

Operations Engineer

SOE, industry and regional news and events



SOE president Shaun Stephenson EngTech FSOE FIRTE speaking at the SOEHK 12th anniversary celebration

New president lends support to SOEHK

In July 2015, SOE welcomed a new president, Shaun Stephenson EngTech FSOE FIRTE, who recently visited Hong Kong to lend his support to SOE members and volunteers here.

Shaun's visit coincided with SOE Hong Kong's (SOEHK) 12th anniversary celebrations on 7 August 2015, which brought together SOEHK members and other leading industry figures in recognition of what the group has so far achieved. In addition to Shaun, SOE was also represented by Chris Grime EngTech CEnv FSOE FIRTE, past president and chair of IRTE Services Ltd, who also took part in the centre's celebrations.

"SOE has a real opportunity for membership growth in Asia, and to further support our colleagues and the next generation of engineers here," commented

Shaun following the event. "Both Chris and I are very much looking forward to building on the hard work done by SOEHK."

Ir KC Lau, president of SOEHK, commented: "SOEHK has been in the forefront of promoting operations engineering in Hong Kong. In a short period of time, the group has successfully built up its reputation and earned recognition from local professional bodies and institutions in Hong Kong, Macau and mainland China."

These organisations include other engineering organisations (such as the Hong Kong Institute of Engineers, the Chartered Association of Building Engineers, and the

Chinese Mechanical Engineering Society), universities, and technical colleges, and these working partnerships help to strengthen the support the group offers to its 1,600 local members.

Supporting and developing SOE membership globally is a key focus for Shaun during his term. "The next period for SOE is an exciting one, and I'm looking forward to working with our staff and members to grow SOE across all sectors," he says.

A member of IRTE for the past 30 years, Shaun has held various high-profile

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In this issue: IRTE Conference 2015 roundup, supporting your CPD, and a mock public inquiry at the inaugural Scottish irtec Converntion

IRTE IPlantE BES

The Society of Operations Engineers (SOE) is a membership organisation encompassing the Professional Sectors of IRTE, IPlantE and BES. SOE represents over 14,000 individuals and companies in the engineering industry and is committed to the ongoing growth and personal development of its members.

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For more information go to
www.soe.org.uk

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voluntary positions with both IRTE and SOE, including honorary treasurer of the SOE Trustee Board. He originally trained as a technician with vehicle manufacturers ERF, after which he worked with BOC Transshield and Marks & Spencer, where he developed his knowledge of retail distribution, and later with Hoyer and Esso, where he managed a significant distribution and engineering team. Here he also developed his knowledge of running workshops, commercial tenders and financial modelling. His experience also includes running the workshop infrastructure for Ryder System, Inc. as head of operations. In 2003, while a national fleet manager with Arla Foods, he was runner up in the Fleet Engineer of the Year Awards. In his current role as fleet director for Bidvest Logistics, Shaun oversees the national distribution fleets of a number of constituent companies.

He concludes: "SOE is a truly great organisation and we can look forward to the next period with optimism, excitement and energy - not only for our membership, but also for colleagues in industry, government, and fellow organisations."

More about SOE in Hong Kong can be found at www.soe.org.hk



SOE's Chris Grime (third from left) and Shaun Stephenson (centre) with members of SOEHK

IPlantE member feedback



The IPlantE Professional Sector Council (PSC) would like to thank all those who responded to the May/June edition of *Operations Engineers* which asked for feedback from IPlantE members as to how their Institution can best support them. The PSC received a significant number of comments, which included content suggestions for IPlantE and BES publication *Plant Engineer*, and events targeted specifically toward IPlantE members.

The resulting discussions have seen the instigation of two specific actions: to investigate how IPlantE can better support members who are physically disabled and/or those with learning difficulties, and hosting events specific to sub-sectors of the IPlantE membership, such

as retired members.

