# SPEREVIEW

The magazine for the Aberdeen and London sections of the Society of Petroleum Engineers

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# **ABOUT US**

The Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE), a not-for-profit professional association of 104,000+ members from more than 123 countries worldwide, is a key resource for technical knowledge related to the oil and gas exploration, drilling and production industry.

The SPE provides services through its global events, publications and website at www.spe.org. SPE review is published 10 times per year by the Aberdeen and London sections of the Society of Petroleum Engineers. It is sent to over 5,000 UK SPE members, and quarterly to an additional 7,000+ European members.

If you have read this issue and would like to join the SPE and receive your own copy of SPE review, as well as many other benefits – or you know a friend or colleague who would like to join – please visit **www.spe.org** for an application form.

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# Welcome to the new look **SPE Review**

2014 promises to be a significant 12 months for the Aberdeen and London Sections of the Society of Petroleum Engineers.



Anthony Onukwu SPE Aberdeen Chair 2013/14



Arnaud Mille SPE London chair 2013/14

The New Year is always a good time to usher in changes, not least with this new edition of SPE Review. To illustrate the esteem in which the SPE is held within the oil and gas industry, this edition features an interview with Lord Browne who was guest at the first of a new series of evening events of SPE London Section.

Meanwhile, SPE Aberdeen Section has announced that another highly influential figure, Lord Cullen, is to be the keynote speaker at a major new conference taking place in Aberdeen in March – the SPE Aberdeen's Another Perspective on Risk conference.

Having the opportunity to engage with such prominent figures, who have had an immense impact upon the current oil and gas industry allows us, as SPE members, to benefit from their insights and knowledge. Our credit must to go the appropriate SPE Committees and members who have worked so hard to make these events happen.

As always, SPE Review serves the needs and interests of the SPE members and we cannot hope to achieve positive changes without your feedback and input so, please, do not hesitate to let us know what you like – or don't like – about the new look of our magazine, currently published by Fifth Ring following M&M Media's departure.

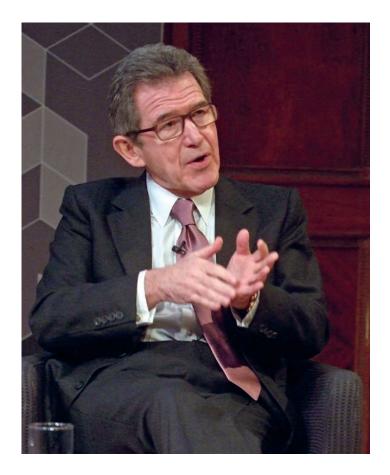
In addition to keeping members up-to-date with the activities taking place throughout the year, we aim to provide a broader range of content and take a closer look at the technologies, issues and challenges that we encounter in our professional lives.

We can assure you that we will continue to work hard on behalf of all members. May we take this opportunity, on behalf of the board of both the SPE Aberdeen and London Sections, to wish you all a happy and successful New Year.



We aim to provide a broader range of content and take a closer look at the technologies, issues and challenges that we encounter in our professional lives

# Lord Browne tells SPE to maintain focus on North Sea







The North Sea glass is half full, not half empty, Lord Browne told a packed audience of SPE members at the Royal Institution in London.

Reducing abandonment costs, which he identified as one of the biggest issues facing the region, may expose "extraordinary opportunity" in the North Sea.

"It is important that we think about the North Sea and how it will develop over time, but the glass is not half empty, it is half full," he said.

"I think there are things that can be done to improve its lifetime and performance, for example, in abandonment which is one of the biggest issues in the North Sea. More technological thinking about how to reduce the cost of abandonment might expose extraordinary opportunity," he added.

Focusing on the North Sea should be the top priority for the SPE in the UK in 2014, Lord Browne said.

Fracking, energy prices, and the problems faced by the industry were just some of the issues taken on in a wide-ranging discussion.

A common thread of the evening was Lord Browne's passion for his chosen profession. "Engineering is absolutely at the centre of society – it practically solves problems that humans have. It is a very human activity. I think engineers need to be people who are prepared to look at the results of what they achieve rather than the processes of achieving them."

Increased confidence from engineers in advertising themselves could go a long way to improving perceptions, he argued, as could more education – right from teaching components of engineering at school level.

