

## INTERACT

### 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting

Minutes of Meeting held at Wentbridge House Hotel  
on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2010

#### 1. Introduction

Derek Packer (DP) started the meeting by thanking everyone for attending.

##### 1.1 Those present:

|             |            |                   |
|-------------|------------|-------------------|
| Max         | Ward       | Birmingham        |
| Paul        | Mackie     | Bradford          |
| Suzanna     | Merry      | Cambridge/Ipswich |
| Nick        | Archer     | Hertfordshire     |
| Richard     | Chaplin    | Ipswich           |
| Fiona       | Storrier   | Leeds             |
| David       | Lingard    | Leeds             |
| Derek       | Packer     | Leeds             |
| Michael     | Henville   | Leeds             |
| Christopher | Trivett    | Leicester         |
| Norman      | Jones      | Liverpool         |
| Clive       | Williams   | Newark            |
| David       | Jones      | Sheffield         |
| John        | Bradley    | South Manchester  |
| Wendy       | Von Niebel |                   |
| Hugh        | Ross       |                   |

##### 1.2 Apologies for Absence:

|          |              |                  |
|----------|--------------|------------------|
| Toby     | Crayden      | Ashford          |
| Matthew  | Bollen       | Bath             |
| Richard  | Lawrance     | Birmingham       |
| Richard  | Francis      | Bristol          |
| Laurence | Brett        | Cambridge        |
| Tim      | Wood         | Derby            |
| Paddy    | Harkins      | Derby            |
| Graham   | Banks        | Derby            |
| Brian    | Butcher      | Essex            |
| Alan     | Brocklehurst | Hull             |
| John     | McNaughton   | London First     |
| Kevin    | Looker       | Newcastle        |
| Roger    | Wood         | Northampton      |
| Bill     | Wright       | Northampton      |
| Chris    | Snowling     | Norwich          |
| Alan     | Gaskell      | Nottingham       |
| Mike     | Bush         | Nottingham       |
| Steve    | Rayner       | Nottingham       |
| David    | Fletcher     | Sheffield        |
| Philip   | Wilbourn     | Sheffield        |
| Chris    | Wewer        | South Manchester |

### **1.3 Minutes from 2009 AGM**

The minutes from the 2009 AGM were approved. Proposed by Nick Archer and seconded by Michael Henville.

### **1.4 Accounts**

The accounts were reviewed by DP. The closing balance at the bank as at 31 December 2009 was £11,704.

### **1.5 Non Payment of subscriptions**

It was confirmed that the only subscriptions outstanding were from South Downs branch and 5 members of London Second.

### **1.6 Change of Vice President**

DP announced that Philip Wilbourn has stepped down from his role as Vice President to concentrate on his business. DP has agreed to stand as President for the next two years and Nick Archer will now be Vice President and will take over as President in 2012.

## **2. President's Review for 2009/2010**

### Implementation of Business Development Plan

- this has been progressed against the back-drop of extremely difficult market conditions, however our 'members lunch' format has continued positively.
- a big 'thank you' to Nick Archer, Wendy von Niebel, Hugh Ross and more recently Mike Henville and Susannah Merry who have all been exceptional in their support plus recent member input on their Profiles

### Membership Development

- membership has remained stable at 450, with the introduction of women/younger professionals improving gradually

### Branch Development

- we have a new branch at Ashford being led by Chairman Toby Craden
- Glasgow through Ryan Fletcher remains a distant possibility and is being encouraged.
- Difficulties maintaining Branches at South Downs and London Second are receiving Management Committee support.
- Progress on regional activities includes joint lunches, speakers and regional events.

### Events

- both the HMS Belfast event last Summer and our traditional House of Commons lunch with speaker John Redwood were successful. Unfortunately the Northern event planned for the York Railway Museum did not attract support.

### Web Development

- the Management Committee with consultants Media Creative/MPI/WVN have spent a great deal of time developing the improved Website which is to be launched at the AGM and rolled out to each branch.

