

FloodRanger Young Members Competition 2005

This year, CIWEM Rivers and Coastal Group, replaced the traditional Young Authors Competition with a competition based around the computer programme FloodRanger. The competition was aimed at individual or team entrants and was split into two phases; the first phase comprised undertaking the FloodRanger Game, then the top three entrants went through to the second phase, where they were asked to present on Sustainable Flood Risk Management at the Young Members Weekend in Oxford (see article entitled '2005 CIWEM RCG Young Members Weekend').

FloodRanger was developed by the Foresight programme. It is a flood simulator that serves to help people understand the trade-offs and uncertainties surrounding the management of flood risk in the UK over the next century. The Young Members had to decide where to locate developments and residential properties and what areas should be defended from flooding whilst creating a stable socio-economic environment for local people. The Young Members faced uncertainties about the impact of climate change on the type and quantity of flooding that their area will experience. At each step of the game, the Young Members received new information about the levels of economic growth and the extent of flood damage and they had to adapt their strategies appropriately.

CIWEM RCG Committee judged the first phase. The entrants were of a high standard and judging was a difficult process. Judging was based on both the final score and money left at the end of the game. With help from Discovery Software, the Committee examined how the final score was calculated based on important issues such as the state of the environment, water supply, public opinion, employment figures, etc. The three finalists that went through to the second phase were from Royal Haskoning, Bullen Consultants and Gifford Consulting.

The three presentations were very different considering they were all based on interpreting Sustainable Flood Risk Management (SFRM). Andrew Robinson, Benoit Terrier and Arjan de Heer from Royal Haskoning chose to examine the effects of SFRM on a typical catchment in the year 2105 and the possibility of introducing measures such as floating houses and researching other development possibilities for sustainable growth.

Andrew Heath-Brown, Adrian Hill and Debbe Clarkson from Bullen Consultants discussed the policies and aims of SFRM and their effects at local and national level. They examined how SFRM is being applied to the Yorkshire Ouse catchment in particular following the large flood events here in recent years.

The Gifford Consulting team comprised Paul Sloan and Anthony Guay. They systematically explained their interpretation of SFRM and the integral risks and balances involved. They then concentrated on flood hazards and managing flood risk in Hampshire today and in 2100.

For the second phase the judging panel consisted of Tim Reeder and Ian Meadowcroft from the Environment Agency and David Ramsbottom, Chairman of the RCG Committee. Again, it was a very close competition however first place was awarded to Gifford Consulting who won the coveted winner's trophy and £750, Royal Haskoning were awarded second place and presented with £250 and Bullen Consulting came third and presented with £100.

CIWEM RCG Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank Discovery Software and Foresight for their input and support. As this was the first time the FloodRanger competition was undertaken, the Committee are currently carrying out research to find out the thoughts of the entrants so that the competition can be improved for the 2005/2006 competition. Look on the CIWEM website for more details on future competitions.

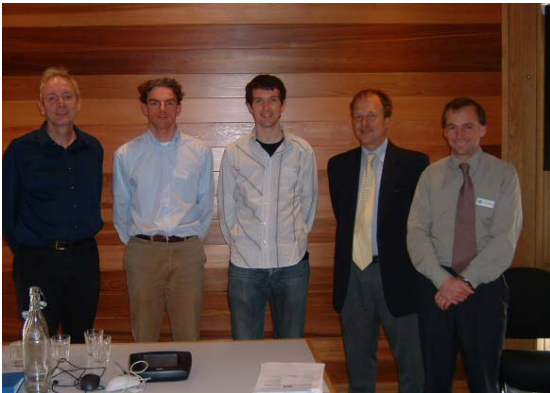
Kathryn Bell: CIWEM RCG Committee Member



Paul Sloan from Gifford Consulting received the winner's trophy from the judging panel



The Bullen team receiving third prize



The Haskoning team receiving second prize



Paul Sloan giving the winning presentation