Asked by the audience what should be the top priority for SPE London and its members to address in both the coming year and longer Browne had no hesitation in naming the North Sea.

While conceding that it was a significantly tougher environment than the shallow areas of the Gulf of Mexico he didn't predict any big changes in activity levels for 2014 but said that advances in technology

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and regulatory changes could certainly improve things.

Beyond the North Sea, Browne cited consideration of the energy mix as another priority for SPE members in the year ahead, calling for serious discussion about the role of petroleum in relation to other forms of energy.

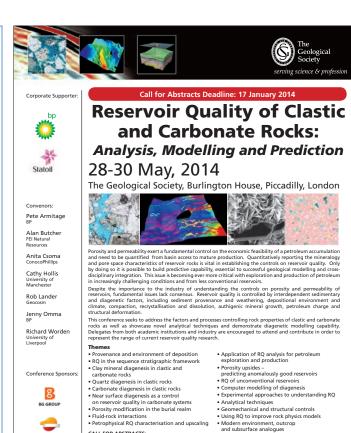
Lord Browne's frequent mould-breaking, or what industry critics had called his 'leaving of the church' was referenced in the event. "In addition to being chairman of a shale gas company I also co-chair a renewable energy fund - I can live this contradiction because there is no magic bullet (to energy provision).

"It has to be a balanced portfolio of developing technologies which reflects progressive decarbonisation, not instant decarbonisation of the energy stream."

Asked what could be done to change public perceptions of fracking, he said the first thing to do was to build an industry, which was now happening, with both big and small players coming in, followed by demonstrating what good practice was.

"The good news is that there are some very big players coming in (to the fracking industry) as well as a variety of smaller players. It is impossible for one company to achieve anything when it comes to policy or action, in my view, but bringing together different people, in itself, is a good start."

Focusing on his own life philosophy, Lord Browne stated: "I do believe that doing something different, provided it can be done efficiently and it makes sense, produces very good rewards. As an engineer, if I did the same things as everybody else it was not as exciting as trying to do something different, solving a problem that had not been solved before or being part of a team doing that. That happens in every country and every company in this country that is adding value."





Ex/onMobil

Please email paper and poster contributions to laura.griffiths@geolsoc.org.uk and copy to jennyomma@gmail.com by 17 January.
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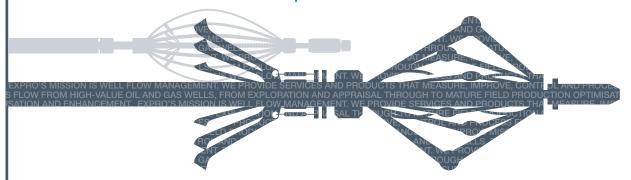
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# SPE ICoTA Europe event goes from strength to strength

Bigger and better than ever before - that was the view of those who attended the 19th SPE ICoTA European well intervention conference, held in Aberdeen in November.



More than 350 delegates from approximately 50 companies converged for the two-day event held in the Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre to display their technologies and discuss the latest issues in well intervention.

Key parts of the event were the technical sessions, where attendees had the chance to hear a wide range of case studies and learn more about trends in intervention.

The adjacent exhibition attracted a record number of companies and gave members of the well intervention community the opportunity to catch up and share their experiences.

SPE Aberdeen chairman Anthony Onukwu said: "It was a great event. We had more exhibitors than ever this year and a number of the stands really stood out, which demonstrates how keen people are to see the new technology that's coming through in well intervention.

"On the conference side, we had some very interesting technical presentations which were extremely relevant and went down really well.

"Going forward though, I would really like to see the subsea intervention sector play a greater part, as this is a growing focus for the industry and we would be really keen to hear about the challenges and developments in this area.

"But as this event is growing and growing each year, and there is a clear indication that this is a major event on the well intervention calendar, I fully expect that we will see an ever wider range of topics to be discussed in the future."

The keynote address was presented by Andrew Reid, Group CEO at Douglas Westwood, a leading provider of business strategy, research and commercial due-diligence services to the energy sector. Mr Reid provided an in-depth analysis of the well intervention industry in the North Sea and the challenges and opportunities facing it in 2014.

"The quality of debate and information-share that we all get at this event really justifies the high regard in which it is held," said Mr Onukwu.

"The 2013 conference and exhibition has given us a great platform to build on, and we look forward to doing just that for the 2014 event."

