

MINUTES OF A QUARTERLY MEETING

Date: Thursday 26th January 2017

Time: 09.30am

Location: Friends House, London, NW1 2BJ

PRESENT:

Philip Hines	Bachy Soletanche
Mark Sheridan	BAM Ritchies
Malcolm O'Sullivan	BBGE
Mark Pennington	BBGE
Martin Blower	Bauer
Cameron Foley	Cementation Skanska
Steve Hadley	Central Piling
John Chick	Expanded
Rob Jackson	JCE
Mark Snell	Keller
Stuart Norman	Keltbray
Ian Alcorn	Roger Bullivant Ltd.
Rob Howarth	Simplex Westpile

In the Chair: Alasdair Henderson BAM Ritchies

In Attendance: Ciaran Jennings FPS Secretary
Isabelle Etheridge FPS Secretariat

No	TOPIC	ACTION
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
	Apologies had been received from Chris Primett (Aarsleff), Niall McGill (FK Lowry), Alistair Macdonald (Franki Foundations), Craig Macklin (Franki Foundations), Jim De Waele (Keller), John Hollingsworth (Martello Piling Ltd.), Darren Brockett (Rock and Alluvium) and Mick Mason (Van Elle).	
2.	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING	
	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 21st October were agreed.</p> <p>The Chair gave the following updates in relation to the minutes:</p> <p>Order Statistics Q3 2016 A revised statistics report was circulated to the quarterly group.</p> <p>Sonic Vs Tip Testing John Chick has drafted an article on the issues with sonic tubes that is currently with the Executive for approval. Once approved, it will be published via Jooce.</p> <p>Professional Recognition Through Vocational Routes Following Jim Shields' presentation at the last meeting, Mark Sheridan provided a supporting document on EngTech, IEng and CEng, which was circulated to the group by the secretariat.</p> <p>Rig Bearing Pressure Tool & Workshop See item 7.</p>	

	<p>BIM and Digital Engineering Survey John Chick is currently reviewing the responses and will write a summary report. See item 4.v.</p> <p>Temporary Works Forum Alasdair Henderson indicated he had a name of a contact that he would pass through to the Secretary to follow up.</p> <p>Caps On Liability Paper Mark Sheridan's paper has been circulated to the group for feedback.</p> <p>NVQ in Geotechnical Installation Hamish Campbell of BAM Ritchies will lead on this but more volunteers are needed. Interested members should email the FPS Secretariat.</p> <p>360 Degree Cameras The FPS does not have a coherent view on the use of 360 Degree Cameras. Chris Merridew to look at this further as agreed at the last quarterly meeting.</p> <p>MSc Bursaries Four candidates have been chosen by Jim DeWaele and their academic references are being taken up.</p> <p>New FPS Website As part of this re-branding, the FPS logo will be redesigned to capture modernity.</p> <p>Quarterly Agenda Members are encouraged to provide agenda items.</p>	<p>Chair</p> <p>All</p>
3.	MATTERS ARISING	
<p>i.</p>	<p>Piling Apprenticeship & NOS Review</p> <p>The Secretary reported that the new apprenticeship had gained approval from BEIS and that the new apprenticeship was likely to go live in September 2017.</p> <p>The FPS is offering to provide the externally quality assurance function as Members are best placed to determine what competence and quality looks like in piling. Members would be required to put forward their trainers and assessors to go on a register of assessors who will be used to assess candidates.</p> <p>There are however some snagging issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) There is currently a £6K funding cap. Elizabeth Astill of Laing O'Rourke is leading work on getting this increased, though there is not optimism that a significant increase will be achieved. 2) The government has changed the rules around delivery partners, causing problems for companies such as Van Elle and RBL's CITA who wanted to be employer providers. Under the new rules, the National College of Construction is being approached to provide the classroom training elements and will liaise with the other companies providing training. <p>As discussed at the previous quarterly, the Secretary explained that the CITB are offering external quality assurance role on apprenticeships. This would see them setting up an employer panel to review and develop the EPA process over time and would involve the FPS. This would still require the FPS to provide assessors, but may reduce the likely cost to the FPS of administering the EQA.</p> <p>Steve Hadley enquired if there would be gaps in funding apprenticeships that started in 2016 or in 2017. The Secretary confirmed that funding for starts in 2017 had been confirmed and all</p>	

