

## MINUTES OF SOUTHERN BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING BROOKLANDS MUSEUM, WEYBRIDGE – WEDNESDAY 9 JUNE 2004

1. **Welcome** The Chairman, BG, welcomed 22 members and 3 guests to the event, including the retiring IHIE President Ian Bradfield and Membership Manager, Michelle deCosta.

2. **Apologies** had been received from DEC, GH and HB.

3. **(1) The President**, IB thanked the Branch for his invitation and provided a brief update on national matters. Amongst the items mentioned were:-

- Membership now stood at over 3,000 which was the biggest yet. The decision to remain independent from the ICE meant that increased membership and the benefits of IHIE that served the interests of 'IEng' better was even more important. IHIE could also now provide routes for achievement to 'CEng'.
- Inclusion of Student Grades in Council to ensure their voice was heard.
- IHIE grades were not according to EC grades that permitted, subject to final Council agreement, of 'Affiliates' so that interest in the Institute and what it could achieve for the individual. More information to follow
- Various IHIE promoted Guidelines, (Home Zones, Motor Cycle Safety) were good sellers that enhanced the status of the IHIE.
- IHIE career development courses continued and were proving popular and valuable to the recipients. Other professional development initiatives were always being investigated.
- IB said that despite everything that HQ did, the work of Branches were important and he thanked Southern Branch for its hard work in arranging outstanding events, [particularly the Annual Seminar.
- Administratively, the IHIE accounts showed a 5% excess over expenditure and that the 'makeover' for a new logo and image was well under way.
- In closing IB thanked the Branch and its membership for the support given during his period of Presidency and hoped that his successor Gerry Harvey received the same.

3. **(2)** The President took questions from the floor.

GB asked the distinction between Affiliate and Graduate Membership. IB replied, explaining the situation and that further information would be forthcoming

GC queried relationship between IHT and IHIE, especially as they were now offering 'IEng' development and encouraging membership. IB replied that IHT, in reality, still specialised in CEng but the main selling point for IHIE was that it was still the professional body for potential IEng's with a proven track record. We remained the best.

GC asked whether there was a prospect that IHIE would produce its own journal rather than share *TransPro* or have features in *The Surveyor*. IB replied that there were practical and financial implications that said this was unlikely, however the matter remained under review.

4. **Minutes of the Previous AGM on 19 June 2003** had been circulated. Proposed TH, Seconded PD that they be accepted as a true record.

5. **Matters Arising.**

Item 5.7 should read as addition "two main events". Accepted as a typographical error.

6. **Chairman's Report** BG reported that several events had been arranged during the past 12 months as follows:-

- **24 July 2003 – MOVA at Leatherhead**

A presentation by John Spence on Microprocessor Optimised Vehicle Actuation. 23 delegates attended to learn about the specific elements of design.

- **11 September 2003 – Thorpe Park**

A presentation by Chris Edge, Head of Development for the Tussaud's Group on the history of the development of the Thorpe Park site by RMC through to the present day operation and what is planned for the future.

- **14 November 2003 – Wine & Wisdom at Ripley Village Hall**

Annual charity quiz night raised £784.18 for Cherry Trees, who provide short-term respite care for children and young people with disabilities. They used the donation to purchase a medi-bed.

- **15 January 2004 – Fastway**

The new guided bus system being installed between Crawley, Gatwick and Horley. There was a presentation by Bob Etherington at West Sussex CC on the background, politics, financing, consultation, construction and operation of the system. There was also an opportunity at delegates to use the system.

- **4 March 2004 – A3 Hindhead Tunnel**

A presentation by Paul Arnold the Highways Agency Project Manager and the Main Contractor on the A3 Hindhead Tunnel Project. They gave the insiders view on the background of the project, the current state of affairs and the programme leading up to the finished article.

- **26 March 2004 – Advanced Crash Investigation Techniques and Highway Contributions to Accidents at TRL (Joint with Chilterns Branch)**

Our thanks go to Chilterns Branch for extending the invitation to Southern Branch members, and 25 delegates from Southern attended. We received a slide and video concentrating on various aspects of collision causation. There was also the opportunity to have a tour of some of the facilities.

- **15 April 2004 – NMIC at Leatherhead**

A presentation on the background, planning, current operation and future development of Surrey CC's Network Management and Information Centre. The visit included demonstrations of the various systems and information available including Real Time Passenger Information, signal monitoring and the Emergency Control Centre.

- **20 May 2004 – Surfaceware Seminar at Winchester**

This year we returned to a theme first explored in 1994 called the 'Magic Carpet', which looked at developments in surfacing materials. We were pleased to welcome back two of the original presenters as well as numerous delegates. It was another successful event with presentations looking at some of today's latest innovations in the surfacing world. Numbers were again down on previous years, which reflect the increasing competition in this field.

BG paid tribute to the Branch Committee for arranging an interesting programme and hoped that support and ideas would continue. He advised that Three events were already in hand - Visit to M25 widening contract on 15 July, Annual Wine and Wisdom evening on 26 November and the 2005 seminar on 19 May. Another event was also proposed for the autumn looking at speed management systems.

**7. Treasurer's Report** On behalf of the Hon. Treasurer, PD presented the audited accounts up to December 2003. He reported healthy balances for both the General and Seminar Account. It was normal that the Branch consider passing excess revenue to HQ – in the past £12,000 had been sent – however at this stage it might appear prudent for the Committee to consolidate until this was further considered.

It was proposed by PH and Seconded by TH that the report be accepted. Unanimous.

**8. Appointment of Auditors** BG advised that our current auditors had indicated their willingness to continue to do this function.

It was proposed by GB and Seconded by PD that this be approved. Unanimous.

**9. Elections to Committee** It was agreed that Alison Coffey should join the Committee. It was noted that NG had agreed to take on the Hon. Treasurer that had been previously approved by Committee.

#### **10. Any Other Business**

10.1 On behalf of the Branch and Institute, IB made a presentation to TH and Lady to mark his retirement and departure after nearly 40 years membership of the Institute. TH replied.

10.2 TH was asked whether, though retired he would be able to maintain his customary support to the Annual Wine & Wisdom Event. TH replied that he hoped to but if unable to do so, David Whitehead at SCC Laboratories had already agreed to 'understudy' for him.

10.3 John Stevens indicated that IHT held an Annual social event for its members to which he attended. Could we investigate the possibility of making this a joint annual social event? BG said this would be further discussed by Committee.

There being no further business, the Meeting Closed at 1315 hrs. for members to tour the establishment.