

MINUTES OF THE FPS QUARTERLY MEETING

Date: Thursday 19th July 2018

Time: 9.30am

Location: Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London, WC1H 9BD

PRESENT:

Martin Blower	Bauer Technologies
Malcolm O’Sullivan	BBGE
Mark Pennington	BBGE
Craig Macklin	Franki Foundations
Yvonne Ainsworth	JRL Civil Engineering
Jim De Waele	Keller
Stuart Norman	Keltbray
James Harrison	Martello
Andrew Waghorn	Murphy Ground Engineering
Cliff Wren	Roger Bullivant
Mick Mason	Van Elle
Matt Walpole	Westpile

In the Chair: Philip Hines Bachy Soletanche

In Attendance: Ciaran Jennings FPS Secretariat
Grace Hawkins FPS Secretariat

No	TOPIC	ACTION
1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
	Apologies had been received from Kevin Hague (Aarsleff), Alasdair Henderson (BAM Ritchies), Jonathan Morris (Cementation Skanska), Steve Hadley (Central Piling), Paul Kelly (Dawson-Wam), John Chick (Expanded), Niall McGill (FK Lowry) and Darren Brockett (Rock & Alluvium).	
2	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING	
	The minutes of the meeting held on the 26 th April 2018 were approved.	
3	MATTERS ARISING	
	Welcome to Dawson-Wam	
i.	Phil Hines welcomed Dawson-Wam to the FPS, the FPS Executive met with Paul Kelly on the 5 th July 2018. Ciaran Jennings advised there are now 20 FPS members and there are two companies going through process.	
ii.	Carillion Liquidation Nothing further to report	
iii.	Retentions Response It was previously reported that Build UK are looking to remove the practice of retention by 2025. The FPS has responded to the Government consultation supporting the Build UK roadmap but rejecting the use of retention deposit schemes or legislation that would enshrine retentions in law. Ciaran Jennings reported that the Government have completed the consultation exercise and are reviewing the results. It was noted that Martin Blower wrote a letter to his local MP explaining why retentions are negative to the industry, it was suggested all FPS member Managing Directors also send the letter to their local MPs to educate them, asking for them to resist any legislation asking for	FPS Secretariat

	retention. Phil Hines asked the FPS Secretariat to circulate the letter to the managing directors.	Member MDs
iv.	<p>Piling Apprenticeship and NOS Review Presentation</p> <p>Ciaran Jennings presented on the FPS apprenticeship, including the background to the existing SAP apprenticeship and the new model under the Trailblazer initiative.</p> <p>Ciaran stated there is a Piling funding cap of £15,000, Employers can claim 90% from the apprenticeship levy account and will need to cover the remaining 10%.</p> <p>It was noted that the Trailblazer will take over from the old SAP scheme at the end of the year. Currently on the SAP the FPS Members deliver parts of the syllabus, however under Trailblazer rules there needs to be a single training provider. He reported that the CITB will be the registered training organisation and members will provide the training. The FPS previously looked at being the External Quality Assurance provider, the Government rejected this proposal in the form in which the FPS wished to do this – i.e. through the provision of FPS assessors. Instead it has been suggested NOCN will become an End Point Assessment organisation and the FPS will provide the assessors to NOCN.</p> <p>Phil Hines added that Carl Hassell has a list of training modules which should be circulated for the FPS members to advise what they can deliver. There are a lot more academic modules included in comparison to the existing SAP list of modules. There is also now 75 days of “off the job” training included.</p> <p>Please click here to view the full presentation.</p>	FPS Secretariat
v.	<p>Cage Supplier Standard</p> <p>Phil Hines reported that the first meeting with the cage suppliers and FPS Members took place with the aim to identify the issues and look at potential ways to improve safety and quality standards of reinforcement cages.</p> <p>Phil advised it was agreed to visualise the standards and to improve the working relationship between suppliers and FPS Members. He asked for comments on the notes of the meeting.</p> <p>Matt Walpole asked how many suppliers were interested as he noted only a few attended; Phil explained there has been a lot of traction however the dates and train problems prevented more suppliers from attending, although he noted the two who attended are likely to be leading the way to move forward.</p> <p>It was noted at Tideway there is a Geotechnical Working Group who have set a standard in this area that is proposed to be used as the basis for an FPS standard.</p> <p>Phil suggested this standard can be incorporated into an audit, for the Cage Suppliers to become an Associate Member. It was proposed that Members then share their audit data in order to reduce a duplication of effort and reduce the burden on suppliers and contractors alike. This would then be used to create a register of suppliers who meet the FPS’ standard. He added he hoped FPS Members would use FPS Associate Members as they represented better quality in the supply chain – although this cannot be mandated. He also suggested sessions can be created within the committees for Associate Members on subjects that are specifically relevant to them.</p> <p>Jim De Waele asked what the position was for Sonic Logging tubes; Phil advised it was agreed that it is an individual company decision as the Technical Committee have</p>	