<p>ii.</p> <p>iii.</p>	<p>current candidates are eligible for the CITB grant. Beyond this year it was not clear what would happen to the SAP, as in theory it should be dispensed with – however the CITB were considering renaming SAPs and continuing to provide the funding stream.</p> <p>Pre-Auguring of Large Casings for approval This is now ready for publication having been through the Plant and Technical Committees. The Secretary will re-circulate to the group and any objections should be raised before 10th February.</p> <p>Caps on Liability Position Paper for approval The paper was circulated prior to the meeting. Members should raise any objections before 3rd February. The group agreed that this should be highlighted via our PR and pushed to organisations such as Build UK.</p>	<p>FPS Secretary</p> <p>All</p>
<p>4. INDUSTRY ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION</p>		
<p>i.</p> <p>ii.</p> <p>iii.</p>	<p>Occupational Health Steve Hadley had attended a recent Build UK meeting and came away with a feeling that the FPS should lead other parts of the industry on occupational health. Cameron Foley agreed that the issue of health and wellbeing should be high on the agenda, and said that Skanska were pushing hard in this area. Alasdair Henderson said that BAM Ritchies were doing the same.</p> <p>A lengthy conversation followed on the matter, with a majority of members expressing their belief that it is an important issue to address as it has far-reaching effects on a company, an individual and their families. Alasdair acknowledged that health screening itself is simple but managing the output from the screening can be complex. It was recognised that there could be differences in standards being applied by GPs and occupational health practitioners. However, the overall consensus was that investment into this area is valuable and often benefited workers by identifying previously undiscovered conditions and helping address issues.</p> <p>It was agreed that the FPS should produce a minimum standard that captured the occupational health practices common to the Membership. Beyond this a position paper could be produced that looks at the more difficult issues in this area. Steve Hadley will lead on this, starting with collecting data from all members on their current practices.</p> <p>Learning and Development Priorities Alasdair Henderson initiated discussion on the importance of training all individuals within the industry and not just limiting it to graduates. He touched on professional qualifications, which Jim Shields of BAM Ritchies had presented on previously. Cameron Foley reported that Cementation Skanska was starting to structure apprentices' training more and it had proved fruitful. Mike Snell and Steve Hadley commented that aspiration to develop often came from the individual, rather than from management.</p> <p>In conclusion, Alasdair asked members to look for the outcomes they wish to achieve through training of employees. He asked that the FPS focus on the training of everyone in the industry over the next year. The group were happy to support this objective.</p> <p>Tool and Rod Handling Phil Hines reflected on the safety statistics that show 46% of injuries in the first three quarters of 2016 were to the fingers, hands or lower arm. He expressed the need for the FPS to find better ways of working; to overcome the preconception that new ways are slower; and to ensure that experiences are shared at meetings. Phil urged members to get their Plant Working Group Representatives to bring examples to the meetings, to be active and not as currently not all attendees were positively contributing.</p> <p>It was agreed that hand and arm injuries were a significant problem with a number of</p>	<p>Steve Hadley/All</p> <p>All</p>

