



GWL Cluster Meeting

Thursday 16th March 2017; 6:00 for 6:30 pm

Petroleum geoscience in 2017: A contrarian's view

Richard Morgan - Rockflow Resources

Abstract

The oil & gas industry is beginning to emerge from the nadir of one of its periodic cycles. These cycles act to accelerate change through increasing automation and standardising tasks in the drive to reduce cost. The legacy is a background progression of non-cyclical change which, in the case of the Geoscientist 'evolves' his/her job into the feeding data into a series of software packages and guiding these tools to spit out an answer that nobody really understands. But it's OK, computer says yes. Through all of these changes basic precepts of Petroleum Geology have remained relatively unmodified through the decades and can be found in the risking software that comes at the end of the exploration process in the form of the sub-surface risk categories, reservoir, source & migration (collectively the charge), trap & seal (collectively the containment). Much of the preceding work is structured to inform these categories in order to obtain an objective Chance-of-Success for a well that can be compared to other drilling opportunities.

But, what if we were wrong at the beginning and these categories don't adequately describe how petroleum is trapped. And who is going to identify the problem anyway? Computer says no.

Data from the North Sea suggest we might not have got these categories wholly correct but, that the sub-surface is better organised than we feared and there may be a job in it for us after all.

Biography

Richard received his geology education at the Universities of Liverpool and Leeds, completing a PhD on the deformation of quartzites in 1984. Richard joined Robertson Research in 1984 when big regional studies were still in vogue, visiting many interesting places. Following Robertson, Richard worked in airborne geophysics and seismic geophysics for 12 years before starting his first venture, a minnow North Sea E&P company, Sussex Energy. The inevitable cyclicity of the industry drove a move to a larger company, Valiant Petroleum which was then bought by a slightly larger company. This was the catalyst for another venture into E&P company building in the form of Oyster Petroleum where Richard was CEO. Oyster was assimilated by Verus Petroleum during the current downturn; plus ca change. Richard now works for a geoscience and reservoir engineering consultancy, Rockflow Resources.

Venue: All talks will be held at The Royal Cambrian Academy, Crown Lane, Conwy, LL32 8AN (located behind Plas Mawr) and will begin at 6:30pm promptly. Refreshments are served from 6pm.

For further information please contact us: on 01492 592425 or admin@geoscience.wales

This talk is organised and sponsored by GWL for the PESGB's North West Regional Group.

The PESGB is a charity with the purpose of promoting, for the public benefit, education in the scientific and technical aspects of petroleum exploration. This talk seeks to help meet that objective by providing a forum open to all in an informal and readily accessible setting. Those proposing to attend are encouraged to reply to this announcement, so that refreshments may be provided accordingly.