The comments received have also been useful in providing feedback to SOE's Trustee Board on matters relevant to members. To this end, the IPlantE PSC would like to encourage members to provide feedback on an ongoing basis, which will be regularly reviewed.

"Is SOE and IPlantE delivering everything plant engineers want and need from their Institution?" asks Ian Jackson, chair of the IPlantE PSC. "If not, why not?"

IPlantE PSC meetings are held approximately three times a year, and the committee welcomes all member feedback. If you would like to have your say, please email membership@soe.org.uk

Member recommendation offer

SOE represents around 14,000 members, both in the UK and worldwide, who benefit from professional recognition and the support of a leading professional engineering institution throughout their careers.

Operations engineering is constantly evolving, and so the support and services SOE offers its members must reflect this. To this end, the Society encourages all its members to promote the benefits of membership among colleagues in the road, plant, and engineering surveying sectors.

If you are a member of SOE and nominate someone who becomes a member, you will receive £35 worth of vouchers* for Amazon UK, Marks and Spencer, or iTunes, with no limit on the number of people you can nominate for membership.

*Currently only available to members in the UK

For more information on SOE's Recommend a Member scheme go to www.soe.org.uk/my-soe/member-services/recommend-a-member



(l-r) Peter Williams from Cummins, Andrew Banks from Ricardo, Stephen Martin from SIG Plc, Phil Roe from DHL, Dr Steve Summerskill from Loughborough Design School, Prof David Cebon from the University of Cambridge



Martin Boyes from McLaren Racing, who provided a unique insight into the world of F1 transport and logistics

IRTE Conference 2015

The annual IRTE Conference invites some of the biggest names in the business to share their knowledge and experiences, and the theme of this year's event was Innovation, compliance & safety: the way to efficient fleet operations.

Professor David Cebon HonFSOE HonFIRTE was the keynote speaker, and around 170 delegates attended this year's event, held on 17 September 2015 at the Chesford Grange Hotel in Kenilworth, Warwickshire. The 22 industry leaders who spoke included Kevin Rooney, Traffic Commissioner for the North East of England, and Martin Boyes, assistant to the transport manager for McLaren Racing.

Brian Tingham, editorial director for *Transport Engineer*, introduced the morning talks which included video messages from Andrew Jones MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Transport, and Leon Daniels, Surface Transport managing director for Transport for London, who explained the importance of CLOCS and FORS accreditation, with a particular focus on improving safety standards for HGVs.

The CLOCS programme, which has to date accredited over 2,000 operators and 200,000 vehicles, was explored in further detail by Glen Davies, programme manager for Transport for London, who spoke on new standards, mandatory technologies, and contractual processes affecting road transport operators. He also discussed the likely impact this would have on truck manufacturers, dealers, and bodybuilders.

As one of the most successful teams in Formula One history, McLaren Racing, part of the McLaren Technology Group, employs over 600 people and has won 20 World Championships and 182 Grand Prix's. The company were responsible for the world's first carbon fibre monocoque, and Martin Boyes was on hand to provide a unique insight into the world of F1 logistics and transport, including truck and trailer designs, engineering and undertaking the equivalent of transporting a city hotel round the world for each race.

In the afternoon, delegates divided into separate in-depth seminars covering legal and compliance issues, and developments in new vehicle technology. The day was rounded off by James Backhouse from leading transport solicitors Backhouse Jones, who explored the topic of accident management, and implications for commercial vehicle operators of the changing legal landscape.



Keynote speaker Prof David Cebon from the University of Cambridge who spoke about emerging and future technologies



Kevin Green from Continental speaking about modern tachographs and associated software and services



Stephen Martin from SIG Plc who spoke on innovations in truck designs and configurations

2015 Hong Kong symposium: Reaching the Next Level of Health, Safety and Environmental Management



SOEHK's Chris Tam, chair of the symposium organising committee, delivered the welcoming remarks

Each year, members of the **SOE HONG KONG CENTRE (SOEHK)** host a one-day symposium on current engineering issues. The event this year, held on 5 June 2015 at Hong Kong Polytechnic University, was entitled *Reaching the Next Level of Health, Safety and Environmental Management by New Technology and Innovation* and participants had a chance to learn about the latest developments and approaches in this.

