



# FETA NEWS

FETA Fire Extinguishing Trades Association

## CALLS FOR GOVERNMENT TO STICK TO FIRE SAFETY TIMETABLE

ITEM NUMBER: 1



*John Worboys took the opportunity in his last official speech as Chairman of the Fire Extinguishing Trades Association (FETA) to call on the government to ensure that the proposed Fire Safety Order be finalised and introduced at the earliest opportunity.*

Speaking at the Association's Annual Luncheon at the Savoy Hotel, London on 23 June, 2004 Mr Worboys addressed over 100 FETA members and their guests, expressing his concerns at the delays in implementing the Order and asking that it be given "...the time it deserves to complete the detail and close the chapter of uncertainty that has been created by this very delayed process."

Recognised as the most important piece of fire safety legislation since the Fire Precautions Act, 1971, the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order is currently before Parliament and is scheduled to be introduced in Spring, 2005.

Mr Worboys completed his two years in office as Chairman of FETA, at a FETA Council meeting in July. At the meeting, Suzanne Donovan, Marketing Manager of Chubb Fire, was



## Regulatory Reform Fire Safety Order

elected as the new Chairman of the association.

At the AGM, presentations were made to members on some of the work undertaken by FETA during the previous year. Following John Worboys's Chairman's Report, Keith Goodwin provided an overview of the activities of the FETA Servicing Committee. He was followed by Robert Thilthorpe, FETA Technical Manager, on the work of the Manufacturing & Technical Sectoral Committee and Peter Kent, Chairman of the

Fittings & Hose Reel Sectoral Committee. Concluding the presentations, Phil Martin, recently appointed Chairman of

the Marketing Strategy Sectoral Committee, reported on the marketing initiatives undertaken by FETA.

## REGISTERED TECHNICIANS APPROACH 600

*The number of BAFF Registered Technicians for the maintenance of portable fire extinguishers continues to increase, with those registered fast approaching 600. A recent addition to the register is Janine Isbell, the first female service technician to join the scheme.*

Janine is a service engineer in the Extinguisher Division of FETA member company MK Fire, an independent fire safety company operating throughout the UK. Janine works on the south coast as part of MK Fire's team of service engineers, all of whom are registered or going through the registration process of the BAFF Technicians Scheme.

For MK Fire's Service Manager, Dean Nicol, BAFF registration is central to what the company does - "All of our service engineers go through the BAFF scheme, with our target to have all 23 receiving their diploma by the end of the year."

The prime objective of the scheme is to raise standards and provide a yardstick against which the competence of service engineers can be measured.

Experienced, qualified assessors, who have the necessary commercial and managerial skills, assess technicians in the field. On successful completion of the tasks that include obtaining a nationally recognised examination certificate and a minimum of six months field assessment, documentation is sent to BAFF for verification which, if successful, sees the technician awarded with the

BAFF diploma and an identification card. The card provides the customer with the peace of mind that the technician undertaking the servicing and maintenance of extinguishers has demonstrated the necessary competencies to do so, an increasingly important factor as the role of 'competent persons' becomes a focus in fire safety.

ITEM NUMBER: 2



Janine Isbell receives her BAFF Certificate from MK Fire Service Manager, Dean Nicol.

## ISO 9001: A MEMBER'S PERSPECTIVE

*Reported in the last issue of 'FETA News' was the decision by the FETA Council that all FETA Members will be required to put their service engineers through the BAFF Registered Technicians Scheme. As a consequence, all members not engaged in the contract maintenance of portable fire extinguishers have to become ISO 9001:2000 registered. 'FETA News' spoke to Martin Reed, Managing Director of FDSA Fire Protection, a relatively small independent company, to see how they are handling the registration process.*

### Martin takes up the story...

We are told that managing time is a key element to developing and implementing changes within our businesses. It seems all too often that time, the only true constant, is too rare a commodity in a world dominated by agendas and deadlines. And so I find our company embattled in that period of time preparing for and leading up to our goal, the achievement of ISO 9001:2000.

Of course, next year there will be other "goals" to be reached, but for now our focus is on understanding all the requirements necessary for reaching this target in the most clearly defined way possible. As a small business sometimes struggling to keep up with all other items on the agenda (which is just about everything), the thought of adding another "task" to the already overburdened diary has not been particularly welcome.

With some trepidation, in particular to the allocation of time this project would probably need, I sought the services of a local company, Skillnet, who had been recommended to us. We were fortunate in this and FETA has a list of organisations that also provide this service.

A date for our first meeting was agreed for July. We had already touched on preparing for Quality Assurance in 2000 so I briefly reviewed this and prepared a presentation overview on the day-to-day operation of the business. At the conclusion of our meeting, only two hours later, I realised for the very first time that we were already operating a successful "system". All we now needed to achieve was to document our procedures and implement a few additions, as determined and advised by our consultant.

I learned a great deal from this initial meeting, in particular not to underestimate or undervalue the quality and effectiveness of the systems that we had already put in place and were working with. I imagine this will be the case for many other FETA member companies. We were much nearer our goal than I had ever imagined.

