



I H I E | **INSTITUTE OF HIGHWAY
INCORPORATED ENGINEERS**

– SOUTHERN BRANCH –

NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2006

– INTRODUCTION –

“Welcome to the third edition of the IHIE Southern Branch Newsletter.

I would like to apologise for the delay in publishing this issue, which has been for a number of reasons. Primarily, we have been awaiting the delivery of the 40th Anniversary gift, which the Committee and I agreed that all Members should receive, in order to celebrate this important event. The gift is in the form of a commemorative clock, which I hope you will find useful and I would ask you to accept, on behalf of your Branch”.

We are pleased to welcome the following members to the Branch, who were elected to the Institute recently

Alistair Gollop	– Mott MacDonald Limited
Craig MacLachan	– Surrey County Council
Jason Brown	– Bellamy Roberts LLP
Peter Maybe	– Hampshire County Council
Paul Wilson	– Eastbourne Borough Council
John Troke	– WSP Civils
Nishal Wijeratne	– Atkins

We look forward to seeing them at Branch events and developing their career in the highways industry.

Since our last newsletter we have held a number of very successful events. These have included a very interesting and informative visit to the new Terminal 5 at Heathrow Airport, a presentation by the Highways Agency on their new Traffic Officers, our annual Wine and Wisdom Charity Quiz Night and presentations on the Environment, the Dartford – Thurrock MAC Contract, the Portsmouth PFI and the Charity, Practical Action, which was a follow up to our Wine and Wisdom Event.

Your Committee is developing an interesting series of events to cover the remainder of 2006. These are detailed later in the newsletter and I hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend.

In the last newsletter, we offered members the chance to receive email updates of forthcoming branch activities. It is not too late to join in, so should you wish to receive these electronic updates, please send an email from the address you would like to register, with a subject of 'IHIE Southern Branch Registration' to tony.suter@spitfireuk.net.

W. Gooch

**Billy Gooch
Branch Chairman**



– SOUTHERN BRANCH WEBSITE –

You will recall from our last newsletter that we have re-launched the Southern Branch website. We are delighted to announce that in the first three months we had in excess of 600 hits!!!

We have in this intervening period tried to maintain the site, with reports of events that have taken place and details of forthcoming events. New pages are now being developed for the programme of activities for 2006, so we urge members to visit the site regularly to keep up to date with Branch activities.

Any constructive feedback and suggested improvements would be very much appreciated. The website address is:-

www.ihie-southern.org.uk

– PAST EVENTS –

29th September 2005 – Site Visit Terminal 5 at Heathrow Airport

We were delighted to be invited by our hosts for the day, AMEC, to this enlightening presentation and tour. The scale of the project is so vast, that it truly does have to be seen to be believed!

AMEC were excellent hosts and showed us not only the external works (construction of taxiways, aprons and stands), but also the inside of the new terminal buildings. A detailed report will appear on the S Branch website.



Taxiway construction.

13th October 2005 – Technical Presentation Highways Agency Traffic Officer Service

The afternoon presentation was given by Rob Keep and John Henderson of the Highways Agency.

Following the introduction of the Traffic Management Act 2004, a number of powers that had previously been the responsibility of the Police, became enforceable under civil rather than criminal legislation. This has resulted in the Highways Agency recruiting “Traffic Officers” to patrol the motorway network with the primary aim of keeping traffic moving and minimising delays on the network.



We were delighted to have one of the new patrol vehicles at the presentation.

The Traffic Officers have no enforcement powers, but it is an offence to fail to comply with their instructions, to impersonate an Officer, or to wilfully obstruct them in their duties.

The operation in Surrey covers areas of the M3, M25 and M23 and it is operated from bases in Heston, Godstone and Weatherhill. In addition, they will shortly be operating on the M3 and M27 in Hampshire. More information can be found on the Highways Agency website www.highways.gov.uk.

8th November 2005 – Technical Presentation Bus Gates and Rising Bollard Systems

It was very disappointing that this event had to be cancelled at a late stage due to lack of interest from branch members.

It is worthy of note that a significant amount of effort and organisation goes in to arranging branch events and when no support is forthcoming, it is frustrating for the organiser, the presenter and the Branch.

Members should be reminded of their obligation to undertake the requirements of CPD and these events are designed to enable them to fulfil that obligation.

25th November 2005 – Social Event “Wine and Wisdom” Charity Quiz Night

This year we chose to support the Institute’s 40th Anniversary Year charity, River Crossings for Nepal Campaign. The aim at the outset was to raise £1000, which would be sufficient to fund an entire crossing. We are delighted to report that this was achieved.



Chairman Billy Gooch presenting IHIE President Gerry Harvey with the cheque for £1000.

We were also delighted to have 16 teams (one more than our self imposed limit of 15) and, whilst it was a fun event, there was a keen competitive edge with a number of teams competing for the coveted Trophy.

Congratulations to the Chris Britton Consultancy Ltd, whose team ‘The Brains of Britton’ were successful in winning the trophy.

– PAST EVENTS – continued....

7th December 2005 – Technical Presentation “Automotive Power – Controlling the Fallout”

Paul Etheridge, Manager and Chief Engineer of the Motorcycle and Small Engine division of Ricardo Consulting Engineers gave Members and guests an illustrated talk on the subject and described the work which the Company has done on exhaust pollution from emissions of hydrocarbons and other noxious gases.

