

Michael Grave's response to receipt of the Jan Runermark reward

Mr President, Gentlemen may I first say how honoured I am to receive the Jan Runermark award. There are many others old and young working in BNES who must be equally deserving.

In the UK, YGN is populated by dynamic young people with whom it has been a delight to work. In recent years I have had the good fortune to work with 3 of their chairs, Catrina Collings (formally Hassel), Claire Gallery Strong and Stuart Lynas and I know they have headed vigorous committees.

The immediate past President of BNES, George Jenkins has focussed attention on the future of BNES by developing a 3-year plan. The plan has been designed to ensure that BNES is focussed on: -

- its role as a learned society,
- acting as a leading opinion maker in the nuclear energy arena,
- remaining financial strong, and
- being driven by the grass roots.

The plan has many objectives but two very important and relevant to me in the context of this award are: -

- To increase membership of BNES
- To give encouragement to younger members, in particular YGN.

For several years there had been decline rather than growth in BNES with an ageing membership. However, In the last 3 years, encouraged by the plan there has been an increase in membership from 1090 to 1224 and, this year, members have been joining at the rate of about 20 per month.

Recent growth has been dominated by younger members and overall BNES has now about 150 eligible YGN members. Also, In this time two new branches have been established and their committees are populated by many YGN members. The YGN has been an outstanding success in establishing a branch at remote Dounreay. I was very proud to chair their first seminar in 2003. More recently, a NorthEast Branch has been established and the new committee includes younger members. The Special Interest Group in Waste Management & Decommissioning, which I chair, is being transmuted in to a Cumbria branch and YGN members have been invited to play a key role in planning our future programmes. The number of day seminars has increased in recent times and again YGN have been at the forefront in organising these – their Rough Guides to the nuclear industry have been very popular.

BNES has just elected its first lady president, Dr Sue Ion, who has been a major driver in encouraging young British Nuclear Group employees to join BNES and YGN. She alone has caused a major expansion in our membership this year.

With this new young, high performance engine driving BNES, I look forward to a bright future for nuclear energy in the UK. I feel Jan Runermark would be proud of the contribution being made by YGN. It has been a privilege for me to be involved.

Finally, I thank the BNES YGN for nominating me but above all for their support to me in the work I have been doing with BNES. We should all follow the lead of Bertrand Barré, the President of ENS as he stated earlier in this meeting today and encourage senior managers in the nuclear industry to include YGN activity in their career development. It is quite clear to me that the benefits to these dynamic young people in organising events and networking with their peers not only benefits them but gives a significant benefit also to their employers.

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