



The Institute of Demolition Engineers

Minutes of the

47th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Grand Hotel Birmingham, Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 2BS

10th November 2023

Present:

Vernon Watson FIDE – President, Trustee
Howard Button Hon.FIDE
Mark Jack MIDE
Adrian McLean FIDE
Terry Quarmby Hon.FIDE
Maureen Tong-Ralphs National Secretary (Virtual)

Apologies:

Stuart Accleton	Andrew Crawford	John Lynch	Ian Rodger
Brian Carroll	Oliver Crooks	Danny MacKinlay	Reece Rowbottom
Richard Dolman	Andrew Dale	Ian Martin	Paul Schwarm
Ian Gilleard	Michael Daynes	Mark Mates	Harry Shaldrake
Stephen McCann	Ernesto Flores	Shaun May	Ian Skillings
Robin Powell	Pat Foley	Eamonn McCormack	Neil Swinburne
Duncan Ray	Chris Foulser	Una McCormack	Tony Taperell
Duncan Rudall	Javier Garcia Ortega	Stephen McAleenan	Simon Turner
	Lee Goswell	Tom McGee	Badar Uddin
	Jim Hardman	Cormac McLean	Jonathan Weaver
Jan Andresen	Siobhan Hassard	Robert Millard	Michael Weaver
Stephen Andrew	Karen Hawtin	Mathew Mowat	John Woodward
Matthew Bardgett	Sean Heron	Gerry Mulligan	Richard Yarwood
Carl Bentley	Andrew Hope	Ritchie Murphy	
Steve Bocking	David Hull	Adrian Nixon	
Kevin Bowerman	Alan James	Jamie O'Donnell	
Matthew Browne	Lawrence Kehoe	Simon Ogden	
Mark Bryan	Mike Kehoe	Sam Page	
James Caldwell	Adrian Kelly	Bjorn Parker	
Mark Carless	Keith Kelsey	Mark Parrott	
Craig Chaplin	Patrick Kenneally	Jody Paxman	
Charles Cheriton	Mark Kime	Edward Pugh	
Darrell Coleman	Malcolm Lowes	Kyle Perkins	

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 25th November 2022

All agreed the minutes were a correct record of the 2022 Annual General Meeting.

Proposed: Howard Button Seconded: John Lynch

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Presidents Annual Report on the state of the Institute

Vernon Watson welcomed members to the 47th Annual General Meeting and commenced by sharing apologies for non-attendance with the membership.

He continued to report the breakdown of membership numbers (as below) and reported that the Council are currently looking at the option to streamline the application process for membership and may decide to reduce the time between grades and each stage of membership.

	2023	2022
Entrant	28	28
Technician	9	9
Associate	35	32
Full Member	255	257
Honorary Member	4	4
Fellow	10	11
Honorary Fellow	25	21
Retired	20	20
Affiliate	14	17
Student	2	2
Total	402	401

He stated that CPD Talks had been reasonably attended however, the programme had been adversely affected towards the latter part of the year due to the loss of a couple of Speakers. It is hoped that the Talks will be resurrected from February 2024 with the aim of ensuring that each member has something to attend that will boost their CPD hours.

He stated that unfortunately the Regional Meetings held in the Northwest and Midlands this year had experienced low attendance and would encourage members to participate as well as encourage their clients to do so. The Spring Seminar held at the Royal Armouries, Leeds this year had been well attended and although there were some complaints these issues have now been addressed and rectified. The Autumn Seminar at One Great George Street experienced disappointing attendance which has resulted in the Council agreeing to a down-sized event for the Autumn Seminar next year. As the venue expects a commitment of a minimum number of attendees at the time of booking the IDE cannot continue to pay for places that are not sold, therefore the decision has been made to offer an event that can accommodate a maximum of 100 delegates on a first come, first served basis. Once these places have been taken there will be no option to pay on arrival at the event.

V Watson informed the membership that he was very proud of the collaboration between the HSE, NFDC and IDE and thanks to John Lynch the IDE had been invited to be involved in Seminars that were targeted at clients about to Appoint a Competent Contractor: Intelligent Demolition. To date there have been three successful seminars. Despite them being very well received they would benefit from more attendees. There are likely to be 3 or 4 more planned (Scotland, London and Bristol and possibly the fourth being in Northern Ireland).

V Watson reported that the fifth intake of the Foundation Degree is going well with 9 students participating and that currently we have 6 students enrolled on the sixth intake scheduled to start in March 2024.

In conclusion, V Watson confirmed that he was looking forward to his second year as President of the IDE and that his objectives included enhancing membership numbers, improving the process of membership and reviewing the exam process.