	<p>contributory factors. Malcolm O’Sullivan commented that BBGE had reduced hand related injuries by 20% through ensuring the correct type of glove was being used and that it was also important that a safety by design approach is adopted. It was also commented that fitters often used very old, worn tools that were leading to accidents.</p> <p>The Chair suggested this should be the FPS’ next safety campaign. Phil Hines urged that the Members’ accident statistics are submitted earlier so that analysis can be done to help guide the FPS’s strategy. Malcolm O’Sullivan suggested that any campaign and FPS focus on this issue, should be carried out in connection with the issue of Sonic versus TIP testing. In particular it was necessary to get over the issue that TIP testing has a limited window in which it can be carried out. John Chick offered to produce a brief for the Technical Committee to direct them towards finding a solution to the issues with TIP testing versus Sonic cross-hole logging.</p> <p>Ian Alcorn suggested that it could be effective for the FPS to offer CPD talks on the subject of testing and safety in order to get engineers to think about how to minimise the risk of manual handling injuries.</p> <p>iv. HS2 Delivery Schedule</p> <p>Cameron Foley expressed the need for FPS Members to know when HS2 will start due to the huge resource requirements that it will entail. It was recognised that Members would need to increase their capacity in order to meet the project requirements, including the need to increase the workforce and number of rigs. Several large-scale projects will also be going on over the course of 5-7 years in Europe including the Grand Paris Metro project; this was likely to make it challenging to acquire resources from abroad. Malcolm O’Sullivan noted that ensuring steel supply would be a particular and significant challenge under these circumstances.</p> <p>The group discussed what would be the most effective way to go about approaching HS2 and the right message to put to them. It was felt that an early decision on the project’s timings was desirable in order to help Members plan for the necessary increase in resource. It was also suggested that their proposed timings needed to be reviewed to reconcile the scale of work with the resourcing that would be available. It was recognised that HS2’s focus will be very narrow and such a review is unlikely.</p> <p>Phil Hines emphasised the need for the FPS to come up with a coherent approach and message before making any contact with HS2 management.</p> <p>The Chair concluded that further discussion was required and asked members to send in their ideas to the Secretariat.</p> <p>v. BIM and Digital Engineering Survey Results</p> <p>John Chick is still analysing the survey answers but reflected that there had been a good response and much enthusiasm for BIM. Respondents had expressed some hesitancy over the format of information. Mark Pennington reiterated his feeling that “BIM” should not be called this. Similarly Mark Sheridan acknowledged the preconceptions that the term “model” evokes are unhelpful and that ‘digital construction’ was a better description of what BIM encapsulates.</p> <p>John Chick to provide a summary of the survey for circulation.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>John Chick</p>
<p>5. QUARTERLY LOAD BEARING STATISTICS</p>		
	<p>Alasdair noted the increase in the private commercial sector. The Secretary suggested that the spikes in orders in September 2015 and 2016 could be down to uncertainty before the general election and the EU referendum.</p> <p>Martin Blower commented that housing is still growing and infrastructure is maintaining its position. ONS statistics show the private commercial orders declining, in-keeping with a lead and lag pattern. Repair and maintenance had dropped but new work was increasing. There is a need to bridge the period between now and commencing on HS2 to ensure the continuity of</p>	

	activity within the ground engineering sector.	
6.	COMMITTEE REPORTS	
i.	<p>Executive Committee The Executive Committee report was summarised by the FPS Chair, Alasdair Henderson:</p> <p>Coroner's Report re Fatality The FPS took free legal advice and responded to the report based on Members' contributions. There was no commonality of response among manufacturers and some responses were commentary on what had been done. It was out of the ordinary to be asked to reply, but morally right to respond. The Secretary will circulate the response that was sent to the Coroner.</p> <p>Labour Agencies The aim is to have an ethical standard on labour agencies that can be publicised; this should look at adding in standard occupational health measures such as drugs and alcohol testing.</p> <p>Crossrail 2 The FPS will be engaging with Crossrail 2 in order to ensure that common issues can be addressed where appropriate.</p>	FPS Secretary
ii.	<p>Technical Committee The Technical Committee report was summarised by Technical Committee Chair, Mark Pennington:</p> <p>Terms of Reference The main objectives of the Technical Committee were identified as being (i) influencing codes & standards (ii) creating guidance & (iii) engaging new engineers. The associated deliverables are creating guidance and position papers. It was also agreed that there should be more connection between the four FPS Committees. A reference document will be drawn up by Mark Pennington and Steve Hadley.</p> <p>Failure of Cage Clamps The FPS Design & Lifting of Cages guidance has been revised to take account of the potential failure of cage clamps, especially on large cages. Specific guidance must also be followed for different methods. Topic to be highlighted via PR.</p> <p>Sonic & TIP Testing Andy Bell of Cementation is leading a working group on this subject in order to better understand the testing technologies available and their application.</p> <p>Pile Design with Chalk The Technical Committee are being encouraged to provide practical experience and test data. Martin Blower reported that Arup are interested in collaborating on this. There is a conference in September 2018 that provides a natural deadline for providing test data. All were asked to contribute test data from failed piles in chalk. Rob Jackson indicated that RJI/Miller could provide data.</p> <p>Load Schedules James Binns and Chris Barker of Arup will lead the production of a paper that sets out the issues and risks of ill-formatted load schedule drawings as they are becoming increasingly complicated. A first draft should be ready by 30th March 2017.</p>	<p>Mark Pennington /Steve Hadley</p> <p>R Jackson</p>
iii.	<p>Commercial Committee The Commercial Committee report was summarised by Commercial Committee Chair, Mark Sheridan:</p>	

