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PASMA Annual Members' Meeting

Timed to coincide with Vertikal Days and the inaugural Pasma Village, the Annual Members' Meeting (AMM) was well attended in its new venue of the Whittle Suite at Haydock Park Racecourse.

The day's proceedings were opened by Pasma chairman, Roger Verallo, who spoke about "A very busy year for Pasma," and went on to remark about the growth in training centres and the consistency of delegate training numbers at just over 47,000 for 2010/2011. Not surprisingly, part of his report was devoted to the 3T/AGR review. Commenting on this landmark piece of work he said: "Much has been said about the review of fall protection which the association has undertaken in the past year and tremendous effort has gone into completing the review by the members of the committees, the staff of Pasma and our partner organisations."

"I firmly believe that it represents a fair, objective and thorough review of the facts and that its conclusion, that both methods continue to provide adequate protection from falls, is sound."

Next to speak was Pasma's managing director, Peter Bennett, who talked about the opportunities and challenges facing the association in the year ahead. In particular, he reported on the way in which Pasma continues to play a leading and active role in the work of the Access Industry Forum (AIF), Pasma's recent input to the HSE's review of RIDDOR, the on-going collaboration with BSI to produce a Publicly Available Specification (PAS) for low level access equipment, and the association's future plans for IT developments.

He concluded by saying: "It remains vital for Pasma to be engaged, forward-looking and pre-eminent in the wider business community, to ensure that our members' voices are heard and the mobile access tower industry is properly represented."

Delegates then received a report from the chairman of the technical committee, Paul Pritchard (and incoming chairman, Alistair Twigg), the chairman of the training committee, Mick Aston and the chairman of the hire assembly committee, Chris Blantern.

A highlight of the 2011 AMM was the presentation of a lifetime achievement award to Peter Bond for his outstanding contribution to the association and the industry at large over many years - several in the capacity of Pasma chairman.



L-R: Roger Verallo with Peter Bond



Pasma Village at Vertikal Days

Making its debut at the 2011 Vertikal Days was the Pasma Village. The association is grateful to the following member organisations for taking exhibition space:

- Euro Towers
- Lyte Industries
- Turner Access
- Instant Upright
- OMS

Thanks also go to Youngman and Pop-Up for supplying towers adjacent to the Pasma information gazebo.



Toolbox Talks

As reported in an earlier Pasma Focus, the AIF's website has enjoyed a complete makeover and is now host to a series of free online videos focusing on the safe and competent use of access equipment for working at height. It also includes coverage of the recent discussions and debates in the AIF Knowledge Base at this year's Safety & Health Expo and, in particular, the ground-breaking discussion 'In search of the Holy Grail: No more working at height accidents, ever!'

Visit www.accessindustryforum.org.uk

2011 Annual Review

The 16-page Pasma annual review is available now. It contains reports from the chairman, managing director and all the Pasma committee chairmen, and includes endorsements of the work of the association in advancing safety and best practice from the chief executive of IOSH, Rob Strange OBE, and the head of health and safety and environment at the ECA, Paul Reeve.

Other sections describe the association's highlights during 2010/2011, and pages are devoted to the publication of the fall protection review and the contribution Pasma is making to the work of the Access Industry Forum (AIF). For a copy of the review please email jill.couttie@pasma.co.uk



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