

NOTES FROM THE GREATER LONDON REGION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 1 BIRDCAGE WALK ON 16 JULY 2014

Present: G. Hartill (GH) J. Tomlinson (JT)
 C. Ingram (CI) T. White (TW)
 C. Clarke (CC) I. Berry (IB)
 P. Knight (PK) J. Blake (JB)
 A. Du (AD)
 S. Haslam (SH) M. Saunders (MS)
 D. Pearce (DP) E. Parvis (EP)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Chairman Giles Hartill welcomed everyone and thanked them all for coming.

2. APOLOGIES

R. Sharma (RS) M. Osborn (MO)
Y. Yan (YY) S. Barker (SB)
V. Liu (VL) M. Pitt (MP)
C. Lowther (CL) C. Maycock (CM)
C. Brown (CB)

Absentees K. Huntington (KH)
 A. Perera (AP)

3. AGREEMENT ON AGENDA

- 3.1 Agreed.

4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

- 4.1 GH apologised for not having these sent around yet.

5. MATTERS ARISING AND ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING

- 5.1 None.

6. VOLUNTEER VACANCIES TO BE FILLED

- 6.1 Sarah Haslam has offered to continue her work as STEM Projects Co-ordinator and WISE Rep.
- 6.2 The Website and Publishing roles will be advertised. The RSB would also like the committee to have a Media officer.
- 6.3 JT proposed encouraging other institutions to create a liaising officer position to realise more coordination and collaboration between all institutions. Currently JT fulfils this role with the IChemE on behalf of the IMechE, and the IMechE and IET have a good close relationship. But the relationship with the ICE has soured recently (for some

unknown reason) and having representatives to meet or coordinate with each other would mean that each representative does not have to go to all meetings

6.4 SH proposed that she contact Dr Hazel Screen, a member of the NWA, in regard to the WISE representative that the Committee requires.

6.5 There is no immediate successor for the Climate Change role and this will be advertised.

7. HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

7.1 This year's expenses are anticipated to fall slightly below the expectations of the budget. The Bank account is healthy with not too many more expenses expected. The Committee is owed £2k by the ICE.

7.2 There are greater uncertainties for next year's budget, with the expectation of greater collaboration with the IET and more analysis is needed.

7.3 The £36 per day is now £40 but this is not of great concern, due to the bank balance and taking into account inflation since the introduction of the £36 per day guide 2 years ago.

7.4 The Budget for next year needs to be agreed in Early to Mid August. CC and VL will be coordinating a large Skype call with all of the GLR areas to determine this and agree the submitted budget

8. COUNCIL/RSB UPDATE

8.1 SH is the RSB new Deputy Chair.

8.2 The board has a new strategy model, which is currently in limbo since Colin Mitchison has left. However, there is a great vibe around this new model and the council look forward to beginning to implement it at their next meeting in October.

8.3 At the previous meeting in May, two significant agreements were made that the IMechE would not sell its building and that it would not merge with the IET. Other points of comment were that the IMechE has grown significantly and particularly internationally. The Global Food report was met with great interest and gave the Institute significant recognition and a positive high profile status internationally.

9. AREA UPDATES

9.1 Central Events

9.1.1 The Visits to Marshall Aerospace was and the Health and Safety Talks were both well attended and received

9.1.2 PK has many ideas that she is working on with grateful input from others. There is the possibility of a talk on the production of the BMW mini and on the 17th of September there will be a talk on the technology of the Great War campaign. She is also talking to CC who has a contact willing to give a talk on the engineering of backstage equipment, but this could also be a lecture given at a joint IET/IMechE event.

9.1.3 PK intends to coordinate with Tim Fox to obtain a list of future reports that the IMechE is intending to publish so that she can coordinate events in line with these reports. She is also looking for internal and external representatives to advertise the events.

9.2 **NW Area**

9.2.1 On the 24th of June there was a walking tour of London. The event was well attended and well received.

9.2.2 A meeting is planned for the week commencing 21st of July to determine upcoming events at Brunel University. There have been many well attended events in the recent past from Aston Martin and Triumph.

9.2.3 There are plans to hold an event at Mander Organs. The last organ builders left in London.

9.3 **SW Area**

9.3.1 GH will contact KH to receive an update

9.4 **S Area**

9.4.1 Recent events include talks on 3D printing as well as the organisation of luncheon clubs which have been well attended with a low turnover.

9.5 **YMP**

9.5.1 The YMP plan to have a networking dinner in October, a speak out for Engineering event in November and a Christmas dinner in December to round off the calendar year. The Big Balloon debate is yet to be scheduled.

9.5.2 A technical visit has been organised with the Building Research Establishment on the 17th of October

9.5.3 Stuart Barker is to step aside at the next AGM and is beginning to organise the transition period.

10. **EDUCATION ACTIVITIES**

10.1 The University design challenge was a great event with much positive feedback. Kingston University finished in first place with Middlesex second. The challenge was to design a device to climb up the inside

of a piece of vertical transparent tube lifting an increasing load – with the quickest team winning, all on a £20 budget. The fastest time recorded on the day was 4.6 seconds with the winning team having a time of 5.2 seconds. The winning teams final is on the 3rd of October.

10.2 The idea gaining more and more national recognition and the idea is that all regions will have their own series of challenges.

10.3 There is a concern that the amount of resource required to organise such events has been underestimated and there are issues with encouraging certain universities to take part because of their perceived prestige of the event, the ability for the university to fit it into their syllabus and/or a concern of loss of face from certain institutions if they do not do well. It is proposed that we use the YMP to encourage young members to influence their university and encourage them to take part in the event.

11. ENGINEERING INSTITUTION LIAISON

11.1 Members of the IET and IMechE met on the first of July to discuss 6 proposed events for the coming year; Joint New Year's Lecture, The Lunch club, Joint IET/IMechE Summer Fair for Families, Inter-Institution Debating Series, IET and IMechE Committee Socials and Cobra Meetings.

11.2 Various points were discussed on booking requirements and budgets for the joint events.

12. GLR AREA STRUCTURE

12.1 GH discussed one of his ideas for the future of the region. Currently the GLR has three regions; Northwest, Southwest and Southern. Obviously there is little to no representation for the east of London and this is something that should be addressed.

12.2 The response was positive, and the committee discussed why the eastern region has been lost. It was put forward that this was due to a gradual loss of engineers in the region, with large engineering firms moving out of the area.

12.3 CC made the point that the budget would have to cope with the extra regional requirement should the region be rejuvenated but that to encourage the region events will be the main focus.

12.4 GH and CI agreed that an analysis of the known members by postcode will give focus to the promotion of the area. More detail would be discussed at the next meeting.

13. AOB

13.1 JT also announced to the group that the proposal he has worked on with members of the IChemE to build a pilot scale molten salt reactor

has been successful. The project is due to start construction on the 1st of September. JT passed on his thanks to the members that had helped with the successful bid and the committee congratulated him and the rest of the team.

- 13.2 IB mentioned an article featured in the latest edition of PE written by Stephen Tetlow MBE, chief executive of the IMechE. The article requests proposals less than 500 words long, on one of the institutions five strategic themes. Key proposals will be featured in the magazine and put to a members vote to appear in the IMechE manifesto which will published in the autumn. The committee agreed to promote this article within the committee members to try and get good representation from the GLR. CI is to send out an email to all members of the committee promoting this.

14. NEXT MEETING DATES

- 14.1 Various weeks for committee meetings until next January were discussed and agreed. CI will confirm these meeting dates with the rest of the committee when he has secured meeting rooms with HQ.

15. CLOSE.

Charles Ingram

Hon. Secretary
GLR Committee
19th July 2014