



**MINUTES OF THE 55<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE QUATERNARY RESEARCH  
ASSOCIATION HELD AT UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS,  
8 JANUARY 2020**

The President, Professor Neil Glasser, chaired the meeting, which was attended by 40 members of the Association and four non-members (denoted with \*):

Natasha Barlow, Mark Bateman, Becky Briant, Victor Cartelle, Chris Clark, Katie Cupples, Alastair Curry, Chris Darvill, Kim Davies, Steve Davison, Jonathan Dean, Jeremy Ely, Andy Emery, Richard Fewster, Stephen Gale, Roland Gehrels, Sean Gilgannon, Neil Glasser, Trevor Faulkner, Jane Hart, Tom Hill, Peter Hopcroft, Ruza Ivanovic\*, Kenji Izumi\*, Matt Jones, Harry Langford, Des McDougall, Fflyff McLaren, Paul Morris\*, Adrian Palmer, Luis Rees-Hughes, Simon Lewis, Neil Roberts, Helen Roe (minutes), Jim Rose, Thomas Sim, Richard Staff, Jenna Sutherland, Graeme Swindles, Dale Tromans, Charles Turner, Thijs van Kolfshoten (INQUA President)\* Tom White, Eric Wolff.

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Eleanor Brown, Geoff Duller, Tom Roland, Katherine Selby, Danielle Schreve and Abi Stone.

**2. MINUTES OF THE 54<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

These were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The President began his report by thanking the organisers of the 2020 ADM for putting together such an excellent meeting programme.

**a. Finances.** The President noted that the Association continues to maintain a position of sound financial health, which is in part a reflection of income from JQS. He stressed the importance of building reserves to remain solvent, whilst at the same time ensuring that funds are re-distributed efficiently to protect the organisation's charitable status. He was pleased to report that significant effort had been made by the Executive during 2019 to make good use of funds, and that further details would be given in the Treasurer's and Awards Officer's reports (see Items 6 and 7) .

**b. Deceased Members.** Several members had sadly passed away since the last AGM, including Arthur ApSimon, Ing Ludovit Slahor from the Czech Republic, and Richard Payne. An obituary for Richard Payne had been published in *QN Issue 149* and in the December 2019 issue of *JQS*. The President called for a brief silence by way of remembrance.

**c. INQUA activities.** The President had represented the QRA at two of three INQUA International Council Meetings held in July 2019. He thanked Eleanor Brown, QRA Conservation Officer, for deputising for him in the third meeting. Amongst the discussions, the INQUA Council had considered: (i) a motion to increase the INQUA membership fees by 3%, which had been carried; (ii) the development of a formal Diversity and Inclusion statement, which is to be taken forward by the INQUA Executive; and (iii) bids for hosting the next INQUA

Congress. The QRA had voted in support of a bid from India, but this bid was unsuccessful - the 2023 Congress will be held in Rome, Italy.

Whilst the 2019 Dublin meeting had been highly successful and many UK delegates had attended, the President noted that the relationship between the QRA and INQUA might be improved, and that some members were also unsure about the activities of the INQUA during the inter-congress periods. To this end, the President had invited the INQUA President, Prof. Dr. Thijs van Kolfschoten to attend the meeting to speak about INQUA activities more broadly and opportunities to widen involvement (see Item 11). Professor van Kolfschoten was warmly welcomed to the meeting.

**d. JQS matters.** The President confirmed that a new Copyright Transfer Agreement (CTA) had been agreed in October 2019 between Journal of Quaternary Science Cascade Journal Publishing and Plant Environment Interactions. The latest Impact Factors (2018) had also been released and the IF for JQS had increased to 2.846. The President thanked the outgoing editor, Geoff Duller and the Editorial Board for their work and welcomed the new editor, Neil Roberts.

**e. Honours and awards.** As part of the 2019 AGM (held during the Chester ADM), the James Croll Medal had been awarded to Ann Wintle and the Lewis Penny Medal to Clare Boston. Honorary Membership was conferred on Phil Gibbard. Full citations were published in *Quaternary Newsletter* 147.

**f. Charity Commission Report 2017-2018.** This report had been prepared with help from interim Treasurer Tom White and submitted in Spring 2019.

**g. Geological Society Meetings.** Becky Briant (Meetings Officer) and Kim Davies (Outreach and External Liaison Officer) were thanked for attending the Geological Society Affiliated Groups Meeting on 13th May 2019 and the President's Day Meeting on 6 June 2019 respectively on behalf of the President.

## 5. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

### a. Membership.

**Table 1.** Summary of membership data as of 1 December 2019. \*Includes copyright members

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Change (18–19)
Ordinary Members	602	598	636	656	615	682	677	592	-85
Postgraduate Members	343	344	368	358	289	369	395	321	-74
Unwaged/Retired Members	141	145	146	147	134	137	137	118	-19
Honorary members	29	31	35	38	38	41	40	40	0
Institutional members	29	37	29	26	21	22	17	17	0
Corresponding members*	20	19	23	23	23	23	24	24	0
<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>1164</b>	<b>1174</b>	<b>1237</b>	<b>1248</b>	<b>1120</b>	<b>1274</b>	<b>1290</b>	<b>1112</b>	<b>-178</b>

Total membership of the Association currently stands at **1112** (see Table 1). Note: the decline in numbers from 2018 (178 fewer members) may reflect the fact that some members have changed address and not renewed their subscription. Members were asked to check that their subscription payments are up to date and to contact Val Siviter ([admin@qra.ac.uk](mailto:admin@qra.ac.uk)) with any queries. Subscriptions for 2019 were unchanged at £20, with a reduced rate of £10 for students and unwaged members. The institutional membership rate is £35. On behalf of the membership, Val Siviter was thanked for her ongoing work for the Association, particularly management of the membership database.