	<p>advised that they do not think TIP Testing is suitable as the sole testing method at present.</p> <p>Phil commented that sonic logging was an area where a smaller working group involving operational people as well could look at the issues to find a better method for installing them.</p> <p>Malcolm O'Sullivan commented that lot of problems arise when sonic logging tubes arrive on site.</p> <p>Phil added each company has different processes which does not help the supplier upon delivery which they highlighted as an issue which need to have standards put in place.</p> <p>Mark Pennington advised that the Technical Committee looked at design of cages and have created some guidance, although he was not sure if it covers transportation; he noted it covers design. Mark added HS2 have indicated they want to help towards raising the standards around pile testing.</p> <p>Yvonne Ainsworth stated if Sonic Tube Logging was banned, the industry would follow and produce a solution.</p> <p>It was agreed that a formal proposal re cage supplier Associate Members and the minimum standard required from them would be circulated for approval.</p>	P Hines/ FPS Secretary
vi.	<p>EFFC Officer</p> <p>Phil Hines reported that Martin Blower continues in the role of EFFC Officer for the FPS in the short term, the FPS is still in need of a volunteer to be the UK EFFC Officer. It is an important role to enable the Federation to remain in touch with European colleagues. Ciaran advised there is a lot of change within the Officers and they have recognised it cannot be an eight-year commitment so this need not be seen as the long term commitment it used to be.</p> <p>Phil asked for any volunteers to inform the FPS Secretariat.</p>	All
vii.	<p>Testing Methods Guidance</p> <p>Phil Hines reported the Sonic Logging Tubes vs TIP testing document was circulated, he advised John Chick wrote an article on the risks of Sonic and suggested this can be developed.</p> <p>Mark Pennington stated that the technical guidance paper should be published, it covers the positives and negatives of each technique. The Technical Committee concluded that it was not viable to replace Sonic logging with TIP testing. Phil noted one paragraph, refers to the risk of joining tubes, however it should refer to the joining of the tubes. Mark agreed to amend this, and asked members are then given two weeks to comment before publishing.</p>	Mark Pennington
4.	FPS STRATEGIC PRIORITES 2017/18	
i.	<p>Stuart Norman noted that the FPS need to set the objectives and push them. Ciaran Jennings agreed to recirculate the strategic priority document that had previously been agreed that set out the areas of activities and look for progress.</p> <p>Harm Reduction: Manual Handling</p> <p>It was reported the Plant Group has been looking at methods of automation to remove</p>	FPS Secretary