### **Evolution not Revolution :-**

Business priorities throughout the last year have limited commitment and time for our implementation priorities

Recognising this the Committee has, with Media Creative/MPI/WvN focused on the major task - web development

This tool has been successfully developed and trialled and is now ready to launch to Members

Taking a 3 year view, your committee is satisfied that we have achieved good progress in the first year towards implementing the priorities identified in the Members Survey

Lunch meetings for each branch remain a key priority for face to face interaction

### **3. Chairman's Reports:**

Members of the Management Committee reported on the branches they have responsibility for, but which were not represented at the AGM.

#### **Bristol – Max Ward**

They have a new chair this year (Richard Francis). They are sailing along quite happily, they currently have 19 members and they have two possible new members in the pipeline. They currently hold four lunches a year with an average attendance of 25/30, plus a member's supper.

They normally join Bath for one of the lunches and it is Bristol's turn to host this year.

#### **Northampton – Max Ward**

Roger Wood is the chair and intends to hand over after the 2010/2011 year. They currently have twenty-seven members and are happy to stay at that sort of level. They hold four lunches a year and have not held any other 'events'.

They have considered joint meetings but believe their current modus operandi is working well. They have a couple of concerns with two members who do not attend regularly but keep paying their fees.

#### **Birmingham – Max Ward**

Richard Lawrance is the current chair. There are now 12 members with 4/5 in the pipeline. There have been four lunches in the year and attendance is averaging 16/20. The intention is to raise this to 25 at least this year.

#### **Derby – Max Ward**

Graham Banks is the current Chairman. They have 32 members. They normally have four lunches a year. Their Christmas lunch is a big event and they had 360 attendees. Another event last year was a tour of Derby Roundhouse. They have had joint events with both Leicester and Nottingham, more so with Nottingham who also took a table at their Christmas lunch.

#### **Bath – Max Ward**

Matthew Bollen is the current chair. They currently have 16 members, with two about to retire which will take them down to 14, so they will be looking to increase the membership by two or three. There have been four lunches during the year plus a joint lunch with Bristol branch. They have no problems with attendance.

#### **Leicester – Chris Trivett**

Chris Trivett has been chairman for one year. They currently have 21 members – having lost some members last summer. The branch has a 60% attendance record. They have 18-22 at most meetings. They have four meetings per year and have a guest speaker.

**Ipswich – Richard Chaplin**

22 members, meet at Hintlesham Hall. 4 lunches per year and a summer July function will take place with Essex branch. Each Chairman's term is one year and there is always a Vice in readiness to take over. Branch running very well.

**Hertfordshire – Nick Archer**

Membership at 22 - three new members this year and one departure. Meet 6 times per year mainly for lunch and Speaker; usually have one breakfast a year. Average attendance of 18 members plus guests.

Speakers/Topics this year have included Photovoltaics; the outgoing President of the Chartered Institute of Housing, who spoke of his vision to 'provide communities where people want to live'; a management consultant on 'Maintaining good business relationships by avoiding disputes' and Professor Andrew Starr of the University of Hertfordshire who spoke on the topic of 'Sustainability' and who is keen to foster relationships between business and academia and as such is interested in becoming a member.

We also had a talk by one of our members who is heavily involved in the promotion of education of construction and the built environment and who gave a demonstration of their 'Design a School in a Day' workshop that they hold in local schools.

We also always have a Members only Xmas lunch, which is well supported and a very relaxed and enjoyable occasion.

On a more personal note – I have been told to say that I don't know how I would manage all the organising necessary without the assistance of my exceptional PA!

**London First – Nick Archer**

Recently elected Chairman is John McNaughton of City South Projects Ltd who succeeded Vince Dallimore. They have 14 members, and they are considering increasing this by two in 2010. They meet quarterly, very informally, for lunch with a guest and to network – no speakers.

**London Second – Nick Archer**

This was the Ladies Branch, which is it felt is no longer within the more inclusive ethos of the organisation and so our likely proposal is to encourage a new Chairman to build on the numbers.