### b. Meetings.

#### (i) Annual Discussion Meeting

*Environmental Change: Pace, Magnitude and Impact*

Chester University, 3rd - 5th January 2019

Organisers: Graham Wilson, Katherine Welsh, Phillip Marren, Amanda Williams

Attendees: 66 (56% male: 44% female). Report: *QN 148* (June 2019)

#### (ii) Field Meetings

INQUA pre-Congress field trip - *Major English Rivers*

20th - 24th July 2019

Organisers: Becky Briant, David Bridgland, Tom White, Eleanor Brown

Attendees: 12

INQUA post-Congress field trip

*Late Quaternary Landscape Evolution, Palaeoenvironments and Human Occupation in the North of Ireland*, 1st - 5th August 2019

Organisers: Helen Roe, Nicki Whitehouse, Jasper Knight

Attendees: 17

(iii) **24th Annual QRA Postgraduate Symposium**

University of York, 28th-30th August 2019

Organiser: Sophie Williams

Attendees: 23.

(iv) **Joint Field Meetings**

*Joint Sea Level and Coastal Change (SLaCC) / QRA field meeting*

University of Plymouth, Devon and Cornwall, 1st - 4th September 2019

Organisers: Sarah Woodroffe, Rob Barnett

Attendees: Conference & field trips – 34

Public Evening Engagement Event – 105

*Joint QRA / GLWG Field Meeting to Glen Clova and Strathmore*

24th – 27th October 2019

Organiser: Dr Wishart MITCHELL

Attendees: 30

The **Wiley Annual Lecture** for 2019 was delivered during the Annual Discussion Meeting held at Chester University by Fernanda Sanchez Goñi (EPHE, PSL University) entitled '*Air-sea-ice interactions at orbital and millennial timescales: the puzzle of the Ice Ages*'.

The people who had organised and participated in the above meetings, and who had reported on activities in QN, were thanked. Offers of future meetings are welcomed, and the formats are flexible and that field meetings do not necessarily require the production of accompanying guides. Anyone interested in running a meeting should contact the Meetings Officer ([meetings@qra.org.uk](mailto:meetings@qra.org.uk)).

**c. QRA Grants and Awards.** During the 2018-19 financial year, grants totalling £39,804 were awarded to 45 members under the QRA's Standard Awards schemes (Item 7a). In addition, £30,585 was awarded to support attendance at the *20th INQUA Congress*, which was held in Dublin between 25th-31st July 2019 (see Item 7c). Details of all QRA grants and awards are available on the QRA website: [qra.org.uk/grants](http://qra.org.uk/grants)

**d. Publications**

***Quaternary Newsletter***

3 issues: 147 (Feb 2019), 148 (June 2019), 149 (October 2019)

Editor: Dr Abi Stone (Manchester)

The editor reported another enjoyable year editing *QN*, and confirmed that a record 80 page edition had been published in February 2019. Articles through the year had included: write ups of the 2019 AGM in Chester (*QN* 148) and the INQUA Dublin meeting (*QN* 149) and reports on the 2018 James Croll and Lewis Penny Medal awardees and new Honorary Members in *QN* 147. Numerous report articles associated with QRA standard awards and the 14CHRONO Award demonstrate the dynamism, diversity and excellence of research being undertaken by members. Members were encouraged to continue to submit articles to *QN*, particularly review papers.

***Journal of Quaternary Science***

Volume 34: containing 59 research articles were published across eight issues

Editor: Professor Geoff Duller (University of Aberystwyth)

The QJS Editor reported that the journal has continued to publish excellent science on a range of Quaternary Science topics during his term in office. A number of special issues had been published including: “Revolutions in Quaternary Science” (2015); “Chronology, palaeoenvironments and subsistence in the Acheulean of western Europe” (2015), “Quaternary palaeoenvironmental proxies and processes – papers in honour of Professor Alayne Street-Perrott” (2016), “The Quaternary of the North Sea basin” (2017), “Late Quaternary records and chronology of environmental change in the Southern Hemisphere - a contribution to SHAPE” (2017) and “The impact of drastic environmental changes in prehistoric hunter-gatherer adaptations” (2018). The first issue of 2020 will be a major special issue arising from the International Focus Group on Tephrochronology and Volcanism (INTAV) working group of INQUA. He thanked the editorial team for helping to maintain the high standards of the journal during his term and the membership for their ongoing support.

The two outgoing editors, Abi Stone (QN) and Geoff Duller (JQS), were thanked for their hard work in ensuring the smooth running of the journals during their terms in office.

### **QRA Field Guides**

Three new field guides were published during 2019, two to accompany two QRA-sponsored INQUA fieldtrips and a third to accompany the joint QRA/GLWG Meeting.

