



The
Welding
Institute

Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting of the Eastern Counties Branch of The Welding Institute

Date: 8th February 2023

Venue: TWI Ltd, Abington Hall, Gt Abington, Cambridge, CB21 6AL

Present:

John Weston – Honorary Branch President
Alan Johnson – Chair
Alan Shand – Vice Chair/Management Committee representative
Peter Mudge – Secretary
David Rowe – Treasurer
Alan Penny – Committee member
Keith Dixon – Committee member
Mulan Mu
Charles Schneider
Ricky Wong
Wayne Thomas
Sally Shi
Isabel Hadley
Paul Woollin
Chris Eady
John Dadson
Kyriakos Flentzeris (Speaker)

Apologies:

Apologies had been received from William Brennan.

1. Welcome and Apologies – Chair

Alan Johnson welcomed the attendees. He explained that it was 3 years since the Branch had held the AGM face to face and that it was good to be back at TWI.

2. Minutes of the Previous Annual General Meeting (12th January 2022) – Chair

These were approved, proposed Alan Shand, seconded Alan Penny. The final version will be circulated (**Action Secretary**).

3. Matters Arising – Chair

- The approved minutes of the 2021 AGM had been circulated.
- The secretary had appended a statement from TWI about when face to face meetings might be held to the AGM minutes.
- The financial statement (Form 1) had been submitted to the secretariat electronically, as it was not possible to get it signed in person.

- Peter Mudge had sent a message of condolence to the family of Muhammad Shaheer.
- William Brennan had agreed to continue as a committee member. However, George Bulmer had decided to retire. The Branch had sent George a gift in recognition of his service to the Branch.

4. Correspondence Report – Secretary

Nothing to report.

5. Finance report – Treasurer

David Rowe reported that the balance in the No.1 account at 31/12/22 was £5,165.92. A grant of £3,250 had been received from TWI. The income and expenditure sheet is attached to these notes.

The balance in the No.2 account was £1,564.91.

Alan Penny noted that, as the balance in the No.1 account at the end of 2022 was more than the £5,000 threshold set by TWI, the Branch would not receive a grant from TWI in 2023.

The accounts were approved, proposed Keith Dixon, seconded Alan Johnson.

Alan Penny was reappointed as independent examiner of the accounts. It was agreed that his fee for this would remain at £80.

6. Chairman's Report and Address

Due to the support and hard work of the committee, 2022 saw an improvement on recent years, and the fact that we are at TWI today indicates we are now getting back to some of the normality we experienced before Covid intervened.

The past year has still been demanding; and the committee have worked hard, particularly our Branch Secretary Peter Mudge, to offer a full and varied programme to the membership, albeit mainly via Zoom. Talks have included: Heat Treatment of Steels, The advantages of the K-TIG process, Digitalisation in Asset Integrity Management, Orbital Friction Welding, Supporting Forensic Investigations with Material Science, Friction Welding applied to the Timber Industry and Robotic and Advanced NDE.

However, not all the events were held via Zoom. We were able to hold three face to face meetings, the visit to Denver Sluice, the branch dinner at Madingley Hall, and our most successful event for some years, the 'Quicksilver' Recapturing the World Speed Record lecture, for which we have to particularly thank Alan Shand. Held at the Jockey Club, this attracted 96 attendees, including students from Newmarket Academy and members of the Institute of Engineering and Technology – IET. It is these in-person meetings that particularly help us to foster links with other institutions and schools and colleges.

All the activities of the branch are orchestrated via the committee, and the fact that we were able to hold today's AGM and lecture is a result of the organisation and work that goes on behind the scenes. It's for this reason we wish to encourage as many members, particularly our younger members, onto the committee. So I would encourage anyone who is considering supporting the branch to not hold back in offering their support.

Now that we are again able to meet at TWI, it is hoped that this year we will be able to revert to more in-person meetings and continue to make the most of TWI's facilities. We should continue to develop and further cultivate joint events with other institutions and societies. And we should also keep extending our links with schools and colleges. Encouraging our younger colleagues into engineering, TWI membership and involvement with the committee.

I can only reiterate my thanks to the committee for their support and excellent work for the branch under what have sometimes been difficult circumstances, and let us hope we can look forward to a more normal 2023.

7. Election of Officers

Honorary President – John Weston is happy to continue (he does not require to be re-elected)

The following were happy to continue in their respective roles and were re-elected *en-bloc*:

Chairman – Alan Johnson

Vice Chairman – Alan Shand

Secretary – Peter Mudge

Treasurer – David Rowe

Committee Members – Alan Penny, Keith Dixon, William Brennan.

Management Committee Representative – Alan Shand stated that he would continue in this role.

Following Muhammad's tragic death, the roles of Programme Secretary and Younger Members Representative are currently vacant. Peter Mudge stated that he was happy to continue to develop the Branch programme, but it would be good to have someone in place to assist with this and who could take on the role of programme secretary. Sally Shi of TWI volunteered to help with this and she and Peter agreed to meet at a later date to discuss what this entails.

8. Any Other Business

The main item was the programme of events. Alan Shand stated that the successful Quicksilver water speed record meeting at the Jockey Club had drawn considerable support from the RAeS, IET and IMechE and he was keen to host another big event. He is looking into getting a presentation from the Bloodhound land speed record project. He is also hopeful of a presentation and visit to RAF Lakenheath. Another possible speaker is someone from Drax power generation. For the TWI 100th anniversary he is hoping to get a speaker to talk about the Eclipse aircraft.

On another matter, a company from Essex had enquired of TWI about assistance with running STEM initiatives. It was agreed that the branch should help with this. John Weston said he would be happy to assist with this. John Dadson stated that he is involved with the RAeS and would be happy to send contact details about their recent speakers, if any of these were of interest. Peter Mudge stated that it would be good to

get Sally to assist in contacting the various PhD students at TWI with a view to getting some additional speakers.

Paul Woollin said that he was very pleased to see the meeting back on TWI premises and stated that some of the conference rooms have excellent new video conferencing facilities and would be useful for hybrid meetings.

9. Date of the next committee meetings:

The next branch meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th March, via Zoom. A committee meeting will be held after the talk.

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EASTERN COUNTIES BRANCH INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

INCOME			EXPENSES	
2021	2022	Details	2022	2021
£ 5,097.92	£ 5,270.42	Bank balance start of year		
£ 0.00	£ 3,250.00	Grant from TWI		
£ 680.00	£ 455.00	Annual Dinner Madingley Hall	£ 684.00	£ 934.40
		Lotus visit		£ 175.00
£ 5,777.92	£ 8,975.42	TOTAL INCOME		
		EXPENSES		
		Meetings Hire of Room	£ 0.00	£ 0.00
		Meeting Refreshments	£ 0.00	£ 0.00
		Lecturer's expenses Travel + accomodation	£ 90.00	£ 0.00
		Gift Tokens for Lecturers	£ 365.00	£ 75.00
		Annual audit fee for accounts	£ 80.00	£ 80.00
		Secretarial and Committee Expenses/Travel	£ 561.00	£ 257.50
		Transfer to No 2 A/c	£ 0.00	£ 0.00
		Donation George Bulmer	£ 50.95	£ 0.00
		Quicksilver Lecture Jockey Club	£ 1,379.15	£ 0.00
		TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£ 2,649.10	£ 1,521.90
		BANK BALANCE 31st DECEMBER	£ 5190.92	£ 5,270.42
		No 2 Account at 31st December	£ 1,714.91	£ 1,714.91
		TOTAL FUNDS AT 31st DECEMBER	£ 6,905.83	£ 6,985.33