

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2022-2023**

**Norman Stevenson**

**CHAIRMAN**

 

**Welcome to the 2022/2023 Annual Chairman’s Report for Safety Groups UK**

What another strange year this has been, this report like last years, is a lot shorter than normal.

This report provides an overview of our continuing activities during 2022/2023. The financial report and the Secretary’s reports for this period are provided separately.

**Fundraising:**

Whilst The WP has been extremely busy behind the scenes and has made several proposals / recommendations to encourage addition sponsorship (which is desperately still required) and better engage with the local groups. Details of these proposals are available within minutes of several meetings. Many thanks to the WP for their efforts, but unfortunately, probably for a number of reasons, we are still in dire straits in terms of funds.

A**wards:**

The Awards Working Party has been extremely busy behind the scenes (as always). Whilst the modest success of the 2022 presentations at Manchester last year where the presentation of the Excellence and Outstanding Service awards in May 2022 at Manchester thanks to Tim Else providing the platform was good.

The presentation in September of the Innovation, Development through Education and Special Project awards at Grangemouth within the Ineos Exhibition Centre was also an excellent event, it always felt wrong somehow that the categories were split.

Due to lack of funds, the MAC decided this year that all the awards were to be virtual, but thanks to a rush of applications at the end, I felt that there was enough participants and considering the fact that all (apart from Northern Ireland) were in the south of England, I made the decision to take up Stephen Thomas’s kind invitation to host the awards ceremony at the Grange, IOSH Headquarters near Leicester.

This proved to be the right thing to do, and the event was a huge success on the 21st September, when we presented Silver Excellence Awards to Birmingham Health, Safety and Environmental Association, Herefordshire Health and Safety Group, Northern Ireland Health and Safety Group, North Lincs Health and Safety Group and South Cumbria Occupational Health and Safety Group. (Not strictly the south of England, but south of Great Britain, or at least south of Scotland).

Gold Excellence Awards were presented to South and West Wales Safety Group and Kent Health and Safety Group: The overall winner of the Excellence Awards, were presented to Kent Health and Safety Group.

The Maurice Adamson Award for Outstanding Service was posthumously awarded to George Allcock (deceased) of BHSEA and the SGUK Board.

After a delicious Buffet Lunch, The winning entrants of the Innovation and Development through Education categories presented their submissions, followed by their awards being presented to them. The winner of the Lord Cullen Trophy was presented to Operational Compliance Systems Ltd for their entry ‘Revolutionary Health and Safety App ‘Under Construction’’, with the Albert Porter Rose Bowl going to their local group BHSEA:

The second place Innovation winner of the Stevenson Shield was presented to Adman Civil Projects Limited.

Finally, the Development through Education Award was presented jointly to IOSH Fire Risk Management Group for their entry ‘Back to Basics Fire Safety Webinar Series’ and Adman Civil Projects Ltd for their entry ‘Commitment to Inclusive Holistic Education/Skills in Emergency Rescues’ were presented the SCOS Trophy.

Preparing for these awards was a busy time and I’d like to thank Ian Coombes, Bob Rajan, Stephen Thomas and the staff of IOSH at Leicester for their welcome assistance, & of course all of the judges.

**Document Review:**

The working party has again not formally met this year however, the documentation we required for running the awards and managing the AGM have been updated in terms of review dates and names where appropriate etc. None of the minor amendments require sanction from the Charities Commission.

**Website and Social Media:**

Like last year, this working party again hasn’t managed to do what it was set up to do, so I would urge the new regime to put more effort into this important issue. Notwithstanding that, a Secretary working group was set up and held successful webinars to try and enhance interest in the running of SGUK, thanks mainly to Sarah Kenny who I hope is invited again this year to become a co-opted member of the Board. Sarah worked closely with Karen and Dawn in the production of these webinars.

**Other important issues for SGUK:**

We continue to support all of the initiatives that SGUK has supported for many years, as listed on the website.

In essence, we continue to support the following:

HSE’s Health and Work strategy.

Clean Air Take Care campaign

It’s in your Hands

Listen Today and Hear Tomorrow campaign

LOcHER initiative,

Health Risks at Work – do you know yours initiative

Construction Dust Partnership (CDP)

Noise and Vibration partnership (NVP)

Healthy Lung Partnership (HLP)

SPlASH

Helping GB Work Well

Working with sponsors and supporters to reach out to small firms and help improve standards in that sector

**Acknowledgments**

I wish to express my thanks for the help and support which we have received over the past year from the following:

SGUK Board of Trustees, Co-opted members, Management Advisory Committee members and Working Party members

I would like to make specific mention of Karen McDonnell and Dawn Thomson from our Secretariat RoSPA.

