

Chairman's Report for 2008 Presented to the Annual General Meeting

Held at Livingston FC, 4th February 2009

1. Opening Comments

Quote from the Forum's Constitution and Charter.

Membership Organisations willing to participate actively to make workplaces throughout Scotland healthier and safer.

Key Objective Exchange information, share best practice and collectively drive towards higher standards of Health & Safety in Scottish building.

This will not, or cannot, be achieved without the continued support and commitment from everyone in this room, including:

- [i] The strong membership and the support in attending the Forums and participating in working groups looking at the key issues.
- [ii] The Steering Committee - key responsibility is to direct the policy and affairs of the Forum, but strive very hard to ensure key issues are tackled and the content of the Forums is both relevant and useful to the membership. As well as assisting in the smooth running of these.
- [iii] The continued support from Homes for Scotland, through it's board members and Chief Executive, Jonathan Fair, and in particular during 2008 through the help of the HfS Technical Manager, David Little who, unfortunately, was made redundant near the end of 08.
- [iv] However, the continued support and commitment from the HSE remains the key to the success of the Forum. Not only do we have their attendance, but we have the full support of Isabelle Martin in her role as HSE Steering Group member. We also have Jim as PI coming along with members of his team to keep the Forum up-to-date with initiatives and also to give support in tackling key issues.

2. The Members

Once again the number of members has increased. This increased during 2008 to a total of 57 companies [a number of which are new]. Throughout the year there were regularly over 100 in attendance, providing the Forum with access to a wide cross-section of the industry, from the major housebuilder through to the smaller organisation and also the contractor base that work on our sites.

It is important to remember that when we are collectively trying to drive standards higher in the industry, we need the commitment and support of our contractor base.

As we have stated at numerous Forums:

“No-one in this room wants to see someone injured on our sites or in our business”!

3. Forum Events

The quarterly Forum events remain the cornerstone of the year’s activities. 2008 continued the established tradition of exploring challenging and new topics in our industry, a brief summary of the Forum events follows.

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| ■ HSE covering topics such as: | - Demolition |
| | - Regular Updates / Overviews |
| ■ Graham McDonald [William Tracey Ltd] | - Contaminated Land Remediation |
| ■ David Hanley [Competence Matters] | - Competence, Skills & Qualifications |
| ■ Ian Winter [Mulholland Contracts] | - Ground Working, the Good & the Bad |
| ■ Stewart Clazey [Beaver 84] | - Sharing Systems |
| ■ Ed Woods [assisted by Antony Profilo] | - Overview of Behavioural Safety |
| ■ Gerry Ralph [Construction Skills] | - New Scaffolding Training / Records |
| ■ Elena Fry [Biggart Baillie] | - “Steps to Protect Companies from Claims”. |
| ■ Douglas Smith [Marsh Ltd Insurance] | - “Steps to Reduce Premiums” |

4. Other Forum Activities

Although the quarterly Forum events are important, the communication of the message of the Forum is a vital part of the committee’s work. Some of the activities during 2008 included:

- [a] The establishment of the Forum’s Website - now up and running through the help of Isabelle. The website contains details of meetings, presentations, updates and useful links.

[b] Successful SHAD: the Forum in partnership with the HSE and HfS held a Safety and Health Awareness Day [SHAD] at Livingston FC on Wednesday, 04 June 08. The event covered:

- Off-Loading of Timber Kits
- Quick Hitch's on Excavators
- Plant Operations / Training Requirements
- Rope Access Systems for Building Maintenance
- Scaffold Design within Household Sector
- Self-Erecting Tower Cranes
- HSE's Occupational Health Management Model
- Face Fitting of RPE for use on Construction Sites

[c] Unloading of Vehicles Guidance

[d] Construction Information Sheet on use of 'Slater's Heels' [roof irons].

During 2009 it is the intention to progress:

[a] Development of an 'Operatives Pocket Guide': a means of communicating key issues to the operatives on our sites.

[b] Development of a SHB Consortium Agreement

[c] Review of SHAD or link with 'Working Well Together Campaign SHAD. Details re., WWT SHAD - end of March on refurbishment will be circulated.

[d] Possible guidance on dealing with 'closed' / 'on-hold' sites.

5. Future Possible Forum Topics

[1] Scaffolding Update NASC

[2] Safe Unloading of Roof Trusses - Mark Murphy [Donaldson Timber Engineering]

As always, open to members to put forward topics for consideration.

6. Conclusion

The Forum events and SHAD during 2008 have made a tremendous contribution towards raising awareness and progressing improved standards.

However, we are all aware that as we left 2008 and entered 2009, we are facing difficult times. The focus of the Forum and membership must be on ensuring that any strides forward in improved H&S must not be lost and it is so important to ensure that we come out the other end with these intact. Today, our Forum event will continue the theme that people are the key driver to change, whether management teams or operatives on site, they can influence improvements in Health & Safety on site.

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