

A new look for Autumn

National chairman, Phil Laycock reports on some exciting new changes for FBE over the coming months...

FBE's National Management Committee (NMC) has been working hard behind the scenes for some time to improve how events, services and information is being communicated and delivered to FBE members, committees and indeed the world at large. So I am pleased to announce that from October two new organisations, Not For Profit Business Services (NFP) and Whale Marketing will provide administration and Branch marketing services (respectively) on behalf of the organisation.

During September, Kirsty Forman from Whale Marketing will contact each Branch chairmen and all regional directors to establish contact and help understand the specific requirements of Regions and Branches to develop a local and national service which will best support our goals and ambitions. Whale is also undertaking our new website (see exclusive preview

of screen grabs), making it easier to book events online and promote FBE in general. We have also refreshed our corporate identity and the subtle new look will fit alongside exhibition stands and other marketing material – ensuring we continue to look sleek and professional.

In addition over the coming months NFP – which specialises in providing administrative services for organisations such as ours – will undertake a complete review of the membership database and our procedures to ensure we are run as efficiently as possible.

This Autumn will be a period of transition, so bear with us while it happens and please give us as much feedback as possible, the organisation is run for the membership so tell us what you think and we'll continue to do our best to support your endeavours.

Phil Laycock, National Chairman



Exclusive previews of the new FBE website home page and Regions & Branches page – set to go live in October.



Preparing for Peterborough: Committee in place!



The newly formed Peterborough Branch committee (L-R) Peter Dixon, committee member, Tim Gowing, committee member, Philip Rourke, regional director, Ian Brant, chairman, Chris Akrill, treasurer, Melanie Cartledge, vice-chair, Mark Walker, secretary and Ray Hart, committee member.

Under the guidance of Ian Brant (Brant Associates), the committee for a new Peterborough Branch of FBE has been established, roles assigned and tasks agreed ahead of the Branch's launch event on Tuesday 1st February 2011.

The committee is as follows:

Chairman – Ian Brant
(Brant Associates)

Vice Chair – Melanie Cartledge
(Alpha Construction Ltd)

Secretary – Mark Walker
(RMA Business Solutions LLP)

Treasurer – Chris Akrill
(Town Planning Services)

Committee Member – Ray Hart
(Stanza Consulting)

Committee Member – Peter Dixon
(Bramall Construction)

Committee Member – Tom Gowing
(Gowing & Hunt Ltd)

Peterborough Branch will sit under the auspice of East Anglia Region, and its regional director, Philip Rourke. Events will be held on the first Tuesday of every month and will encompass a full programme including breakfast meetings, lunch seminars and social events.

Ian Brant said: "Peterborough falls on the cusp of both East Anglia and East Midlands so is an ideal location to launch an FBE Branch as it will hopefully attract professionals from across the two Regions. With the committee now in place, I am confident we have both the ideas and the drive to make the Branch a success!"

Look out for a more in-depth interview with Ian about his plans for Peterborough in the Winter edition of The Buzz, due out in November.

The nation is networking! Regional



Simon Burton (Carillion Building) was one of the expert panellists at Black Country & Telford Branch's networking breakfast.

Black Country & Telford Branch

A sell-out audience at Black Country & Telford Branch's breakfast event heard a panel of construction industry leaders talk about business social responsibility and the state of the building industry economy. Simon Burton (Carillion Building) opened the talk with a discussion on the social opportunities presented by private sector construction projects before giving up the floor to Ian Sandland (Rider Levett Bucknall) and Jeremy Brim (EC Harris) to talk about the emergency budget's implication on the construction sector and education, skills and sustainable communities respectively. Phil Beale, chairman said: "The outstanding feedback from this event underlines the strong level of support from key industry influencers in this region. It was interesting that a common theme with a panel of speakers was a call for 'joined-up' thinking and collaboration, which is what FBE is all about."

East Midlands Region

The Summer saw East Midlands Region hold its fourth annual race night at Leicestershire Racecourse to a sell-out crowd! With representatives from each of the Region's four Branches in attendance, delegates enjoyed a sumptuous three course meal interspersed with a flutter on one of the evening's six races!

Chairman, Adrienne Vaughan (AVA PR) said: "Race night is one of the most popular events on our calendar, a fact endorsed by the capacity crowd. Many of our guests find this social event a great opportunity for networking and we were particularly pleased to have colleagues from our newly formed Lincolnshire Branch present."

Neil Coote (Lindum Group) pulled out the winning business card in the champagne draw for the Chairman's 2010 charity, the NSPCC East Midlands Child's Voice Appeal, raising a further £110 towards the £1600 target, which will pay for one volunteer counsellor to be trained. Natalie Thew (AVA PR), Branch secretary was the lucky winner.



Maggie Mullan, chair (left) and Roy Grenow, vice chair (right) presented Helen Carlson of Claire House, a local hospice charity that provides care for children with life threatening and life limiting illnesses, with a cheque for £1000 from Liverpool Branch's fundraising efforts.

