

Licensed to Engineer?

ETB Forum Discusses the Case



Peter Frost

A major event on licensing of professional engineers, organised by the ETB and well attended by senior members of the profession, was held at the IEE on 4th June 2003. UKAPE was well represented by Ken Paterson, Syd Croft and Peter Frost.

The ETB had developed a Review Document to inform the meeting, which is available on request from John Kearney at Hayes Court.

UKAPE's representatives noted the policies established at our Conferences, including calls for statutory registration, licensing and restriction of the title "engineer". They observed that:

- if engineers were asked for their perception of the benefits of licensing for engineers, they would expect better remuneration;
- every engineer has some responsibility for health, safety or the environment;
- virtually all our main competitors have adopted some form of statutory registration, licensing or restriction of title; and that the engineer and engineering are more highly regarded in society and better rewarded than here in the UK. These differences were too great to be mere coincidence;
- not all institutions were monitoring the continuing competence of their members effectively: the periodic review of competence was not adequate;
- there is some state regulation in the financial sector, but the massive string of corporate financial fiascos, including: pension mis-selling scandals, corporate financial corruption in major companies and management consultants and auditors, massive corporate collapses due to financial chicanery, demonstrated that self-regulation cannot work when there is too much self interest.



Syd Croft

UKAPE therefore commended statutory registration, licensing, protection of title and right to practise, as the way ahead for the engineering profession, on the grounds that none of the other options proposed were adequate or sufficient on their own.

Although the institutions displayed their customary hostility to the idea, a number of speakers noted the weaknesses in the present arrangements and supported extension of the licensing arrangements which are already in place for engineers in some industry sectors.

There was clear evidence of support for licensing in areas where there is a direct public interface, or where there is obvious responsibility for health and safety, and there are considerable areas of existing licensing arrangements which are well supported.

UKAPE has since written to the ETB, calling for research to make inter-professional and international comparisons of registration, licensing, restriction of title, and compulsory and voluntary requirements for CPD, including fees. A further step is establishing the extent of Professional Indemnity cover and typical charges.

This area of professional affairs is allocated to the Engineering Profession Working Party under the Chairmanship of Bob Simpson.



Ken Paterson

Presidential Progress

An intensive round of Centre Quaternight Meetings was attended by President Dick Hegerty in June as follows:

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Northern Home Counties | 5 June |
| North-West | 10 June |
| East of Scotland | 11 June |
| South East | 17 June |
| Northern | 19 June |



Further Presidential Quaternight visits planned for the rest of the year are:

| | | |
|------------------|---------|------|
| Metropolitan | 10 Sept | 7.00 |
| Southern | 11 Sept | 7.30 |
| W. Home Counties | 27 Nov | 8.00 |
| East Midlands | 9 Dec | 7.30 |
| Yorkshire | 10 Dec | 7.00 |
| West Midlands | 11 Dec | 7.30 |

Recruiting at the Grassroots

Existing members always make the best recruiters in any organisation, and UKAPE is no exception. While current membership remains stable, there is no room for complacency and new members are always needed to replace our senior members as time passes. Enclosed with this edition of Engineer Today is a recently produced recruiting information pack containing the latest UKAPE recruiting brochure, application form and subscription rates, for use in encouraging other engineers to join UKAPE. Please pass this on to a work colleague, friend, relative, or anyone who you think may have a potential member in their circle of acquaintances. Additional recruiting packs and copies of Engineer Today are available from Michele Smith on extension 394 at Hayes Court. The newsletters can also be downloaded from the website at www.ukape.org.uk

HVACR Training Awards

UKAPE again sponsored the Heating, Ventilating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration National Training Organisation Awards this year, with presentations held at the British Library. President Dick Hegerty (pictured here) with Baroness Sharp presented this year's winner of the Incorporated Engineer Award, Andrew Hutchinson, with his Award, which includes a Prize Certificate and £500 training cheque.



Meet the Executive

The Executive Committee of UKAPE has a highly experienced body of representation. Members of the Executive will be profiled in Engineer Today over forthcoming issues, and we start here with a pen picture of three of the EC members to indicate the breadth and depth of the Executive Committee membership.

Bob Douglas, Southern Centre



Bob joined UKAPE in 1969 while on a civil engineering degree sandwich course with Southampton City Council, for whom he worked after graduation. He then worked for 3 years in South Africa on water and sewage works. Since returning, he has worked for a house builder, a consultant, a local authority and presently works for a water company as planning engineer responsible for development plans.

He gradually became more active in UKAPE, joining the Southern Branch Committee, attending conferences and speaking to resolutions. He has moved and successfully carried resolutions at FPA Conferences and AEEU Biennial Delegate Conferences on subjects initially generated as UKAPE resolutions, including age discrimination, and a higher profile for the FPA.

From 1996 to 2000 he served two terms as President of UKAPE and subsequently has been a Vice-President. He continues on the Executive Committee as Centre Member for Southern Centre, and has become Chairman of Conference Committee. He serves as a member of the Engineering Profession Working Party and of the Membership and Communications Committee.