4. Annual Statement of Accounts & Auditors Report

Vernon Watson referred to the report entitled: **AGM Financial & Trustee Report 2023** prepared by Treasurer Stuart Accleton and the distributed audited set of accounts entitled: **Directors' Report and Financial Statements for the Year-ending 30th April 2023**.

V Watson confirmed that S Accleton had offered his apologies for his absence at the meeting and what would be the final financial statement from himself as Honorary Treasurer.

V Watson stated that, as previous years, Charcroft Baker LLP had been appointed as independent examiner for the ensuing year and the report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies' exemption. An annual budget of expenditure was set in February for the new financial year and was agreed and approved by the Council of Management at their meeting held in February.

V Watson stated that this year's financial statements show a deficit for the year of £23,706 (2022: £30,301) and net assets of £177,421 (2022: £201,127). This deficit has arisen due to increased event and advertising costs, an increase in employee salaries, and reduced numbers attending the annual luncheon and signing up to participate on the Foundation Degree. Further to this we have seen an increase in the day to day running costs of the IDE. Thankfully our policy of building up a reserve over the past five years has allowed the Institute to continue to run and remain financially stable, although this will need to be closely monitored by the new incoming Treasurer when setting the budget for 2024-2025.

The Institute has seen a very slight increase to grades of membership this financial year with membership increasing from 401 to 402. Unfortunately, we have also received 9 resignations from members who did not wish to continue their membership this year and we had to terminate 7 members due to non-payment of membership fees.

At our AGM and Annual Luncheon event which took place at Central Hall and Church House, Westminster on 25th November 2022 we welcomed 167 guests, the cost of this venue and the reduced numbers attending over previous years culminated in the event making a significant loss. This led the Council of Management to look at alternative venues both in and out of London where traditionally the AGM has been held. The venue chosen for today's event represents significant value for money over similar London venues and will hopefully see the event break-even or return a small profit to assist with the IDE's revenue for this financial year.

The fifth intake of the IDE Foundation Degree in Demolition Management commenced with 12 students on 20th March 2023. It is hoped that a sixth intake will commence in March 2024, however, this will be subject to confirmed numbers for enrolment. The Council of Management have committed to advertising this course external to the Demolition industry to try and increase the numbers attending.

We are pleased to advise that there were no recognised gains or losses for 2022-2023 other than those included in the Statement of Financial Affairs. For the year in question, the charitable company was entitled to an exemption from an audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006. No liability to United Kingdom Corporation Tax arose in the year, on the basis that the charity is exempt from tax on income and gains.

The Council of Management has examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity should be between 3 and 6 months of the expenditure. Budgeted expenditure for 2023/2024 is £240,400 and a target of £82,000.00 to £130,000 in general funds. The reserves are needed to meet the working capital requirements of the charity and the Council of Management are confident that at this level they would be able to continue the current activities of the charity in the event of a significant drop in funding. Whilst income funds stand at £175,921.00 a

designation of £5,000 has been set aside for charitable donations and bursaries and £12,000 for the IDE: Education expenses. Over the next 5 years the strategy is to continue to build reserves through planned events and growth of membership.

In conclusion, Charcroft Baker LLP continues to undertake quarterly accounts preparation and payroll services on behalf of the Institute along with Solutions France whose services are being used to process the National Secretary's salary payments now that she resides in France.

It is also proposed that CIVICA will continue to undertake the Council of Management election process in 2024 ensuring that a totally confidential, independent, fair and auditable procedure is in place.

V Watson requested a proposer and seconder from the floor to accept the accounts:

Proposed: John Lynch Seconded: Mark Kime

A copy of the full Accounts report is available on request from the National Secretary info@ide.org.uk

5. IDE: Education

Due to the absence of both Richard Dolman and Stephen McCann there was no report to share with the membership. V Watson apologised and confirmed that both would prepare a report to share with the membership by email or via the website.

Action: R Dolman/S McCann

6. IDE Council Elections 2023: Results

V Watson announced the results from this year's elections administered by CIVICA on behalf of the IDE. There had been 337 eligible voters this year and from these 206 votes were cast.

The results are as follows:

Adrian McLean FIDE – elected as Vice President for a term of 1 Year.

Mark Jack MIDE – elected as Treasurer for a term of 1 Year.

The following were re-elected to the Council of Management:

Duncan Rudall Hon.FIDE

Stephen McCann FIDE

Howard Button Hon.FIDE

Two new members will join the Council to fill the last two vacancies: Stephen Andrew FIDE and Mike Kehoe MIDE.

V Watson expressed his congratulations.