# Talented youngsters demonstrate their oil and gas talent

Pupils from St Margaret's School for Girls have been crowned winners of ICoTA (Intervention and Coiled Tubing Association) Europe and SPE Aberdeen's Junior Energy Apprentice competition, beating nine other Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire schools to the award.

Along with Banff, Aboyne and St Machar Academies, the school was a finalist in this year's competition, which aimed to encourage young people into the industry and to find the creative thinkers of tomorrow.

The pupils were set the challenge of coming up with a creative marketing campaign that would capture the imagination of the region's youth and encourage them to think about a career in the oil and gas industry. Ten schools from the North east of Scotland took part.

Judging of the final four schools was held during the 19th SPE Aberdeen ICoTA well intervention conference.

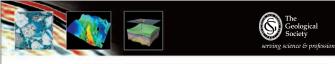
The winning campaign, entitled UnCoil Your Dreams, was aimed at school children and involved using well established events like Offshore Europe to raise awareness of the oil and gas industry amongst a younger generation.

SPE Aberdeen chairman Anthony Onukwu, who was one of the four finalist judges, said: "The event itself was excellent. The schoolchildren are very intelligent and I was amazed by the quality of their presentations.

"It shows to us that there are some very bright young people on our doorstep who have an interest in joining the oil and gas industry, and if we can encourage them to join then our future looks very bright."



The winning St Margaret's team in the SPE/ICoTA Junior Energy Apprentice competition in Aberdeen impressed judges with their talent and inventiveness. Pictured, from left: Abbie Thomson, Michael Taggart (ICoTA Europe chair), Rafia Ali, Kelly Murray (ICoTA Europe vice-chair), Lindsey MacInnes, Ross Lowdon (SPE chair elect), Seonaid Rapach





Nick Pierpoint BG Group - Chairn

Malcolm Brown BG Group

Manoj Gaur

Gordon Holm

Kirstin McBeath

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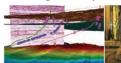
Pat Spicer

Call for Abstracts - 14 February 2014

# **Operations Geology Conference**

# "The Life-cycle of a well" 26-27 November, 2014

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CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
Following the highly successful Operations Geology Workshop held in Aberdeen in October 2012, the Petroleum Group of the Geological Society are pleased to announce the dates for the next event, which will be held over two days in 2014. This is also the first call for abstracts. Operations Geologists play key integrating roles at all stages of the life cycle of a well. This conference will look at the life cycle of a well and the contributions of Operations Geology at each stage. It is the intention of the convenors that both oral and poster presentations will eventually be prepared for release in a Special Publication of the Geological Society of London. To that end we invite contributions to the programme sufficiently early to make it possible for Authors to gain necessary permissions to present and publish what we trust will be cutting edge material.

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  After Action Review NPT analysis and the learning loop, continuous improvement

  Emerging Technologies the next generation of needs and solutions logging, formation and
  gas detection/analysis, real-time well bore stability analysis tools, PPFG tools

- Professional Competence the need to strengthen the available processes for training and the
  vetting of competence for OGs, particularly in safety critical areas



CALL FOR ORAL AND POSTER ABSTRACTS:

Abstracts of up to 300 words and up to three colour figures are requested. 
Abstract Deadline 14 February 2014.

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# London's SPE delegates turn out in force to hear from Lord Browne



SPE London welcomed former chief executive of BP and current chairman of Cuadrilla, Lord Browne, as the guest speaker for its inaugural SPE London Evening With event, sponsored by ITS (see details of the evening on page 4).

The event, held at the Royal Institution, took the format of an interview with Lord Brown by Nick Butler, followed by a lively and engaging question and answer session, which was opened to the audience.

As someone who has known Lord Browne for almost a quarter of a century, and worked for him at BP for 17 years, not to mention his roles as chair of the King's Policy Institute at King's College and previously as a special advisor to Gordon Brown, Nick Butler was well suited to interview him on a range of issues.

The evening was opened by SPE London chair-elect Alejandro Primera in the absence of current chair, and co-ordinator of the event, Arnaud Mille, who had become a father for the first time earlier that day.

Describing the inaugural evening event as "a very special moment for SPE London" and the guest of honour as a "remarkable figure of the industry", Primera also noted the dramatic shift in the demographic of petroleum engineering in recent years, with more and more younger people joining the profession. This was reflected in the audience itself, as well as SPE's sponsorship of seven universities in London and the surrounding area.

