

– FUTURE EVENTS –

All future events are subject to confirmation. Please check the website for details or check with Tony Suter the Branch Secretary

14th June – AGM at Amberley
Amberley Working Museum

SEE SEPERATE FLYER OR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

11th July – Mini Seminar, Venue TBA
Safety Camera Partnerships

This is the postponed event from April and will be designed to discuss speed management with the Safety Camera Partnerships within the S.Branch area. Topics will include strategic approach, objectives and operation.

August – NO EVENTS

19th September – Technical Presentation, Dunsfold
Le Crossing – Incident Exercise in June 2006

This is the postponed event from February which is now available for presentation. This will describe the exercise which involved the closure of the Dartford Tunnel to simulate two major accidents and the emergency response required to deal with the consequences. Our hosts will be Ringway at their Dunsfold Facility as they are Joint Venture Partners in the Le Crossing Contract.

23rd November – Wine and Wisdom, Ripley

Why not canvass your colleagues and office to make up a team for this years event. You will be guaranteed a warm welcome, supper with wine and the opportunity to win the coveted Shield from the 'Perky Parkers' who were the winners of last year's competition. Alternatively you can always help make up the numbers in another team if you are solo!

Watch out for further details on the website

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INCORPORATED ENGINEERS

– SOUTHERN BRANCH –

NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2007

– CHAIRMAN'S LETTER –

Welcome to the latest edition of the IHIE Southern Branch Newsletter. I hope you are finding it to be a useful source of information about the Branch's activities and should you have any suggestions on items that you would like to see included either in this or on our website then please feel free to contact me or any member of the Branch Committee.

"After four years as Chairman of the Southern Branch I have decided to stand down and let someone else have a go! It has been an honour to have undertaken the role and I can look back with pride at the achievements of the Branch during this time. We have continued to run a varied spectrum of afternoon presentations which I hope have been of interest to members. Our Annual Seminar is still going strong as well as our Wine & Wisdom charity event which has raised significant sums of money for very worthy causes. The Branch has developed a website and has secured sponsorship which helps keep this up to date and also enables us to send out these newsletters. I'd like to thank all of the committee for the dedication and commitment they show to the Branch on behalf of the members which has made my chairmanship such an enjoyable time. I will still remain an active committee member whilst working towards becoming a reviewer for our newly awarded CEng status."

Billy Gooch
Branch Chairman



– NEWS –

Southern Branch Committee:

As the Chairman has said in his letter, he will be standing down this year and handing over the position after 4 years. During his chairmanship the Branch has flourished and is nationally recognised as one of the most active branches within IHIE. This has been due to his leadership and the enthusiasm of the Branch Committee. To remain in this strong and worthwhile position there is always a need for 'new blood' in order to maintain our high standard and continue to grow. The Branch AGM is on 14th June so why not make the effort to come along and support your Committee, vote for the election of the 2007/08 Members and perhaps consider joining them to enhance the Branch's standing – together with your own. Remember attendance counts as CPD as well as being rewarding! A full report of the AGM together with a list of Members will appear in the next edition of the Newsletter and also on the Website.

IHIE's New Journal:

Since we last went to press, Transportation Professional has been withdrawn as the official journal of IHIE and you should all have received copies of 'Highways' instead. If you have read this interesting publication and in particular the IHIE news pages you will have noticed that the Branch has already been featured. We intend to maintain this link which we have developed and support the publication in developing the strong partnership which IHIE have formed. If you have any articles of interest or technical value that you feel worthy of publication, please contact the Editor.

CEng Status:

You will no doubt be aware that IHIE have been granted a licence to award CEng. The Branch is a strong supporter of this new venture for IHIE and Billy Gooch together with our Sponsor, Nick Stilwell have been instrumental in its 'start up' together with former SCC Engineer Charlie Marsh. If you are currently aspiring to become CEng or you have a colleague who is give the IHIE Secretary a call for details and support the scheme. Secretary@ihie.org.uk

– PAST EVENTS –

17th January – Technical Presentation, Midhurst Traffic Signs Manual, Chapter 8



Following publication of the revised Chapter 8 Traffic signs Manual in June 2006 we thought it might be helpful to arrange a presentation to our members outlining the various changes –especially as the entire requirements of the volume became mandatory for early 2007.

This resulted in a record attendance with nearly 80 delegates attending for a very quick 'guided tour' of both volumes undertaken by Branch Secretary Tony Suter. At the end of the afternoon delegates were left somewhat breathless as was the presenter!

Highlights included the changes that have been adopted following various live trials and new measures previously determined in separate volumes and guides that are now incorporated within Chapter 8 – Emergency Traffic Management/Incident Handling, Convoy Working and the 'Best Practice' document to name a couple.

The intention of the exercise was to educate and inform and, to a larger extent, despite the limited time available, delegate feedback indicates that this was achieved.