See the Publications Secretary’s report for further details (Item 8).

**e. Research Groups and Study Groups.** The Research Group scheme is designed to provide start-up funding for specialist Quaternary research groups, with the aim to bring research communities together, foster communication and provide an opportunity for new research projects to be formulated. The QRA has recently supported meetings associated with **The Sea Level and Coastal Change Research Group** (SLaCC) and the **Glacial Land Systems Research Group** (GLWG). The aim of SLaCC is to draw together scientists from the UK and NW Europe that are actively researching sea-level and coastal changes and the impact of sea-level change on the coastal environment, in the past, present and future. The group organise annual meetings to discuss sea-level and coastal change over a range of temporal and spatial scales, but with particular relevance to vulnerable coastal communities within the UK and NW Europe. Their fifth meeting was held in Plymouth in September 2019 (jointly with the QRA).

The Glacial Land Systems Research Group (GLWG) is an informal working group which aims to act as a catalyst for research on palaeoglaciological reconstructions, focusing specifically on landform/sediment associations and their application to glaciated landscapes. The group organises a range of field meetings at various locations in glaciated Britain. The most recent meeting (run jointly with the QRA) was held in *Glen Clova and Strathmore* in October 2019.

The Secretary encouraged members to contact her with proposals for new research groups. New groups will be announced each year during the Annual General Meetings.

**f. Outreach.** As a registered charity, outreach is an important part of our activities and, as our Outreach and External Liaison Officer, Kim Davies has been pro-active in pushing forward our activities on this front.

#### *(i) QRA Undergraduate Dissertation Prize*

Twelve entries were submitted for the 2019 prize. The winner was Madeleine Wood (Durham University) for her thesis entitled ‘*An investigation into the ice marginal dynamics of the North Sea Lobe in North East England during the Late Devensian*’. An abstract will be published in *QN*. The dissertations of two other students, Alexander Curtis (University of Oxford) and Alice Downham (University of Edinburgh) were highly commended by the judges.

The judges, Martin Kirkbride and Will Fletcher, were thanked for their work. The continuing support of Catherine Souch and others at the RGS was acknowledged for the administration of the prize.

#### *(ii) QRA Outreach Award*

The QRA encourages its members and others to foster engagement between Quaternary science and a wide and diverse audience. To support this, we maintain an annual Outreach fund from which grants are awarded. This year we contributed funding towards one initiative:

- *The College Lake Geo-Conservation Project.* The Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust, with the support of Geological Society and QRA Natural England, aim to excavate an 8 m wide section of Pitstone Quarry, enabling visitors to view interesting periglacial features from the last ice age. This project was supported by funds from the QRA's Outreach and Geo-conservation Awards.

Outreach Awards are normally up to £1000, although larger requests will be considered – please see the QRA website for a list of previously funded projects. For more details please contact the Outreach Officer ([outreach@qra.org.uk](mailto:outreach@qra.org.uk)).

### (iii) QRA Photo competition

A photo competition for QRA members and the public was announced during the Leeds ADM. The aim was to generate images that promote Quaternary science and the activities of the QRA. Meeting participants were encouraged to view the images and vote on their favourite.

**g. Executive Committee.** The following members of the Executive Committee had completed their terms of office between January 2019 and January 2020:

- September 2019: Kristy Holder (*Postgraduate representative*)
- January 2020: Neil Glasser (*President*); Tom White (*interim Treasurer*); Abi Stone (*QN Editor*); Tom Roland (*Publicity Officer - stood down*); Julie Durcan (*Ordinary Member*)

These individuals were thanked on behalf of the membership for their hard work and contributions towards the smooth running of the Association.

Dale Tromans (Chester) had joined the Executive Committee in September 2019 to represent the QRA postgraduate community for the next two years.

**h. Postgraduate activities.** Postgraduate events continue to be an important component of the activities of the Association. The Annual Postgraduate Symposium series has continued, with the 2019 event being held at University of York in September. The meeting was a success and a write-up will appear in a forthcoming issue of *QN*. Postgraduate interests are represented on the Executive Committee by two members, who are elected at the Annual Postgraduate Symposium (both posts last for two years). The postgraduate representatives also maintain the social media accounts of the Association.

**i. Publicity.** In 2019, alongside ordinary duties, the Publicity Officer had assisted in publicising several well-attended QRA-led trips during a highly-successful INQUA congress hosted in Dublin. Members continue to receive QRA mailshots approximately once a week, but can opt out at any time in compliance with recent GDPR rules. Any relevant announcements should continue to be sent to the Publicity Officer ([publicity@qra.org.uk](mailto:publicity@qra.org.uk)) for circulation.

Outgoing Publicity Officer Tom Roland was thanked for his hard work in the role the last two years, particularly for initiating a review of the functionality of the QRA website and exploring potential improvements. In addition to the ordinary duties of the role, the incoming officer will oversee a small working group to consider the future requirements of the website, and whether an updated site is likely to be needed.

The Secretary's report was ACCEPTED by the membership.

## 6. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER

**a. Financial Report 2018-2019.** The report covers the period 1 August 2018 to 31 July 2019. Accounts are detailed in Table 2 below. The Association's financial activities have generally comparable to previous years, with additional expenditure on the INQUA Congress via the INQUA fund, and remain healthy and stable. All values stated below are rounded up to the nearest pound. The finances have not yet been audited and were submitted to the AGM subject to approval by the external auditor.