With a sold-out audience of more than 250, ranging from students to senior industry figures, enjoying both the event and the drinks reception afterwards, it was an auspicious start to this new series of evening events from SPE London and one that lived up to Lord Browne's urging for the industry to have a louder, more confident voice.

# **Exploring E&P at London seminar**



Speakers at the Introduction to E&P event at the Geographical Society in London addressed a record audience

SPE London, together with sponsors OPC and Schlumberger, delivered yet another successful edition of the Introduction to E&P seminar, reaching a record audience of 213 delegates – writes Cristian Masini, Continuing Education committee and seminar lead.

The capital's Geographical Society was the new venue for the seminar which traditionally attracts a varied audience, ranging from experienced Exploration & Production business people to students – who smartly find the opportunity for revising effortlessly a semester's worth of the Petroleum Engineering curriculum.

The seminar, which took place in November, also saw participation

from other industries such as banking, strategic consulting and headhunters, together with people in other industries seeking a career change into E&P.

Delegates were able to get 'the secrets and the magic' of core technical disciplines (logging, reservoir engineering, well engineering, etc).

Michael Ala, from Imperial College, reassured the audience that the oil and gas business is here to stay – as the progress of renewables is too slow paced to keep up with an ever-growing global energy demand.

Various speakers commented on the rise in unconventional resources, within the context of their discipline – i.e. What is their impact in terms of global production and reserves? What is peculiar about their geology? How do engineers drill these reservoirs and produce the fluids safely to surface.

Delegates heard that in terms of commercial delivery, in order to create value for an oil company, engineers have to be able to deliver those hydrocarbons, timely and safely, to markets, something that those involved in this sector know very well.

Finally, for those wondering what their dream job might be, research has revealed that geeky geologists are among the most satisfied and happy professionals in the world!

# London SPE welcomes respected experts to dinner

SPE London welcomes leading engineering consultant John Barker, technical director of reservoir engineering at Gaffiney, Cline and Associates (CGA) in the UK, who will speak of the importance of preparing a Competent Person's Report in the context of company floatations, mergers and acquisitions.

A Competent Person's Report (CPR) or other such similar named independent report is normally required for an Initial Public Offering (IPO) in the oil and gas sector and for other material transactions such as mergers, acquisitions and takeovers (depending on the applicable stock exchange rules).

The after dinner speaker is Daniel J Daulton, Director of Environmental Conformity for the pressure pumping product line at Baker Hughes. He will address common concerns related to stimulation, focusing primarily on hydraulic fracturing fluid chemistries used in routine completion and stimulation operations of oil and gas wells. The dinner takes place on 28 January at Geological Society, Piccadilly, 5pm.

# **London Calendar - 2014**

# 18 February

After dinner: The Evolution of HPHT Challenges, John Watters, chief well engineering manager **Sasol**; Pre-dinner: CCS Challenges in the North Sea, Allan S Mathieson, team leader CCS and Global Technical Head, project management, **Senergy**.

# 25 March

After dinner: Competitive strategies of oil and gas, Dr Marc van Grondelle, head of global joint ventures, **KPMG**. Pre-dinner: Environmental aspects of shale gas, Alister Fulton, partner, **ERM**.

# 29 April

After dinner topic: Claire Ridge Development: LoSal EOR, Andrew Cockin, Pushing Reservoir Limits Technology Innovation leader, **BP**. Pre-dinner: From Models to Reality, Kes Heffer, MD, **Reservoir Dynamics**.

# 27 May

After dinner: Back to basics in reservoir engineering, Martin Blunt, Professor of Petroleum Engineering, Imperial College. Pre-dinner: YP Technical Showcase – Unconventional Resources, Evaluation, Modelling, Prediction. YP speakers.

# **SPE LONDON SECTION SPONSORS**

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# Lord Cullen is keynote speaker at major risk conference

Leading risk management experts from around the world will gather in Aberdeen in March for a conference that is being seen as setting the agenda for dealing with regard to human risk in the oil and gas industry.

An impressive list of international speakers will attend, along with an expected 400 delegates, the Another Perspective on Risk – The Next Tipping Point conference at Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre on 5 March. The conference is organised by SPE Aberdeen's Another Perspective Committee.

