

# **SCQS AGM**

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

## **President's Report**

I have now completed the first year of my 2 year presidency. It has been, for me, a year of making new contacts and forging new relationships with members of our own society, the Federation of Property Societies, the National Best Value Benchmarking Club and, more recently, the performance measurement group at the Office of Government Commerce.

I have managed to attend or attempt to attend 4 out of 5 council meetings but with only a 50% success rate of actually arriving. As I have mentioned before the list of reasons reads like the script from the recently revived Reggie Perrin sitcom – stolen signalling cable between Farnworth and Salford, heavy snowfall in South East Lancashire and the small matter of paternity leave.

### **Federation of Property Societies**

I attended the FPS meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> September at which I corrected the minutes to ensure that Alan Jones's attendance as SCQS representative was recorded for the meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> June.

I passed on the names of our volunteers for representation on the JCT working group. Alan Tyler requested contact details.

East Sussex, Brighton & Hove and, hopefully West Sussex are launching their supply chain network in December. Details will be circulated.

It was noted that 4 Ps work was being reduced and that Martin Lipson had left.

Roojje Barr is to be confirmed as the new President with Stephen Costello stepping down.

The key issue for FPS Scotland was the Improvement Service report that suggested that the Scottish authorities are not performing well. A group representing SCALA, SCQS and ACES has been set up to respond to this.

The Business Plan was reviewed and suggestions were requested from each of the societies as to the Key Issues that should be included in the refreshed Business Plan. This is to be reviewed on, at least, an annual basis.

The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive was discussed and the FPS would like to respond based on any work that members or their authorities are carrying out on it. Such information is to be forwarded to the FPS, if possible.

An interim report was issued recently on Hearing Impairment in Classrooms Greg Keeling briefly explained the report but gave an excellent audio indication of what hearing impairment in a classroom is really like. This is available on the internet; links to be forwarded.

It was suggested that a joint letter of all the societies be produced, but no definite conclusion on how to take this forward was reached.

I announced the launch of our new Whole Life costing system.

Alan Jones attended the meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> June on the Society's behalf at which it was agreed that Alan Tyler's remuneration for his work as secretary should be increased to £4,500 with a 3 year review.

### **National Best Value Benchmarking Scheme**

I attended both the regular meeting and the AGM, also on 4<sup>th</sup> September.

Promotional information in the form of floor standing banners and leaflets have been produced. I have ordered some leaflets from Alan Tyler for our conference.

A new BSF module is almost complete but this may come too late if the BSF programme, as is rumoured, is curtailed. A new highways module is to be placed on the website for the combined London Authorities to access as they have all agreed to sign up.

It was noted that a presentation is to be delivered at our conference in October and that Tony Gale is confirmed as the presenter.

The AGM approved the re-election of the Chairman, Geoff Robinson, and the existing Directors. SCQS were requested to nominate a director if possible. It was suggested that a practicing member may be most appropriate but this was not essential.

### **New Rules of Measurement**

I attended the workshop provided by the RICS on 11<sup>th</sup> June on the New Rules of Measurement, which I felt, left a lot to be desired. However, it was heartening to see a number of academic institutions represented who are intending to incorporate the NRM into their curriculae. There were 2 representatives from my local university, the University of Central Lancashire, and I will follow up the contact. This of course could help our push to get measurement more highly recognised as an essential QS qualification.

### **Membership**

Over the year from September 2008 to September 2009 membership has declined again. We have lost members in all categories, with a nett result that there are 20 fewer members now than at this time last year, a decline of over 10%. Arresting this decline becomes more difficult as property services in the public sector come under increasing pressure. Many of the members we have lost are because their organisations simply no longer carry a Quantity Surveying function. Much debate has gone into the solution and I'm sure it will be a topic a future council meetings.

### **Vice President**

One of the issues which I raised when I succeeded to this office was the appointment of a Vice President and I am happy to report that Jonathan Bemrose of NPS North East has accepted the role. Jonathan, as a current

council member, has a good understanding of the requirements of the role and I am sure that he will make an excellent president when I stand down this time next year.

### **Whole Life Costing and Web Site**

The new web-based whole life costing system was launched last month and Professor John Kelly is enlightening us further with a presentation at the Annual Conference. John, via his company Axoss has developed the system in conjunction with Marcus Gronqvist of Value Solutions and the Society has entered into a Joint Venture Agreement with both their companies to market and sell the product. I have made contact with Davis Langdon who are developing a European standard for whole life costing and we are hoping that there may be some mutual benefit in discussing our two developments. I must note Alan Sansom's contribution to facilitating the development of this system. He has worked closely with John Kelly and my thanks go to him.

As a spin off from the Whole Life costing system, we have had the website completely refreshed and upgraded and now we just need to keep it updated to keep it looking fresh and relevant.

### **JCT Representatives**

I would like to thank Sion Evans and Huw Lloyd for offering their services as Local Government and SCQS representatives on the JCT working group.

### **SCQS Diploma**

We have awarded our first SCQS diplomas at a number of universities which has raised our profile in the academic arena and has increased awareness amongst students who are the future of our organisation.

### **Annual Conference**

The annual conference is being held at Kenwood Hall in Sheffield today, 29<sup>th</sup>, and tomorrow, 30<sup>th</sup> October. We have a good range of speakers booked with presentations on some very topical subjects. The social events have been organised with excursions into the nearby Peak District and we have as the speaker at our annual dinner, one Mr. Graham "Grumbleweed" Walker.

Thanks must go to the to the council members who have had a hand in the organisation of the event but particular thanks must go to our Chief Executive, Brian Kirkham, whose hard work makes the conference possible.