SOEHK member Chris Tam, chair of the symposium organising committee, provided the welcoming remarks. Over 160 delegates attended the event, and distinguished speakers from government organisations, professional bodies and private

industry shared valuable insights and experiences with those in attendance.

Dr. Hon Lo Wai Kwok, member of the HKSAR Legislative Council, Functional Constituency-Engineering, delivered the morning's keynote address, while Ir Joseph KH Choi, vice president of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers delivered the keynote address in the afternoon.

The event represented an invaluable opportunity for delegates to assimilate this new knowledge within their respective existing management frameworks. Among the organisations involved were the Legislative Council of the HKSAR Government, The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, KONE Elevator (HK) Ltd, MTR Corporation Ltd, the Hong Kong Association of Risk Management and Safety, the Hong Kong Institute of Steel Construction, CLP Power, Aedas, and the Macau Institution of Engineers.



Members of the 2015 SOEHK symposium organising committee

OBITUARIES

It is with regret that the Society notes the passing of the following members.



Paul West MSOE MBES

(19 July 1953 – 3 July 2015)

A long-serving engineer surveyor, Paul's career began in 1971 at Hatfield Polytechnic, where he gained his HND in mechanical engineering. He then joined Liebherr Tower Cranes as part of an NDE/NDT team, progressing to warranty manager.

Paul joined Cornhill in 1980, where he took up a varied portfolio of lifts and cranes inspection duties in

London, later continuing this role with Allianz and focusing on lifts and escalators while retaining his all-round expertise with a wider range of plant equipment such as building maintenance units. He was also involved with special services (consultancy) work, recruitment and training, and mentoring for colleagues seeking professional development.

An active supporter of the BES Southern Region, Paul's knowledge and experience were always evident during the region's frequent lectures which he unfailingly attended.

Paul and his wife, Joy, whom he married in 1983, had two children, Luke and Mary. Outside of work, he held a lifelong interest in outdoor pursuits, including canoeing, coaching the sport to a high level as part of the University of Hertfordshire

Canoe Club. He also served his local Hemel Hempstead community, as a governor of both Lime Walk Primary School and JFK Catholic School, and had various roles with St Mary's Church in Apsley.

Paul passed away suddenly but peacefully from heart disease and, after almost 35 years as an engineer surveyor, was close to retirement. He was known to stand out in a crowd with his full beard and positive outlook.

James Henry Harvey MSOE AMIRTE

(15 February 1929 – 27 May 2015)

Jim served his apprenticeship with Brough-based Hawker Blackburn before joining the 1324 Hawker Blackburn Squadron ATC, from where he progressed into the RAF for his National Service. He later joined the service depot of Albion Motors (later Leyland Motors) in Hull, where he remained until the closure of the depot in 1984, after which he worked as a quality controller at a fibre-board works.

Based in Hull all his life, Jim was actively involved for many years with the IRTE Hull and East Yorkshire Centre, serving as chair from 1987-89, and regularly attended centre meetings and outings. He was considered a 'real gentleman' with a wealth of knowledge who would talk about trucks and buses to anyone who would listen, which included the nieces and nephews of Jim and his wife, Joyce, who passed away 13 years ago.

He will be missed by his family, colleagues, and friends throughout the transport industry.



mycareerpath™

The first and second instalments of SOE's CPD series outlined the requirement of members to maintain and record the CPD they undertake, and explained mycareerpath, SOE's online CPD tool developed by the Engineering Council (EngC), and how members should be recording their CPD. In this final instalment, we explain EngC's new auditing process and what members need to know.