Paul covered a wide range of engines commencing with those fitted in WW1 tanks, through all types of petrol and diesel engines to the highly tuned racing engines in today's racing motorcycles and Formula 1 cars.

24th January 2006 – Technical Presentation ‘Le Crossing’ Dartford to Thurrock MAC Contract

The River Thames crossing on M25 at Dartford is one of Europe's most heavily used crossings and complex traffic management systems. Spanning the River Thames, it forms a vital link in the M25 Motorway.

The crossing comprises two separate two-lane tunnels carrying northbound traffic and a four-lane cable-stayed bridge carrying southbound traffic.



The Dartford Control Room

Le Crossing Company Ltd currently operates the crossing on behalf of the Highways Agency. The Southern Branch was fortunate to be able to arrange this presentation, outlining the complex procedures which are involved on a daily basis.

23rd February 2006 – Technical Presentation Portsmouth PFI Highways Contract

After a period of protracted negotiation, Colas Ltd. (operating as 'Ensign Highways Limited') was awarded the Portsmouth PFI Highways Contract. Commencing on 31st January 2005, the £500m contract confirmed that Colas assumed complete responsibility for all aspects of highway maintenance throughout the City's 480 kilometre road network, for the next 25 years!

This pioneering contract is innovative and, hitherto, unique. It does, however, set a benchmark that other Authorities and contractors appear keen to follow.

Like any pioneers, Portsmouth City Council's representatives have had to overcome many hurdles and the Branch arranged an afternoon's presentation when Jim Comport from Portsmouth CC and Brian Hicks from Ensign detailed their experiences.

23rd March 2006 – Technical Presentation Practical Action, Merrow

Following our successful Wine and Wisdom event and our presentation to the Charity, Fay Watson and John Grimwood representatives from “Practical Action” were invited to meet the Southern Branch and the IHIE President.

They gave an insight into the Charity's sustainable work overseas, with particular reference to the Bridges in Nepal, to which the branch had contributed £1,000.



Villagers doing a test trial at bottom station

Villagers in Nepal testing a rope bridge

19th April 2006 – Technical Presentation The Spinnaker Tower, Portsmouth

The Spinnaker Tower, now open to the public, has been dogged by controversy since its conception at the close of the 20th Century. This has unfortunately overshadowed the brilliance in its unique design and construction. Rising some 170 metres from a small site located adjacent to Portsmouth Harbour the Tower is the tallest accessible structure outside London.

John Tubman, Project Director for the Design Consultants, Scott Wilson, gave an illuminating talk about the design process and the difficult construction- site constraints. Already, the tower has received three times the number of visitors that was anticipated since its opening.



The completed Spinnaker Tower

– FUTURE EVENTS –

22nd June 2006 - AGM

Banstead Mobility Centre – Banstead, Surrey

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of the Southern Branch of the Institute of Highway Incorporated Engineers will be held on Thursday 22nd June 2006 at 12.00hrs at the Queen Elizabeth Foundation Mobility Centre, Damson Way, Carshalton, Surrey.

Members are requested to attend and the Agenda will be as follows:

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of 2005 Annual General Meeting
4. Matters Arising from previous minutes
5. Chairman's Report
6. Treasurer's Report – Presentation of Accounts
7. Appointment of Auditors
8. Elections to Committee
9. Any Other Business

Tony Suter,
Hon. Secretary, Southern Branch, IHIE

This will be an afternoon event commencing with a buffet lunch at midday.

There will be a presentation on the valuable work undertaken by the Centre on behalf of the Disabled and Members will have the opportunity take a tour of the facilities afterwards.

Guests and prospective members are also welcome. This is an ideal opportunity to show your colleagues who are not members the work that IHIE Southern Branch does.

Further details will appear on the Southern Branch website and to book your place in advance please contact Tony Suter the Branch Secretary at tony.suter@spitfireuk.net

20th September 2006

Annual Winchester Seminar at the Guildhall

'Sustain and Gain – Go for Green'

THIS IS NOT A SEMINAR ON RECYCLING – READ ON

While we encourage the use of recycled products wherever possible, as Highway and Transportation Engineers, we have a responsibility to produce and operate a high quality transport network, while keeping the environmental impact to a minimum.

This seminar addresses the prime principles to consider our task: highway design and construction to produce lines pleasing to the eye, reducing light and air pollution and promotion of Active Traffic Management together with other Telematics.

The delegate price this year has been held at £145.00

There are discounts for multiple bookings. For further details and reservations, please contact Nia Griffiths at nia.griffiths@surreycc.gov.uk

YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS THIS ONE!!

There will be a trade stand exhibition before and during the seminar. Organisations wishing to reserve a stand should contact Grahame Bath at grahame.bath@surreycc.gov.uk

Further details are available on the Southern Branch website.

24th November 2006

Wine and Wisdom Charity Quiz Night – Ripley Village Hall, Ripley, Surrey

This annual event will take place at the usual popular venue and will raise money for local charities within the Southern Branch area. Details will appear in due course on the website.

– CONTACT DETAILS –

Should you have any questions, or wish to discuss any matter regarding the Southern Branch, please contact:

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Alternatively, visit our website at:
www.ihie-southern.org.uk

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