### (i). Year-end financial status

As of 31st July 2019, the Association held:

- £ 100,181.05 in our Bank of Scotland Treasurer's Account
- £ 27,583.52 in our Bank of Scotland Publications Account

- £ 64,933.59 in our HSBC Community Account
- £ 40,668.80 in our HSBC Manager's (savings) Account

The Association started the 2018-19 financial year with total funds of £251,815.20 and ended with £233,366.71. As always, the aim was to break-even within the financial year, but as is always the case in an INQUA year expenditure was higher than normal; the deficit this year is far lower than in previous INQUA years, however. Ring-fenced sums within our holdings include £16,255 held in trust for the Bill Bishop Award, £85,500 for the INQUA fund, £5000 for the Lewis Penny Medal, ~£15,500 for administering the JQS Editorial Board, and £30,000 designated to meet any unexpected liabilities.

*(ii). Plans for the next financial period*

The QRA continues to receive a substantially increased profit share from the publication of *Journal of Quaternary Science*, and income from subscriptions and book sales remains stable. This means that spending on standard awards and activities can be maintained at the higher level of ~£50,000 trialled for the 2017-18 financial year, including additional funding for geoconservation awards and the prestigious QRA Research Award. As always, this spending will be closely monitored in order to ensure reserves are replenished ahead of the next INQUA awards round in 2023.

**Table 2.** Income and expenditure on the Treasurer's account for 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019.

INCOME	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Subscriptions	£11,250.37	£9,237	<b>£9,309</b>
Book sales	£1,204.90	£1,534	<b>£1,125</b>
Subs/book sales (Stripe payments)	£6,998.22	£7,292	<b>£8,173</b>
<b>Total Subs/Book Sales</b>	<b>£19,453.49</b>	<b>£18,064</b>	<b>£18,608</b>
Publisher's Royalties (JQS)	£45,399.00	£75,065	<b>£73,785</b>
Publisher's Royalties (PLS)	£894.85	£1,659	<b>£883</b>
Royal Society: INQUA Subscription Support	£6,257.45	£5,910	<b>£5,825</b>
Surplus on Meetings	£1,809.84	£587	<b>£149</b>
Bank refunds	£1,080.00	£720	<b>£0.00</b>
INQUA Field Trip subscriptions	£0.00	£0.00	<b>£19,311</b>
Returned awards	£0.00	£113	<b>£1,020</b>
Donations	£317.57	£0.00	<b>£1000.00</b>
Interest Received	£19.45	£23	<b>£22</b>
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>£55,778.16</b>	<b>£84,077</b>	<b>£101,995</b>
<b>JQS Editorial Board (ring-fenced budget)</b>	<b>£29,000.00</b>	<b>£10,155</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£104,231.65</b>	<b>£117,606</b>	<b>£120,603</b>
<b>WORKING INCOME</b>	<b>£65,747.34</b>	<b>£94,788</b>	<b>£92,393</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Newsletter & Circular printing	£2,936.00	£764	<b>£1,159</b>
Newsletter postage	£3,055.07	£1,865	<b>£1,821</b>
Admin support	£6,000.00	£6,000	<b>£6,000</b>
Postage & stationery	£455.34	£124	<b>£0</b>
Executive Committee Costs	£2,424.62	£3,525	<b>£3,347</b>
Insurance premium	£1,184.74	£1,242	<b>£1,180</b>
<b>Total Running Expenditure</b>	<b>£16,055.77</b>	<b>£13,520</b>	<b>£13,508</b>

Printing (Field Guides & Books)	£1,553.00	£7,305	<b>£3,310</b>
<b>Total Publications Expenditure</b>	£1,553.00	£7,305	<b>£3,310</b>
<b>JQS Editorial Board Costs (ring-fenced budget)</b>			
Editors' honoraria	£9,000.00	£9,000	<b>£9,000</b>
Exec. INQUA costs	£0.00	£0.00	<b>0.00</b>
Board meeting travel	£2,107.84	£1,155	<b>£1,113</b>
<b>Total JQS Editorial Board Costs</b>	£11,107.84	£10,155	<b>£10,113</b>
<b>Grants/Awards/Support</b>			
New Research Workers Awards (NRWA)	£9,711.00	£12,145	<b>£19,005</b>
Quaternary Research Fund (QRF)	£12,895.00	£25,034	<b>£19,495</b>
Quaternary Conference Fund (QCF)	£5,311.00	£12,182	<b>£5,334</b>
QRA RESEARCH AWARD	£0.00	£0.00	<b>£4,260</b>
INQUA FUND	£0.00	£0.00	<b>£30,620</b>
PGMA	£190.00	£563	<b>£0.00</b>
Outreach Award	£1,750.00	£4,460	<b>£0.00</b>
Geoconservation Award	n/a	£1,000	<b>£1,805</b>
Undergrad dissertation prize	£250.00	£250	<b>£250</b>
ADM Poster prizes	£0.00	£0	<b>£0.00</b>
Support for delegates to INQUA Congress	£0.00	£0	<b>£0.00</b>
C14 bursaries	£1,263.40	£0	<b>1,297</b>
Bill Bishop Memorial Fund Award	£0.00	£0	<b>£0</b>
Croll and Lewis Penny Medals (ADM Travel)	£0.00	£669	<b>£163</b>
Postgraduate Conference	£500.00	£500	<b>£500</b>
Sub-group support	£500.00	£0.00	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Total Grants/Awards/Support</b>	£32,370.40	£56,803	<b>£82,830</b>
Refunds/reimbursements (subs/postage errors)	£24.00	£0	<b>£8.00</b>
Refund (ADM subs etc)	£0.00	£0	<b>£0.00</b>
Meetings expenditure	£3,690.96	3,500	<b>£1,700</b>
Catering (meetings)	£962.80	538	<b>£387</b>
INQUA subscription	£12,920.98	12,349	<b>£12,842</b>
Web Site costs	£660.00	458	<b>450</b>
Dissertation Prize admin (RGS)	£0.00	200	<b>200</b>
Medals - striking/engraving	£19.44	52	<b>3000</b>
RGS Archives	£939.86	£0	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Total Other Expenditure</b>	£19,218.04	£17,266	<b>£18,860</b>
Bank charges	£160.00	£168	<b>£281</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	£80,465.05	£105,048	<b>£139,111</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>£23,766.60</b>	<b>£12,558</b>	<b>-£18,448</b>

