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PASMA reports on successful year

Delegates at PASMA's Annual Members' Meeting, held at Coombe Abbey on 3rd July, were left in no doubt of the fact that the association's reach and influence continues to grow - not only in the UK and Ireland, but also overseas in the Middle East, South Africa and South East Asia.



(L-R) Carl Evans with Dr Ali Salem Al Qaiwani at the association's AMM

As evidence of this, the association was delighted to welcome Dr Ali Salem Al Qaiwani, director of occupational safety & health at the Ministry of Labour in the United Arab Emirates. He spoke about the work being done in the UAE to advance the safety of working at height. In addition, delegates heard from outgoing chairman, Chris Blatern, and his successor, Carl Evans, as well as reports from the various committee chairmen and other guest speakers.



Virtual learning

Sakina Bokary, PASMA's recently appointed virtual learning developer, talked about creating a virtual learning environment for PASMA delivered training and the benefits that this will convey to members.

Finally, in his managing director's report, Peter Bennett explained how the organisation is currently undergoing a change in job roles and responsibilities, and how it is recruiting new members to the team to help keep the association at the forefront of the work at height industry. He said: "We aim to ensure that we fulfil our commitment to provide member services second to none and remain at the cutting edge of technology and service provision to our members."

New chairman

Peter Bennett also reported on the work and achievements of regional representatives Dave Bass, Jason Woods and Raymond Wat in South Africa, the Middle East and South East Asia respectively.

He concluded by paying tribute to the contribution of outgoing chairman, Chris Blatern, and welcomed Carl Evans to his new role. He said: "Our current chairman, Chris Blatern of Hi-Point Access, has now come to the end of his term in office and I want to take this opportunity of thanking him, personally and on behalf of the council and members, for his tireless efforts in support of the association and this industry."

"He is succeeded by Carl Evans, known to many in the access industry, particularly those involved in training. Carl also comes with a vast experience of the rental and tool hire industry, having been at HSS for more years than he can remember. I am sure he will bring a new and different dimension to the chairmanship. Both I and the rest of the team look forward to working with him over the coming two years."



Carl Evans has now taken over from Chris Blatern as PASMA chairman

Towering social media

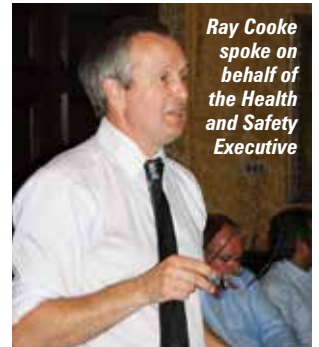
'The business of social media' was addressed by Rene Looper, social media expert and owner of Tuminds, one of Scotland's leading agencies.

He explained the advantages of social media and illustrated how it will be used to enhance communications with PASMA members, the tower-using industry and the public at large over the coming year.

New AIF course

Rupert Douglas-Jones, speaking on behalf of the Access Industry Forum (AIF), introduced delegates to the new Managing Work at Height training course developed jointly by all nine member organisations.

Ray Cooke was also on hand to speak on behalf of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) about the work and role of Working Well Together - the HSE's ongoing campaign to improve health and safety in the UK construction sector.



Ray Cooke spoke on behalf of the Health and Safety Executive

Highlights

Other year highlights reported to delegates included:

- Training numbers for 2014 exceeding 67,000
- BSI giving approval for PAS 250 to be converted into a full British standard
- The introduction of a revised standard for complex towers
- Over 150 PASMA instructors qualifying to deliver Towers on Stairs training
- The introduction of a PASMA Gulf Advisory Panel for Middle East members
- Sponsoring the Height Safety Theatre at A-OSH Expo South Africa
- Exhibiting at the BuildTech Asia Exhibition



PASMA's Annual Review contains the contact details for all its members

At the end of the meeting, delegates received a copy of the 16-page 2015 PASMA Annual Review containing the contact details for all members. Now available online at www.pasma.co.uk



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