



- SOUTHERN BRANCH -

NEWSLETTER – WINTER 2010

– CHAIRMAN’S LETTER –

2010 has been a superb year for the branch, with some excellent CPD events across the branch area well supported by members. The Annual Seminar which was changed from May to June to coincide with the National AGM and inauguration of Steve Spender as the new President at Winchester, once again demonstrated this as a flagship event to our branch and IHE. This years Wine and Wisdom evening was also once again a massive success, raising money for the Park School at Woking.

An events programme for 2011 is already well in hand up to and including the Seminar, back in its traditional May slot on the calendar. Please keep checking the website for details and watch out for further announcements as they arise. Don't forget that attendance at these events supports your CPD requirements and most are free! This is particularly relevant at a time when budgets are being ever tightened. In addition, for 2011 IHE are offering free Professional Reviews to members - if you need further advice on this contact IHE through the national website, or through one of our Committee members whose details can be found on the branch website.

As the effects of the Government's spending review become more apparent, it is clear that 2011 will be a challenging year for Local Authorities, Consultants and Contractors alike. Whatever part of the highways industry you work in I hope you will continue to support IHE, as we in turn will continue to support you, and I look forward to seeing you all in 2011.

Finally I would like to thank the Branch Committee for all their hard work and dedication in organising events for you and to wish you all a very Safe and Happy Christmas.



Chris Stark
Branch Chairman

– EDITORIAL –

As Chris Stark confirms in his letter, IHE is offering FREE reviews in 2011. So if you have been putting off your review, now is the time to progress it –fast! As well as your newsletter editor I am also Recruitment Officer for the Branch and a Reviewer/Mentor, so if you need any help just give me a call on 07999 527090 or email chris.bowley@tesco.netChris Bowley

– PAST EVENTS –

28th January 2010 – Technical Presentation County Emergency Planning, Surrey CC.

“An Emergency is an event or situation which threatens serious damage to human welfare in a place in the UK, the environment of a place in the UK, or war or terrorism which threatens serious damage to the security of the UK”

The seminar title may be a misnomer as, who can plan an emergency, but Ian Good, Head of Emergency Management for Surrey County Council, soon put us right. To a packed room, he explained how we plan to manage an emergency.



There was far too much information to fit into a short report, but suffice to say that all delegates left with a totally different outlook. One point to note for all Highway Engineers of any discipline – while the highways are considered as hazard potentials, they are also essential to the resolution of any incident or emergency which may occur.

We owe considerable thanks to Ian Good for taking time out to give us this very interesting and useful presentation.

18th February 2010 – Site Visit Viridor MRF, Ford, West Sussex

What a truly fascinating and informative visit this was. It revealed in detail what happens to the mixture of recyclable materials that one dumps into our household collection bins. Fiona Bussell, Area Manager for Viridor Ltd explained.



The Ford MRF represents a massive investment for which there are both ecological and financial rewards. Revenue from materials sold on for reprocessing is proportionately shared between Viridor and WSCC – there can only be winners from contracts of this nature and it was very educational to see it operating 'up close and personal'.

We are very grateful to Viridor Limited for allowing us to visit and particularly to Fiona, for providing an extremely informative afternoon. We wish this exciting venture every success for the future. There is more information at: www.recycleforwestsussex.org/ford_materials_recycling_facility

22 March 2010 – Technical Presentation Midhurst - Crime in Focus

Expanding upon the March 2009 presentation, the above title neatly describes the presentation by Peter Goadby-Watt, Head of the Forensic Faculty of the Metropolitan Police Academy at Hendon.

Peter expanded on the specialisms required in Road Traffic Collision Investigation, emphasising the need to ensure that a comprehensive photographic record is obtained as soon as possible after the event. High level shots are very important, to gain as much of an overview as possible for later analysis.

The team work hard to remain dispassionate, objective and professional. With such a "grisly" subject matter (highlighted in some of the images shown), it would be very easy to become too emotionally involved in personal tragedies.

We thank Peter very much for his time and applaud him and his team for their success.