	<p>risk to arms and hands in relation to mini-piling and segmental CFA operations; Casagrande gave a presentation on their proposed solution for automating the handling of augers. Phil Hines advised he felt that progress has been slow to drive the change that the members had signed up to in relation to avoiding manual handling where reasonably possible.</p> <p>Casagrande have stepped forward to design and develop a tool but as they do not sense members are that interested it is low down on their priority list.</p> <p>Phil added FPS Members need to drive the changes and encourage their people to attend Plant Safety meetings and develop the solutions.</p> <p>Jim De Waele feels there are so many variations to consider, as a federation it may be difficult to push forward; there are no solutions which fits all circumstances. Phil suggested the FPS start in areas where there are less restrictions to space, as it is in very confined spaces where the challenges will be difficult to overcome.</p> <p>Yvonne Ainsworth advised she had seen an excavator tool online that handles augers, Phil replied that the Members are not using this, but should be made aware that the tool exists.</p> <p>Phil stated the FPS need to be more aligned on what is required; if Members use Segmental CFA augers, they need to establish what is missing and what is needed. He added Members who do that work should put forward an operational person to look at this.</p> <p>Jim suggested looking at the composition of Committees, as it seems the Technical Committee is strong with the most output. Phil agreed, he felt that senior operational managers are not involved enough in the FPS or in the Committees.</p> <p>He suggested the Members each identify a senior operational person who could operate either within the Safety & Training and Plant Committees or on particular small working groups. The Quarterly agreed to offer operational representatives to improve the focus and outcome of the committees and to signal their interest in key subjects and suggest subjects for consideration; the current ones that need assistance are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manual handling • Concrete testing • Cage splicing (including sonic tubes) <p>Yvonne commented that smaller working groups would increase outcome and participation. Phil will create a list of objectives once feedback from the members is received and the FPS Executive will look at the composition to ensure its fair participation.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>Phil Hines FPS Executive</p>
ii.	<p>Occupational Health</p> <p>It was reported that Steve Hadley has been working alone on this, if the FPS wants to move this forward it was recognised members should give him more support. Yvonne Ainsworth explained that Steve looked at issues such as tiredness, alcohol limits, and other occupational health influences. Ciaran Jennings advised that Build UK have not been able to reach consensus on alcohol limits and that Steve is looking to set a minimum standard for the FPS to advance.</p>	<p>All</p>

iii.	<p>Learning & Development</p> <p>It was reported that John Chick has put together a survey with the objective to define what the roles in the industry are and to try to understand what training is provided, identify training gaps and where to put in place training and qualifications where needed.</p> <p>There was also a view to establish what those roles will develop into, what are the role requirements, and what competencies they are expected to have.</p> <p>John Chick has suggested the online survey will take an hour and half commitment from each Member, it was noted John advised the safety and training departments would be best suited to answer. Phil Hines advised John needs to set out the aim and the importance of the survey to encourage Members to take it.</p> <p>Phil added the Learning and Development group have confirmed they can go through the survey with anyone who needs help. It was agreed John should highlight the offer of help with the survey request.</p>	<p>John Chick</p> <p>John Chick</p>
iv.	<p>Commercial Good Practice</p> <p>Nothing to report, although it was noted that the Commercial Committee have been looking at the issues surrounding fair payment and certification.</p>	
v.	<p>Technical Standards</p> <p>Phil Hines reported that the FPS is currently inputting to various codes, which is ongoing.</p>	
5. QUARTERLY LOAD BEARING STATISTICS		
	<p>Ciaran Jennings advised the statistics for the second quarter include numbers from Dawson Wam. The Committee had no comments on the statistics other than there are more infrastructure orders.</p>	
6. EFFC/DFI TREMIE GUIDE SECOND EDITION		
	<p>It was reported that in June the 2nd edition of Tremie Concrete Guide was launched at the EFFC DFI Conference in Rome, Phil Hines explained that a working group formed of technical and operational people met to create a strategy for adoption of the Tremie Guide and to look at how the Guide should be implemented in the UK</p> <p>Phil advised the notes from the meeting were circulated to attendees asking for comments.</p> <p>Phil added the main changes are in the testing with slump flow testing rather than flow table tests being specified.</p> <p>It was agreed to put forward a proposal to the Members to ensure they are all asking the same from the concrete suppliers, the working group will plan to meet with the suppliers (hopefully in September) to drive the adoption of FPS requirements based on the Guide. When agreed the proposal will be circulated to Members.</p>	<p>Phil Hines FPS Executive</p>
7. FPS EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS		
	<p>It was previously agreed to collect employment statistics of the FPS Member companies. Alasdair Henderson sent a template survey to the FPS Secretariat to circulate, asking Members to respond with the demographics of their companies.</p>	

