



AGM October 2020

It is with deep regret, that we have had to postpone the Technical Meeting and AGM at Silverstone Race Circuit. We had over 120 members and guests due to attend this event. Unfortunately, the Prime Minister has just announced that such events cannot happen at this time.

This certainly has been a strange year for us all. Thankfully, we did manage to get one Technical Meeting at the MK Dons Stadium in February, which was a great success.

Even though we are in strange and unprecedented times, Council as always, have been working tirelessly on your behalf. Like most business's and Institutes, we have had to go with the times. A lot of our meetings have been conducted via Zoom. The Chairman, Vice President (Financial Oversight) and myself have had weekly meetings via zoom to enable the Institute to run as efficiently as possible, this has also been made possible by the flexibility of our staff, so a big thanks to Richard and Bridget.

Obviously, this is not the first event we have had to cancel. We were fortunate enough to hold the Presidents golf last weekend with 16 members participating, the winner being our Membership Secretary Adrian with a Stapleford score of 36.

Membership

We have increased our membership levels by a staggering 443 members in the last 11 months. We have also had an increase in our Affiliate membership by 43%. So, a big thank you to Adrian and the membership team.

We also managed to beat the lockdown in March and open our first branch in Abu Dhabi. Which was well supported by the new branch members.

Our TFRAR registers have continued to grow, especially in the last three months.

Strategies

As a Council we have been aware of our rapid growth and the need to predict a format in moving the Institute in a positive direction. We held a two-day intensive meeting in July. We are putting together a formal five-year Strategic Plan that will give us a clear focus on the way forward. We have tasked John Cowie to pull all our findings into several individual strategies and hopefully, these should be completed by the end of the year.

Committees

We continue to represent the Institute on many Committees at all levels including: -

- The Fire Sector Federation
- BAFE executive Committee
- Working Group 4
- Working Group 8

Sponsorship

Over the last two years we have found sponsorship helpful in allowing certain members of Council to organise and attend meetings etc. without using membership funds. This is something we will endeavour to continue in the future.

Council

Graham Green and Lloyd Morgan are stepping down from Council and I would like to thank them for the solid contributions they have given to Council over the years. I wish them both well for the future.

Also, a thank you to our current Council, who have brought the Institute to a new level: -

- Chairman Bob Docherty
- Membership Adrian Simpson
- Accreditation John Cowie
- Council member Amanda White
- Council co-opted member Adam Kiziak
- Vice President Stuart Cocking
- Vice President Peter Cowland
- Vice President Ray Colyer

We have formulated a new document for new Council & Co-Opted Council members which will be sent to you as part of the Virtual AGM package for your information and approval.

I can assure you we will get back to normality as soon as we possibly can, in the meantime, I would like to wish you and your families well in these difficult times. Do not forget we are here for you as and when you need us.

Kindest Regards

Dave

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