



The Institute of Demolition Engineers

Notes on IDE Regional Meeting held on Thursday 17 July 2008

at Nuthurst Grange Hotel, Solihull

sponsored by Adrian and Noel McLean of Armac Ltd.

The first of the Midlands regional meetings to be sponsored by an IDE member was well attended with over 20 members enjoying the presentations, discussion about IDE events and the tasty Indian food served prior to and after the meeting.

IDE President David Ross Turner opened the meeting by welcoming all of those present, some of whom having travelled from other areas to attend, and thanking Adrian and Noel McLean for sponsoring the meeting, before introducing Adrian McLean as the first speaker.

Asbestos-The Missing Link

Adrian's presentation on "Asbestos-The Missing Link" detailed how Armac deal with bringing the possibility of asbestos products being present on site to the attention of the workforce. Adrian stated that type 3 surveys are difficult to understand for the average worker and can lead to confusion as to what is and isn't safe to deal with, and as such Armac have developed a "traffic light" system to highlight asbestos within buildings.

On receipt of the type 3 survey Armac management highlight within that survey areas that contain notifiable, non notifiable or non asbestos products and then use that information to clearly mark out within the buildings, with the appropriate coloured spray paint, where each occurs.

The "traffic light" system involves marking products as:-

- RED. Notifiable asbestos only to be removed by licensed contractors and not to be disturbed.
- YELLOW. Non notifiable asbestos that can be removed by Armac operatives, under controlled conditions, who have undertaken asbestos training.
- GREEN. Non asbestos products that can be removed by general operatives as part of the soft strip.

Signage is installed at the site entrance clearly showing the way the system works and feed back from operatives and clients has been very good.

Adrian said that in the year to date the system had lead to the correct identification of 15 incidents of additional asbestos within buildings that could have resulted in exposure of operatives to asbestos fibres.

Adrian called on the IDE to publicise the fact that all persons who may be exposed to asbestos should have undertaken asbestos awareness training and those persons include plumbers, electricians, heating engineers, lift installation engineers and other such trades.

Martin Hurley MIDE and Mark Bryan MIDE both agreed that the system was excellent and Richard Dolman (attending as a guest but applying for enrolled membership) stated that he intended to use the idea on all of his sites in the future.

CPCS Card Scheme

The President thanked Adrian for the excellent presentation and then introduced Joe Ready who gave a presentation on the proposed changes to the CPCS card system from 1 August 2008. Joe outlined the major changes that are to take place and provoked lively debate from all sides of the room as to why the system needs to be changed when it works well. Joe stated that he felt it would help if IDE were to lobby CPCS stating our opposition to the changes and John Woodward stated that perhaps The President could deal with the matter in his next column within Demolition Engineer. It was agreed that the members present would like Joe to attend the October Seminar at OGGs to present a talk on how the scheme has moved on between August and the date of the seminar. Joe stated that he was happy to present at the seminar.

Dust Boss in Action

The President then asked all present to move outside the building to the car park to view a "Dust Boss" in action, (supplied by Armac), as the machines were becoming more popular on demolition sites as a dust control measure and it was a good opportunity to see one in action. Armac also had a new welfare unit on display to show how the company deal with the welfare requirements of CDM 2007.

Following the very interesting "Dust Boss" display The President opened up the meeting for questions and comment about IDE business and the following matters were dealt with:-

1. Adrian McLean felt that the 2 year period from passing the exam to becoming MIDE was too long and he asked that the CoM review this period and consider 1 year as being the required time period as if persons are actively working in demolition then a 1 year period should be sufficient for the requirements of continuing competency. The President stated that the 2 year period is a requirement of the CSCS card criteria and as such could not be changed. He further stated that AMIDE may now be used as a designation after a member's name.
2. Martin Hurley expressed concern, echoed by Mark Bryan, that it is difficult to obtain the necessary CPD points from so few IDE functions and Mark Bryan stated that the reason that he had decided to attend this meeting was that there were no meetings planned for the North West this year and he needed the CPD point. John Woodward stated that it is the intention of IDE to hold more regional meetings in all areas but it is sometimes difficult for the Seminar Committee to organise all meetings in all areas, owing to time restraints and the fact that all CoM members work on a voluntary basis. Adrian McLean stated that it should be easy to obtain sponsorship for regional meetings now that Armac had set the precedence and that more support would be forthcoming from Armac who said they would be happy to sponsor another regional meeting in July 2009. At this David Coleman offered to sponsor the next meeting and Richard Dolman offered to sponsor the one after that. John Woodward thanked them for the offers and stated that dates would be agreed after the meeting. Mark Bryan stated that he would take the idea back to the North West and see if he could arrange similar sponsorship in that area.
3. The President then asked John Woodward to speak about future IDE functions and John outlined plans for the AGM and lunch as well as Seminars in October 2008 and February 2009. John reminded the meeting that as this year is a Presidential changeover year that the AGM and lunch are usually well supported and that tickets were selling fast. John asked for feedback about the Road shows and Noel McLean stated that he felt that they were too plant biased. John explained that when the road shows were launched funding was promised by ConstructionSkills. However when this was not forthcoming the decision was taken to obtain plant company sponsorship to make the road shows happen, as IDE were committed to venues, dates and the costs. John also explained that plant sponsorship was being obtained for the major seminar in Leeds for spring 2009. John asked if future regional meetings should take the form of this one with a couple of small presentations and the consensus was that they should.
4. The President then asked if there was any other business before reminding the meeting that in the forthcoming election for Vice President and CoM he hoped that the members would consider carefully the work carried out for IDE by all of the candidates and cast their votes for those persons who would be instrumental in moving the institute forward towards greater prominence within construction and towards increased membership numbers throughout the World.

Next Midlands Regional meeting dates are:-

- Thursday 27 November 2008 at 6.00pm at Nuthurst Grange Hotel sponsored by David Coleman of Coleman & Company.
- Thursday 26 March 2009 at 6.00pm at a venue to be confirmed sponsored by Richard Dolman of AR Demolition.
- Thursday 16 July 2009 at 6.00pm at Nuthurst Grange Hotel sponsored by Adrian and Noel McLean of Armac Ltd.