	<p>It was noted the information will be pulled together for the next meeting, so the industry can establish the age/gender divide and address issues to diversify the divide. Phil Hines added this will be an annual exercise.</p> <p>Yvonne Ainsworth suggested there is a lot of changes in a year and one capture exercise a year may not be enough.</p>	FPS Secretariat
8.	FINANCE	
	<p>i. Use of FPS Apprenticeship Fund</p> <p>Ciaran Jennings reported that there is a large surplus in the FPS Apprenticeship fund (£363k) that has accrued over time owing to income outstripping what has been invoiced by Members providing training and facilities to the FPS. It was agreed that the question of how the funds can be used to best benefit Members and the objectives of the FPS should be discussed.</p> <p>Phil Hines advised that the FPS Executive had an idea to invest in a safety induction tool such as that developed on Tideway, a virtual 3D that can be used for hazard spotting etc, that is relatively affordable.</p> <p>Stuart Norman suggested it would be beneficial to be able to use this fund to create videos for the FPS which highlight the hazards and risks to main contractors. Malcolm O’Sullivan agreed a video on safety is a good idea as they have a big impact. Phil added that the S&T Committee have discussed videos but there has been no drive, Yvonne Ainsworth advised if an external company is being paid to produce these, the drive will be there.</p> <p>Jim De Waele suggested a working group is formed, Phil agreed Members should put forward people for a working group to write a brief on the common themes and risks. Jim also suggested old videos could be revamped and smaller scenes created.</p> <p>Jim De Waele asked if Crane and Partners would continue as the auditors of the FPS, Ciaran Jennings reported that Crane and Partners have been the auditors for the FPS for around 30 years, the rules do not require them to change, however he agreed to get quotes to compare with Crane.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>FPS Secretariat</p>
9.	COMMITTEE REPORTS	
	<p>i. Executive Committee</p> <p>It was reported that Julie Parnham has been approved to join Martin Bills as the second auditor and the Auditors day rate has increased to £500 as this had not been reviewed since 2009.</p> <p>The FPS Executive discussed technical standards and digital data, as it was noted that at the EFFC conference it was considered if there can be a more effective way. The FPS is looking to drive forward the format of data to get a common format.</p> <p>Mark Pennington reported HS2 have been approached to support this and when feedback from HS2 is received, he will advise Neil Chadwick. Mark added Neil wants the FPS to lead, but the Technical Committee felt the scope was too large and needs support from others to influence people to request it. Mark feels the AGS Data format is the way forward, they can create guidance. It was noted the industry will begin using it more in</p>	Mark Pennington

	the future and the FPS should engage.	
ii.	<p>Technical Committee</p> <p>Mark Pennington reported that the Committee has provided comments on the LDSA (London District Surveyors Association) guidance for the design of straight shafted bored piles in London clay relating to design line, as it can be quite subjective, comments will be sent to Arup, although it was noted this may not result in a change to the document. It will hopefully push towards better site investigation, which is the aim of the document.</p> <p>The LDSA guidance on piling into London clay highlighted the issue of poor Ground Investigation data. The Technical Committee agreed to produce guidance on subcontractor's design. Mark reported that a small working group have been convened with Derek Egan leading this, but they have not met yet.</p> <p>Mark also reported that Eurocode 7 part 3 is being revised, the Technical Committee is being asked to provide input to that and is hoping to have a presentation by Chris Raison at the next meeting.</p>	
iii.	<p>Commercial Committee</p> <p>Ciaran Jennings reported that the Commercial Committee are still progressing with a position paper on fair certification and are looking to produce a "Why use an FPS member?" leaflet which can be sent out with tenders as an PDF. They also want to put profiles up on the website, trying to attract diversity in the industry especially within commercial.</p> <p>They have been discussing the Build UK PQQ process, Build UK has proposed to have a consolidated database of PQQ information, the FPS needs to consider whether they become an accreditor to replace Achilles, Builders Profile etc. It was noted that FPS Members details will be automatically submitted which is a benefit for members.</p>	
iv.	<p>Safety and Training Forum</p> <p>Phil Hines advised the Safety and Training Forum have improved the analysis of the Accident statistics. It was noted out of the 50 injuries this year; a high percentage were hands or arms and a high percentage was noted as being off site. He added the S&T Committee are looking at the high risk near misses and are interested in seeing more high-risk potential incident alerts. It has been recognised that the lost time accident frequency rate has reduced but that the more serious RIDDORs remaining stubbornly flat.</p> <p>A recent accident was reported whereby an operative had been trapped between the counterweight of a rig and a pile casing. Jim De Waele asked about the systems which stop the machine operating when a person gets too close, Malcolm O'Sullivan noted the problem is in particular third parties breaking the rules and that ultimately this is a behavioural issue.</p>	
v.	<p>Plant Safety Group</p> <p>Malcolm O'Sullivan was impressed by quality of discussion in the report for the last Plant safety group meeting.</p>	