20 May 2010 – Annual General Meeting Aldershot Military Museum

The Aldershot Military Museum was the venue for the 2010 Annual General Meeting where 16 Branch members assembled in the Boyce Room. This 1930s wooden barrack block came from Queen Elizabeth Barracks, Church Crookham. It was once the home of the Regimental Administration Offices for the camp. It was carefully reconstructed at the Museum thanks to a £50,000 Heritage Lottery grant. A tasty buffet lunch arranged by Claire Read was enjoyed before the meeting started.



Steve Spender, the 'then' Institute's President Designate, thanked the Branch for the opportunity of speaking to the meeting when he updated and provided data on the current state of the Institute's Membership and Finances.

Steve also thanked the Branch Committee for its co-operation in moving the date of its Winchester Seminar so as to coincide with the National AGM which was to be held in Winchester after the Seminar. At this event he was to be installed as the IHE President for the next two years.

We are grateful to the Museum volunteers and Hampshire County Council who jointly operate the museum for their warm welcome and hospitality.

18th June 2010 – Annual Seminar, Winchester

Despite any misgivings at changing the day and date for this important event in our calendar, these proved to be unfounded and as the Chairman stated in his Christmas letter, it proved yet again to be a flagship event coupled with the National AGM.

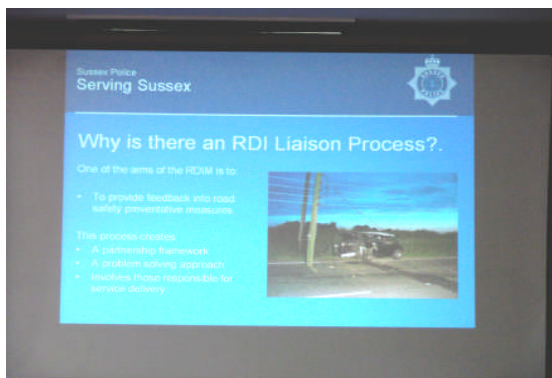
Following the National AGM, an informative presentation was given by Paul Arnold, the Highways Agency Project Manager for the A3 Hindhead Improvement Scheme, which includes a new 1.9km long twin bore tunnel, subsequently visited by Branch Members on 15th September 2010 – see *subsequent report*.

29th July 2010 – Technical Presentation Road Death Investigation Manual, Midhurst

The loss of a life resulting from a road traffic collision is a traumatic situation, especially for relatives. They will be, understandably, seeking the facts of the incident and trying to apportion responsibility, to achieve a sense of justice for the victim(s) and closure.

Many such incidents *are* avoidable and the role of the investigators is to establish the facts surrounding the incident and to determine the primary cause. This will establish any culpability and where possible to propose measures that may avoid repetition.

The Road Death Investigation Manual (RDIM) was adopted throughout the UK Police Service to standardise investigative methods into fatal and potentially fatal road collisions. This document has adopted the 'best practices' of individual Police forces, augmented by comprehensive processes to ensure conformity.



Ian Jeffrey, who assisted in writing the second edition of the RDIM, explained the process of liaison with Highway Authorities, as prescribed in the RDIM. As with the primary investigation, the purpose of this was fact finding and to establish any preventive measures, that could have been in place at the time or installed for the future.

Given the right attitude, this was a valuable part of the process to bring justice and closure to relatives. Delegates confirmed that such liaison took place with their Authorities in the south, which was confirmation that the principals of the RDIM were followed.

We are grateful to Ian Jeffrey, Gary Pearson and their colleague Stuart Watson, for the presentation and, to the Chief Constable, Sussex Police for kindly allowing this to take place.

www.acpo.police.uk/asp/policies/Data/road_death_investigation_manual_18x12x07.pdf

www.cps.gov.uk/legal/a_to_c/corporate_manslaughter

15th Sept 2010 – Technical Site Visit A3 Hindhead Improvement

Southern Branch members paid an afternoon visit to the A3 Hindhead Tunnel site, to catch up on the progress since its first visit two years ago. Malcolm Smith of Atkins welcomed our party of ten and gave us an excellent overview of the current workload and targets. After we had donned a plethora of PPE we were transported onto the site and started our tour at the Primary Tunnel Service Building (PTSB) adjacent to the North Portal.