**b. Re-evaluation of the Treasurer role.** The significant time-commitment associated with the Treasurer role had been discussed during the Spring and Autumn 2019 Executive Meetings (see *Action Point 6a, 2019 AGM*

*Minutes*). The Committee had agreed that the Treasurer should be relieved of some duties, including the commitment to participate in the Awards Panel. The President was pleased to report that, following a request to the membership in October 2019, a new Treasurer had been nominated to take on the position from January 2020 (see Item 12). Interim Treasurer Tom White was thanked for his significant commitment in covering the role for an extended period.

The Treasurer's report was ACCEPTED by the membership.

## 7. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AWARDS OFFICER

**a. Standard Awards.** In the Standard Awards rounds for financial year 2018-2019 **£39,804** was distributed. In comparison to the 2017-18 financial year, there was an overall decrease in application numbers (a total of 62, instead of 77), which may be related to applications for the INQUA funding round. The overall quality of the submissions had been variable, which is reflected in the % success rate through the year.

**Table 3:** Summary of Standard and Special Awards 2018-2019. Award holders are given in Table 5.

Fund	No. of applications		No. funded	Total monies requested (£)	Total monies awarded (£)	% funded <sup>1</sup>
NRWA	Sep-18	8	3	£8,550	£6,770	38
	Jan-19	11	4	£15,685	£4,910	36
	May-19	8	7	£10,951	£8,745	88
	<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>35186</b>	<b>20425</b>	<b>54</b>
QCF	Sep-18	1	1	£750	£600	100
	Jan-19	4	3	£2,464	£1,984	75
	May-19	3	2	£1,950	£1,250	67
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5164</b>	<b>3834</b>	<b>81</b>
QRF	Sep-18	7	6	£10,645	£7,400	86
	Jan-19	6	3	£8,845	£4,420	50
	May-19	6	3	£6,460	£2,925	50
	<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>25950</b>	<b>14745</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>54</b>		<b>32</b>	<b>66300</b>	<b>39004</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Bishop</b>	1		1	£800	£800	100
<b>Short-course</b>	4*		3	-	-	75
<b>QUB C14<sup>2</sup></b>	5		2	-	-	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>		<b>38</b>	<b>£67,100</b>	<b>£39,804</b>	<b>69</b>

<sup>1</sup> Refers only to eligible applications <sup>2</sup> Refers to number of applicants not the number of dates requested

\* A fifth applicant was exempt and is not reported here.

Note- the Geoconservation, Outreach Awards and prizes are not listed here.

### b. Special grants

- The Bill Bishop Award for 2018-19 was awarded to Chris Millar.
- The QRA would like to acknowledge the continued support of the Queens University Belfast <sup>14</sup>*CHRONO Centre for Climate, the Environment and Chronology* for an annual allocation of radiocarbon dates for New Researchers.

**c. INQUA 2019 Travel Fund.** In addition to the standard and special awards, **£30,585** was allocated to 81 applicants who applied to the QRA's INQUA Travel Fund. A total of £19,875 was allocated to Early Career Researchers and PhD students, a further £8,985 awarded to Established Researchers and £1725 to 'Others'. Of the applicants to the fund, 59% were female and 41% male, and the total monies allocated breakdown was 58% female and 42% male (Table 4).



**Table 4:** 2019 INQUA awards breakdown.

	Male	Female	Male £ funded	Female £ funded
ECR	6	6	2550	2820
ECR/PHD	17	25	6195	8310
ER	9	14	3585	5400
OTHER	1	3	425	1300
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>12755</b>	<b>17830</b>
	Male	Female	% Funded	% Funded
ECR	50	50	47	53
ECR/PHD	40	60	43	57
ER	39	61	40	60
OTHER	25	75	25	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>58</b>

ECR=Early Career Researchers; ER=Established Researchers.