Supporting your professional development - Part 3

NEW ENGINEERING COUNCIL CPD AUDITING POLICY

From January 2017, EngC will require all Professional Engineering Institutions (PEIs) to audit the CPD of a randomly selected percentage of their members. This is being implemented in order to foster a culture of engaging with CPD, taking ownership of learning and development, and encourage good practice in planning, recording and reflecting on professional development. EngC does not require registrants to attain a certain number of CPD hours or 'points', as professional engineering competence is outcome-based.

WHAT MEMBERS NEED TO DO

SOE will ensure that the monitoring process will not place undue inconvenience on registrants or their employers. (For example, registrants will not be asked to duplicate work which they have already done to record learning and development). To this end, no additional action is currently needed by members as SOE regularly reviews the CPD of registrants on election to the Engineering Council Register, as well as when they become a Member or Fellow. Additionally, Trustee Board members, Professional Sector Council members, and Membership and Professional Standards Committee members will also be subject to audit. If necessary, registrants whose CPD records are selected for audit will receive feedback with advice on planning, recording, and reflecting. Registrants may also be asked for additional information and given further guidance about this.

ELIGIBILITY

Registrants who are not professionally active or who are on career breaks are exempt from the auditing process. Those who are not employed but are engaged in voluntary activity on behalf of their PEI (for example, within the governance structure, or with professional reviewing or the accreditation of academic programmes or professional development schemes) are considered to be professionally active, and are eligible for auditing.

ACTIVITIES THAT MEMBERS SHOULD BE RECORDING

Registrants should be recording anything that has contributed to their professional learning and development. CPD activities are of equal importance or status - individual registrants must determine what activities are appropriate for them. Because reflecting on learning and development is an important aspect of CPD, registrants need to indicate what they have learnt from an activity and, where appropriate, what professional effect this has.

Some examples of the type of activities that members may record are:

- Courses (such as distance learning or in-house programmes)
- Informal, on-the-job learning
- Seminars or lectures
- Private study
- Mentoring
- Voluntary activity within a professional body or in the wider community

HOW MEMBERS CAN RECORD THEIR CPD

mycareerpath (an online tool to record CPD, developed by EngC and used by multiple PEIs) will help members set out learning goals and achievements, record activities undertaken, and present this in a coherent manner should their CPD records be selected for audit.

Accessible via the SOE website, mycareerpath is free for members and has pre-loaded profiles designed to help you map your progress to professional registration. It is not managed by SOE and can only be monitored with specific permission from the member.

While mycareerpath is designed for members to easily record and monitor their CPD, it is not mandatory for members to use it and there is no particular format in which CPD should be recorded. However, in some cases, employer CPD records may not record enough information (for example, reflecting on CPD) and registrants are encouraged to supplement their records if necessary.

WHO WILL REVIEW CPD RECORDS

As with other aspects of EngC's UK-SPEC, peer review is the key principle behind the reviewing of CPD, meaning registrants' records should and will be reviewed by other registrants. The eventual aim is for those reviewing CPD to come from all categories of registration.

If you'd like to know more about mycareerpath, CPD, and the new auditing policy, contact the SOE membership team at membership@soe.org.uk or 020 7630 6666.

Isuzu Truck and irtec

Isuzu Truck delivers irtec accreditation almost exclusively to their network of 50 dealers; so far, they have delivered 40 certifications at Inspection Technician level, equating to roughly 80% of their network employing irtec accredited technicians.

“irtec helps standardise the quality of inspections carried out in our dealer network and this gives our customers reassurance,” explains Liam Doyle, senior trainer for Isuzu Truck, who have been assessing irtec candidates since May 2013. This reassurance has a positive effect on a customer’s OCRS, he explains, which leads to longer periods between inspections and therefore more on-the-road time, resulting in greater profitability.

Assessment is primarily done at Isuzu’s training facility in Hatfield, which helps ensure conditions for testing are standardised. “We have also gained approval to run assessments off-site at clients’ premises where commercially viable,” says Liam. “This is subject to the facility having similar standards and resources as our training centre.