We then travelled southwards via the northbound tunnel and were able to observe the shotcrete lining, which overlays a sprayed on waterproofing system in the final permanent lining of the tunnel crown. Originally, because it was predicted that groundwater ingress would be low and the surrounding sandstone was adequately self supporting, the tunnel design included a drained PVC membrane waterproofing system behind an insitu concrete final lining. It was thought that the sprayed on waterproofing with shotcrete could offer considerable time and money savings for both contractor and client. In the event, this hastened the tunnel construction by three months. A 5mm layer of MASTERSEAL @345 was applied and this required 80,000m² of sprayed waterproofing. The tunnel sidewalls are cast concrete allowing a painted reflective surface for easy wash down maintenance.



Back to the Site offices for a debriefing and questions and a welcome cup of tea! Our party went off having had a very interesting afternoon.

21st October 2010 – Technical Visit, Epsom Coaches Group, Epsom

Much can happen in a year. Since our earlier visit in 2009, the whole site has been redeveloped and the opportunity taken to employ and install the latest technology. Sixteen members and guests were treated to a first class presentation by Steve Whiteway, Commercial Director of Epsom Coaches Group, who talked us through setting a new standard in bus and coach operations.

After an entertaining introductory film, Steve led the group on a tour, demonstrating not only the vehicles, but the background operations such as the mechanical and body workshops. With vehicles covering one million miles in their lifetime in a hostile environment, work is ongoing to keep the equipment clean, reliable, safe and in pristine condition. Body panels are made in-house and the equipment is on hand to entirely respray a complete vehicle, to be road ready within 24 hours.

Staff turnover is very low and there is no Union presence – basically because the staff has voted against one, being more than happy with their working conditions.

All went away very heartened by such a success story and with considerably more knowledge about this industry than before. We extend our thanks to all those who looked after us so well – Steve Whiteway, his PA Clare Dunn and Jon Ball as Bus Manager of Quality Line. For more information, please follow the link to their website at:

<https://online.epsomcoaches.com>

23rd November 2010 – Technical Presentation Signfix Passive Safety Signing, Midhurst

Southern Branch was hosted by Messrs. Tim Daly (UK Sales Manager) and Ian Forster (Southern Area Sales Representative) Signfix Limited for an interesting, lively and informative afternoon seminar on the development of Signfix Limited, as a company and more especially its range of “passive” sign safety equipment.

In 1995. Signfix became the UK distributor of the Lattix Brand from Norway, thus introducing the first Passively Safe signs to be used on the UK highway network. After a brief trial period, its value was quickly recognised and, now one can rarely undertake a car journey without seeing one of their products.

The company is rightly proud that the first sign installed remains in its original position, without any deterioration of its fabric.

An interesting and very informative event and we are grateful to Tim and Ian for giving up their valuable time to benefit the Branch. Further information can be obtained from the Signfix web site: www.signfix.co.uk or email to sales@signfix.co.uk

26th November 2010 Annual Wine & Wisdom Charity Quiz – Ripley

Yet another excellent and enjoyable evening. Despite the prevailing cold weather, 14 teams assembled to pit their wits.



Bunkers & Jumpers were ultimately victorious and retained their title by achieving 102 points out of a possible 120 and their team leader received the trophy from Branch Chairman, Chris Stark, to lovingly display and dust for the next 12 months. Note the facial expressions – the victor and the vanquished!

This Year's Charity is **The Park School, Woking**, which caters for Secondary School Children with learning disabilities. The donation will be presented at the school, in early 2011.

A full report of all events will appear on the website.

– FUTURE EVENTS –

srsCULTURE is coming...
<http://stilwellroadsafety.co.uk>
15th February 2011— Launch of the first web-based framework for delivering 'Cradle to Grave' Road Safety Education

Details of all future events for 2011 will appear on our website so please visit regularly and keep up to date.

– CONTACT DETAILS –

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