**d. Notices and Activities 2018-2019.** The Awards panel continue to use the criteria designed in the previous financial year for awards, following the themes of ‘*scientific excellence*’, ‘*value/reasonable cost*’ and ‘*financial need*’ which are proving extremely effective for grading submissions.

As noted in the 2018 Awards report for the AGM 2019 Minutes:

*‘...from September 2019 the PMA will be rebranded as the **Postgraduate Quaternary Conference Fund (PQCF)**. This will be an equivalent to the QCF, but will be specifically for Postgraduates (Masters and PhD) with the same funding level of £750. Consequently, with the NRWA, postgraduate (PG) students will be able to apply for **£2250** of funding from the QRA during their PG research career. However, they will only be able to apply for one of each of these awards during their PGR careers and will not have access to QRF or QCF until after these studies have been completed. This change will help to encourage more applications by making increased funds available to the PG community and will provide greater clarity regarding the definition and criteria of the different funding options.’*

The Awards Officer reported that due to a changeover in the Awards Officer role, and misunderstandings in the timing of website redesign and awards updates, the above change was not implemented for the Sept 2019 round (for which there were only nine applications in total across the three funding streams, NRWA, QCF, QRF). The change to the PQCF will be implemented for the January 2020 round, with updated guidelines on the website.

**Table 5.** Standard and Special Awards - Award holders

Name	Institution	Title	Award (£)
<b>NRWA</b>			
Nathaniel Burley	University of Southampton	A spatio-temporal glaciological analysis of adjacent lacustrine calving glaciers in SE Iceland	1500
Dale Tromans	University of Chester	The timing and spatial expression of Holocene rapid climate events: a view from the Dinaric Alps	466
Marjorie Fis	University of Southampton	Past climate of the South Pacific Islands: mapping the hydroclimate variability of the SPCZ region	1500
Tancrede Leger	University of Edinburgh	Reconstructing the geochronological context of the former Patagonian Ice Sheet in the under-studied northern Patagonian valleys (43°S) using cosmogenic radionuclide dating	1500
Jonathan Small	Queens University Belfast	Multi-isotope analysis of Early Holocene Wild Boar remains	1200
Ella Walsh	University of Oxford	A Systematic Assessment of Late Quaternary Hydrological Change from Valley Fill Sediments in Namibia	1379
Coleen Murty	Newcastle University	Molecular characterization of Sphagnum-derived phenolics and their role in peatland carbon cycling	1200
Sophie Williams	University of York	Historical sea-level changes in Australia: Testing the Arctic ice melt hypothesis	1000

Alice Carter-Champion	Royal Holloway, University of London	NRWA: Investigation of sea-ice fluctuations during the Younger Dryas using biomarkers	1200
Claire Cooper	University of Leeds	A new Holocene tephra record from Western island	700
Dael Sassoon	University of Manchester	Ecosystem dynamics of Amazonian open peatlands during the Late-Holocene.	970
Angie Turner	Keele University	Lithogeochemistry and Whole Rock Analysis of glacial till	940
Helen Hallang	Swansea University	Tundra greening in the context of palaeoecology: a comparison of High Arctic and sub-Arctic	1500
Svenja Riedesel	Aberystwyth University	Investigating the nature and timing of cataclysmic glacial outburst floods in the Channelled Scablands of North America	1500
QCF			
Theodora Moutsiou	University of Cyprus	Submerged Prehistoric Landscapes: Continental Shelf Prehistoric Research Field Meeting/Summer School, Porto	750
Robyn Pinder	Aberystwyth University	UK Luminescence and ESR Meeting 2019	500
Katrina Nilsson-Kerr	Open University	American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting	600
Marco Meschis	University College London	European Geosciences Union	750
Matthew Chadwick	British Antarctic Survey	13th International Conference on Paleoceanography and pre-conference C-SIDE workshop	734
Paul Preston	Unaffiliated	International open workshop: socio-environmental dynamics over the last 15,00 years	500
QRF			
Jane Wheeler	University of Bradford	Reconstructing sea level, coastal and palaeoenvironmental changes from Par Sands, Cornwall, south-west England	1000
Harry Langford	Unaffiliated	OSL dating of the March Gravel at Northam Pit SSSI, Eye Green, Cambridgeshire	900
Stefan Engels	Birkbeck	Insect armageddon: natural variability, landscape change or human-induced climate warming?	1025
Benjamin Chandler	Queen Mary University of London	Pattern and dynamics of (de)glaciation in the Eastern Grampians, Scotland	1000
Cathy Delaney	Manchester Metropolitan University	Dating the retreat of the terrestrial margin of the last Irish Ice Sheet	800
Vasile Ersek	Northumbria University	Hydroclimate reconstruction in SE Asia based on speleothems	1000
Alison MacLeod	The University of Reading	Lake Mulsjön, Sweden: Constraining the timing of final drainage of the Baltic Ice Lake	1200
Emma Loftus	University of Cambridge	Development of an isotope-based seasonal sea surface temperature and upwelling proxy	1200
Katherine Selby	University of York	Holocene sea-level change in Thailand	900
Thomas Stevens	Uppsala University	Age and source of loess in Southern Britain	1300
John Andrews	INSTAAR	Changes in the glacial marine record of East Greenland ~15 to 0 cal ka BP	900
Nicholas Midgley	Nottingham Trent University	Ultra-rapid glacier change in SE Iceland: New lakes and new glacier dynamics	1500
Tim Lane	Liverpool John Moores University	Resolving rapid Holocene climate change, north Iceland	1420
Phil Hopley	Birkbeck	Dating and palaeoclimate analysis of speleothems in South Africa	1500
14 CHRONO Awards			
Olivia Beavers	3 dates		
Christiana Giglio	3 dates		
14C Dating Short Course Bursary			
Emma Readitt	Awarded		
Kira Dahling	Awarded		
Marjorie Fis	Awarded		

## 8. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLICATIONS SECRETARY

This item was presented by the Secretary on behalf of the Publications Secretary.