“We don’t carry out any training before assessment as we believe it is better to train to the skills gaps identified in the assessment; however, we rarely need to run additional training sessions as the quality of the technicians we see is often very high.



irtec assessor Tim Hicks (right) from Isuzu Truck

“The irtec scheme gives technicians recognition, along with constructive feedback on their performance. It is also a growing requirement from our customers and clients, as well as many fleet operators, and we aim to facilitate this in order to meet the demands of our network.”

Alongside the Inspection Technician qualification currently on offer, Isuzu have recently been approved to deliver the Advanced Technician qualification, meaning their apprentices graduate with a higher level of training than the current Level 3 NVQ standard.

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from your abc?

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If you work on a bus, coach, HGV or trailer, and want to prove to your employer that you’re competent at your job, getting an irtec licence is the way to do it.

Getting licensed with irtec involves doing a theory test and a practical assessment, and will ensure your employer values your skills and competence.

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First Scottish irtec Convention is a success

The first ever Scottish irtec Convention, which took place on 1 August 2015 during Truckfest Scotland, hosted Scottish Traffic Commissioner Joan Aitken who presided over a fictional public inquiry.

Organised by the SOE Scotland Development Group and sponsored by Brigade Electronics, the event attracted over 100 delegates and included a three part trade presentation on Euro 6 diagnostics, Whole Vehicle Type Approval, trailer braking issues, and a Q&A session with industry experts.

Speakers included Ian Smith, technical manager for Gray & Adams, who explained Type Approval and the implications involved, and Roger Thorpe, engineering manager for trailer axle maker BPW, who discussed the merits and drawbacks of drum and disc brakes in semi-trailer fleets. Technical manager Aaron McGrath and technical instructor Keith Gallon, both from Scania, explored the inbuilt monitoring and diagnostic systems now made possible with Euro 6.

"We need to make sure our engineers of the future are valued and have a career structure that is recognised throughout our industry and beyond," said Ian Smith. "This convention will, I hope, act as a springboard to attract our engineering membership of the future."

The main attraction of the day, a mock public inquiry, had garnered significant interest from the hauliers in attendance and involved the acting skills of Traffic Commissioner Joan



Scottish Traffic Commissioner Joan Aitken during the Scottish irtec Convention mock public inquiry

vehicles, with one vehicle in possession.

The audience learnt how, on 1 August 2014, an 'S' marked prohibition was issued to vehicle XX54 1JV following a wheel loss incident. Thereafter, a DVSA vehicle examiner prepared a report following a maintenance investigation done on 1 September 2014. The outcome of this was deemed to be unsatisfactory due to the following shortcomings:

1. Inspection records incomplete
2. Poor annual test pass rate
3. Issue of PG9 'S'

The operator was then issued with a PG13F&G asking for an explanation with assurances.

Questioning highlighted several misdemeanours carried out by directors of operators, including the driver having been on his mobile phone prior to the wheel-loosening incident on the day in question, and a lack in standards in checking the vehicle. In addition, it was discovered that the driver was keeping the vehicle overnight at his home address, in a residential area.

The Traffic Commissioner then presented the audience with the options available in such an instance:

- Do nothing
- Issue a warning
- Curtail the licence
- Suspend the licence
- Revoke the licence
- Revoke the licence and disqualify the operator and its director
- Take action against the transport manager, who could lose his repute and professional competence and be disqualified
- Issue a warning to the driver
- Suspend the driver's LGV entitlement
- Disqualify the driver from holding LGV entitlement

Delegates had the opportunity to input on what course of action should be taken, with the final audience-lead decision recommending curtailments and suspensions.



Acting defendant Ian Jones, from transport solicitors Backhouse Jones

Aitken, senior vehicle examiner Robert Brown, Ian Jones from transport solicitors Backhouse Jones who acted as the defendant, 'driver' Andrew Aitken, and fictional transport manager Richard (Dicky) Fantome.

