

1. Welcome.

The Chairman CS welcomed the Institute's Vice President (Steve Spender) and 21 members and guests to the AGM and thanked the Area Manager, West Sussex CC for kindly hosting the meeting.

2. Apologies

Received from Nia Griffiths, Malcolm Smith and Tony Sharp (President).

3. Minutes of 2008 Annual General Meeting

Circulated. **Proposed by Chris Bowley, Seconded Peter Dryburgh** they are accepted as a true record. Agreed unanimously

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising that were not covered in the agenda.

5. Vice President's Address

- 1) In apologising for Tony Sharp's absence due to being on vacation, Steve Spender presented a report on the Institute's current works and membership status.
- 2) In order to maintain parity with other like Institute's (ICE and IHT), IHIE would no longer raise charges for Student Membership but it was hoped that these members would move quickly to Membership (associate/Member/Fellow as appropriate) as their careers progressed to ensure a level of revenue.
- 3) A review of current membership in age groups revealed a lack of 'young blood' joining which was of concern and it was hoped that the 'new' Student Membership status would reverse this trend, which was not peculiar to IHIE.
- 4) IHIE had recently undergone an Engineering Council (EC) audit which had resulted in our licence being renewed to award CEng qualifications until 2012. Senior Managers within County and private organisations were to be encouraged to seek CEng through the Technical Report method, particularly where educational awards were absent but a long experience was a valuable asset.
- 5) The recent National AGM was held in Edinburgh when a 75% vote was given in favour of changing from IHIE to IHE that represented the activities of the Institute and would also attract younger members. Exact date to be determined which would be affected by major events being held on forthcoming months to which 'IHIE' was attached. Likely to be January 2010.
- 6) Safety Audit Register. IHIE has set up its own register rather than have qualified members having to join IHT to enable registration. Registration on the IHIE register was free to members but not restricted only to them. Non members may register for a modest fee.
- 7) Steve itemised high profile strategies in which IHIW were actively involved – namely Road Safety, the motor Cycling Strategy, Street design, National Highway Inspector Standards Register plus training regimes which were backed by the CSS, Beyond 2010 casualty reduction strategy, Eurorap under the 'logo' of 5* drivers/5* vehicles/5* roads, IHIE professional certification.
- 8) Finance. Despite an expected loss of £6,500 forecast at year end 31 March, the Institute has recorded a slight surplus of £2,000. Our fees reflected well with ICE and IHT and it was felt that IHIE provided its membership with value for money.
- 9) In closing, Steve presented the challenges for the Presidency and Council as being More members, more students)leading to membership) use and recognition of I Eng qualification, more C Eng qualifications with promotion of the Technical Report route and revitalised Branches. Promising start with Scotland and the North of England.
- 10) Various questions and comments were discussed with members before CS thanked Steve for the report.

6. Chairman's Report

- (a) Chairman reported the following activities since the last AGM:-

24 JULY 2008 – A3 HINDHEAD IMPROVEMENTS VISIT

An excellent afternoon's site visit, in good weather, for the maximum number of permitted delegates -25 –who were given a detailed tour of the site including a 'close up' view of work on the tunnel bores. Regrettably not permitted inside for H&S reasons. Thanks go to the HA and Balfour Beatty for entertaining us.

9 SEPTEMBER 2008 - iRAP

An interesting input by Dr Suzy Charman of iRAP into the work of this organisation, in conjunction and as an addition to more well known groups (Eurorap etc.). Suzy explained the criteria and action plans for various countries, primarily in South America as a case study.

Various publications and CDs were distributed to the 31 delegates in attendance.

28 OCTOBER 2008 – Who is that Blind Person? – DDA Presentation

Bill Pitcher of Gifford Consultants made a presentation along with a former Highway Engineer, Paul Winchcombe who lost his sight about 8 years ago. Though concentrating on the needs of the visually impaired, together Bill and Paul highlighted the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act, both with 'visual aids' and, from Paul, personal experiences of a blind person trying to negotiate the modern network.

28 NOVEMBER 2008 – Career Development 'mini' – Seminar – West Sussex CC

This was the third event that was held by the Branch (others earlier in the years in conjunction with Surrey CC) to develop interest by potential engineers, especially those in West Sussex.

A total of 18 delegates received presentations from Judith Walker from HQ and our own Branch Secretary, outlining the benefits of 'Southern' membership. Both were assisted by Helen Currie, a recently qualified IEng. who related her experience in achieving this distinction despite being a working Mother. After the main event and excellent Buffet Lunch, delegates were able to have a one to one discussion with Judith on the way forward to develop their career.

The Branch is grateful to West Sussex CC for kindly hosting this event in plush accommodation in Chichester

28 NOVEMBER 2008 – Wine & Wisdom

A regular event on Southern's events. Another noisy but competitive evening with a full house of 14 participating teams (total 112 'delegates'/competitors realised a total of £1000.00 being raised for the benefit of The White Lodge Centre, Chertsey. A unique specialist unit caring for children and their carers who are affected by Cerebral Palsy.

