

Birmingham Health, Safety & Environment Association

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Newsletter

January 2008

BHSEA Success in Safety Groups UK Alan Butler Awards **Winners of the Category 2 Award- Best Support for HSE Priority Topics**



L to R. Bob Cole, Morgan Est, BHSEA Chairman; Gerry Mulholland, Laing O'Rourke, BHSEA Construction Chairman; Judith Hackett, Chairman, Health and Safety Commission.

Alan Butler represented the Sheffield Occupational Health and Safety Association on the National Health and Safety Groups Council (the predecessor to SGUK) from July 1985 and was first Vice-Chairman and then Chairman from 1991 until his untimely death in 1995. In his memory The Alan Butler Awards for Excellence have been made for the past 11 years by the Safety Groups UK organisation, which represents about 80 groups nationwide, like BHSEA. The awards are sponsored by the BT Group plc and are given for Best Overall Programme, Best support for HSE priority Topics, Best Seminar/Workshop and Best Communication and Best Communication.

BHSEA were also awarded Highly Commended in Category 3 – Best Seminar / Workshop



L to R. Mark Hoare, Birmingham University, BHSEA Vice-President; Bob Cole, Morgan Est, BHSEA Chairman; Judith Hackett, Chairman, Health and Safety Commission; Ed Friend, Consultant, BHSEA Vice-Chairman.

The BHSEA Honorary Officers in this photograph were all elected to their positions at this year's AGM.

Mark Hoare has been Chairman for the last two years and works for Birmingham University. He started his working life as a Graduate in Mining Engineering in 1976 and worked for British Coal (formally the National Coal Board) as an underground engineer until being made redundant in 1993. He joined University of Birmingham as a Health and Safety Adviser in 1994 and is now their Health and Safety Manager. As BHSEA Vice President he represents BHSEA at SGUK meetings and will continue with his important task of maintaining the BHSEA website.

Bob Cole has been a BHSEA Construction Member for about 25 years and was Construction Section Chairman in 1986-87. He has attained CFIOSH membership and has been in safety for 33 years. He started working life as a carpenter and progressed through site management and joined RM Douglas as trainee safety adviser in 1975. He progressed to Group Chief Safety Adviser with Douglas, later to become Interserve, and subsequently joined Morgan Est in 1992 where he is now Chief Safety Adviser.

Ed Friend is a relatively new recruit as a BHSEA Member, having worked in a previous life for the HSE, whence he retired about three years ago as Head of Operations in the Midlands Division. His BHSEA history, however, goes back many years before that, when he worked in the HSE's Birmingham office and took part in many events with the Association.

BHSEA Annual General Meeting

Chairman Mark Hoare opened the meeting by welcoming our speaker for the afternoon, Dr. Paul Billinger, HM Principal Inspector West Midlands Region and BHSEA Member Brian Gurnett, who was attending for the first time.

The Secretary read out apologies from, BHSEA President, Morris Cooke, Warwick Adams, Leon Coates, Beverley Davies and Dick Bush.

Members had previously been sent the minutes of the 2007 AGM and, as there were no comments on accuracy, the Chairman signed them as an accurate record.

As there were no Matters Arising from the minutes, the Chairman referred to his written report and said that he didn't want to go through the whole report but would just highlight some points. It was generally a successful year; although membership numbers were slightly lower – a reflection of the conditions affecting all businesses locally. 2007 started well in January, with the two Alan Butler Awards, presented by the Health and Safety Minister, Lord Mackenzie, at the Annual Ceremony in the House of Lords. He added that it had finished in a similar vein with the announcement of our winning entry in the 2007 Awards for the Best Support of HSE Priority Topics. This was accompanied by a Highly Commended award for the Best Seminar/Workshop, for our very successful CDM event in May. Our programme of regular meetings covered a broad range of topics but had been tinged, sadly by the sudden death of Alan St. John Holt, shortly before his talk in June. His company, Royal Mail, responded admirably to the situation by providing a substitute speaker at such short notice. Mark also paid tribute to the support given by the Construction Section in the Working Well Together (WWT) Safety and Health Awareness Day (SHADs). He went on to report on the visit by a 15-strong delegation from the Department of Work Administration in Beijing, to our Quinton Advice Centre in October, as part of their examination of Construction best practice in the UK. This was a particularly welcome tribute to BHSEA's standing in the profession.

Mark commented that the Newsletter continued to play an important role in our activities, as did the website that had received praise from many users. He added that he had joined BHSEA 14 years ago and could see that the Association was more involved now in local activities. He went on to say that he had found his time as Chairman very enjoyable and was grateful for the support of the Council and Management Committee. He also paid particular thanks to Liz and Andy Chappell for their work for the Association.

