

## SUBCOMMISSION ON ORDOVICIAN STRATIGRAPHY

**Minutes of Business Meeting convened at 34<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress, Brisbane, Queensland (Australia), on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2012.**

**Meeting commenced** in Merivale Boardroom 2 at 7.02 pm.

**Present:** David Harper (chair), Andrei Dronov (incoming vice-chair), Ian Percival (secretary), Arne Neilsen, Tatiana Tolmacheva, Thijs Vandenbroucke, Yuandong Zhang; Stig Bergstrom (observer).

**Apologies:** Olle Hints, Artur Sa, Thomas Servais, Mark Wilson. [Note: due to poor signage by the IGC organisers, Guillermo Albanesi who was in attendance at the IGC was unable to find the meeting room, and subsequently offered his apologies].

### 2. Welcome to new members

David Harper welcomed those present, and extended congratulations to incoming vice-chairman Andrei Dronov and new member Tatiana Tolmacheva.

### 3. News from ICS (Stan Finney) [incl. 4. difficulties with SOS website]

David presented a report from Stan Finney (ICS president) who was unable to be at the SOS meeting due to a clash with the ICS meeting. On the matter of the problems being encountered with the current Ordovician Subcommission website, hosted on the Nanjing Institute server, Stan noted that Fan was too busy to fix the site and to make it secure against hacking. David said that Olle Hints had volunteered to take over from Fan as webmaster of the SOS site, and to host the site on a secure server based at the University of Tallinn. David and Yuandong Zhang said that they would talk to Fan about this possible solution. Thijs Vandenbroucke suggested that the new website should have a uniform look comparable to other Subcommission websites. Those present agreed with this course of action.

### 5. Focus on regional stratigraphies

David reinforced the need for fine-tuning regional chronostratigraphic frameworks and aligning these as precisely as possible to the Ordovician global stages. The symposium at the IGC sponsored by the Ordovician Subcommission was intended to facilitate this process. A *Special Publication of the Geological Society of London*, based on this theme and including contributions derived from papers presented to the symposium, together with additional manuscripts solicited from specialists in regional stratigraphies, was discussed, with suggestions for various contributors covering the main areas of Ordovician rocks. There was general support for this proposal, with a number of members offering to write chapters or suggest potential authors to cover regions not represented in the room. Deadlines at this early stage have not been set, but it would be appropriate if the volume was available at the next ISOS in 2015.

Substages: David suggested that the pressure of other work made it unlikely that any progress would be able to be made on defining acceptable subdivisions of the global Ordovician stages, and that it would be best if this topic was to be revisited in 4-5 years when reliable regional chronostratigraphic frameworks were in place.

### 6. Evaluation of current chronostratigraphic boundaries

Stig Bergstrom informed the meeting that a reinvestigation of the base Sandbian and base Katian may be done by coring in the Fagelsang area in Sweden, type area for the Sandbian GSSP.

#### 7. Laser scanning of GSSPs

David noted that high-resolution laser scans of stratigraphic intervals associated with GSSPs was being undertaken by the Silurian Subcommittee (in particular, Brad Cramer). There is equipment available for this procedure at the University of Durham, that may be utilised in Sweden to document the Ordovician GSSPs there, but it could be costly to transport the equipment and to process the images.

#### 8. Advances in use of isotope and sea level curves

Unfortunately there has been no progress in this area since the Madrid meeting (May 2011). It is best done at a regional level.

#### 9. Pending publications

David was pleased to report that the *Geological Society of London Memoir* on Early Palaeozoic Biogeography, including 30 chapters, was now being finalised with publication likely in early 2013.

#### 10. IGCP matters (incl. Lund 2013)

The annual meeting of IGCP 591 for 2013 is scheduled for Lund, Sweden from 9-19 June. Heading the Organising Committee for this meeting and associated field trips are Mikael Calner and Oliver Lehnert. The regional meeting, being organised by Guillermo Albanesi, will be held during July 2013 in Mendoza, Argentina in association with the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conodont Symposium.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8 pm.



Members of the Ordovician Subcommittee present at the Business Meeting convened at 34<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress in Brisbane, August 7, 2012.

Front row (L-R): D. Harper (Chairman), A. Nielsen, T. Vandenbroucke;

Back row (L-R): I. Percival (Secretary), T. Tolmacheva, Y. Zhang, A. Dronov (Vice-Chair)