

Report on the Midlands Electrochemistry Group Meeting 17th April 2013

The annual Midlands Electrochemistry Group meeting was held in the School of Chemistry at the University of Nottingham on the 17th April 2013 and attracted 95 participants. The conference highlighted the range of electrochemical projects being undertaken within the UK and particularly within the midlands region, which is home to highly active electrochemistry groups from the universities of Warwick, Nottingham, Leicester, Loughborough, Bath and Birmingham. The audience was treated to 19 different presentations covering topics ranging from metal electrodeposition and corrosion to fuel cell catalysis and the latest developments in scanning electrochemical microscopy.

The plenary lecture was delivered by Dr. Paramaconi Rodriguez from the University of Birmingham, who discussed the cathodic atomization of metals and metal alloys and described the use of this method for developing electrocatalysts. Dr Rodriguez's lecture generated significant and fruitful discussion among the participants, as did each of the following 18 presentations. The discussions continued over lunch (which was obtained courtesy of sponsorship by the executive committee of the ISE) and throughout the poster sessions, which were very well attended.

The quality of each of the presentations was so high that the judging panels had a very difficult job in choosing winners of the best-speaker and best-poster prizes. After much deliberation, the award of the best-speaker prize went to Gregory Forrest from the University of Leicester, who described the production of immersion coatings of precious metals on copper using deep eutectic solvents. The meeting was co-sponsored by the Royal Society of Chemistry and Gregory has won the opportunity to present his research at the annual Electrochem conference, which this year will be held at the University of Southampton from 1st-3rd September. The runner-up in the best-speaker category was Paul Kirkman from the University of Warwick, who described the use of high-resolution scanning electrochemical microscopy for patterning sp² carbon surfaces with diazonium salts. The winner of the best poster prize was Li Guan from the University of Nottingham, who described the decomposition of polyaniline-carbon nanotube composites using Fenton's reagent.

We would like to thank the executive committee of the ISE for their support of what was a very successful meeting.

Dr. Darren Walsh (Chair)