Our thanks are also due for the ongoing support we receive from RoSPA, HSE, ACT, IIRSM, NEBOSH, IOSH, BSIF, Nineteen Group, and What Else Events, in particular their representatives who sit on our Board and Management Advisory Committee. I also want to extend thanks to our other supporters past present and future: **– Apologies if I have missed anyone, or organisation out.**

**Exhibitions**

**Thanks to Sarah Kenny for running the stand at Birmingham provided by David Bishop, and to Bob Rajan and Philip Grundy for running the stand at Manchester provided by Tim Else and finally to Sanjeev Kumar for running the stand at Farnborough provided also by Tim.**

**Main Meetings in 2022/2023**

An adequate number of Open and Board meetings to satisfy the constitution, were held either hybrid or on Microsoft Teams throughout 2022/23:

Several Teams and face to face meetings of Awards WP

Teams meetings of Fundraising WP and Secretaries Groups.

**Outlook – 2024 and beyond -** The main changes to look forward to next year and beyond are:

New Board members, new Chair & Vice Chair, new MAC members, supporters and sponsors and of course our Co-opted Board members

**Improved engagement with supporting organisations**

We still need to increase our efforts to secure further financial support by sourcing and engaging with new sponsors, otherwise due to our current and dwindling financial situation, we can only continue to provide the level of support we currently do, and facilitate the awards and resultant ceremony at the level we have been doing, for a very limited time – no more than 2 years at best. It is unfortunate we find ourselves in this position, particularly at this time when money is also tight for all current and potential sponsors

Thank you for taking the time to read this report, SGUK and I look forward to working with you and meeting face to face with you all again next year.

**Final personal comments and sentiments from me, the retiring chair**

This is an extremely sad time for me, I had hoped that we would all be sitting round a table or having this AGM as part of an event somewhere where a local group was being showcased like we have done many times in the past but unfortunately here we are, sitting looking at a computer screen, what has life come to? this is not the way I wanted my final Meeting as Chair to be, maybe I am thinking selfishly but for me, virtual meetings are at least detestable and not worth the effort, it certainly isn’t my idea of networking & I hope the new regime will have the desire for returning to full time to face to face meetings in the future.

Anyway, we are not face to face, so no handshakes or hugging & I just have to live with that.

I am in a way, reluctantly stepping down as Chair of an organisation that I have been involved with in some capacity for many years, an organisation that I love and I love what it stands for and that is helping to keep people safe at work. I have given my heart and soul to every local group within our network including every group in Scotland, the Scottish Chamber of Safety, and the numerous groups.

I have visited and tried to help in England, Wales and Northern Ireland: Safety Groups UK has become my life and over the years I have even turned down job offers from companies that did not support the group movement and accepted much lower paid offers from companies that did.

Sadly, for a number of reasons, some groups related, and some personal, it is time for me to step down, I have met and worked with some wonderful people at all group levels, but mainly within SCOS and SGUK & many of who have become very close and dear friends, and from all walks of life. It has been an absolute joy to have been part of the safety group movement and sometimes it has been hard work, very frustrating and stressful, but mostly it has been extremely satisfying, fun and simply wonderful. I am very proud to have chaired the oldest, wisest, and most practical and best ever safety organisation in the world; money can’t buy the happiness and content I have felt being part of, and working within this fantastic arena.

I welcome two new Board members, assuming their nominations are accepted of course, Stephen Laws from Kent who will bring a massive amount of relevant experience, and Dave Foy who brings unique social media skills that SGUK can benefit from. I also welcome one nominated to do a second stint, Sanjeev Kumar who has contributed well to a couple of Working Parties. It is great to see some younger blood coming into our organisation, with skillsets that are required for our survival and continuance.

Unfortunately, we have been unsuccessful in securing the services of a Vice President since Marcia Davis decided to retire a few years ago, and we also lost our President of long standing The Lord Brougham and Vaugh who sadly passed away earlier this year, and to date we have been unsuccessful in filling any of those Honorary Positions albeit a number of appropriate people have been canvassed but have either declined or have not responded to an offer or suggestions to consider. On a final positive note, there is a potential candidate for Vice President; there is a proposer and seconder for the position of Vice President which I believe needs to be ratified by the new Board, and if that ratification occurs, I will be honoured to try and fill Marcia’s place.

Good Luck

Norman

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Past Chairman

**SGUK**

Report presented to Safety Groups UK AGM 05/12/2023