Peter Everitt, Western & South Wales Centre

Peter has worked as a mechanical engineer in the aerospace industry, firstly at Bristol Siddeley then mostly at Rolls-Royce on aircraft engine programmes for his whole career, much of it in Bristol. From 1984 to 1991 he was at Rolls-Royce Leavesden, initially running a helicopter engine

development programme, soon becoming Assistant Chief Engineer with a project management role. After moving back to Bristol, he switched to a 'specialist' role in 1992, where he became involved with other world experts as a member of one of the technical working groups of Nato.

He joined UKAPE in 1971 where there was an active UKAPE group on site. He became involved in the committee, ending up as chairman. After a spell with the Rolls-Royce Management and Professional Staff Association (RRMPA), where he was elected to the council when it was formed in the seventies, he returned to UKAPE when the RRMPA transferred engagements. He became Chairman of the RRMPA council and a member of one of the National Advisory Committees of EESA.

As leader of the membership on the Bristol site, he has been running an organising campaign there since December 2001, which has maintained UKAPE membership. He presently serves as EC member for Western and South Wales Centre.

Mike Gibson, Eastern Centre



Mike's engineering career started when he joined Marconi Marine as an electronic engineer in Chelmsford. Initially he was concerned with technical management of marine navigational aids and automatic steering equipment for ships. Later he became involved in more general technical management matters as Assistant to the Technical Director. He transferred to Marconi Radar where he pursued matters connected with

standardisation and working procedures until he retired. He has played an active part in his local IEE Branch as Honorary Secretary, and is a member of the Court of the IEE benevolent fund.

As a member of the former Engineers Guild he was in at the inception of UKAPE in 1969. After serving on the Eastern Branch Committee he attended several Annual Delegate Conferences as a delegate for the Branch. He was persuaded to join the Conference Committee and soon found himself doing the minutes etc., etc.!! Mike has served for two extended periods as Secretary of Conference Committee, a position he continues to occupy today. He has served at different times as EC member, Chairman and Secretary of Eastern Branch, and currently he is EC member and Centre Secretary for Eastern Centre.



Enclosed with this edition of Engineer Today is a recently produced

amicus AEEU BDC 2003

The scene is set for a historic event in Blackpool at the end of June when delegates from both AEEU and MSF separately vote on the proposed amalgamation rule book. UKAPE's interests will be monitored by experienced delegate Bob Douglas, who will also be presenting the UKAPE motion on manufacturing. The proposed new rules are intended for implementation at the end of this year, after which there is to be full integration of AEEU and MSF.

MPA Keeps Tabs on UK and European Agenda

The Management and Professional Association continues to monitor events in Europe. Recent activities, reported by UKAPE's representative, Graham Maxfield, EC Member for Northern Home Counties, include meetings of the pensions sub-committee, a presentation on employment law updates, and consideration of a discussion document on protection of data concerning employees.

The MPA Annual Conference and AGM was held on 10th March at Esher Place. Principal guest at the Conference, Nicola Dandridge of Thompson's solicitors, reported pending changes in legislation on equality and discrimination in the workplace. Further legislation is anticipated to combat discrimination during the present parliament, including age discrimination expected in late 2006.

The importance of observing time limits for those seeking redress under discrimination law was emphasised. The notification period was usually of the order of three months.

The priority of legislation was also clarified, such that it was noted that health and safety legislation would always take priority over disability or discrimination rights.

MPA Documents available on loan from Hayes Court include ETUC Reports on Taxation for 2001 and 2002; European Parliament Working Paper *'The new proposal of a directive on company law concerning takeover bids and the achievement of a level playing field'* (62 pages); European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) document *'European Labour Law and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights'* (summary version 103 pages); and European Commission publication *'Choosing to grow: knowledge, innovation and jobs in a cohesive society'* (39 pages).

Many European documents are now available on the MPA website at www.mpa-online.org.uk

Royal Academy Risk Analysis

The Royal Academy of Engineering have examined aspects of risk and engineering, and have recently produced three reports of around twenty pages each, together with a four page introduction to all three, under the auspices of John Turnbull FREng., following his report released in 1999.

