

# HISTORY OF THE PESGB

**First PESGB Chairman: Bob Dyk**  
 Managing Director of Hamilton Brothers Oil & Gas Ltd.

**Originally formed** to promote the exchange of views and information on the geology and geophysics of the North Sea

**Present Day:** 'the object of the Society is to promote for public benefit, education in the scientific and technical aspects of the petroleum industry.'

December 1964  
 The Petroleum Exploration Society of Great Britain was founded

1965  
 First field trip—organised by BP—led by Prof. Simpson of Exeter University—to the Dorset/Devon coast

1974  
 First 'Barbican/PGC Conference (co-organised with GSL, IGS and IP)- attended by 1000 delegates

1959  
 Discovery of the Groningen Field: triggered North Sea Exploration

1965  
 First Council: R Dyk, N J Bentley-Llewellyn, H Karren, B M Barlow, D W Williams, W D Gill

1968  
 First copy of the directory and newsletter (on record)

1965  
 18 Sustaining Members

Membership around 40

First lectures held at Westbury Hotel—moved (via Scientific Society Lecture Theatre) to the Geological Society Lecture Theatre

1981  
 Joint Association for Petroleum Courses established (jointly with GSL & IC)

Lectures by Bob Stoneley & Ken Glennie

1984  
 Ninety Aberdeen members

First Aberdeen Director Elected

Aberdeen lectures began

1985  
 1600 members

First permanent staff and office established

1987  
 First PETEX Conference

'Computers in Exploration Interpretation' PETEX is now the major U.K. geoscience exhibition showcasing the latest advances in petroleum technology

1997  
 Surrey Regional Branch of PESGB was founded

Gathered in the White House pub in Guildford

1987  
 Became a registered charity

1998  
 First PESGB Special Interest Group founded: Africa

June: one day West Africa Conference

1999  
 Data Management SIG founded

1999  
 Geophysics SIG founded

2001  
 Joint Association for Petroleum Courses ends

2002  
 Africa SIG joined links with the Houston Geological Society

2005  
 Sub Committee for Investment and Disbursements (SCID) founded—initiated by Doug Fenwick

2000  
 First website created to inform the general public and members of the activity of the society

2003  
 First 'U.K. Prospect Expo' held

PROSPEX is now held every year

Original intent: to give fledging oil companies a forum to market their prospects

PROSPEX 2017 was attended by over 700 delegates

**15 May 1964: UKCS Act** came into force

348 blocks (53 licenses) awarded to 51 companies

2008  
 MSc Sponsorships formalised

A way to actively encourage education in the earth sciences

Involved with the Earth Science Teachers Association—supports their annual conference: a Virtual Seismic Atlas project

2010  
 Stoneley lectures

In honour of Bob Stoneley (BP and Imperial College)

In the spirit of 'education for the public benefit'

2007  
 Africa Conference organised in Cape Town

2010  
 Young Professional Special Interest Group founded

A group for PESGB members with 10 years or less experience in the industry

2016  
 Berks, Bucks & Oxon Regional Branch founded

2016  
 Houston Regional Branch founded

**2018:** With over 3000 members the PESGB is still as active as ever and fulfilling the vision the founders set out

**Africa E&P Conference September 2018; PETEX November 2018; PROSPEX December 2018**

Frequent evening lectures still on-going