



Birmingham Health, Safety & Environment Association

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Newsletter

August 2009

In Memoriam



It is with the deepest sadness that we have to report the death of our President, Doctor Morris Cooke, on 2nd August 2009, after a short illness. His cremation took place at Lodge Hill Cemetery and was attended by Members of the BHSEA Management Committee.

Doctor Morris Arthur Cooke, 1919 – 2009

R I P

At the time of his death, Morris Cooke had been our President for 30 years and during that period has been an enduring, driving force behind the scenes. Although I became a member of the BHSEA Council in 1987, it wasn't until I took on the role of Secretary in 1996 that I became to know Morris more closely. I soon began to realise and appreciate that, unlike Presidents in many voluntary organisations, Morris was not just a President 'on paper' but was a real source of wise counsel in the Management Committee.

But it was a few years later, when I was researching BHSEA history for our 75th Anniversary celebrations that I really learnt so much more about the true man-of-substance behind Morris's quiet, unassuming exterior. Not only did he possess an amazingly long list of medical qualifications, but also he complemented these with practical experience in several major industrial organisations and local government appointments. He also played a major part in the academic side of his profession, with lectureships, positions on numerous professional bodies, presentations to learned bodies, authorships of books and professional papers. And, if that was not enough, he and his late wife worked together as General Practitioners and still found time to start a medical dynasty with three sons who have all become eminent medical Consultants!

I feel privileged to have worked beside Morris and I know that there are many BHSEA Members who will share my gratitude for his valued support and my sadness at his passing.

Welcome
to Our New Members

We wish to extend a warm welcome to the following members, who have recently joined BHSEA: -

- Dennis Turner, Director, DJT & Son Ltd.
- Paul Hampton, Business Development Manager, University of Wolverhampton
- Susan Bruland, Director, Automatic Doors Ltd.
- Gerard Wilcox, Director, Chasetown Civil Engineering Ltd.
- John Duffy, Health and Safety Standards Manager, Leon Management Services Ltd.
- Michelle Wright, CDM Co-ordinator
- Graham Dunn, Health and Safety Facilitator, The Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- James Reynolds, Work Force Learning Manager, North East Worcestershire College

HM Revenue and Customs Business Advice Open Day

This FREE event is being held at Aston Villa Football Club, on Wednesday 16th September 2009 and BHSEA will be there as an Exhibitor. Kick-off is at 9.00 am for a really useful set of presentations, exhibitions and one-to-one advice sessions on topics of vital interest to small businesses in particular.

A publicity leaflet is enclosed with this Newsletter and booking arrangements are included.

BHSEA Membership subscriptions for 2009/10

Invoices for the 2009/2010 Annual Subscriptions were sent out last week. Despite rising costs, the rates have been maintained at previous levels so we should be grateful if members would submit their payments as promptly as possible.

In some cases, member's firms require an order number to be on the invoice before payment will be processed. Because BHSEA submits an invoice BEFORE firms place an order, it is necessary for us to ask members to obtain an order number internally and write it on our invoice before submitting it for payment. A reminder to this effect is written on the invoice.

BHSEA Recruitment Campaign

Earlier this year, we circulated our new publicity leaflets with the monthly Newsletter and appealed to members that they should try to recruit one new member from their business contacts in an attempt to spread the Health and Safety message.

Although we have received a steady trickle of new members, as you can see from this Newsletter, the numbers do not match the ambitious, hoped-for target of one for each existing member! So we are repeating this appeal, so that we can extend our network to more workplaces across the West Midlands.

If anyone needs more leaflets, please get in touch with the Secretary.

Free information - Ladder safety: Laying bare the ladder lies

“If it's right to use a ladder, use the right ladder, and get trained to use it safely.” This is the key message of the 2009 edition of The LadderBook, which contains updated sections, information on risk avoidance, and tips for planning ahead.

The A5 guide also describes how to keep ladders in good working order, and how to apply the Ladder Association's STEP methodology. It aims to dispel many of the myths and misconceptions surrounding ladder use, and contains an interview with HSE chief executive, Geoffrey Podger. Commenting on the new edition of The LadderBook, chair of the Ladder Association, Don Aers, said: “Demonstration of competence is a key requirement of work at height legislation. It is essential that

users have an understanding of the legislation and regulations, product standards and classifications, and, of course, the hazards they are likely to encounter on site.”

Added Mark Winfield, director of HSS Training, sponsor of the publication: “We recognise the uniqueness of The LadderBook in the industry and support its efforts to promote the safest means possible of using ladders in the workplace.”

A PDF of The LadderBook is available to download from www.ladderassociation.org.uk

Date of the next Meeting

**2.00 pm on Monday 14th September 2009
at the Birmingham Medical Institute**

The new HSE Guidance on First Aid Training

Glenn Musgrove, MOHS Workplace Health Ltd.

Midlands Occupational Health Service has been involved in the delivery of First aid Training over many decades and has worked closely HSE in the development of the new guidelines. Glenn will outline the extent of the new proposals and their implications for employers. Importantly he will demonstrate the influence of risk assessment in arrangements for first aid and advise on the level of provision and specification of equipment that is not mentioned in the current guidance.

ALSO

The role of HSE with ‘Vulnerable Groups’

Janine Tickle, Diversity Officer, HSE Midlands External Partnership Team

Janine’s role is part of a 12 month pilot in the West Midlands conurbation to raise the HSE’s profile with ‘Vulnerable Groups’, such as the disabled, young persons, ethnic minorities, migrant workers, or agency workers. Too often, the HSE is viewed by such groups as only within an enforcement role and their purpose/usefulness as an advisory body is either overlooked or undiscovered. Janine is seeking to work from the ‘bottom up’ by adopting a ‘grass-roots’ approach within these communities, combined with ‘top-down’ networking in business groups and associations like BHSEA.

AND – Don’t forget!

Buffet lunch at 1.15 pm