	<p>Jim De Waele commented that the alerts have improved in terms of the number being submitted and the quality. Phil Hines reminded the Committee that if a company policy prevents an alert being sent out, members can send someone to attend the Plant Safety meeting and verbally report it instead or use an anonymous alert.</p> <p>Jim De Waele suggested Cementation Skanska should be asked what processes were in place after the recent accident, Phil agreed to call Jonathan Morris to ask.</p>	Phil Hines
10.	MEMBERSHIP MATTERS	
	<p>Membership Audit</p> <p>i. As previously discussed Julie Parnham will be joining Martin Bills as the second auditor for the FPS.</p>	
	<p>ii. Membership Applications</p> <p>Ciaran Jennings reported that JDL Piling have submitted an application however due to their company structure the auditor will need to look at how to audit them. It was also noted that Foundation Piling have submitted an application.</p> <p>Cleveland Steel and Tubes have indicated their interest to join as an FPS Associate Member; it was noted they intend to sponsor the FPS Annual Dinner. Ciaran asked if there were any objections. Phil Hines suggested unless they have a relationship with a number of FPS members the Associate membership should not be extended. He added they should indicate what they want out of the membership. Ciaran agreed to circulate their details to the FPS Executive.</p>	FPS Secretariat
	<p>iii. Associate Membership AGM Feedback</p> <p>Phil Hines reported that Premier Concrete Pumping (PCP) were critical of FPS Members in regard to not valuing quality and only considering price. He added generally other associate members are happy with their involvement. It was noted PCP are also upset that hired equipment is not being respected and being returned in very poor condition.</p> <p>Ciaran Jennings advised that the rig manufacturers are unhappy about FORS, they have the perception that there is a requirement to be FORS compliant whereas other suppliers to Members are not expected to be. Phil asked the Committee whether they insist on FORS as standard on delivery of equipment to site; Mick Mason advised they do and Yvonne Ainsworth agreed they expect it, however it is not stipulated. Phil asked Members to ask their plant people to confirm at next Plant Safety meeting what they expect.</p> <p>Mark Pennington asked if there had been any feedback from the Associate Members who attend the Technical Meetings; it was advised that Chris Barker and Chris Irwin were present but did not comment on Technical so assume they are happy.</p>	All
11.	PR AND DIGITAL MARKETING	
	<p>i. PR Activity Review</p> <p>This item was not discussed.</p>	
	<p>ii. FPS Website</p> <p>Ciaran Jennings advised he will upload the Keller video as previously agreed. Ciaran</p>	