A full report appears on the website.

28th February – Technical Presentation, Midhurst Concrete Step Barriers

Seventeen Branch members and guests were given an interesting and informative presentation by Dr Bryan McGee into the development and implementation of stepped concrete barriers to the UK highway network.

Now firmly in the Highways Agency's construction toolbox as being a safe, long term low cost safety measure with an impressive track record, Concrete Step Barriers are being recommended for use on 'other dual-carriageway roads' to improve safety and prevent 'cross over' type collisions which invariably result in serious injury or fatalities.

Whilst steel barriers remain the standard safety device, they will be gradually phased out in favour of the Concrete Step Barrier where installation permits. A maintenance free life span of 50 years must be an attraction and will offset installation costs – albeit slightly higher. Compared to the cost of a road fatality the system undeniably has excellent cost ratio benefits.

Bryan fielded questions from delegates ranging from visibility obstructions through bends to release of traffic trapped behind the scenes of incidents and provided information packs for delegate's further examination.

An excellent presentation and we are grateful to Dr McGee.



A Slipform Paver in operation

A full report appears on the website.

22nd March – Technical Visit, Dunsfold Ringway 'Trackjet'

Nineteen Members and Guests of Southern Branch were welcomed by Rob Gillespie the Operations Director, himself a Member and keen supporter of IHIE when they visited the Ringway Specialist Services facility to see a live demonstration of the latest product Trackjet.

This is an ultra high pressure water-jetting machine which rapidly and effectively removes rubber deposits and line markings from roads and airfields and can restore friction and texture depth to near original levels.



Trackjet in operation

The machine is an impressive monster riding on six axles and is self sufficient when out in the field having its own on board workshop and cab sleeping accommodation.

The cutting head with its high pressure water jets is computer programmed to clean the required width and the water is recovered via a sophisticated suction system and returned to the used water tank. 'We are nearly there in terms of achieving reusable water' said Richard Powell, Project Manager for Trackjet. A far cry from the old hand held machines which created an artificial lake wherever they went – one up to the Environmentalists!

26th April – Technical Presentation, Midhurst Laser Scanning



Scanner being demonstrated

Visitors to the Grange Centre at Midhurst were greeted with the sight of a piece of equipment that would not look out of place on the Starship Enterprise. The item concerned was a Riegl Laser Scanner, operated by Nikk Gotthardt-Mills and Dan Cutler of Perseus Global Security Technologies.

After undertaking a 40 minute scan of the Grange Centre car park (cut short due to the onset of rain), Nikk gave an interesting and informative presentation on the technology to 14 Members and guests of IHIE Southern Branch. Nikk started with some technical information about how the technology works:

It has a field of view of 80° (vertical) x 360° (horizontal), and has a target range of up to 1000 metres, with 10mm accuracy. As the eye safe laser revolves, picking up point data, a standard digital SLR attached to the top records the same images for colour definition. The scanner can be operated either statically, or vehicle mounted.

The presentation concluded with a display of the Grange Centre car park scan, followed by an inquisitive question and answer session.

More details about Perseus GST and laser scanning, including a free download of their "Cyclops" software, can be found at www.perseusgst.com.

A full report appears on the website

Seminar photos



Laura Parker receives the cheque on behalf of DebRA

17th May – Annual Seminar, Winchester 'Fact or Friction'

This year the Branch hosted 100 delegates, exhibitors and presenters to its annual Winchester Seminar. The topic was skid resistance under the title of 'Fact or Friction' and examined the properties, causes and outcomes of highway surfaces and their performance in terms of reducing accidents.

The morning session was chaired by Terry Howell, retired member of S. Branch and remembered by many as one of its previous Chairman. The theory of friction was comprehensively described by Peter Roe from TRL who is the acclaimed expert on the subject and the morning progressed from there to explore Measurement, Management, Materials and Policy.

The afternoon session chaired by Ian Cross, Chairman of S. Branch IHT covered the topics of Auditing, Accidents and Texture Properties with the IHIE Senior Vice President, Tony Sharp delivering the ultimate presentation on motorcycling. Tony who is well known for his preparation of the IHIE Guidelines for Motorcycling explored the needs and problems faced by 'a vulnerable set of road users – motorcyclists'!

The day was dedicated to the Branch Members and their need for CPD and for this reason the radical step was taken to reduce the seat price to £50 per head. This hopefully will set the trend from traditional sponsorship to that of industry demand thereby fulfilling training according to need – or perhaps some would say we just followed where 'easyjet' led!

As reported in the last edition of the Newsletter, the 2006 'Wine and Wisdom' event raised £750 for the charity DebRA. It was therefore a pleasure to welcome their organiser Laura Pratt to join us for lunch at this year's seminar and for Branch Chairman Billy Gooch to present her with a cheque for that amount in the auditorium. Laura responded with a personal 'thank you' to the Branch.