



Thames Valley Branch

30th Annual General Meeting of the IOSH Thames Valley Branch
held on 15th April 2019 at the University of Reading.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

David Armstrong, Nick Bathurst, Paul Beaumont, Jane Brown, Vince Butler, Darren Carter, Simon Cutmore, Graham Dandridge, Tim Dixon, Joe Fullbrook, David Heath, Tony Horsfall, Shirley Hoskins, Grahame Jamieson, Zusanna Lalanne, Dean Middlemore, Kelly Nicoll, Tyrone Partridge, Alan Poole, Jim Prowse, Steve Rogers, Christina Rose, Rebecca Russell, Paul sivachuk, Nevil Steadman, Chris Stops, Leeroy Thompson, Jennifer Toner, Steve Turner, Tom Wilson, Chris Williamson.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Charlie Cribbes, Laura Graure, Linda Jones, Steve Pulling.

VISITORS:

James Greenough (Shirley Parsons Ltd)

MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM:

The minutes of the AGM, held on the 16th April 2018 were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING:

None

TREASURERS REPORT:

The Chair presented the Treasurers report in his absence the accounts for 2018/19. These will be placed in the documents library once audited.

The branch funds were £11816, based on £8.44 per member with approximately 1400 Branch members.

Total expenses were £11,637.

ELECTION OF BRANCH OFFICIALS:

The following posts were up for election Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. There was only one nomination for each and the following were duly voted in nem con:

Tyrone Partridge – Chair

Nick Bathurst – Vice Chair

David Heath – Secretary

Steve Pulling – Treasurer

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Vincent Butler and Azeez Soaga stood down as committee members. The Branch expressed their thanks for their work over the previous years in making the Branch events a success. Vincent will serve in a co-opted role in 2019/20.

Zuzanna Lalanne and Tom Wilson having served 2 years on committee applied for re-election for a further 2 years. They were duly elected nem con. Darren Carter applied for the vacant position on the committee post AGM and met the criteria and so joined the Committee.

The AGM closed at 1945

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Members items

A member asked the advice of those present regarding working at height

- WAHR Reg 13. Every employer shall so far as is reasonably practicable ensure that the surface and every parapet, permanent rail or other such fall protection measure of every place of work at height are checked on each occasion before the place is used. – Weekly checks of our scaffolding are undertaken by the scaffold erectors. With regard to this regulation what is the expectation of the users/employers?

The general view was that such working spaces should be inspected before every shift / day and that workers should report any defects immediately.

- Dropped load – When requesting a scaffold design if the work you are undertaking involves using lifting equipment to lifting a load over the scaffold, do we have to calculate the forces of the dropped load into the design of the scaffold? We may have persons on the scaffold at the same time.

The members considered it impossible to specify the strength of a scaffold to resist a dropped load – depends on the weight and dropped height. Best practice is that workers are not present during lifts but in reality that doesn't happen. Loads however should not be lifted over workers.

A member asked what qualifications a welder needs.

The audience said it depends on the type of welding. If structural, an engineer will have designed the steelwork and may specify no destructive testing. There are courses for welding – city & guilds will certify competence. Members should now be aware of the risk of cancer from welding fume and the need for RPE, even outside.

Steve Turner, who has mentored many members, reminded the members that mentors need to be registered with IOSH.

The CDM regs are likely to be revised in 2020. Changes will include a separate section on temporary works and a need for better liaison regarding fire safety – a fire co-ordinator will be required to ensure fire safety is considered during construction. This is one of the outcomes of Judith Hacketts report following the Grenfell fire.

There are still places for the visit to the new Biomedical facility, under construction at Reading University on 4th June – apply to the Secretary.

Speaker for the evening : Russell Fife, speaking on ‘Evidence based management and prevention of MSD’s ‘

His slides are on the Thames Valley Branch website.

Reply to: David Heath, Branch Secretary

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