	<p>Terms of Reference The Commercial Committee's focus areas should be addressing unreasonable contract conditions, customer behaviour, fair certification and Project Bank Accounts.</p> <p>Fair Certification The group are continuing to explore ways in which to achieve fair certification. However it is difficult to address as there is no data that can be shared to substantiate the issue. Alasdair Henderson said that cash flow can be used as objective evidence. There is a need to know what the problem looks like and what the FPS can do. Collaboration is one suggested route to this - Joanna Mikoda, who is a graduate studying for an MSc in Construction Law and Dispute Resolution, will be invited to come and speak to the group regarding her dissertation with a view to providing some insight.</p> <p>Martin Blower said it was important to discuss the issue as a group, as a proposal needs to be fair for all stakeholders and needs to define why it will benefit all, including customers. Mark agreed that a collaborative approach was needed and suggested HS2 might be a project where a different approach could be trialled.</p>	
iv.	<p>Safety & Training Forum The Safety & Training Forum report was summarised by FPS Secretary in Bob Speakman's absence:</p> <p>Terms of Reference A meeting will be held to establish the three working groups which were identified as Safety & Training, Plant Safety and Learning & Development. The latter will be a different discipline to the existing committees.</p> <p>GE708 - Safety on Piling Sites This is being reviewed at the request of the CITB. There are still some outstanding chapters to be completed by members.</p> <p>Lowering MEWPS in an Emergency The general view is that members should have their own capability to recover workers safely in an emergency. A checklist of measures was presented which is used at BBGE and Members were encouraged to read this.</p> <p>Unexploded Ordinance The Pre-commencement Piling Standard will be reviewed in light of discussions at the Commercial meeting about an incident where UXO had been present on site.</p> <p>LOLER Guidance This guidance will be reviewed in light of changes to BS 7121:2016.</p> <p>Concrete Blowing Out Best Practice A meeting was due to be held 30th November to discuss and potentially draft a document. Some members have processes they can share.</p> <p>Service Strikes and Permit to Dig Keltbray's Permit to Dig document was tabled, to be reviewed and discussed further at the next meeting. The FPS has a common document to ensure consistency within the industry and to define responsibilities. However despite its use service strikes are still occurring frequently.</p> <p>FPS Sustainability Forum Members are looking at a focus for this forum. They were reminded to provide feedback on the list of suggested topics previously circulated.</p> <p>SSTP Scheme Registration Members were encouraged to register their companies under the Specialist Sector Training</p>	