Mark went on to comment that BHSEA was always looking for ‘new blood’ to help on the various committees so that we could rise to the continuing challenges. As BHSEA completed its 77th year it was on a threshold, with the safety profession facing a credibility crisis, thanks to the ravages of ‘Clarksonism’ and the ‘bonkers-conkers’ media attacks!

Mark concluded his report by thanking the members for their support at the various meetings and events throughout his time as Chairman.

Construction Section Chairman, **Gerry Mulholland** started his report by saying that there had been three formal events throughout the year. The most significant of these had been the one-day forum at the National Motor Cycle Museum in May, to host the launch of the new Construction (Design & Management) Regulations 2007. This was the only CDM event in the Midlands that was supported in by the Health & Safety Executive and was the culmination of a process that was started two years ago, when BHSEA hosted a Consultation Meeting for HSE in this very room! This year’s forum attracted some 250 delegates and put BHSEA ‘on the map’ as being able to run a large national event. Gerry added his special to Richard Lockwood, HM Principal Inspector

One very unusual event this year had been the prestige visit by the Chinese delegation from Beijing that was arranged at very short notice. Gerry went on to say that he had been able to obtain the support of Lord Bill Jordan of Bournville, Deputy President of RoSPA, at this meeting, together with Richard Lockwood from HSE. Their presence had added great value to the success of the meeting and had added an international element to our range of activities.

As to whether our efforts were having any tangible benefits, Gerry said that he had obtained the latest statistics for West Midlands and Warwickshire, from Richard Lockwood. Over the past two years, the figures were: -

	Fatalities	Major Injuries	> 3 Day Accidents
2006	5	230	381
2007	1	172	331

Over this period, the number of notifiable CDM jobs were slightly down but the results were a welcome change and it was hoped that our contribution had helped to make a difference. Gerry went on to say that we had played a large part in the WWT Campaign and added that this was greatly due to Andy Chappell’s ‘drive’ in moving it forward.

Finally, he thanked the Construction Committee, Construction Members, Richard Lockwood and Liz & Andy Chappell for their valued support throughout the year.

Andy Chappell, BHSEA Secretary then presented the 2007 Accounts for approval and commented that he had not received any written questions from members, following the publication of the Annual Report prior to the AGM. He highlighted the healthy financial activity throughout the year and the increase in assets at the end of the period. **Brian Duncley** proposed that the Accounts were accepted, this was seconded by **Eric Hickman** and APPROVED by the Members.

The Chairman then asked the Secretary to explain the process for Election of Honorary Officers and Council Members. Andy drew members attention to the list of nominations published with the Minutes of the last AGM and said that there had been two changes as a result of retirement. The modified list was then submitted for election 'en bloc' and this was proposed by **David Hughes**, seconded by **George Allcock** and APPROVED by the Members.

At this stage, the outgoing Chairman handed over his medallion office to Bob Cole, the newly elected Chairman. In accordance with our practice of the outgoing Chairman assuming the role of Vice-President, Bob Cole handed this badge of office to Mark, together with his 'Past Chairman's' lapel badge and the traditional gift of appreciation for service as Chairman.

Bob Cole then formally closed the AGM.

Inaugural "Members' Corner" Presentation

As part of our on-going programme of development, the Council has decided to give Members the opportunity to speak to the monthly meetings about topics of their own choosing. The first few of these will be presented by Council Members, to establish the initiative, and this initial one is being done by **George Allcock, of GKN plc**, who suggested the idea in the first place. The focus of these presentations is to share practices that have been successfully applied in the workplace by BHSEA Members, who think they may be useful to their colleagues in the Association. This demonstrates a strong desire to get 'back to our roots' by reintroducing the networking strengths of our Association.

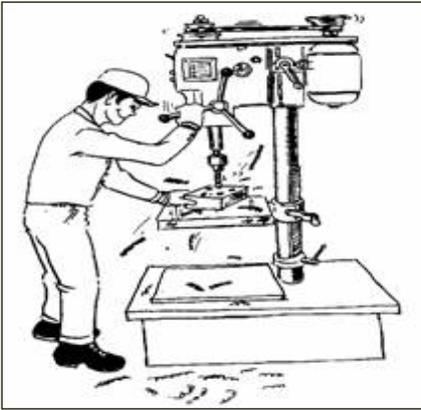
George chose as his topic the "RADAR" system, designed to encourage workers to adopt responsibility for their own safety within a recognised Company-wide philosophy. The name is an acronym for: -

Risk Awareness, Detection, Action and Review

It is based on a Japanese Training technique and has the following elements: -

1. It is a regular (monthly) team activity for everyone, everywhere in GKN plc.
2. It enhances safety awareness/sensitisation and commitment.
3. It focuses on issues and behaviours within individual employee or team control.

4. It helps to identify and remove barriers.
 5. It directly involves and develops leaders and line managers.
 6. It helps drive and support the continuous improvement, which is part of a 'quality' approach.
- BUT
7. It needs a supportive culture and visible & active leadership at all levels.