A valuable opportunity for members and their friends to meet on a more social setting raising much needed funds and demonstrating the generosity of the Institute's membership.

4 DECEMBER 2008 – Highways Agency Outreach Presentation

A slightly more than 'full house' of 30 delegates attended the NMIC, Surrey to hear a joint presentation by the Highways Agency and their Partners, SERCO on the Agency's latest developments in making traffic information more readily and comprehensively available both to the business community and travelling public. Complete with a free buffet and 'goodies' bag of Agency materials this was a well received event that we hope to repeat.

19 MARCH 2009 - Work of the Forensic Science Service

Another excellent presentation arranged by the Branch and made by Peter Watts of the Met Police Forensic Science College Faculty describing the history and work of the photographic branch of investigative work for incidents across the entire spectrum of modern policing, from public order, road collision investigation to victim identification both in the UK and elsewhere in the world.

31 MARCH 2009 – Chapter 8, Traffic Signs Manual – 2009 update

Just over 50 delegates attended this input by Grahame Coe, Senior Researcher at TRL who spoke on the history and development of Chapter 8 up to the most recent changes that were to become effective from the following day (1 April).

29 APRIL 2009 – WEY & ARUN CANAL – LOXWOOD CROSSING

A trip back to times gone by as Eric Walker MBE of the Wey & Arun Canal Trust explained to the 18 delegates the work of the trust in restoring this historic link so as to enable a waterway transport from London to the Sussex coast. The primary obstacle to overcome was to re-establish the link that was severed years ago (about 100) by the B2133 road in Loxwood. At a cost of £1.8 million the canal level was lowered through two new locks and an entirely new road bridge was installed in 2008. After the presentation, Eric took members on a guided tour of the site and visitor centre.

13 MAY 2009 – ANNUAL SEMINAR – WINCHESTER

'Bottoms up to the Highway Engineer' was the aptly named title of this event that attracted over 115 delegates in the impressive setting of the Winchester Guildhall. Describing construction of the highway (road) from base (bottom) to surfacing (up to top) a series of eminent presenters both informed and amused delegates.

Positive delegate feedback demonstrated that at an exceptionally low price of £70 per delegate we feel we provided the right topic at a value for money price that helped to make this one of the most successful events we have held over our 18 year history of arranging annual seminars.

Altogether a total of 10 events that attracted over 430 delegates and guests

CS regretted that some events had to be cancelled or postponed for various reasons which was evidence of the difficulty we have in trying to get speakers/venues to suit everyone.

We have more events planned for 2009/10 but suggestions welcome for any events. All attract a CPD and are, usually, free of charge and Members were encouraged to frequently visit our web site or watch out for event flyers as they were circulated.

CS paid tribute to the work of our former Chairman, Alison Coffey who had resigned earlier following an appointment to a post with Mouchel group in Perth, Australia. He also congratulated Gerald Cole on him receiving the Institute's Certificate of Merit for his long and loyal service to the Institute and Southern Branch in particular and wished him well for his forthcoming charity events.

Finally, CS thanked the branch Committee for their hard work for the Branch's membership benefits, especially the branch secretary for his commitment.

5. Treasurers Report

- a. On behalf of the Treasurer (NG), TS presented the audited accounts for the year ending 31 December 2008.
- b. Up to that time of audit, the Branch held two accounts, one 'ordinary' and a separate one for 'seminar' purposes with monies being switched between the accounts as appropriate and according to needs. It had been agreed by the Committee to merge the accounts for ease of accounting purposes.
- c. Though there were two statements, it was noted that the 'ordinary' account had been closed with the sum of £68.65 being transferred to the sole account – currently named 'seminar' account.
- d. As a result, with this sum being added to that existing within the 'seminar' account the Branch was reasonably financially sound with a balance of £2600.41. It was reminded that this was the situation as at the end of 2008.
- e. We had realised a modest 'profit' on the Seminar when, following a loss in 2007, we had slightly increased the cost to £70 per person which was a more realistic figure and still represented a %66 lower price than most which attracted good attendances.
- f. The Branch had successfully gained a County Court Judgement against Kingshill Media in November 2008 for the sum of c£4.800. Attempts had been made to get this resolved but without success. This was added to by a recent notice from Kingshill that they were seeking a winding up at Companies House. The Treasurer was looking at the implications but the likelihood of receiving settlement was not good.
- g. It was **Proposed by Grahame Bath, Seconded Peter Dryburgh** that the report be accepted and agreed unanimously

6. Appointment of Auditors

David Sowton had indicated his willingness to continue to audit the accounts. John Prime had retired from SCC and it was unknown if he would continue. Peter Dryburgh offered his services if John Prime was no longer able to continue.

With this proviso it was **Proposed by Grahame Bath, Seconded Sara Pegram** that the Treasurer (elect) is delegated to check and advised the Branch Committee.

7. Elections to Committee

There were no nominations for election to Committee

8. Any Other Business

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 1410 hrs when Members adjourned to visit The Tangmere Military Aviation Museum.