	<p>Plan in order to qualify for a double grant from CITB. The deadline for this was 31st January.</p> <p>Asbestos Martin Blower asked for this issue to be included on the PR schedule. The item has already been highlighted to Jooce Marketing. The Secretary noted that Martin Sprange is yet to provide the model answers promised previously to a Safety Alert Keltbray has kindly produced with questions that should be put to main contractors re asbestos contamination.</p>	
v.	<p>Plant Safety Group The Plant Committee report was summarised by Phil Hines, in Steve Joynson's absence:</p> <p>Terms of Reference There are two areas where the committee can affect change: (i) Innovation in rig design & operations & (ii) Collaborating, sharing common practice and creating common solutions to industry problems. It was agreed that more members need to get involved in projects, be vocal and take ownership of issues that need to be addressed.</p> <p>Phil commented that there had been good presentations on BIM and also on hydraulic systems. He reported that there was not enough awareness of the dangers that hydraulic systems posed to workers and it was an area the Plant Group will explore in terms of possible training courses and best practice.</p>	
7.	RIG BEARING PRESSURE SPREADSHEET	
	<p>Alasdair Henderson reiterated the clear FPS stance that the tool is not to be used to calculate rig stability and that users would need to use the spreadsheet and its guidance. David Corke's article was published in GE magazine, albeit with an unhelpful headline. David has also produced his own tool. Further workshops will be organised in 2017, potentially in February or March. Alasdair emphasised the need to make sure that the tool is made widely available in order to ensure it is used.</p>	
8.	FINANCE	
i.	<p>Budget 2017 Alasdair Henderson referred to the proposed budget for 2017, which includes an increased fee to the Secretariat owing to increased administration required for the Associate Members. This had been specifically excluded at the awarding of the contract to FCA with the proviso that it could be added in once the scheme was established and there was greater clarity on the work involved.</p>	
ii.	<p>Subscriptions The cost of membership will decrease by £800 across each category (except in Cat E) owing to additional revenue from Associate Members.</p> <p>Martin Blower proposed the budget and Steve Hadley seconded it.</p>	
9.	MEMBERSHIP MATTERS	
i.	<p>Associate Membership Geofirma Ltd. and Piledesigns Ltd. have both applied to be Technical Associate Members and their applications are progressing successfully.</p> <p><u>Post-meeting note:</u> Secretariat to advise them that they have been admitted to the FPS as Technical Associate Members.</p> <p>Yvonne Ainsworth also applied recently, but she has not been operating for a year, which is a pre-requisite under clause 12. The group decided that breaking this would set a precedent, so the FPS Secretariat has advised Yvonne that the FPS would welcome her application in a year.</p>	FPS Secretariat

ii.	<p>Membership Applications Murphy Ground Engineering have passed their audit and the Executive were meeting with them to formalise their membership after the Quarterly.</p> <p>Dawson Wam are deciding by the end of February whether they wish to apply or not. Martin Blower offered to approach PJ Edwards to determine whether they are interested or not in joining.</p>	M Blower
iii.	<p>FPS MSc Student Prize Four successful candidates have been identified by Jim De Waele and ratified by the Executive Committee. Their University references are currently being taken up. Members are asked to offer 3-month Summer placements to the candidates as well as relevant dissertation topics and a ticket to the Awards Dinner in October. Piles in Chalk and Benchmarking Carbon were a couple of suggestions from the group. Steve Hadley said that he would favour a candidate who is close to his company HQ, thus locations of candidates will be shared in due course.</p>	FPS Secretariat All
10. EFFC OFFICER & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FORMATION		
	<p>Martin Blower will be the new EFFC Officer for an interim period, however, another FPS Member will be required to take over. Martin explained that this person would likely make it to the EFFC Chair role quite quickly and added that being an Officer is useful and interesting, and can be used to help ameliorate safety standards across Europe.</p> <p>Phil Hines will take on safety and Steve Hadley will take on Ground Forum while Martin spends more time on EFFC work in the short-term. As a result there is a space to be filled on the Executive Committee. Members who are interested should contact the FPS Secretary.</p> <p>Post-meeting note: The Exec Committee size is under review and has not yet concluded whether an additional member will be required. Nonetheless, interested members should contact the secretariat pending a decision.</p>	All
11. PR ACTIVITY AND DIGITAL		
i.	<p>FPS Website The website redesign is ongoing and should go-live at the end of quarter one. The FPS logo is being updated as part of the re-brand - the Secretary will circulate artwork ideas to the group after the meeting. Members are also asked to provide footage and/or images to be used on the home page.</p>	FPS Secretary All
12. REPORTS AS NECESSARY		
i.	<p>Build UK The Secretary reported that the recent departure of Adrian Belton from the CITB could be considered a success for Build UK, whose members were deeply unhappy with the lack of progress in the reform of the organisation.</p> <p>He also reported that Construction News had run an article that indicated the JCT had entered into a public dispute with Build UK. He explained that under the new merged structure of Build UK it needed to be determined what the representation should be on the JCT from specialist contractors and main contractors. The JCT had issued an invoice to Build UK, which has not been paid as this issue had not been concluded.</p>	
ii.	<p>EFFC The Secretary informed the group that the next Executive meeting will take place on 17th</p>	