George went on to cite an example of a drilling operation in a workshop and described the main stages of the process: -

1. Information and explanation by the team leader.
2.
 - a. What are the possible dangers/risks? – using Hazard/Opportunity Identification.
 - b. How serious are the dangers/risks? Allocate a High, Medium or Low risk.
 - c. What are the **biggest** dangers?
3.
 - a. What **actions & countermeasures** would reduce risk
 - b. What type of **action/countermeasure** is it? **E**ngineering, **S**ystem (Procedure) or **B**ehavioural (People)
 - c. Which are the **most important actions** and **behaviours** within the **control of the team?**
4. We all **agree** to take the actions.
5. Comments, further actions, follow-up and verification are taken by the team leader and the line manager

The findings of the **RADAR** investigation are recorded on a simple form by hand for posting on the cell/team notice board to get maximum exposure. This form makes maximum use of photographs to illustrate the work process and to highlight any **Safe/Unsafe, Behaviour/Condition**. The value of the photographic material produced by this technique is utilised repeatedly to develop visual information on posters to remind all workers of the **Correct/Safe** and **Incorrect/Unsafe** way of doing a multitude of common tasks!

George concluded by emphasising the advantage of placing such a technique within the control of those at risk, so that they could identify problems and develop their own solutions to protect themselves.

Keynote Presentation on 14th January 2008
HSE work in 2008/09

Dr. Paul Billinger, HM Principal Inspector, HSE West Midlands Region

Paul apologised for Nick Ratty, Head of Operations not being able to attend because of urgent matters to address elsewhere. He went on to explain that the significant changes currently occurring in HSE West Midlands Groups had resulted in him taking on responsibility for Birmingham, Solihull, Coventry and Dudley, whilst his counterpart, Brian covered Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Walsall. He commented that his presentation would be restricted to the Field Operations Directorate and would not include Construction or Major Hazards Work plans.

The main themes of the work plan were based on the Fit 3 Campaign ('Fit for Work, Fit for Life, Fit for Tomorrow') objectives to improve performance: -

- In the Public sector, Stress, Return to Work and Managing Sickness Absence
- Moving goods Safely and Workplace Transport in Logistics Company HQs, Pallet hubs, and Road Haulage.
- Falls in Facilities Management Companies
- Slips in contract Cleaning Companies
- Backs Campaign nationwide in early 2008 when an **Upper Limb Disorder (ULD) Tool** would be launched.

Paul commented that that HSE found a range of performances from very good in some Pallet Hubs to poor in some bad premises and went on to say: -

- Fatalities were down on last year, but
- An increase in Hand Arm Vibration cases had been reported
- Knowledge of Asbestos, and the duty to manage it, was still very variable
- Legionella control was still not good enough – an outbreak occurred in Dudley
- The Standard of Risk Assessment was still poor – they need to be appropriate and more meaningful, with less emphasis on paperwork! Many were trivial, with a mass of irrelevant rubbish!
- Machinery accidents were possibly increasing – particularly on drilling work with a potential for serious accidents

Looking forward, Paul said that New Inspection Topics would be developed from a fine-tuning Review of HSE work activities. The inspections would concentrate on the Fit3 themes but would also deal with "Matters of Evident Concern" (MECs) if seen. Paul explained that MECs are situations with a potential for multiple injuries or serious health risks, when there is a need to proactively question about specific issues. Examples are: -

- **Fire and Explosion** (LPG storage & pipework, flammable solids, dust, means of escape, stoving and evaporating ovens etc.)
- **Health** (Stress, Legionella, metalworking fluids, confined spaces)
- **Structural Safety** (condition of buildings, cast-iron support columns)
- **Pressure Vessels** (Steam boilers, autoclaves)

Paul added that HSE were about to start a programme of visits to registered users of cooling towers, which would continue into the next work year. Machinery safety issues would also be pursued if observed during visits. The workplan would also concentrate on Injury Reduction in the following areas: -

- **Slips, Trips and Falls from height** – Building/Plant maintenance, food industry,
- **Slips & Trips** – Cleaning contractors; professional kitchens in schools, colleges, education, care homes and prisons.
- **Moving Goods Safely** – Transport routemap

- **Noise and Vibration** – Manufacturing, health surveillance

There was also a similar workplan for Disease Reduction: -

- **Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV) Control Standards** – Major LEV project in the Midlands into standards of design, use and maintenance in Rubber, foundries, steel fabrication, welding, Motor Vehicle Repair (MVR), Metal Working Fluids (MWF)
- **Asbestos** – continue awareness campaign and enforcement of Duty to Manage.
- **Dermatitis** – Printing, Metalworking, food (“Avoid, Protect, Check”)

Paul went on to say that other elements of the Workplan included: -

- **Fairgrounds** – revised guidance to be issued, including a schedule of Non-destructive Testing Standards.
- **Gas Safety** – continued awareness campaign on Carbon Monoxide risks.
- **Migrant & vulnerable workers** – Working with the Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA)

The Midlands would be carrying out special investigations into: -

- Standards for managing H &S in care homes
- LEV Standards would be expanded to all relevant issues.
- Legionella work would include a mapping exercise.