	<p>advised he is also in the process of auditing the documents at the moment so that the Committees can review their documents and update where necessary.</p> <p>Matt Walpole advised some clients do not understand the benefit of using FPS members, he suggested the competitive advantages need to be included on the website to help towards raising the awareness of what the FPS does and what the client will receive. Ciaran replied that the Commercial Committee have been focussing on this objective. Matt suggested if this should be added to the strategic priority list. Phil asked Matt to prepare a draft for the Exec to consider.</p>	<p>Ciaran Jennings</p> <p>Matt Walpole</p>
12.	REPORTS AS NECESSARY	
i.	<p>Build UK</p> <p>It was noted Build UK are active on topics such as PQQ, fair payment and retention. Ciaran Jennings advised he has not seen an update from Mark Castle yet on reforming the industry and how they are proposing to tackle that. Ciaran reported that in September Build UK will be holding elections for the Chair of the Board; it was noted any nominee should have a profile within Build UK.</p> <p>It was noted that Martin Blower sits on the retention working group and Mark Sheridan is on the steering group; a report is coming out which is a reflection of the consultation.</p> <p>It was reported the early payment scheme issue is still being addressed; the Build UK roadmap intends to get rid of retention by 2022.</p>	
ii.	<p>EFFC</p> <p>Ciaran Jennings reported the DFI conference took place in Rome on the 5th-8th June.</p> <p>Ciaran reported there is a working group looking at mutual recognition of rig qualifications, he explained the EFFC has decided to create their own driving license scheme, the regulatory bodies are different in each country which is causing problems. They aim to implement one standard across each country but recognising that each country has its own; it is recognition by harmonising standards. The UK equivalent would be CPCS recognising this qualification.</p> <p>Jim De Waele talked about the Working platform group; he has agreed to make a working platform initiative which will provide material and content for each member country to use. He added the US are quite keen on this.</p> <p>Martin Blower reported that David Hard is now the Technical Chair and he will be contacting the FPS via EFFC. He added there are positive changes being made across the working groups at the EFFC.</p>	
iii.	<p>CITB</p> <p>It was previously reported CITB have now changed the way they fund training; if short course training is required then a standard need to be developed which will then have to gain CITB approval. Ciaran reported CITB have a R&D fund if there are initiatives the FPS want to put forward.</p> <p>It was noted that CITB are selling the CPCS scheme, it was reported that they have a buyer interested. Build UK wanted CSCS to take on CPCS which they decided not to,</p>	

	Ciaran added he is not sure what the operational difference will be yet.	
iv.	<p>Ground Forum</p> <p>It was reported that the Ground Forum are still engaged in advising on skills shortages to the Government. They have been discussing issues around Geotechnical Laboratories.</p> <p>It was also reported they have formally complained to the Geological Society on awarding engineering status; Yvonne Ainsworth confirmed it has been agreed they cannot award engineering status.</p>	
v.	<p>AGS</p> <p>It was reported the AGS is holding a conference; <i>Ground Risk: Why Take the Chance? A Lessons Learnt Conference</i>, which is taking place on the 12th September 2018.</p> <p>Ciaran Jennings noted the AGS is interested to collaborate with the FPS on Ground Investigation in the industry along with the BGA.</p>	
13.	SOCIAL EVENTS	
i.	<p>FPS Golf Day 2018</p> <p>It was reported the FPS Golf Day will take place on the 12th September 2018 at the Nottinghamshire & Country Club. Phil Hines encouraged the committee to get their teams in.</p>	
ii.	<p>Annual Awards Dinner 2018</p> <p>It was reported the Annual Awards Dinner will be taking place on the 19th October 2018 following the FPS Quarterly meeting at the Park Lane Intercontinental Hotel in London. Ciaran Jennings advised that the awards pack has been circulated and he encouraged the committee to put forward people in their companies for awards. He also reminded the committee that sponsorship is required.</p> <p>Phil Hines added that Sir Clive Woodward will be the guest speaker at the event and that it is hoped that the presence of a high profile speaker will encourage more people to attend</p>	
14.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
	<p>EFFC DFI Conference in Rome Feedback</p> <p>Cliff Wren asked if there had been any feedback from the EFFC DFI Conference, Ciaran Jennings advised there had been an attendance of 377 delegates and the EFFC were very pleased with how it went. He added they felt having clients there was a positive move. It was noted the next conference could potentially take place in Germany.</p> <p>Meeting with MP to discuss retention</p> <p>Martin Blower reported further to his letter on retention to his local MP, he will be meeting with his local MP in September; Martin agreed to report back.</p> <p>Kier Early Payment Scheme</p> <p>Phil Hines advised that Kier are continuing with an Early Payment Scheme which members should be aware of. Martin Blower added that following Carillion members should be careful around this scheme. Martin also advised the letter he drafted highlights the issue of retention and early payment scheme, he suggested Phil could</p>	<p>Martin Blower</p> <p>Phil Hines</p>

	send them a copy as the Chair of the FPS.	
15.	DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS	
	Next meeting dates are as follows and will be held at Hamilton House: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 October (Awards Dinner) 2018 	