**Norwich – Nick Archer**

Chairmanship recently changed from Glyn Davies of Bidwells to Chris Snowling of R G Carter. They have approx. 25 members and always look to replace but not to expand numbers much more due to limits of accommodation. They hold events quarterly which is a lunch with Speaker and they have occasional 'away days', e.g. went to Port of Yarmouth Outer Harbour Project – very good day – almost a mini conference.

**South Downs – Nick Archer**

Disappointingly, Andrew Finnamore of Amberley House Investments, Chairman, says the Branch is likely to close down. They do not have enough interest and he is still chasing members for their membership fees. The National Committee will be making contact because we do not want the Branch to die.

**Manchester South – John Bradley**

Chris Wewer is Chairman. 28 members. 7 events booked throughout the year including a members only dinner with Liverpool, Manchester and Manchester South.

**Newark – Clive Williams**

12 members who meet every 2 months. Members are encouraged to bring a guest and the cost of the meal including guest is £70. Nothing formal at the lunches. Some issues with members sending someone in their place- this has been resolved.

**Sheffield – David Jones**

26 members. David Fletcher is now in his 2<sup>nd</sup> year as chairman. 4 meetings per year and on average a guest speaker attends 2 of those. Meet at Baldwin's Omega in Sheffield. There is an AGM meeting held in Sheffield.

**Liverpool – Norman Jones**

18 members and 2 honorary members. 12 meetings per year of which 6 include guests. Well run active club. Average age of members – over 50's and want to attract younger members to the club together with lady members. Had meeting with Manchester South. Want to use web site to interact and objective this year to interact more with Leeds and other branches.

**Glasgow - Derek Packer**

Established in principle at the last AGM under the Chairmanship of Ryan Fletcher of jmarchitects. To date this branch has not been launched but is still being encouraged – potentially 10 members

**Edinburgh - Derek Packer**

Under the Chairmanship of Graham Mather, the membership of 10 remains unchanged and meetings continue regularly. Web interaction has been encouraged through member Brian Thompson

**Newcastle – Derek Packer**

This Branch remains small with 6 members. The present Chairman Kevin Looker has confirmed their willingness to increase to 10 members which needs encouragement through their new Chairperson this year

**Hull – Derek Packer**

Present Chairman Allen Brocklehurst with 18 members. *Report awaited*

**Leeds - Fiona Storrier**

Fiona Storrier has been Chairperson for 3 months, with Steve Bell as Vice. 25 members, 5 honorary members. 4 lunches per year, well attended 13 + bring guests. If members do not attend they are asked to leave. 1 new member - 2 in pipe line. Have organised golf match for 2 years and encourage joint meetings between Hull, Bradford and Sheffield.

**Bradford – Paul Mackie**

20 members – invitation only club. 50% attendance before, Paul Mackie has increased this to 80%. 4 lunches per year. 2 year Chairmanship. Branch working well with the help of a good PA.

**4. The New Website**

The Management Committee with Consultants Media Creative/MPI/WvN have spent a great deal of time developing the improved Website which was demonstrated to those attending the AGM and will be rolled out to each branch over the coming weeks.

Key points:

- New address –[www.interactgroup.co.uk](http://www.interactgroup.co.uk) Email takes you straight there More member information, incl. photos
- Easy search facility
- Make connections and send messages Events calendar, news reports
- Forum area - discussion/info requests

**5. Business Plan for 2010/2011**

5.1 To promote and build on last year's plan

#### 5.2 Management Structure

- Philip Wilbourn has resigned from the Management Committee.
- Steve Oliver of Ipswich branch and David Jones of Sheffield branch have been elected.

#### 5.3 Budget and fees proposal

**Subscriptions will remain at £50.00 and are due by 30th June 2010.**

#### **6. A.O.B.**

Events: It was felt that the golf day should be extended to include more members – David Jones will speak to Mike Bush who currently organises the golf day.

WvN to look into a “day at the races” which will be in a central location for all.

#### **Date of Next AGM**

The date of the next AGM will be 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2011 – venue to be confirmed.

**Derek Packer**

**March 2010.**