The keynote address will be delivered by Lord Cullen of Whitekirk, who chaired the ground-breaking public inquiry into the Piper Alpha disaster that transformed the HSE operational procedures in the North Sea and the offshore industry worldwide.

The conference is notable for achieving a number of "firsts for SPE": it is the first conference of any SPE Section in the world to have Lord Cullen as a speaker; the first post Macondo conference where an investigator publicly addresses the wider industry; the first international conference organised by SPE Aberdeen on this topic and the first conference of its kind where the human risk is analysed from all perspectives. The event will also enjoy the awareness raising support of SPE Europe and SPE International.

Lord Cullen carried out the 13-month investigation into the Piper Alpha tragedy that led to 106 recommendations to improve safety in the oil and gas industry. His role in the transformation of the safety culture was highlighted in 2013 during the 25th anniversary of the disaster.

The aim of the conference is to address human risk and its impact upon industry operations and will bring together the highest level of international speakers for such an event. Interest is already high and the conference is expected to attract business leaders, operators and service



companies as well as journalists from the UK and abroad.

The conference will be hosted by STV journalist Andrea Brymer. The panel session brings together a distinguished group of experts including Mark Griffon, member of the US Chemical Safety Investigation Board; Susan McKenzie, head of the energy division of the Health and Safety Executive; Les Linklater, team leader of Step Change in Safety, Oil and Gas UK and Jake Molloy, regional organiser of the RMT union.

Plenary session speakers include David Pritchard, the co-chair of the Presidential Technical Commission for the Deepwater Horizon study group (US); Dr Tim Marsh, expert witness at the Safety Culture and Management of Change forums at the Cullen Inquiry; Lillian Espinoza-Gala, independent researcher and Member of Berkley University's Centre for Catastrophic Risk Management (US); Jem Thomas, head of operations of Albany and consultant to the UK Government's Stabilisation Unit and Thomson Reuters; William Libby, director of key accounts for Control Risks and the US lecturer and author, Loren Steffy.

The Another Perspective Committee chair Ella Minty, who has organised the conference, said: "This conference aims to be the first step towards building a genuine platform for dialogue and discussion amongst industry leaders and risk experts."

"We are absolutely honoured that Lord Cullen has agreed to be our keynote speaker and we are also delighted that so many leading authorities in the sector from the UK, United States and elsewhere have agreed to attend the conference proceedings."

# **SPE Consultant listing**

Peter Aird - MSc, CEng - deepwater/HPHT drilling supervision, well engineering, training/coaching consultant > email: kingdom\_drilling@msn.com > www. kingdomqrilling.co.uk

Maurice Cotterill - CEng, FIMMM - exHPHT expertise, well design, advanced casing/tubing analysis, studies/reviews > email: maurice.cotterill@sede.co.uk

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10 SPE Review January 2014 www.spe-uk.org

# Maths man Mathis meets delegates

Applying novel mathematics to challenging operations in the oil and gas industry was discussed at a technical meeting and networking buffet organised by SPE Aberdeen recently.

More that 100 people attended the presentation at Aberdeen's Douglas Hotel, Creating Novel Mathematics Opens New Approaches to Operational Issues in Oil and Gas, from Cyrille Mathis, the chief scientific officer at ThinkTank Maths Ltd.

Mr Mathis outlined the use of innovative mathematics by the European Space Agency before turning his focus towards the oil and gas industry.

He said traditional mathematics, which relied on statistical assumptions and equation simplifications, were not appropriate to today's oil and gas industry.

"Most of our mathematics has come from the physics of the 19th century and 20th century," he said. "But we are entering a new era where there are suddenly very demanding questions about the environment, the age of installations and the need to go for more difficult extraction."

# Sand experts gather in Aberdeen

SPE Aberdeen & Sand Management Network •••••



6th European Sand Management

26-27 March 2014

The Sixth European Sand Management Forum brings together leading sand experts to discuss the main issues of the day. The biennial conference has gained in stature over the years as sand production issues play a greater role in the economics of the oil and gas industry. The forum has become an ideal setting to exchange ideas, view the latest technologies and allows sand management experts to network with fellow professionals.

The Sand Management Network is comprised of a growing group of upstream Oil and Gas related companies that have come together to tackle sand management related issues and communicate successful methods and identify gaps in managing sand in the North Sea and around the world. In doing so the Network aims to continue development and operation of onshore and offshore fields.

