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TGRG page[☆]

The TGRG has spent 1999 pursuing its role as the central co-ordinating focus for UK transport geography. While membership remains at around 160, we are anxious to encourage new members and establish contacts with transport researchers who are not fellows of the RGS. It is increasingly apparent that the RGS as a whole can act as an effective lobbying institution for UK geography in general, and there is no reason why the TGRG cannot emulate this function within the specific field of transport geography. In addition, we are anxious to expand upon the TGRG's links with the AAG Transport Speciality Group and establish contacts with transport researchers in other countries. (For details of the TGRG, please contact the Secretary, Dr Jon Shaw, Department of Geography, University of Aberdeen, Elphinstone Road, Aberdeen, Scotland AB24 3UF.)

As usual, the TGRG year began in January at the RGS/IBG annual conference, held at the University of Leicester. Steven Cassidy (Transport and Travel Research) and José Smith (University of Salford) convened an all-day session on *Urban transport futures*. This attracted a wide range of papers and was a particularly topical theme, given the publication during 1998 of the UK White Paper, *A New Deal for Transport.* The first module dealt with the future of public transport, concentrating specifically on various aspects of the bus business. The wider public interest in these issues was amply demonstrated by the extensive national press coverage accorded to Richard Knowles's (University of Salford) paper on 'Integrated transport, re-regulation and bus quality partnerships'. The second module was concerned with attitude change and transport policy, the three papers involved being indicative of the switch of emphasis in transport research from technology and engineering towards the relationships between transport, mobility, behaviour and social change.

In a departure from the normal RGS-IBG format, the second half of the session was given over to an open forum on the Transport White Paper, which brought together transport practitioners and academic researchers. In discussing the role of geographers in this debate, Peter Jones (University of Westminster) drew attention to the importance of the spatial characteristics of deregulation and privatisation in an argument hitherto dominated by economists. In following up the issues raised at the session and, more generally, in the White Paper, the TGRG has sponsored a double contribution, edited by José Smith, to the 'This Changing World' section of *Geography*. Entitled, 'New deal for transport: policies and issues for the twenty-first century', and published in the January and July 2000 issues, this comprises ten papers in total, plus an introduction. The Geographical Association also intends to publish all the papers as a special publication.

In his Report presented to the Annual General Meeting of the TGRG, also held at Leicester, the outgoing Secretary, Brian Graham (University of Ulster), urged members to continue using the *Journal of Transport Geography* as a primary outlet for their researches. José Smith retired as Chair at the AGM, the meeting recording our deep gratitude for all her efforts on behalf of the TGRG during her three-year tenure of office. In particular, the incoming Chair, Brian Graham, drew attention to the time and effort which she had expended in promoting linkages with US transport geographers, a strategy which, he observed, must remain a central focus of TGRG activities. Ms Smith agreed to take on the task of editing the TGRG *Newsletter*. Julian Hine (Napier) was elected Secretary for the period, 1999–2002, but has since found it necessary to resign. Also at the AGM, the 1998 Postgraduate Prize of £50 and a year's subscription to the *Journal of Transport Geography* was awarded to Ruth Bradshaw (University of Westminster); the runner-up prize of £25 went to Rachel Goodman (Staffordshire University).

It had been hoped to organise a two-day seminar on 'Transport developments in East and Central Europe' in September but, unfortunately, this has to be cancelled due to an shortage of papers. It is planned to reconvene the biennial Postgraduate Seminar in September 2000, perhaps in collaboration with the Planning and Environment Research Group (PERG). This will be held at the RGS, London. The TGRG is also pursuing the possibility of using this occasion to hold another joint

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meeting with UTSG. Finally, the Group organised two sessions during the RGS 2000 at the University of Sussex. The first, co-convened by Brian Graham and Clive Charlton (University of Plymouth), examined 'Transport, internationalisation and globalisation'. Secondly, in conjunction with PERG, Julian Hine and Rachel Goodman organised a session on 'Planning for sustainable and integrated transport'. Reports on both sessions will appear in next year's report.

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