The meeting summarised some key points needing action before our next meeting on 1st September from which date we will run with our fledgling system for 3 months. I have scheduled each task into the diary before this date and have allocated that all-illusive ingredient to achieve this goal-time!

ITEM NUMBER: 3

# FETA GOLF DAY (...OR CARRY ON BUGGYING)

*The Hellidon Lakes Golf Course near Daventry was the venue for the Spring 2004 Event of the FETA Golfing Society and proved to be a tough test, particularly for one FETA member who literally 'found the water' off the tee.*

Although relatively short at only 5,000 yards, only two players broke the course's par 71, with everyone enjoying the undulating fairways and the many elevated tees.

The views were spectacular and so was some of the golf with Terry Hawkins, a guest of Gloria plc, coming home the winner of the Spring Cup Stableford competition with a superb 42 points.

A great turn out saw approximately 60 members and their guests enjoy a wonderful day's golf with a further 10 joining them for dinner in the evening. Captain Campbell Walters of FSE, Nottingham welcomed new members Kerry and Neville Boyd of East Fire 1 Ltd in Norfolk and Philippe Mauguy, Chubb's new Managing Director, before presenting the Captain's Choice prize to Caroline Smith, secretary to the Directors of Kidde FPS, for her enthusiasm in assembling a wonderful group once again from Kidde. Saying farewell to an old friend, John Spencer, may have been a little

premature as he managed to win, yet again, the Greensome Claret Jugs, this time with Steven Gilroy.

The day will not only be remembered for the golf and good weather. Jerry Pingram, a great supporter of the association, managed to lose his ball in a ball washer but pride of place for the 'event' of the day went to John Walters of Firepoint (Scotland). John, whilst playing a shot, espied an empty buggy accelerating down the hill towards a lake. Unable to restrain his mirth, John chuckled as the buggy settled in the water, only to realise, seconds later, that it was his buggy. Apparently not

applying the brake tends to have that effect. *Pictured below is John 'Cousteau' Walters receiving a set of water wings from FETA Captain Campbell Walters.*

Thanks go to Luxfer and its new Managing Director David Rix for sponsorship of the prizes, to Norman Dawson of MK Fire who presented his own cup to David Bonnett as winner of the 'Seniors' trophy, to Eric Richards (Saffire) who presented Terry Hawkins with his Longest Drive prize and to Brian Gibbons (Nu-Swift) who presented the Nearest the Pin prize to Matthew Stephenson.



The next FETA Golf Day is on 30 September, 2004 at the Marriott, Dalmahoy near Edinburgh, with early booking advised to avoid disappointment.

Contact Ted or Barbara Tipton on Tel/Fax: 01476 579347 for further details.

ITEM NUMBER: 4

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

FETA is pleased to extend a warm welcome to the following companies who have joined the association since the last FETA News was published:

- ABC Fire Protection of Telford
- Phoenix Fire Services of Kenilworth

## FETA EXAM DATES 2004

The dates and locations for the FETA Portable Fire Extinguisher Servicing Exams are:

DATE	VENUE
20 October 2004	Surrey Fire & Rescue Service Training Centre, Wray Park Road, Reigate, Surrey
16 November 2004	West Midlands Fire Service Training Centre Annexe, Potterton Way, Dartmouth Road, Smethwick, West Midlands

Individuals or companies wishing to reserve a place(s) to sit the FETA exam should contact Janet Willingham at FETA, Kingston on 020 8549 8839 or [jwillingham@abft.org.uk](mailto:jwillingham@abft.org.uk)

ITEM NUMBER: 5

### ADVERTORIAL

For Approvals, Testing or CE Marking for the European, International and UK markets



LPCB is the only fully independent UKAS accredited body with facilities for testing and certification of:

- EN 3 Portable fire extinguishers
- EN 671 Hose reels
- EN 1869 Fire blankets
- BS 6165 Small aerosol extinguishers
- BS 7937 Extinguishers for cooking oil fires

We provide a complete product testing and certification service through:

- UKAS accreditation of our testing and certification services
- Continual improvements and investment in our specialist capabilities
- Experienced fire test engineers
- Promotion of approved products through our Red Book and international presentations and attendance at exhibitions
- Notified Body for the following European Directives

Construction Products

Transportable Pressure Equipment

Marine Equipment

Pressure Equipment



For further information, please view

[www.redbooklive.com](http://www.redbooklive.com)

or contact the LPCB Helpdesk on +44 (0)1923 664100

# FAXBACK

## 020 8547 1564

For more information on articles in this newsletter, simply complete your details on the form, tick the reference number of the articles concerned and fax to us.

- Please tick as appropriate:
- FETA Newsletter was not sent to me. Please send a regular copy
  - Do not include my details on any mailing list (Data subject to Data protection Act)
  - I would like to receive information from FETA via E-mail

ITEM NUMBER: 1

ITEM NUMBER: 2

ITEM NUMBER: 3

ITEM NUMBER: 4

ITEM NUMBER: 5

Other: .....

Issue 35

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax. No: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Or post to: FETA, Neville House, 55 Eden St., Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 1BW

FP