

Safety Groups UK

PROMOTING HEALTH & SAFETY NATIONWIDE



ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

**Norman Stevenson
CHAIRMAN**



Helping
Great Britain
work well

Welcome to the 2019/2020 Annual Chairman's Report for Safety Groups UK

What another quick but very strange year this has been, the report is a bit shorter than the last couple of years due to the restrictions placed on us by the current pandemic (he blatantly lied..)

This report provides an overview of our limited activities during 2019/2020. The financial report and the Secretary's reports for this period are provided separately.

We continued to focus on 3 main threads, those being: Internal Stakeholders; External Stakeholders; and Awards, whilst still managing the bread and butter elements regarding governance, communication and domestic issues. I'd like to mention the work of the various Working Parties that are currently in place, some have been very successful in their endeavours whereas others not so. There are various reasons for lack of success, these can be related to the degree of difficulty in terms of what is expected in terms of output; it can be that the wrong people are members of the WP (lack of output here can also in most cases be attributable to 'day jobs' which always come first before SGUK work, - as it should be, so no criticism aimed at current WP members).

Over the last couple of years we have created a total of five Working Parties, which are outlined below, I will try and put some meat on the bones and explain the successes and the failures and hopefully give reasons for them.

Internal Stakeholders (Local Groups): It is difficult to say if relationships with local groups have improved the way we had intended however, in some cases the pandemic certainly steered us and many local groups in a direction which necessitated SGUK and most local groups doing things differently, with the use of virtual meetings. At local group level, webinars and virtual meetings etc. have been opened to all other groups, which in itself, provides excellent opportunities. I do know that serious attempts have been made by a few WP members to work together and communicate effectively, but without a great deal of success.

Notwithstanding what we wish to achieve with the groups, we must always remember that whilst we can provide guidance and assistance to groups, some of the problems are and always will be local issues that groups must, and mostly want to, manage themselves. SGUK can never be considered as being dictatorial or threatening.

I would like to thank the IWP consisting of Roger Bibbings, Phill Jones, Philip Grundy, Mark Curry and Steve Mullock for their efforts whether individually or collectively.

Unfortunately, due to a number of varying reasons we lose some groups, this last year has been no exception, but on the positive side, we sometimes gain groups and am glad to say that we have gained a few as well. Also, there is a campaign running in the North West of England whereby some schools are getting together and attempts are being made to create a number of school safety groups, we are working with Parklands Academy and others to assist where possible, with the intention when viable of inviting those school groups to join us as SGUK members. (early days, but making good progress.

External Stakeholders (Supporters and Sponsors): We decided rightly or wrongly to have two separate teams, each concentrating on specified geographic areas of UK. The reasoning behind that decision was based on our absolute requirement to identify potential sponsors UK wide and secure additional sponsorship to ensure that SGUK survives and remains able to support the groups in years to come. Although my suggestion, I'm not sure that was the correct decision however: unfortunately, no additional sponsorship has yet been secured. Irrespective of that, I

would like to thank the teams consisting of Kenny Humphreys, Karl Tindale, Steve Mullock, Alan Gunn, David Jones, David Bishop, Daren Metcalf, Adam Young and Roger Bibbings for their efforts: I would also like to thank our existing supporters and sponsors, without whom we would not be as successful as we think we are – a logo list is appended at the end of this report. SGUK has also continued to support the existing initiatives like HRAW, LOCHER and others. We hope our relationships will continue to flourish, and the supporter/sponsor fraternity will grow.

Awards: I'm proud to say that the Awards Working Party is one of our absolute success stories, working particularly well as a team and who have been extremely busy since last year's AGM, first of all in regard to our last awards which concluded at the Royal Horseguards Hotel in London just before the current pandemic changed most of our lives for now and the foreseeable future. There will be more on the 2019 awards later in the report. Since the start of the pandemic, we have virtually met several times and between us have created an action plan of how we will manage and present the awards going forward. We made the decision early on that there will not be awards in 2020, and no ceremony in 2021 but will plan for resuming in 2021/2022. The action plan will be shared with everyone in due course. I would like to thank my colleagues on the Working Party consisting of: myself, Ian Coombes, Bob Rajan and recently Phill Jones.