The forum was launched in 2004 in response to issues identified by operators and service companies and provides an opportunity to listen and learn about industry best practice through discussion of case histories and new solutions in the process of development.

A pre-conference training course is held at Aberdeen Exhibition & Conference Centre on 25 March. For exhibition stands and sponsorship opportunities – visit www.spe-uk.org or email jane.mcclure@ rodgerandco.com. Early Bird delegate booking discount is available until 26 February. The conference programme is available at www.spe-uk.org.

The event is organised by Rodger and Co. www.rodgerandco.com

# **Artificial Lift abstracts required**

In a maturing North Sea environment, artificial lift is essential to maximising returns. With a vast number of depleted and high watercut wells, the potential for production gains is significant.

The biennial EuALF is a well-established forum for artificial lift professionals organised by the SPE Aberdeen Section. The two-day conference programme is preceded by a one-day training workshop and accompanied by an exhibition of artificial lift tools and technologies.

The deadline for abstracts is 31 January. Presentations are particularly welcome on lessons learned and how artificial lift is driving field life extension.

Abstracts for presentations of 25 minutes duration are invited in the following areas (Full SPE papers are not required):

**Experience & Case Histories** - Building on and learning from experience Improving productivity Real time production optimisation

Reliability & Performance - Run life, uptime and other reliability issues API Guidelines for maintenance, inspection & failure analysis Root-cause failure analysis

What's new in artificial lift? - New artificial lift technologies; Alternative ESP deployment; Intelligent Artificial Lift; Low-cost Artificial Lift.

The European Artificial Lift Forum takes place on 17-18 June in Aberdeen. Abstracts of up to 200 words with title, author/presenter details should be submitted online at www.rodgerandco.com

# **Kayleigh wins OAA trophy competition**



RGU student Kayleigh Cummings with her winning design for the 2014 Offshore Achievement Award trophies

Robert Gordon University student Kayleigh Cummings was named in December as winner of the annual Offshore Achievement Awards (OAA) trophy design competition.

Students studying 3 Dimensional Design at Gray's School of Art were set the challenge of creating a unique and imaginative trophy design, reflective of the offshore industry. The trophies will be presented to winners at the Offshore Achievement Awards ceremony, which will take place on March 20 at the Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre.

Third-year student Kayleigh impressed judges with the obvious time and effort spent on the research and development of her design, ensuring it reflected the spirit of the OAAs – encouraging innovation and recognising a new, creative approach, in the context of the offshore industry.

The finalists for each of the 2014 OAA categories will be announced this month. For more information about the awards or to book a table, please visit www.spe-oaa.org

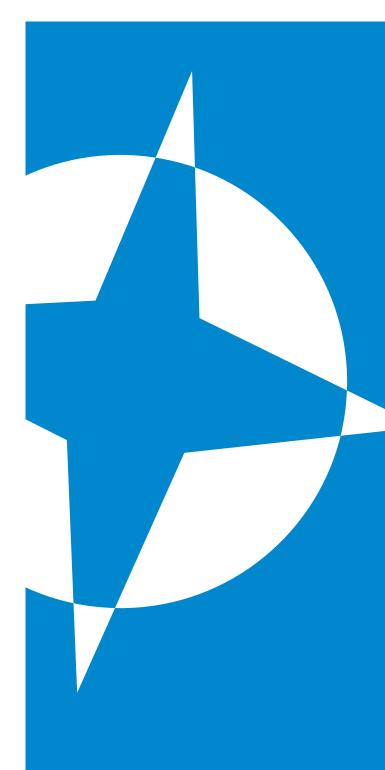
# Aberdeen upcoming events - 2014

# 22 January

Presentation and networking dinner. Aberdeen Douglas Hotel. Registration from 6pm, presentation starts 6.30pm - 8.30pm. Geomechanics and Fractured Reservoirs: Comforting, Confusing, or Scary? Presenter Gary D Couples, SPE Distinguished Lecturer.

# 5 February SPE in Edinburgh

Presentation and networking buffet. Edinburgh Conference Centre, Heriot-Watt University. Registration from 6pm, presentation starts 6.30pm – 8.30pm. Geomechanics and Fractured Reservoirs: Comforting, Confusing, or Scary? Presenter: Gary D Couples, SPE Distinguished Lecturer.



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