Paul added that this would be a process of Evolution NOT Revolution! He concluded by mentioning the imminence of the Corporate Manslaughter and corporate homicide Act 2007 and the BHSEA one-day Seminar in June. The HSE will work with the Police who will lead any prosecution on this legislation.

Members' Questions

Bob Cole of Morgan Est asked what the accident results were in the midlands and Paul replied that fatalities were much lower, although Major injuries were similar to last year.

Gerry Mulholland of Laing O'Rourke about the relationship between HSE and Police on the Corporate Manslaughter Act and Paul said that it was not yet understood consistently in all forces.

Mark Hoare of Birmingham University enquired about the number of HSE Inspectors in the Region. Paul replied that there were eight Inspectors and HSAOs to cover Birmingham, Solihull, Dudley and Coventry.

Jim Curran of Curran Webb Ltd. asked for Paul's opinion about the merits of the proposed ULD Tool against the existing Manual Handling Assessment Chart (MAC). Paul said that the MAC was an effective technique but he did not have any information on how effective the ULD Tool could be. Jim added that he thought the HSE Website

was an excellent source of guidance and Paul added that HSAOs demonstrated the use of it during their visits.

Ed Friend of E.L.Friend Ltd. asked, in the light of increasing machinery accidents, if the number of inspections to SMEs was significant and how the number of Inspectors was related to Accident Prevention. Paul answered that HSE used accidents as a spur to inspect SMEs.

George Allcock of GKN plc, asked what the inspection policy was with regard to large companies. Paul replied that there were central contacts with big companies and that it was in their commercial interests to improve the safety performance of SMEs in their supply chain.

Mark Hoare asked about how Stress Inspections were carried out. Paul said that HSE looked at the stress produced by organisational structures. **John Wood of FPA** commented that Insurance Companies looked out for stress and **Ed Friend** added that he thought it could be a potentially large workload for HSE.

As there were no other questions, the Chairman closed the meeting by thanking Paul for his thought provoking presentation and asked members to show their appreciation in the usual manner.

News of ex-BHSEA Member from abroad

We have recently received this interesting article about one of our BHSEA Council Members from Gerry Mulholland of Laing O'Rourke. It seems that, just as "Old Soldiers never die", old BHSEA Members never fade away, either!

40 Years Service and Leading the Health & Safety Campaign

This year marked 40 years since Roy Gill first began working within the Laing O'Rourke. During this period, dramatic improvements have been made in safety welfare, through changing people's attitudes and working practices.

Roy started working in the UK (Bristol) as a carpenter and joiner in 1967, on a five year apprenticeship. By 1972 and having gained several qualifications, Roy was awarded a number of impressive honours – including Apprentice of the Year (twice).

Throughout the following years, swift promotions to General Foreman and Section Manager were achieved.

In 1978 Roy joined the Health and Safety Department and was rapidly promoted to Regional Safety Manager (Midlands). During the next 23 years Roy provided Safety Advisory Services to the civil engineering, utility and specialist offshore sectors (oil rigs). This position led to more awards and Roy's appointment as Chairman of the UK National Health and Safety Groups Council.

Since 2003, Roy has been Head of Safety for the Middle East and Asia Business Unit. His responsibilities include operations in Dubai and Abu Dhabi, and providing advice to DLF Laing O'Rourke in India. In 2003 Roy received his ROSPA Distinguished Service Award from Lord Faulkner, for his outstanding contributions to health and safety.

Summarising year on year safety improvements and continued objectives, Roy concluded;

"The HS&E Team is respected by both the management and workforce, enabling vital information, instruction and training to be delivered at all levels. Safety is included as the first item on the Agenda at Board and Management Meetings. The support to date has been exceptional - we just need to continue our efforts to attain our stated aim of 'everyone returning home safely every day'."



Date of the next Meeting

**2.00 pm on Monday 11th February 2008
at the Birmingham Medical Institute**

“The new REACH Regulations

Richard Bishop, HM Inspector of Health and Safety, UK REACH Competent Authority

REACH is an endearing acronym for the important, new ***Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation & restriction of Chemicals Regulations.***

These Regulations are aimed at giving users of chemicals a high level of protection of human health and the environment from their use. In part they will do this by making the people who place chemicals on the market (manufacturers and importers) responsible for understanding and managing the risks associated with their use. This is intended to make COSHH Assessments more manageable.

As usual, there will be a Buffet Lunch at 1.15.p.m