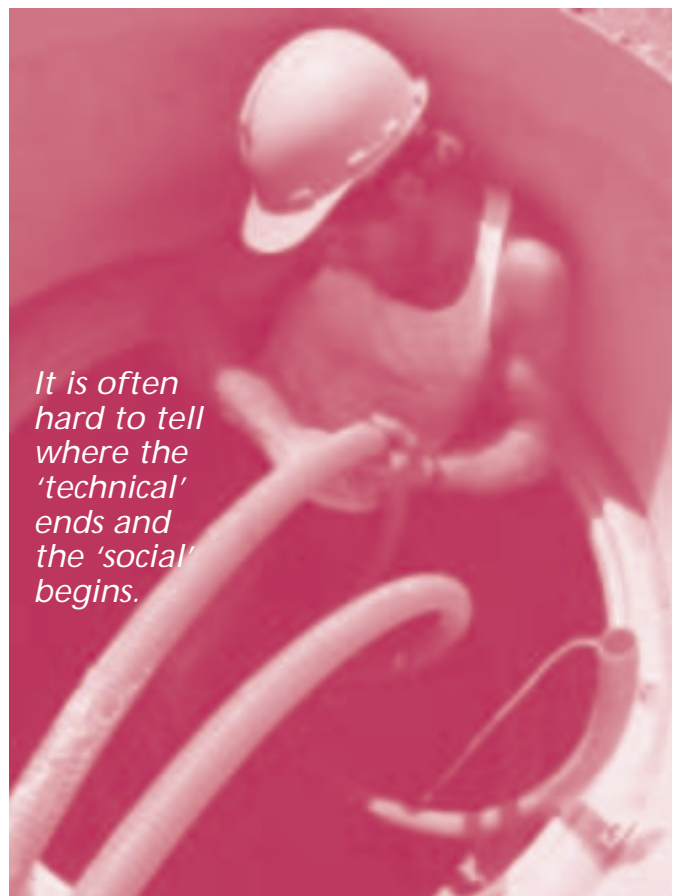
The first report, entitled *'The Societal Aspects of Risk'*, makes the observation that "the conventional separation between technical and social provinces cannot survive scrutiny. It is often hard to tell where the 'technical' ends and the 'social' begins." It concludes that engineers must be as adept at functioning in a wider political environment as they are in a technical one, if they are to fulfil their role.

The second report, entitled *'Common Methodologies for Risk Assessment and Management'*, emphasises the importance of clear definition of responsibilities, accountabilities and authorities, and offers a framework for assessing and managing risk.

The third report, entitled *'Risks Posed by Humans in the control Loop'*, identifies that it may not be just technical skills which are required for successful outcomes, but also non-technical skills such as communications, workload management and team working. It describes the benefits of sharing good practice, and notes the development of a 'Confidential Incident Reporting and Analysis System (CIRAS) in the rail industry, modelled on the (anonymous) civil aviation 'Confidential Human Factors Incidents Reporting Procedure' (CHIRP).

All three reports and the introduction are available from:

The Royal Academy of Engineering,
29 Great Peter Street,
London,
W1P 3LW,
tel 020 7222 2688.



It is often hard to tell where the 'technical' ends and the 'social' begins.

Executive Committee Update

Subjects considered at the March meeting of the Executive included membership and recruitment; finances and accounts; John Kearney's regular stream of individual cases requiring representation; actions and responses from BDC 2002 Resolutions; and implications of the forthcoming merger with MSF and amicus rules conferences.

Membership Matters

The Membership and Communications Committee continues to review and monitor methods of enhancing recruitment into UKAPE. Roger Sabido of Western and South Wales Centre has been re-elected as Chairman of the Committee. Any ideas for recruitment or identified active sites should be advised to John Kearney or Dick Hegerty in the first instance.



Roger Sabido

Engineering the Profession

The Engineering Profession Working Party, under the continuing leadership of Bob Simpson, has had a busy first half of the year. As well as the lobbying of the ETB associated with the Licensing Forum described on the front page of this issue, a submission has been made to the Engineering Council (UK) in response to their consultation paper on 'UK Standards for Professional Engineering Competence'.

Noticeboard – Forthcoming Events Programme

APEG Parliamentary Timetable

The Associate Parliamentary Engineering Group, chaired by AEEU MP Bill Olnier, has an educational theme to its summer programme at the Houses of Parliament.

'Adult Skills Strategy' will be addressed at the 23rd June meeting by Ivan Lewis MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Adult Learning and Skills at the Department for Education and Skills.

'Introducing the GCSE in Engineering – an end of term report' will be presented by John Berkeley OBE, SEMTA Senior Fellow, Centre for Lifelong Learning, University of Warwick.

Full details of meetings are available from Hayes Court.

Hazards Forum to Address Health and Safety Issues

The 14th National Hazards Conference will be held at the London School of Economics on the weekend of 5th-7th September 2003. This will be the first time the Conference has been held in London since the late 80's. With over 30 workshops and information meetings about health and safety, there is something here for every active working member. Registration must be made before 22nd August. Contact UKAPE at Hayes Court for full details.

Copy Deadlines

Copy dates for articles, letters and contributions for the remaining issues of Engineer Today this year are:

Issue Date: September December
Copy Date: 1st August 1st November

Please send all contributions to Ken Paterson or Dick Hegerty.

UKAPE Contacts

If you have a home e-mail address where we can contact you, please e-mail the details to either Dick Hegerty or John Kearney. Updated information is also posted on the UKAPE website at: www.ukape.org.uk

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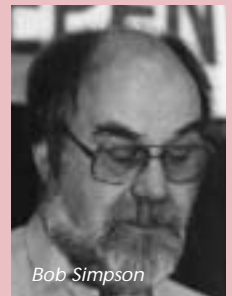
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