Document Review: the Working Party has not met this year due to the pandemic. The previous year, we met, we reviewed governance as required and made some minor and mainly cosmetic amendments to a number of documents. Furthermore, also due to the pandemic, an amendment has been made to our contingency procedure to include the potential event of a pandemic like Coronavirus to allow virtual meetings, including the AGM to take place. None of the amendments require sanction from the Charities Commission however, as there are no necessary amendments to our constitution, only the supporting documents. I thank the Review WP, consisting of myself, Philip Grundy, Steve Mullock and David Jones.

Website and Social Media: This Working Party continues to flourish and is another success story, the website is still looking fresh and good and is a dynamic tool well worth checking out, and it is continually being developed successfully. In terms of Social Media, we continue to be well represented. Thanks mainly to Carolyn Reid, with support from Mark Curry, Alan Gunn, Karen McDonnell and Adam Young as members of the Working Party, but thanks also to everyone else including many groups and supporters for submitting data, sharing relevant information and providing suggestions for inclusion.

Other important issues for SGUK: We have continued to fully support all of the initiatives that SGUK has supported for many years, some of them initiated by SGUK, Health Risks at Work – do you know yours for example, originally created by SCOS, HSE, RoSPA and SCHWL continues to be used within many member and non-member companies around the UK and indeed overseas, LOCHER, another SGUK concept born from the fundamental values of HRAW, is growing from strength to strength giving higher education, college and university establishments a simple tool to allow education leavers to enter into the workplace with some experience and knowledge of the safety, health or environmental hazards they may encounter. Through supporting organisations, the LOCHER concept is also being introduced to companies that engage apprentices. We believe this is of great benefit to future employers. To sum up, we continue to support the following:

- HSE's Health and Work strategy
- Clean Air Take Care campaign
- It's in your Hands
- Listen and Hear Tomorrow campaign
- LOCHER initiative, which is referenced in the HSE's strategy under "Managing Risk Well"
- Health Risks at Today Work – Do you know yours initiative

- Construction Dust Partnership (CDP)
- Noise and Vibration partnership (NVP)
- Healthy Lung Partnership (HLP)
- SPIASH (Scottish Plan for Action on Safety and Health)
- Helping GB Work Well
- Working with sponsors and supporters to reach out to small firms and help improve standards in that sector

Recognising best practices with Awards:

The 2019 Awards were presented at the Royal Horseguards Hotel, Whitehall Court, London in February 2020, this was a departure from our traditional venue at the House of Lords, we chose the Royal Horseguards for a number of reasons including practicability, allowing us to organise the ceremony the way it needed to be. Feedback from the attendees suggested that this new format and venue was a resounding success and further helped to demonstrate that we do care about the member groups and the award entrants. Some of us of course missed the House of Lords and the integral tour. It was unfortunate however, that the House of Lords was unable to facilitate what we needed as we continue to improve year on year. The Horseguards proved to be an excellent venue, with wonderful catering.

My Congratulations to the following:

This year the following groups were winners and the presentations were made at the Royal Horseguards Hotel in February:

SGUK Gold Awards:

- Herefordshire Health & Safety Group
- South & West Wales Safety Group
- Humberside Occupational Health & Safety Group
- Kent Health & Safety Group
- London Health & Safety Group
- North West Construction Safety Group
- South Cumbria Occupational Health & Safety Group

Alan Butler Award Winner 2019 was South & West Wales Safety Group

SGUK Silver Awards:

- East Anglia Construction Safety Group
- North Lincs Health & Safety Group
- Tayside Integrated Safety Association
- Wiltshire Occupational Safety & Health Association

SGUK Bronze Awards

- Charities Safety Group

Maurice Adamson Award:

The Maurice Adamson Award 2019 was presented to **Lee Fisk** of East Anglia Construction Safety Group, who is a very worthy recipient.

