have been considered.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The UK Antarctic Place-names Committee is currently recruiting for a new committee member, and are looking for someone who is well connected to Antarctic science, outside the BAS community.

Katie Gosling agreed to coordinate construction of a joint UKNCAR/UKPN poster promoting SCAR work in the UK community for the next OSC meeting in Davos.

Karen Heywood at the University of East Anglia is Principal Investigator of a new Antarctic-focussed ERC Advanced grant COMPASS (Climate-relevant Ocean Measurements and Processes on the Antarctic continental Shelf and Slope).

UK NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR ANTARCTIC RESEARCH

22nd Committee Meeting, 15th June, 2017

ACTIONS

ITEM	NO.	ACTION	BY	STATUS
6. SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANTARCTIC RESEARCH	6.5	Put together a summary of UK SCAR related highlights for the SCAR newsletter	JAJ/KG	
7. FUTURE SCIENCE DEVELOPMENTS	7	Organise a UKNCAR-hosted session at the Durham Antarctic Science conference to discuss future UK research in relation to priority topics from the recent Antarctic Horizon Scan	MB	
	7	Develop a standard reporting template for gathering UK community updates to UKNCAR	KG	
10. THE UK ANTARCTIC AND ARCTIC POLAR PARTNERSHIP	10	Add a standing agenda item to future UK Arctic/Antarctic conferences on inter-regional work encompassing polar and non polar areas	HB/MB	
13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS	13	Construct a joint UKNCAR/UKPN poster for promoting SCAR work in the UK community at the next OSC meeting in Davos	KG	

MB: Mike Bentley (Incoming Chair)

JAJ: Jennifer Jackson (Outgoing Secretary)

KG: Katie Gosling (Incoming Secretary)

HB: Henry Burgess