

IChemE Teesside Branch Committee Meeting – Online

9th January 2023 Minutes

Present

Neville Blackwell Laurence Ashley Peter Dodd Stephen Pallant
Sam Gooneratne Nick Howard Joseph Fisher Ralph Grob

Apologies

Molly Bell Adrian Northey

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

Review of Hydrogen safety talk on the 25th of January at TU.

Financial report. – Nothing further.

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 though it is running a bit later. **Action Peter D**
- Mark Wilson has some contact with the Quorn business. However, there are current challenges facing the company and our contact is retiring, so this will be removed from the list for the time being. (Mark, is this acceptable to you?)
- 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 and Peter has been in contact. Simon will offer a date. **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 on electrolytic production of hydrogen? Possibly after the end of the academic teaching year?

Action Sam

- The National Early Careers Committee are putting on a webinar for PhD students.
- There are more forms to fill out to hold meetings. We need to be working with probably 8 weeks' notice. This issue is getting speakers to commit to a date.

Quiz. The Quiz date will go back due to Covid, work and family pressures. We look forward this the quiz when possible. Date to be confirmed.

Action Adrian

Annual Dinner The date has been fixed for Thursday 9 March 2023 at Judges. Sales of tables has already passed the minimum level and we could be approaching the full capacity of the venue. 123 dinner places sold but most have yet to be paid for. There are 10 local companies taking tables with probably another 2 to come. The capacity is 150. The 5 sponsorships have been taken and there are 3 award nominations so far. If you know someone who can nominate for an award, please do so. Well done to the annual dinner team for their hard work.

Sam believes that the offer of the meal at cost will still be too much for students. We had a debate about how we could get places that companies have paid for but are the subject of no shows could be offered to students but the practicalities were too difficult. One to think about though.

Chris Beck has confirmed he's attending the annual dinner and being our after-dinner speaker. The new president of the IChemE (David Bogle) is likely to attend and will give a brief talk. *(Post meeting information. Chris Beck left the Tees Valley Combined Authority at the end of January and Julie Gilhespie, CEO of the TVCA will be the speaker. David Bogle cannot attend and Nigel Hirst (VP of IChemE) will attend instead.)*

Schools and University liaison - Nothing to report.

AOB

TU is putting on a one day event for Hydrogen Safety Training. (25 Jan) 6Engineering were involved. This is relevant to Chemical Engineers and, subject to getting permission from Simon Bradshaw, IChemE would publicise this.

Actions review

SharePoint from IChemE has just started 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 – Tickets for brewery tours are £20 which includes 4 free pints. We previously felt that encouraging drinking 4 pints might not be advisable so another alternative was to



hire the bar (£100) and then pay per pint, currently £4.50. This requires a temporary licence from the council. Either late Q2 or next Christmas? Date to be confirmed. **Action Peter D**
Nick and Olivia have met to talk about Company Accreditation. Complete.

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 Northwest grouping of Chester, Cumbria, Widnes and N Wales. Peter to investigate. We have been trying to contact Tyneside and Humberside.

Action Peter D

Not discussed but for the future.

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

Date of next committee meeting. Monday 13th February at the Phoenix Building, TU at 5:30 pm

JMF 23rd January 23