7. AOB

i) Mark Bryan stated that he had missed every Seminar and free event due to other engagements and work commitments but would like to think that due to the financial struggles the IDE have experienced this year the Council of Management would consider offering the option to watch Seminars as a Live-Stream event for a small charge. V Watson replied stating that it would be his concern that members would choose this option in favour of attending the event in person. He confirmed that the Council of Management would discuss this matter at their next meeting on 7th December 2023..

ii) John Woodward stated that he felt it would be beneficial for the IDE to arrange more regional meetings across the country. He stated that as these meetings attract both members and non-members of the IDE

it may encourage non-members to join the Institute. He also felt that there should be an incentive to members to introduce new members to the Institute.

John also mentioned that more information needed to be sent out regarding the Election process next year as some members did not understand the nomination process. He suggested that candidates have an opportunity to put something on the IDE website as well as a chance to promote themselves at the Autumn Seminar. V Watson informed the membership that, following a conversation with Civica, a new election process may be offered for the Elections 2024. This would offer candidates the opportunity to nominate themselves as well as upload their own details and biographies. V Watson confirmed that the Council of Management would discuss this matter at their next meeting on 7th December 2023.

H Button suggested that virtual attendance at regional meetings may be a good option to encourage individuals to attend from other parts of the country. V Watson stated that he felt that with this option people may get out of the habit of attending meetings however, he agreed that the Council of Management would discuss this matter at their next meeting in December.

Adrian McLean stated that he felt that virtual attendance at regional meetings may not prove practical as some meetings can be quite animated when discussion ensues. He advised members of the regional meetings that are currently being planned for 2024.

M Kehoe informed the membership that the date for the regional meeting he is organising for the 18th April may need to change as the date clashes with an NFDC meeting.

J Woodward stated that he had been sent some dates for a regional meeting hosted by Komatsu. V Watson stated that all information should be emailed to him.

iii) Cormac McLean requested that the Council review the takeaway process from regional meetings. He stated that when he has attended other, non IDE, events he has always benefitted from taking away another skill however, despite the IDE events having the best community spirit and networking opportunities, they seem to focus more on demonstrations and case studies rather than learning new things. V Watson replied by informing Cormac that the IDE have a feedback process in place and would encourage all members to use this process to inform the IDE of the things they would like to see at events. He also stated that he feels that case studies can be a benefit to members. He stated that the Council of Management are currently discussing the content of the Seminars to make them more attractive and encourage better attendance.

Davinder Singh Rehal thanked the staff at IDE Head Office for their help with the school presentations he had completed, ensuring that information was sent out efficiently and on time. V Watson thanked him for his comment.

iv) John Lynch informed the membership that both Duncan Rudall and himself are keen to encourage each NFDC member to have at least one member of the IDE. He enquired as to whether it would be possible for members of the Council of Management to do a presentation at each NFDC regional to promote IDE Membership (subject to permission being given by the Chairman). He confirmed that the NFDC are looking to work closer with the IDE. V Watson confirmed that he would be happy to attend to encourage new membership and confirmed that the Council of Management would discuss this matter at their next meeting on 7th December 2023.

v) Adrian Corrigan stated that his son, Edward Corrigan, has enrolled on the Foundation Degree commencing in March 2024. He enquired as to the plans for the MSc. V Watson replied stating that we were advised that the course content was not adequate and we are looking at the option of a rewrite. However, we do not want to take the emphasis away from the Foundation Degree and to be able to review the content of the MSc the IDE are currently looking to source funds of £70,000 to support its development. This figure has been challenged and is likely to be difficult to achieve, although, to date,

two sponsors have pledged funds towards this purpose. The Council of Management are currently discussing whether the focus should be on the Masters Degree or aiming more focus towards the promotion of the Foundation Degree. We need to focus on a higher intake on the Foundation Degree before we move forward with the MSc. V Watson stated that 11 students are needed to participate on the Foundation degree to break even.

vi) Howard Button reminded members that, as requested, he had started a WhatsApp group with the aim of discussing important subject areas (i.e Sustainability). To date, only 15 members had joined the group therefore he wished to encourage more participation. Please contact H Button if you would like to join.

vii) John Woodward proposed that V Watson give Adrian McLean his Vice Presidents medal as he believes that he should have one immediately. J Woodward loaned A McLean his medal. V Watson welcomed A McLean as his new Vice President.

viii) T Quarmby informed the membership that the Council of Management struggle to come up with sensible topics for Seminars that members would enjoy therefore if anyone has a suggestion, or knows of someone who would like to air a topic please let us know.

ix) V Watson offered John Woodward congratulations on his retirement and thanked him for his support for the IDE. He also thanked both A McLean and M Kehoe who organised the surprise event that had taken place the night before.

8. Data of next Annual General Meeting

November 2024 – exact time and venue to be announced.