	<p>February in Amsterdam, and an ISO representative (representing Rock & Mining equipment Standards) will attend to discuss conflict over EN16228. The EFFC will insist upon the contractor having control over safety, not the manufacturer. Alasdair Henderson emphasised the need to promote better health and safety practices in Europe in order to help them raise their standards.</p> <p>It was also reported that a second edition of the Tremie Guide is due for publication at the end of the year. This should have empirical values for acceptable test results on concrete to aid contractors to determine with it will be fit for purpose. Martin Blower commented that the FPS needed to bring together its experience to validate the guide.</p> <p>The question was asked as to Members' experience using the guide and testing concrete generally. Cameron Foley commented that they are still seeing problems and that Cementation has had to bring testing in-house to ensure its quality. Stuart Norman agreed that there was poor quality among testing houses when testing concrete where cubes were not being cured properly. It was suggested that there is a piece of work to be done on setting criteria for ground concrete. This was agreed and will be referred to the Technical Committee ahead of a discussion at the next Quarterly.</p>	Technical agenda
iii.	<p>Ground Forum It was reported that the Government is producing a White Paper on Degree Apprenticeships and is seeking to understand what industry wants in order to bridge the gap between academic training and skills for the workplace.</p> <p>Martin Blower commented that the Ground Forum currently has a site investigation industry slant to it owing to the representatives that are participating – it is important to maintain the geotechnical influence in the Forum.</p>	
13.	SOCIAL EVENTS	
i.	<p>Summer Ball 24th June, Coombe Abbey, Warwickshire</p>	
ii.	<p>Golf Day This continues to be a successful event and pays for itself. Date and venue now confirmed:- 13th September, The Nottinghamshire</p>	
iii.	<p>FPS Awards As above, the Secretary is securing several venue options in central London to be decided by the Executive by mid-late February. The initial date of Friday 27th October may change as it was pointed out that this falls in the school half-term holiday.</p> <p>In the future there is likely to be an extra FPS event for the calendar, which will be more-inclusive and can involve members' families</p>	
14.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
i.	<p>Josh Pennington has contacted the FPS seeking sponsorship for an expedition to Madagascar. The FPS are not in a position to do this but his proposal letter will be circulated to Members by the Secretary.</p>	FPS Secretary
ii.	<p>CECA is holding a nationwide event on the 18th April called 'Stop. Make a Change' (please see accompanying flyer). Martin Blower had just come from a "Constructing Better Health" meeting where attendees gave their unanimous support to the event as did the FPS. Alasdair Henderson stated the two aims of the initiative: talking about mental health and wellbeing in public and MDs delivering the concept across their workforce.</p>	All
iii.	<p>The Chair reported that the FPS will be inputting into a parliamentary enquiry into skills</p>	

	shortages post-Brexit. He acknowledged that cross-border recognition will be an important issue for the enquiry to address. Martin Blower stressed that Build UK should be made aware of FPS' input here.	
15.	DATES OF 2017 MEETINGS	
	<p>The next meetings are scheduled to take place on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24th April 2017 – Hamilton House • 20th July 2017 – Friends House • 27th October 2017 – Hamilton House 	