

Minutes of the CIBSE Lifts Group Executive Committee Meeting

17 Nov 2023, 1000-1100h



PRESENT

Rimmy Vij (Chair of SFE) - RV
Chris Aspinall (Vice Chair of SFE) - CA
Saverio Pasetto (Elected Member / ex – Chair) - SP

Michael Bottomley - MB
Paul Clements - PC
Phil Pearson - PP
Richard Peters - RP
Vincent Sharpe - VC
Wee Chuan Lim - CL

APOLOGIES

Adam Scott
Dave Cooper
John Bashford
John Carroll
Nick Mellor
Rory Smith
Stefan Kaczmarczyk

DISTRIBUTION

Those present, apologies and web site.

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1. Welcome and apologies

The meeting was opened by CL.
Apologies received were noted. Purpose: to hear Society of Façade Engineers experiences, to aid the CLG's conversion to a Society.

Note

2. Introductions

RV: Technical Director at WSP, SFE since 2018 dealing with awards. Current Chair.
CA: Consultant, used to be MD of Express Lift in Northampton. Current Vice Chair.
SP: Head of Facades at Skanska, Chair of SFE for many years.

Note

3. SFE Journey and early beginnings

CL: How did it all start and how has it been?

Note

SP:

- Collaboration between CIBSE, IStructE and RIBA.
- Made sense to be part of CIBSE instead of a standalone as CIBSE covers Building Performance. The envelop plays a huge part.
- Had to get CIBSE to be more involved as they were "distant". As most of the CIBSE team are not facades people. Key contributor is Hywel Davis who made a massive difference.

RV:

- CIBSE brought in a lot of governance, provided a structure on how to conduct themselves.

CA:

- The industry and supply chain are hugely international, it took them over 4 years to understand what the SFE was about.
- To Understand how CIBSE works also takes time as their wheels turn slowly. Things just do not happen quickly enough.
- CIBSE staff turnover is also high. But it seems to have gotten better.
- SFE is to promote the benefits of Façade Engineering in the built environment to establish and promote good practise and professional guidance to provide recognition to all those active in the field.
- SFE has own route to Professional Qualification for Façade Engineering. Started about 18 months ago.
- CIBSE approached last year with a "Three pillars of Society Questionnaire" challenging what makes SFE a "Good" society? (CL: CIBSE did not share outcome of that questionnaire.)

CL: Who attends your events?

CA:

- Mostly CIBSE Members also only from Façade Engineering related only. Do not get HVAC, lighting attending SFE events.
- Did not even know there is a CIBSE Lifts Group.

SP:

- And we do not go to theirs. Which needs to change.
- 1700-2000 members of SFE
- Majority are not Members of CIBSE. Difficult to go from Associate to Member.

- Actively looked into how SFE can help with the process.
- Although more money to be paid, it is a validation. In certain parts of the world the post nominals are important.
- We think there is progress. But we do not have access to the data from CIBSE (because of GDPR).
- GDPR has been a nightmare for SFE. Unable to reach out directly with Members. Everything must go through CIBSE.

CA:

- A lot of work is still down to the volunteers in the committee.
- CIBSE helped a lot on the gala dinner and awards. Sold 350 tickets and £500 a ticket. But no idea where the profits are used.

SP:

- It feels like a disconnect. We help bring in members and money. We must provide a budget to seek funding from CIBSE.

CL: How do you process the Reviews and Interviews for MSFE?

RV:

- We have been training assessors the last 18 months. So that they can be on the interview committee.
- Think there are 5 trained up now.
- Must be a member of CIBSE to be allowed to apply to become a member of SFE. **Two separate routes.**
- Must pay CIBSE subscription cost and SFE membership fee.

CL: Any Recommendations?

CA:

- Succession. It is always down to two, 3 or 4 people doing things. And when they had enough, difficult to find others to take over.
- Do not see new blood stepping forward.

SP:

- Need to attract new, younger members to committee. Work with them in the background to prepare them to step up.
- We struggled for a long time. But now we have a good diverse board.
- Took 4 -5 years of bringing new people, breakfast meetings, coffees and informal chats. Working on a personal level is at the core.
- Pick up the phone and call.
- Visibility creates new relationships.

4. CLG Aspirations

MB:

- To get a recognised professional qualification associated with the industry. Which is the route that you SFE have gone down. Which seems a perfect model for us to follow.
- Most in the group are not members of CIBSE.
- People who attend our events are regulars or contractors, who want to be in touch with the people who write the standards and can feedback from their experiences and ideas.

End

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