FEDERATION OF PILING SPECIALISTS

PLANT GROUP REPORT FOR PRESENTATION AT THE QUARTERLY MEETING ON 1st FEBRUARY 2018

Date of Reported Meeting: Thursday 16th November 2017
Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 1st March 2018

Round Table Discussion
As the new Chair Dorian Rixon held a round table discussion on what issues everyone was experiencing with their plant and what opportunities are there for collaboration that would be beneficial to Members and Associate Members. Key themes that emerged included

- Skills and competence of both operators and fitters need to be addressed
- Safer machines are needed from manufacturers for both operators and especially operatives around the rig and when working at height.
- A minimum standard for machinery should be an output of the group that exceeds the requirements of EN16228.
- Need a way to get past the commercial issues and IP that potentially stop collaboration and sharing happening.
- Specific areas for collaboration include: Rod and auger handling, standardised access platforms, creation of an apprenticeship for fitters and operatives

Concrete Blowing Out
An amended version of the Concrete Pumping Guidance with recommended procedures for clearing is being finalised.

CEN/TC 151 WG3 – Rig Safety Standard EN16228
An update was given on the status of the standard. There has subsequently been some changes proposed to the standard from the CEN working group that the UK strongly disagrees with around guarding and angles of inclination. We are therefore intending to organise a UK response that can be submitted via the BSI to CEN.

Seatbelts on Piling rigs
A position paper is being drafted by Gary Levers in the S&T Forum that shall set out the FPS position that it is not a legal requirement to have a seat belt in a piling rig. This is in response to main contractors requiring them to be fitted in rigs where they are currently not included as standard equipment. There is some debate currently about whether they improve safety or are in fact more dangerous in certain situations. It is also apparent they are included in some rigs, usually where a different type of plant has formed the basis of the rig.

Concrete Hose Damage
The Group have been seeking definitive manufacturer's advice on what external damage to a hose constitutes a significant issue. This was prompted by a client of a non-FPS Member sending in some photos of damaged hoses seeking advice. IVG have been contacted but have only given generalised guidance, this shall be annexed to the Concrete Pumping Guidance for reference.