Based on the real-life case of a demolition services company, the proceedings began with a preliminary PI and Conduct Hearing 'case'. It was explained to the audience that fictitious operators Ingliston Demolition Services held a standard national goods vehicle operator's licence, granted at the beginning of 2004, with authority for the use of two

SS Great Britain technical talk

22 October 2015, SS Great Britain, Bristol

BES and IPlantE will be hosting a special talk on the SS Great Britain, followed by two technical lectures and a chance to meet BES and IPlantE council members.

For more information and to register your place go to www.soe.org.uk/events/iplante-events/item/iplante-seminar-and-open-evening

The opportunities and challenges of insuring wind turbines in 2015

6 November 2015, Ash, Surrey

IPlantE PSC member Alan Fitzpatrick will be speaking on the opportunities and challenges of insuring wind turbines on behalf of the BES South Eastern Centre.

To reserve a place contact centre chair John Childs at j.jf.childs@btinternet.com

British Forces Resettlement Services (BFRS) career events

15 October & 26 November

Whether you just want to see what your options are, or are looking for something specific, these events are a great way to talk things through with the right people, and build your professional network.

Events will be held on the following dates:

15 October - Catterick, North Yorkshire
26 November - Portsmouth

For more information see www.bfrss.org.uk or email Roger.OLoughlin@soe.org.uk

Cold & dark by 2050?

11 November 2015, University of Hertfordshire

By 2050, our planet's population is expected to reach 9 billion and our demand for energy at current rates of growth will be two and a half times that of today. How are we to match supply with demand in a world already post 'peak oil' and with an increasing proportion of intermittent renewables in our energy mix? Are we at a pivotal point in our relationship with energy and the environment? This EEESTA (East of England Engineering, Science, and Technology Association) seminar will explore these issues and more. Speakers will include:

- Peter Guthrie, director of the Centre for Sustainable Development
- John Loughhead, chief scientific adviser for the Department of Energy and Climate Change
- Prof. Goran Strbac, chair of electrical energy systems, Imperial College London

FREE entrance - advance booking is required:
www.bookwhen.com/eeesta

The National Engineering & Construction Recruitment Exhibition

27 & 28 November 2015, NEC, Birmingham

Aimed at engineering and construction professionals looking to progress with their careers or discover how their skills can transfer to a different sector, this two day event will offer delegates the chance to meet with and learn from the industry's top employers. As the UK's largest engineering recruitment event, a wide range of global companies – including BAE Systems, GE, Denso, Interserve, Robson Liddle, Network Rail, and HSB Engineering Insurance - will be looking to actively recruit at all levels. Delegates will also benefit from career advice and job-hunting tools including CV and interview clinics, psychometric testing practice, and one-to-one career advice.

The Women in Engineering forum will also be held on 27 November, and will offer female professionals at any stage of their career the opportunity to network and learn from other women in their industry.

For more information, and to register for a FREE ticket go to www.engineerjobs.co.uk/engineering-exhibitions/autumn-exhibition-2015

IRTE North London Centre 50th anniversary dinner dance

In celebration of their 50th anniversary, the IRTE North London Centre will be hosting a celebratory evening event featuring a four course dinner followed by cabaret and dancing to live music.

Date: 14 November 2015
Time: Reception at 6.45pm with dinner served at 7.30pm
Venue: Hilton Watford Hotel, Elton Way, Watford, Hertfordshire WD25 8HA
Dress Code: Black tie or lounge suit

Tickets are £50 with round tables seating 10-12. Hotel accommodation with breakfast at discounted rates is also

available. Please note that accommodation will need to be booked directly with the hotel (a booking code will be provided).

For further details please contact the IRE North London Centre chair, Paul Arber, on paul.arber@zen.co.uk

A booking form can be found at www.soe.org.uk/events/irte-events/item/50th-anniversary-dinner-dance