Sheffield Branch

Sheffield's premier skating venue, SiceSheffield, was the location for Sheffield Branch's latest breakfast seminar. Approximately 50 delegates gathered to hear the 'Sheffield Going Forward – Another Great 10 Years' presentation by John Mothersole, chief executive of Sheffield City Council. John delivered his perspective on the emerging priorities of the coalition Government including the dramatic changes to public funding together with an outline of the council's response plan that will ensure development projects continue progressing.

Looking ahead at the remainder of the year, Branch chairman David Jones (Quarby Construction Ltd) commented: "We have a full programme of events for 2010 and have enjoyed good support this year. For 2011, the committee is targeting increasing the membership by 50%, delivering more top quality speakers and thus establishing Sheffield FBE as a major, respected voice for the property and construction sector in South Yorkshire."



Delegates at Black Country & Telford Branch's breakfast event enjoyed the contemporary extension at Wolverhampton Art Gallery.

Liverpool Branch

The redevelopment of the Everyman and Playhouse Theatres was the topic of discussion at Liverpool Branch's recent breakfast meeting. Over 70 delegates attended to listen to executive director of the theatres' trust, Deborah Aydon, who has led a remarkable renaissance built on the highest artistic quality and using local talent to engage with Merseyside communities and make the experience of great theatre accessible to all.

Deborah's presentation was extremely well received and delegates were delighted to hear the redevelopment project is still on track for a 2013 completion and will not be affected by the coalition Government's planned spending cuts.



An image of the proposed Leeds Arena, one of the development projects discussed by John Thorp, architect at Leeds City Council at the Branch's latest breakfast meeting.

Leeds Branch

Leeds Branch welcomed John Thorp, Larchitect at Leeds City Council, as guest speaker for its recent breakfast meeting. John has been instrumental in some of the City's masterplanning including setting out where strategic gateway sites should be situated and driving through design quality. Ahead of his retirement, John spoke to FBE about his hopes and predictions for future development projects in the City including the proposed Leeds Arena, which is set for multi-purpose use.

September brings a double bill for the Branch - a breakfast meeting with guest speaker, Cllr. Andrew Carter, leader of the Conservative Group for Leeds at the beginning of the month and a social curry night on September 30th. Please contact tony.mobbs@robinsongroup.co.uk for details.

Cambria Branch

Cambria Branch is looking ahead to a busy Autumn period which will break new ground by holding a series of breakfast meetings. These will commence on 28th September when the committee will welcome Peter Griffiths (Principality Building Society) and Roger Thomas (Cooke & Arkwright) to Cardiff City Stadium to debate the current financial climate and its impact on the South Wales construction industry.

Friday 15th October will see the Branch hold its ever-popular annual dinner at the Cardiff Marriott, where PRO Nick Chandler fully anticipates the usual mix of good company, fine food and raucous entertainment!

Demand for places at these events is expected to be high so members are advised to book early – call Neil Brierley on 02920 497497 (28th Sept event) or Jeremy Gorman on 02920 436450 (15th Oct event).

s and Branches tell all



Cambria Branch chairman, Ben Bolton presents one of the lucky raffle winners with her prize at the Branch's annual Summer Ball at the St David's Hotel & Spa in Cardiff Bay.



Will Jones (Stride Treglown) is the newly appointed chairman of FFT Great Western and already has number of exciting events planned for 2010 and beyond!

North East Region

North East Region's annual clay pigeon shoot proved to be a tensely competitive affair as ever! 16 competitors met at Steve Smith's shooting ground and, despite a fierce battle, Dan White (Morgan Sindall), last year's winner of novice gun, took first place with a score of 12.

Branch PRO, Leigh Chelton (Clothier & Lacey) reports that a sudden death shoot out (not literally!) between Graham Booth (Galliford Try) and Andrew Brewis (RNJ Construction Consultants) was required for the runner-up trophy. The group then headed back to The White Swan for a well-earned meal, pint and trophy presentation!



(L-R) Dan White (Morgan Sindall) and Andrew Brewis (RNJ Construction Consultants) were the winner and runner-up respectively at North East Region's annual clay pigeon shoot.

(L-R) North East regional director Grahame Kelly thanks Phil Marsh, University of Sunderland for his presentation on the University's success in the RICS Renaissance Award for Regeneration, where its £12m sports and social facility, the CitySpace project, was a winner.



West Midlands Branch

West Midlands Branch spent a night at the 'gee gees' in August and had a blast despite the lack of winnings and sideways rain! Stratford-upon-Avon racecourse was the venue, with over forty members and guests joining chairman, Will Evans for a flutter. The night saw a few winners - and even more losers - but despite that, newest member Joe Martoccia, MD of Milton Keynes based Avebury Projects enjoyed the wine, the food, the networking and the opportunity to meet other FBE members.

"We used the night as a team building event as well as the chance to meet other FBE members." Said Joe, "We're keen to spread our reach at Avebury Projects so chose West Midlands Branch as an opportunity to be among some of the country's leading construction names. Great night, great bunch of people and a few quid better off!" He concluded.

