

IChemE Teesside Branch Committee Meeting – TU 12 December 2022

Minutes

Present

Neville Blackwell Laurence Ashley Peter Dodd
Sam Gooneratne Nick Howard Joseph Fisher

Apologies

Molly Bell Adrian Northey Ralph Grob Stephen Pallant

Distribution to Committee including Emily McFazdean, Mark Wilson, Peter Hunt, Paul Dumain, Richard Maltby, Dmytro Stratiychuk-Dear, Faisal Mahmood, Andrea Pearson, Paul Frank and Ginette Kontcho.

Minutes had been circulated.

Matters arising – none.

Items for AOB TU is putting on a Hydrogen Safety Awareness session on 23 January. Nick offered this to be offered to members. He will provide more details. **Action Nick**

We would then do the publicity.

Financial report. – Nothing further. IChemE to respond to budget submission.

Events review

- Membership talks by Olivia O’Callaghan happened successfully on 7 December. The session with students went well though only 5 were present. The interaction at the evening session for 17 members was very good. Questions ran on for 40 minutes. This was well worth doing and Olivia is very responsive.

Events being planned

- Safety case study on Area Classification- Faisal Mahmood. Faisal wanted this to be face to face and give students the opportunity to attend. Avoid Wednesdays. Faisal to choose date, set title and write abstract and bio. **Action Faisal**
- Plastic recycling - Ellis Marshall, Head of Recycling at TU has been contacted. Ellis believes this will be Q2 since the new Net Zero building opens in March. **Action Peter D**
- CF – removed from the list due to the uncertainty of the business due to energy prices.
- Mark Wilson has some contact with the Quorn business and will ask for a talk/visit. **Action Mark**
- ChemEng evolution. The Centenary. Paul Frank has agreed to talk on the evolution/history of Chem Eng. on Teesside area. **Action Paul F**
- Nick has offered Simon Harrison to do a talk on incident investigation. The date needs fixing for late February. **Action Peter D**

- Lawrence had heard that there was a regional CIA report for the NE. Could we get a speaker? **Action Lawrence**
- CPI have done a lot of high profile Covid activities. Is there a possible talk from there? Contact Harvey Branston(?) **Action Peter D**
- Given the investment at Fujifilm, is there a possibility of a tour? **Action Andrea(?)**
- There is a lot of interest on Hydrogen. Could Venkat (TU) give a talk? Possibly after the end of the academic teaching year? **Action Sam**
- There are more forms to fill out to hold meetings. We need to be working with probably 8 weeks' notice. **Action PDs/FM//NH/SG**

Quiz. The Quiz date will go back into the new year due to Covid, work and family pressures. We look forward this the quiz when possible. **Action Adrian**

Annual Dinner The date has been fixed for Thursday 9 March 2023 at Judges. Neville, Peter H and Molly have been progressing this. We have indications to purchase 83 dinner places. 47 local companies are being written too. We have 4 company sponsors and 1 award nomination so far. The dinner is looking to be on. The aim was to complete the invitations by 21 December, when the next dinner meeting was planned.

We decided previously that we could offer the meal at cost to students, i.e., student pays for the meal but no contribution for anything else. Sam had agreed to sound out the students and this was still seen as too expensive. Was there a way to allow students to get sold but unused places? There would usually be 1 or 2 as guests cancel at the last minute. This has some practical issues. **Action Dinner Committee**

We had thought of asking Ben Houchen but given that Chris Beck gave a good and interesting talk, he works for Ben and Ben may decline due to other activities, we decided to ask Chris. **Action Peter D**

Post meeting note. Chris has accepted the invitation to be our after dinner speaker. IChemE are looking into any IChemE speaker too.

Schools and University liaison Nothing to report.

AOB

It was likely that the new IChemE CEO would be a Chemical Engineer rather than scientists looking for an institutional role. We felt that we need to promote the value of the profession. It is not just about running the organisation.

Actions review

SharePoint from IChemE has started but not yet for member groups. There has been an email for training. SharePoint is in use for most IChemE activities. This will allow Peter/Joe to upload distribution list and meeting notes. The event flowchart from Ralph will be uploaded when SharePoint is available along with the Event Organising Spreadsheet.

Action Peter D



Brewery tour – There are dates available. Tickets are £20 which includes 3 free pints. We felt that encouraging drinking 3 pints might not be advisable and we need to enquire about other cheaper alternatives. Either late Q2 or next Christmas? **Action Peter D**

Opportunities for growth Where are new graduates going? Should we pull together the development facilities on Teesside? CPI, National Horizons Centre, M'bro College. Neville had seen that the total **IChemE membership** had fallen from 45,000 to 30,000 over 6 years. What was happening? Peter reported that the number of students is well down as the Institution felt it was out of balance across the grades. IMechE give free memberships to get students in but IChemE charges. Is this a factor? The number of students entering Chem Eng courses is also declining. More will follow.

Bring it on was at the Stadium of Light, Sunderland on 12 and 13 October. How did this event unfold? **Action Adrian**

Nick and Olivia were going to meet virtually to talk about Company Accreditation.

Action Nick

Attendance. We would like to send diary requests using the TU Teams site, but we need permission from members because email addresses will be visible within TU. **Action Most**

Neville saw that there was a North West grouping of Chester, Cumbria, Widnes and N Wales. Peter to investigate. We have been trying to contact Tyneside and Humberside.

Action Peter D

Date of next committee meeting. Monday 9 January online at 5:30 pm

PWD 30 December 22