SGUK Innovation Awards:

- Lord Cullen Trophy – Dundee and Angus College
- Stevenson Shield - MVV Environment Baldovie

Highly Commended Certificates

- Grangemouth Contractors Safety Alliance and Parklands Academy

Commended Certificates

- Welsh Water and Performance Cycling

New for 2019:

Development Through Education Awards

SCOS Award

- Parklands Academy / NIS

Second Place Runner Up

- MVV Environmental Baldovie

Also New, Chosen by the Awards Working Party:

Health Risks at Work Special Projects Award

- Grangemouth Contractors Safety Alliance for #Nostigma project

Formal Partnerships and Memorandums of Understanding

HSE Under review, requires to be updated and signed by both parties (last signed 20 canteen)

IIRSM Reviewed and signed at the House of Lords January 2019

BSIF Under review, requires to be updated and signed by both parties (last signed 2014)

Plans were in place to have all outstanding agreements updated before Jan 2020 however, this has not happened and we blame the pandemic however, after discussions with Sarah Newton, Chair of HSE, the SGUK / HSE Partnership Agreement is on the radar for potential review summer 2021.

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.

I would like to make specific mention of Karen McDonnell and Carolyn Reid whose efficiency and professionalism knows no bounds, and nothing is too much bother. I could provide some accolade for all of my colleagues because all Board members and Supporters know how to put in a shift.

Our thanks are also due for the ongoing support we receive from RoSPA, HSE, ACT, IIRSM, NEBOSH, IOSH, BSIF, UBM, Western Publications, and 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.

I would also like to extend special thanks to our President, Lord Brougham & Vaux and our current Vice President, Marcia Davies who sadly has decided to stand down as VP, but has kindly agreed to hold the fort until we source a replacement. I'd like to wish Marcia and her new extended family the very best for the future. I'd like also to mention Lord Mackenzie of Luton and Lord Cullen of Whitekirk, who have supported Safety Groups for many years

Finally, I would like to thank all of our supporters, but particularly my employer idverde, who had done their research before taking me on three years ago and agreed from the onset to support me in my dealings with the Safety Groups movement, which they continue to do without question and lots of encouragement.

Main Meetings in 2019/20

Open meetings were held as follows:

The Annual General Meeting 2019, facilitated by the Milton Keynes Group, and hosted by SCHUCO UK

Annual Awards Ceremony Luncheon, Royal Horseguards Hotel, London, February 2020

There have been a number of Board Meetings and various WP meetings.

Several Board members have attended a number of local group meetings throughout the latter part of 2019 to assist in various ways. Communications continue with all member groups.

Outlook – 2020/21 and beyond - The main changes to look forward to this year and beyond are:

New Board members, MAC members, supporters and sponsors

Continued improvement in communication with local groups and enhanced support. The 2019 AGM is testimony of how improvements have been made, albeit we are unfortunately hindered this year by the pandemic, we would have liked to have worked in conjunction with and assisted to showcase another local group instead of holding a virtual meeting on a video call platform.

Improve engagement with supporting organisations. - We need to make increased effort to secure further financial support, by sourcing and engaging with new sponsors, otherwise due to our current 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 to 3 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.

We will continue to review the constitution and other governance documents to ensure we continue to align with the progress we are making and Charity Commission requirements.

The Awards for this year are cancelled, but when starting again next year, out of necessity, will be changing again. Specific details will be on the website in due course, and within the information pack to be circulated when appropriate, along with the timetable for the awards - please keep checking the website.

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

N Stevenson

Norman Stevenson
Chairman
SGUK

Report presented to AGM 30/11/2020

Examples of our Supporters throughout 2019/20 – apologies for any omissions and the use of old logos.