Manchester Branch

Manchester Branch held its first ever 'question time' panel debate with over 150 delegates meeting at Freemasons Hall in the heart of the city. The committee and national chairman, Phil Laycock, welcomed Ian Simpson, Ken Bishop (both DTZ), David Roberts (MAG), Karen Hirst (Salford Regeneration) and Graham Skinner (Allied London) to debate 'the state

of the marketplace' under the watchful eye of panel chairman Michael Taylor, editor of North West Insider, one of the region's leading business magazines.

After an hour of questioning, the consensus was that Manchester looks set to hold its own but much will depend on capital spending cuts. The future would appear to present a slow recovery throughout 2011 and 2012, with the business environment remaining highly competitive and operating within extremely tight margins.



Over 150 delegates attended Manchester Branch's 'Question Time' panel debate on 'the state of the marketplace' at Freemasons Hall in the heart of the city.

FFT UPDATE

Yorkshire

Following the Summer break, Yorkshire FFT chairman, Rob Cockerill reports the Branch has a full calendar of events planned for the remainder of the year including football and pool tournaments as well as a breakfast seminar on effective networking during a recession.

Great Western

Will Jones (Stride Treglown) has taken over as the new chairman of Great Western FFT, taking over the reins from Fran Green (King Sturge). Will has also welcomed Lucy Rutland (Capita) and Andrew Burt (BNP Paribas) to the committee, who are already planning the remainder of 2010's events including a BBQ social, breakfast seminar and speed networking.

West Midlands

Exceeding all committee expectations, the latest West Midlands FFT breakfast event was a complete sell-out. Will Evans of Wolverhampton Development Company was guest speaker and delivered an interesting presentation on city 'placemaking' including how the success of a scheme is dependent on good urban design principles, a commercial approach and the branding/identity of the location.

South East Region sets sail!

One of the teams racing a Beneteau First 40.7 across Southampton Water at South East Region's sailing day.

The inaugural South East sailing day on Southampton Water was a roaring success. In brilliant 24°C sunshine the assembled mariners enjoyed a relaxing breakfast on board one of the yachts – both Beneteau First 40.7 – before the day's racing began.

A practice session in the morning set the tone of the competition, with both teams sending out statements of intent as they sailed away from the pontoon and jostled for position. With stronger winds anticipated in the afternoon, the teams headed out to the Solent ahead of the three match races.

Lancelot, crewed by Willerby Landscapes, took an early lead in race

one and subsequently led all the way to the finish. After some slick kite work and heart-stopping rounding of the buoys, Profile, with a crew of nine including FBE London Branch chairman, Neil Surtees, maintained their lead and were victorious in race two. With the scores at one a piece, it was all to play for in race three, a pursuit race with white sails only. As the fleet rounded Calshot Spit they were neck and neck but once into Southampton Water, Profile managed to edge away, crossing the finish line at the entrance to the Hamble River by three boat lengths.

Exhausted crews dropped the sails and finished the day with tea, cakes and prize-giving.



Mark West (Hoare Lea), Great Western Branch chairman presents past chairman Terry Langdon (Gleeds) with the trophy for 'FBE Member best score' at the Branch's annual golf day.

PAR FORE THE COURSE: GOLF DAYS IN FULL SWING

The Summer months have seen an influx of golf days played across the Regions, with no less than five Branches hosting an event and one still to come! East Anglia Branch was first up at Stoke-by-Nayland Golf and Country Club, Suffolk. 30 golfers enjoyed 18 holes on the magnificent and slightly frustrating course, before David Rackham and Keith Rush were announced as the highest scoring members, automatically qualifying for the National Golf Championships.

Lanhydrock Golf Club in Bodmin was the venue for Devon & Cornwall Branch's event, which saw contractors Interserve Project Service Ltd take the title, with the chairman's team, Design Development, coming a close second.

8th July saw both Great Western and National Branches hold their events at the Kendleshire Golf Club and The Forest of Arden Golf Club respectively. Great Western enjoyed a turnout of 10 teams, all competing for numerous prizes including 'guest with the highest score' and 'lowest score'! Hoare Lea 2 were the overall winners and Terry Langdon (Gleeds) won FBE member best score.

Six teams contested the National Golf Day, with the team from Interface Contracts announced as winners on 103 points. The top four individuals; Tony Healen (McCann & Partners), Jeremy Plastow (Preferred Office Environments), Stephen Helsby (Evoe Productions) and Terry Warom (Development Project

Services) all qualified for the National Golf Championships.

Finally Cambria Branch's Charity Golf Day and Dinner at the Radyr Golf Club was held on 17th September, where over 20 teams were expected to battle it out for the Malcolm Howard Trophy. Look out for the **National Golf Championships on 12th October at Little Aston Golf Course, Birmingham**, where each Branch is invited to send their top two members to compete in a better ball stableford contest. For more information, please contact Phil Laycock on 07912 367656 or phil.laycock@fbe-org.co.uk



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Devon & Cornwall Branch's Golf Day was held at the picturesque Lanhydrock Golf Club in Bodmin, Cornwall.