

THE RAILWAY DIVISION of the INSTITUTION OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

Review of the Railway Division's activities during the 2008-2009 Session

Chairman's Report

A Retiring Chairman's Thoughts

The Railway Division is changing; we have continued to become more businesslike in the planning and managing of our activities. During this session we have:

- Employed Cliff Perry as our Business Co-ordinator, to very good effect. Cliff works across all of our activities and allows us to do more. He is also a crucial link in our ability to draw in sponsorship of our events.
- Introduced, or perhaps re-introduced, a clear and visible set of rules by which the Division runs itself. I am grateful to Richard Lockett for leading this work.
- Re-introduced elections for Board membership
- Delivered a substantial financial surplus on our activities
- Introduced clear roles for Vice and Deputy Chairs of the Division so that they can work with Board members to produce and deliver the Division's first properly resourced Business Plan.
- Identified that, since privatisation, there has been a consistent decline in membership of a few percent per year and have begun planning to deal with that decline.
- Identified training as an area that the Division will become more involved with
- Begun to provide better communication, help and support from HQ to Centres

These changes will have a significant influence on the behaviour of the Division in the next few years.

The Institution produces an annual league table to compare the performance of all 17 of its Divisions and Groups. In my Chairman's Address I told you that last year we were second. This year we were third. I like to think that this is less to do with my personal influence than the fact that other Divisions are doing rather better than they were. We are the second smallest of the Divisions and Groups and many of the criteria used in the league table (profit, numbers of events, and number of attendees at events) are linked to number of members. We continue to punch a long way above our weight and I am grateful for all of the hard work from the large number of people who create and deliver all of our activities. However, there are areas where we can improve.

I have had a highly enjoyable time as your Chairman during this session and I believe that I leave the Division in good shape for the next Chairman, Roger Goodall. I have known Roger for many years and we have worked hard to achieve a seamless handover. Roger will make an excellent Chairman and I look forward to next year's session.

Alan Lawton
Railway Division Chairman 2008-2009

Membership

Enrolled membership of the Divisions stands at 4226 as on 5 May 2009.

A break down of the Membership is as follows:

Class Name	Age Band	Counter
Affiliate	20 - 29	70
	30 - 39	48
	40 - 49	37
	50 - 59	34
	60 - 69	30
	70 and over	28
	Under 20	5
		252
Associate Member	20 - 29	261
	30 - 39	237
	40 - 49	176
	50 - 59	90
	60 - 69	61
	70 and over	28
Companion	70 and over	1
		1
Fellow	30 - 39	6
	40 - 49	89
	50 - 59	125
	60 - 69	149
	70 and over	237
		606
Honorary Fellow	70 and over	4
		4
Member	20 - 29	46
	30 - 39	355
	40 - 49	564
	50 - 59	438
	60 - 69	434
	70 and over	673
		2510
Total		4226

Divisional Events

From June 2008 to date the Division has continued to produce a technical programme of lectures and seminars, which reflect topics, and areas of interest to the industry.

	<i>Attendance</i>
Wheel Rail – Reducing Cost Reducing Damage (June 2008)	145
Rock the Boat (June 2008)	110
The Intelligent Railway (September 2008)	128
NFRIP (October 2008)	150
Asset Maintenance – Strategies for Delivering a Better Rail Business (February 2009)	83
Annual Luncheon (March 2009)	971
Innovation: Solution or Scourge (April 2009)	53
Film Evening (April 2009)	77

Nine Ordinary Meetings/Lectures have taken place at HQ in addition to this programme and continue to be well attended.

Divisional Centres

To complement this programme, the Division's six centres (Scottish, Midlands, Southeast, Southwest, Northeast and Northwest) provide events specifically for members in their particular region. These meetings are sometimes held jointly with other institutions.

North East Centre

North Western Centre

Midlands Centre

Scottish Centre

Attached

South West Centre

The SW Centre completed its 2008/9 programme with the AGM on 16 March, followed by presentations of papers by young members. At the AGM Andrew Skinner stood down as chairman after serving for three years and Mick James was elected as the Centre chairman. The Centre held seven meetings from September 2008 with attendance levels stable compared to previous years. One of the better attended events was the symposium on future energy for rail held in early February, which was both pleasing and surprising considering that we were in the middle of the snow blizzard.

The committee of the SW Centre continues to be a vibrant mix of retired and serving railway industry workers with a range of ages and representation from different sectors across the industry. The plans for the 2009/10 season are already underway with the usual mix of topics planned including what is becoming our tradition for a symposium with two/three speakers giving alternative views on the same subject. The future plans for the Centre are to co-operate closer with other parts of the I Mech E and also railway related institutions in the SW area to coordinate our activities and hold joint meetings where practical.

South East Centre

Attached

Young Members

The Railway Division Young members continue to be active. Each year they organise a two day seminar for which attendance continues to grow. They are also responsible for the Young Members Competition which in 2009 has been changed slightly to try and encourage more YM to participate. We have increased the first prize to £1000.

In July 2008 the YM's held their first debate and approximately 30 YM's participated. The event was held at the DfT and Tony Mercado presented.

Also the committee organise a technical visit abroad each year solely for young members. In 2008 they went to Belgium for three days and visited mainline and metro maintenance depots. The trip was well received and the feedback was very positive.

For the future they are focussing on trying to attract more YM's into the Institution. They are planning another debate for July, this year's seminar is entitled More Railway For Your Money, 23 - 25 September 2009, Warwick University and another technical visit is planned for October/ November although the destination is not yet confirmed.

Contribution to Industry Position Statements and Consultation Responses

The Railway Division continues to work with REF and has contributed to the following position statements:

- Towards a Sustainable Transport System
- Scottish Parliamentary consultation on High Speed railways.
- Welsh assembly's transport investigation.
- Office of Rail Regulation's (ORR) consultation on Railway Standards. They used the framework of our response as the basis for their report!

Interaction with other Professional Bodies or Organisations

In order to increase the profile, the Railway Division has furthered its collaboration with other professional bodies. The Divisions events are often co-sponsored by our engineering colleagues.

The activities of the Railway Engineers Forum (IMECHE, ICE, IET, IRSE, CILT, IRO and PWI) reflect the growing need to address railway engineering from a system-wide perspective across the traditional boundaries of engineering disciplines. This cooperation between the fellow institutions has existed for a number of years. A significant number of the Divisions Centre meetings are held jointly with other institutions.

Prizes and Awards

Prizes for papers published in **2007, Proceedings Part F, Rail and Rapid Transit**. The winner's details are as follows and will shortly be published on the Institution's web site:

Award	Recipients	Paper
William Alexander Agnew Meritorious Award/Clarence Noel Goodall Award	B.Diedrichs, M.Sima, A.Orellano, H.Tengstrand	Crosswind Stability of a High-Speed Train on a High Embankment
T A Stewart-Dyer Prize/Frederick Harvey Trevithick Prize	Y-C Lai, C.P.L.Barkan, J.Drapa, N.A.huja, J.M.Hart, P.J.Narayanan, C.V.Jawahar, A.Kumar, L.R.Milhon and M.P.Stehly	Machine Vision Analysis of the Energy Efficiency of Intermodal Freight Trains
The John F Alcock Memorial Prize	D.Bowness, A.C.Lock, W.Powrie, J.A.Priest and D.J.Richards	Monitoring the Dynamic Displacements of Railway Track

Performance against Budget (Year End 2008)

	Budget	Actual
Income	£280 550	£270 165.02
Expenditure	£253 700	£231 160.36
Surplus	£26 850	£39 004.66