

**IFE SW BRANCH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
21 MAY 2008
EXMINSTER HOUSE EXETER**

<p>Present:</p> <p>Neil Gibbins – President SW Branch Jan Sturges – Vice President Malcolm Carmichael – Secretary Peter Robinson- Treasurer Paul Young Ally MacDonald Chris Bridgeman Martin Carnell Glen Askew Adam Course Colin Partridge</p> <p>1. <u>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING DATED 18 MAY 2007</u></p> <p>These were accepted as a true record.</p> <p>2. <u>BRANCH PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS</u></p> <p>Neil Gibbins gave thanks to the members of the Committee and was pleased that the Branch continues to flourish. The recent conference will inject much needed funds into the Branch and will require decisions to be made on how best to invest in the future.</p> <p>Nationally, IFE has had a difficult year with Chief Executive being absent for much of the time. Louise Craig has stepped in to fill the gap for the moment. John Judd and Peter Holland are leading resurgence in the IFE examinations which are being used by some UK Brigades as a measure in judging development competence. The conclusion reached is that IPDS without underpinning technical knowledge leaves a gap. Further meeting on this topic to be held before end of July 2008. Examinations do need the support of members for marking.</p> <p>The IFE continues to be an apolitical organisation which develops connections within the Fire Industry and provides a national and international networking opportunity. Three members of the Branch are to be recognised for their contribution to the Branch with a Companion Award. Jan Sturges, Peter Robinson and Malcolm Carmichael were nominated by the Branch President.</p> <p>3. <u>BRANCH CONSTITUTION</u></p> <p>The new Branch Constitution has been based on the IFE template and was circulated to all attendees to discuss.</p>	<p>Apologies:</p> <p>Andy Worsley Phil Martin Pete Redbourn Mike Burroughs David Johnson</p>
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Paul Young suggested a few minor amendments which were agreed.

Adoption of amended constitution proposed by Jan Sturges, seconded by Peter Robinson and passed unanimously.

4. BRANCH SECRETARY'S REPORT

Malcolm Carmichael gave report covering Membership figures, Events throughout 2007/08, IFE AGM, Conference and Exhibition, General Assembly meeting, Committee meetings, Study week and Examinations.

The Secretary's report was adopted.

Discussion took place around the possibility of running a study week for Members Science Paper for up to 16 students in January 2009.
Need for national advertising.

Cornwall Fire Brigade is looking to use IFE examinations as evidence of underpinning knowledge. Paul Young confirmed that if a sound case was made he would look positively upon the introduction of examination as an essential part of promotion process in Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service.

BRANCH TREASURER'S REPORT

Current balance stands at £416.04. Profit achieved from Fire Safety Order Conference yet to be calculated but is anticipated to be over £6K. Thanks offered to IFE for their assistance in organisation.

The Treasurer's Report was adopted.

5. ELECTION OF BRANCH COUNCIL OFFICERS

Neil Gibbins was re-elected as Branch President – unopposed.
Jan Sturges was re-elected as Branch Vice President – unopposed.
Malcolm Carmichael was re-elected as Branch Secretary – unopposed.
Peter Robinson was re-elected as Branch Treasurer – unopposed.

6. COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Phil Martin was re-elected as Area Rep (DSFRS) – unopposed
Steve Widnell was re-elected as Area Rep (DSFRS) – unopposed
Glen Askew was re-elected as Area Rep (DSFRS) – unopposed
Ashley Raddon was re-elected as Area Rep (DSFRS) – unopposed
Pete Redbourn was re-elected as Area Rep (DSFRS) – unopposed
Antony Bartlett was re-elected as Area Rep (CCFB) – unopposed

Martin Carnell was proposed by Neil Gibbins, seconded by Phil Martin and elected as Area Rep for DSFRS.
Kath Billing was proposed by Jan Sturges, seconded by Pete Robinson and elected as Area Rep for CCFB
Jon Castleden was proposed by Jan Sturges, seconded by Peter Robinson and elected as Area Rep for CCFB

7. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Neil Gibbins and Peter Robinson have one year office remaining.

8. AVON FRS

Due to no formal proposals being received, discussion centred around the option for Avon FRS and other members of inactive Mid Western Branch to attend events put on by SW Branch.

It was agreed that Branch events are open to all. Secretary will keep Mid Western Branch advised of events.

9. INTERNAL PRESIDENT

The International President was unable to attend due to another engagement.

Meeting closed at 11.15 hours.

Malcolm Carmichael CMIFire E
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PRESENTATIONS

The AGM was followed by a presentation from Colin Partridge AAIA I Eng FIFire E on the benefit of the Engineering Technician qualification and how this can be achieved by a large number of people working in the Fire Industry. Professional Review utilising examination qualification and professional report or Workplace Assessment utilising a lower qualification with report and assessor visit are most common routes.

Colin offered further advice to anyone who may be interested. Contact details through Branch Secretary.

A second presentation was given by Adrian Rushworth from the Environment Agency focussing on the role of the EA at major flooding events and its relationship with other responding organisations.

The presentation promoted much discussion and future partnership opportunities were identified. Neil Gibbins to follow up with option to look at funding opportunities.