### a. QRA Book Publications: Three new Field Guides were published in 2019:

- Bridgland, D.R., R.M. Briant R.M., Allen, R., Brown, E.J. and White, T.S. (2019). *The Quaternary Fluvial Archives of the Major English Rivers*. ISBN 0 907780 90 3.
- Mitchell, W. and Guild, A. (2019). *The Quaternary of Glen Clova and Strathmore*. ISBN 0 907 780 997.
- Roe, H.M., Whitehouse, N.J. and Knight, J. (2019). *Late Quaternary Landscape Evolution, Palaeoenvironments and Human Occupation in the North of Ireland*. ISBN 0 907780911.

**b. Book Sales and stock:** Book sales in 2019 totalled 297, compared to 327 in 2018. The current book stock held by Val Siviter is *ca.* 3100 (2861 in 2018) (both Field and Technical Guides).

**c. Out of print publications:** The Glacitectonics, Isle of Man, West Wales, Norfolk and Suffolk, Kent and Sussex, East Yorkshire Dales and Devon and Cornwall guides are now out of print. Only two copies of *The Quaternary of East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire* left.

## 9. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION OFFICER

This item was presented by the President on behalf of the Conservation Officer.

Conserving our Quaternary geoheritage is vital for science and society. The QRA and its members already carry out many activities that support and promote geoconservation, particularly through field and discussion meetings, offering practical support and working with local groups. The role of QRA Conservation Officer ([conservation@qra.org.uk](mailto:conservation@qra.org.uk)) is to support and encourage these activities, as well as to promote the QRA's position on conservation issues. Some of the initiatives in 2019 included:

**a. Earth Heritage – The Geological and Landscape Conservation Magazine** ([www.earthheritage.org.uk](http://www.earthheritage.org.uk)). Issue 51 was published in 2019 and Issue 52 is at an advanced stage of preparation. This free-to-download publication is produced twice a year by Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage, Natural Resources Wales, the Geologists' Association and the QRA, with major contributions from others in the voluntary geoconservation sector. QRA members can receive email notifications of new issues by following the instructions on the Earth Heritage Magazine homepage. QRA members are also encouraged to suggest articles or news items for Earth Heritage Magazine by contacting the Conservation Officer who represents the QRA on the editorial board.

### **b. Liaison.**

(i) The Chair of the Scottish Geodiversity Forum had been briefed on the QRA's responses to the planning application for six lodges at Gart Lodge on the Callander (Auchenlaich) Moraine. The Callander Moraine was confirmed as a Geological Conservation Review site by Scottish Natural Heritage in early 2019. The Scottish Geodiversity Forum will follow up and engage with the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park on geodiversity matters, including the delivery of the planning conditions for the Gart Lodge development.

(ii) The Conservation officer had liaised regularly with other geological organisations on conservation matters through membership of the Geological Society of London's Geoconservation Committee.

**c. Raising conservation matters notified by QRA members with relevant official bodies.** In 2018, QRA members reported concerns about potentially damaging activities carried out at Lleiniog (Anglesey). Government officials in Wales have been investigating and the QRA is awaiting confirmation as to whether any remedial action will be carried out. The QRA will continue to monitor the situation. QRA members are encouraged to report any impacts on research or fieldwork at the site to [conservation@qra.org.uk](mailto:conservation@qra.org.uk).

**d. The QRA Geoconservation Award.** Four awards were made in 2019:

- to fund conservation work at sites in the Lower Thames in advance of The Quaternary Fluvial Archives of the Major English Rivers INQUA/QRA/FLAG/GA Field Meeting in July;
- to fund production of diagrams for the Geological Conservation Review Quaternary of Southern England volume;
- to fund specialist storage at Herne Bay Museum for conservation and curation of two large collections of Pleistocene mammalian fossils and Palaeolithic artefacts which have been gifted to the museum;
- to fund section clearance, installation of a new path and an interpretation panel at Pitstone Quarry SSSI (College Lake Nature Reserve), Marsworth, Buckinghamshire (this is jointly funded with a QRA Outreach Award).

Norfolk Geodiversity Partnership had completed their 2018 QRA Geoconservation Award funded project on digitising priority Quaternary candidate County Geodiversity Sites and an article is being prepared for inclusion in Earth Heritage Magazine.

Members were reminded to contact the QRA Conservation Officer, Eleanor Brown ([conservation@qra.org.uk](mailto:conservation@qra.org.uk)) if they have further queries regarding the Geoconservation Award.

## 10. QRA MEETINGS PROGRAMME 2020-2021

### a. Forthcoming meetings in 2020

#### (i) Field Meetings

*Nature and Timing of the Deglaciation of the SW Scottish Highlands*

Date: 16th to 20th September 2020

Location: Fort William/Spean Bridge/Roybridge

Organisers: John Lowe / Adrian Palmer / Ian Matthews, contact [a.palmer@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:a.palmer@rhul.ac.uk)

*Joint GLWG / QRA workshop*

Date: late October 2020, details tbc

#### (ii) Co-sponsored meetings

*Cryogenian glaciation: the extraordinary Port Askaig record and its comparators*

Date: 6-7th May 2020

Venue: University of St. Andrews

Organisers: Anthony Spencer, Catherine Rose, Ian Fairchild, Roger Anderton, Doug Benn, Bruce Levell, Mike Hambrey

*Cosmo2020-Scotland*

Date: 2nd-5th June 2020

Venue: Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation (ECCI)

Organisers: Derek Fabel, Delia Gheorghiu, Andy Hein, Martin Hurst, Shasta Marrero, Ángel Rodés

Website: <https://www.gla.ac.uk/research/az/suerc/cosmo2020scotland/>

### b. Forthcoming meetings in 2021

QRA 2021 Annual Discussion Meeting: *Landscapes of Change: past, present and future perspectives.*

Date: 6th-8th January 2021

Venue: University of Portsmouth

Organisers: Timothy Barrows, Clare Boston, Laura Cunningham, David Giles, Mark Hardiman, Harold Lovell, Sabine Wulf

Contact: [clare.boston@port.ac.uk](mailto:clare.boston@port.ac.uk)

The Meetings Officer thanked the organisers of the 2019 for their support, and reminded the AGM that a grant of £500 is available for running QRA sponsored meetings. She encouraged members to think about hosting short (e.g. one day) meetings or overseas meetings with other Quaternary organisations; all types of meetings that promote Quaternary science are welcomed. It was noted that published field guides are not obligatory for field meetings.

## 11. PRESENTATION BY INQUA PRESIDENT THIJS VAN KOLFSCHOTEN

The INQUA President gave a short presentation, which covered the following themes: (i) the history and role of INQUA; (ii) the Executive Committee roles and responsibilities (iii) the INQUA Commissions (*Coastal and Marine Processes* (CMP), *Humans and the Biosphere* (HABCOM), *Palaeoclimates* (PALCOM), *Stratigraphy and Chronology* (SACCOM), *Terrestrial Processes, Deposits & History* (TERPRO); (iv) funding opportunities, grants and awards; (v) INQUA publications (including *Quaternary International*, which will be edited from Spring 2020 by Jule Xiao, and *Quaternary Perspectives*, which is published twice a year and free to members); and (vi) 'future challenges', which included issues surrounding the legalisation of INQUA, membership payments, changes in the publication domain and Open Access, and the need to raise the visibility of INQUA.

The President referred QRA members to the INQUA website, which includes much information about the structure of the organisation, committee representatives and grants and awards: <https://www.inqua.org/>

During an informal Q&A session, the INQUA President encouraged members of the Association to become actively involved with the INQUA Commissions and to apply for funding e.g., for skills training. Early career researchers were particularly encouraged to become involved with the organisation. The issue of gender balance on the INQUA Executive was raised, and the President confirmed that the present committee now includes many more female members than in previous years. It was confirmed that a review of gender and diversity is ongoing. The membership were asked also to think about the development of new INQUA research groups and to contact the President if they have further ideas or queries (t.van.kolfschoten@arch.leidenuniv.nl). Professor van Kolfschoten was thanked warmly for his presentation by the President.

## 12. ELECTION OF NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following people had been nominated to succeed retiring members of the Executive Committee. Details of the posts had been given in the June and October 2019 Circular and deadlines announced. No other nominations has been received for the posts so the following were duly elected:

<b>President:</b> Simon Lewis (Queen Mary)	<b>Editor, Quaternary Newsletter:</b> Sarah Woodroffe (Durham)
<b>Treasurer:</b> Rupert Housley (Royal Holloway)	<b>Ordinary Member:</b> Kirsty Penkman (York)
<b>Publicity Officer:</b> Chris Darvill (Manchester)	

## 13. HONORARY MEMBERS

The President announced that Charlotte Bryant and Neil Roberts had been nominated by the Executive Committee to receive Honorary Member status. The nominations were accepted unanimously by the membership; a full citation will appear in *QN 150*.

## 14. AWARD OF PRIZES AND MEDALS

The President announced the winners of the Association's prizes and medals for 2019:

**a. Undergraduate Dissertation Prize.** Madeleine Wood (Durham University) for her thesis entitled '*An investigation into the ice marginal dynamics of the North Sea Lobe in North East England during the Late Devensian*'. As noted under *Item 5* above, dissertations by Alexander Curtis (University of Oxford) and Alice Downham (University of Edinburgh) were highly commended.

**b. Quaternary Research Award.** (not awarded).

**b. Lewis Penny Medal.** Natasha Barlow (University of Leeds).

**c. James Croll Medal.** Jim Rose (Royal Holloway).

Full citations will appear in a future issue of *QN*.

## 15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

*The meeting started at 6 pm and ended at 7.40 pm*  
Minutes taken by Helen Roe (Secretary)  
January 2020  
*Updated 21 December 2020*