



FETA NEWS

FETA Fire Extinguishing Trades Association

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Suzanne Donovan

It is nearly nine months since I was elected as Chair of FETA and I have been privileged to represent FETA at events involving all aspects of the UK fire industry. During this time, I have developed views about FETA, our industry and I would like now like to share my reflections with you and give you a view of our future priorities.

Meetings! So many meetings! I've set aside one day per week for FETA commitments. The first few months were spent meeting people, learning new acronyms and trying to understand what each organisation did. At these meetings, I saw for myself the high profile of FETA and FIC with Government and the Fire and Rescue Service. I am delighted to see FETA's developing relationship with the insurance

industry and the growing recognition of the value of fire extinguishers.

Politics!

In fact, our lobbying activities are very healthy indeed and FETA has earned a good reputation in the political world. This is critical to our industry given the sweeping changes to fire regulations through the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order and the final move to a fire risk assessment driven regime.

The other aspect of FETA activity is supporting FETA members and it is clear that we need to apply the same energy and commitment to delivering benefits to members as we do to our political activities.

Policy

Immediately after taking the role of FETA Chairman, I appointed two Vice-Chairmen and we formed a small, nimble Policy Committee tasked with re-defining and increasing the benefits to members. FETA provides a host of benefits such as professional advice, technical support, training, access to good insurance/indemnity arrangements but we need to extend the range of these benefits and improve access. Leading the process of improving FETA efficiencies and members' benefits are the Vice-Chairmen.



Brian Gibbons

* Brian Gibbons, as Managing Director of Nu Swift International Limited brings considerable commercial and people development experience to FETA.

* Peter Kemp, founder of TVF (UK) PLC knows exactly what smaller businesses need in order to succeed.



Peter Kemp

Brian, Peter and I meet regularly to challenge and review FETA activities and plans.

Working smarter

One of our first goals is to find synergies with our sister organisations within FIC, to work together on matters of common interest. This would also help improve operating efficiencies and keep FETA membership fees down and Peter is focussed on this. Brian is taking the lead on helping to continuously raise standards through developing training programmes for people working in this industry.

Communications

Through my role as the FIC representative at the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on the publicity group for the Fire Safety Order, I am helping develop communications tools for use by FETA members. This will include photos, standard articles, letters, brochures and presentations FETA members can use to brief their customers on the regulatory changes. Co-ordinating with other FIC members and other stakeholder ensures consistency, so that wherever our customers turn for advice on the Fire Safety Order, they can get the same message.

Competence

Fundamental to the Fire Safety Order is defining competence in the fire extinguisher industry. The BAFF Technicians Scheme is a great option for FETA members as it broadens quality control into all aspects of the Technicians role.

Team effort

So a lot of activity, not all of it visible to FETA members. Through our newsletters, conferences and countless committee meetings, I will keep you up to date and welcome your views on how you want to see FETA working. I invite all members to get involved in our committees. Keith Goodwin (Servicing), Melvyn Smith (Manufacturing/Technical), Phil Martin (Marketing) and Peter Kent (Fittings and Fire Hose) devote considerable time to these committees for which I and the rest of FETA Council are very grateful.

Finally, I would also like to thank 'Team Kingston' for their support in my first year as FETA chair and I look forward to seeing you at our AGM in June.

RESERVE YOUR DIRECTORY

The new FETA Directory is now being finalised, containing invaluable information on the use of fire extinguishers along with contact details for all members of the association.

The Directory is one of the most popular items produced by

FETA, providing at a glance a list of companies who supply, install and maintain first aid fire fighting equipment. At the back of the directory there is also a guide to the range of extinguishers available, including the applications to which they are

suited.

The Directory will be published by the end of May, 2005. To make sure you reserve your copy, complete the faxback form in this newsletter, ticking 'Item Number 1' in the box provided.

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FIRE EXPO CENTRE NOW AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS



The Fire Extinguishing Trades Association (FETA) will be joining other associations (BFPSA, ICEL, BASA and FIRESA) representing the various facets of the fire protection industry as part of the Fire Industry Confederation (FIC) stand at International Fire Expo 2005.

The FIC is once again partnering CMPi in hosting the fourth International Fire Expo, with their stand (K30) this year taking the form of a 170m² Business Centre that will provide a range of facilities for its members and an International Visitors Lounge. Facilities will include two meeting rooms for exclusive use by FIC members, with the Lounge equipped with a high-speed broadband internet connection.

In addition, the constituent trade associations which make up the Confederation will have displays and representatives providing information pertinent to their areas of specialist operations.

Information will be provided on a range of subjects, from membership to training, with FETA keen to promote the benefits of third party certification following the decision by the Association to make this a condition of membership.

'BIG FOUR' FOCUS NOW FOR FETA

FETA has identified 4 main issues that it will be focusing on in the forthcoming months, with various groups and committees working to ensure that FETA continues to play a pivotal role.

1) PFOS

FETA has joined with BFPSA to respond to the recent DEFRA consultation on a Risk Reduction strategy report and draft legislation for Perfluorooctane Sulphonate (PFOS) and actively promote the use of telomer foams as the only effective solution to PFOS based fluorsurfactants for fire fighting foams.

2) Water based fire extinguishers and ground water regs

Concerns have been raised by FETA members about confusion regarding the regulations controlling the discharge of water based fire extinguishers to ground. The issues relate to whether or not it is permitted to discharge the content of water based extinguishers into local water systems and/or ground water. FETA is urgently seeking clear guidance from UK regulators and will be making contact with Environwise to arrange a meeting to discuss the FETA concerns.

3) EU Service Directive

Many FETA members may not be aware of a proposal for a new

EU Directive on Services. A consultation paper was issued by DTI during the summer of 2004 and the results of that consultation published at the end of the year. The aim of the Directive is to allow the free movement of services around Europe and remove barriers to trade. FETA will continue to monitor the progress of this directive and keep the members informed.

4) BDAG proposals for revision of BS 5306-1 - minimum pressures for fire fighting hoses

The Building Disaster Assessment Group, a body set up by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister after '9/11' published the report of its findings at the end of 2004.

The report can be found on the ODPM website (www.odpm.gov.uk). The group carried out the first full review of UK Fire service capabilities and procedures since WWII. The group looked at fire fighter physiology and fire brigade equipment and operating procedures. A result of this work is that some British Standards will need revising to take into account the new fire brigade practices - one such standard is BS 5306-1 'Fire extinguishing installations and equipment on premises. Hydrant systems, hose reels and foam inlets.' FETA will be actively involved in the work on revising this standard.



2004 GOLF DAY CHARITY AUCTION RAISES £1,000



Members of the FETA Golfing Society and their guests raised an impressive £1,000 in aid of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust at their Autumn meeting at Dalmahoy Golf Club.

An excellent day's golf was enjoyed by all at one of Edinburgh's finest golf clubs, followed by an evening meal and prize giving at which the society's captain, Campbell Walters, ran an auction.

The cheque was handed to Fraser Hutchinson of Firepoint Scotland. His daughter, Rhona, who suffers from the disease, presented it to the Trust.

Ted Tipton, Honorary Secretary of the FETA Golfing Society, said - "On behalf of all the members I would like to thank our captain for organising and running the auction. It was a tremendous effort, not only from Campbell but from those who contributed, and everyone should be justifiably proud."

The next FETA Golf day will take place on 26th May at the Vale Hotel Golf Club in South Wales.

With the 2nd hole the longest Par 5 in Wales, it promises to be a real test of golf.

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FETA EXAM DATES 2005

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

DATE	VENUE
19th July 2005	Surrey Fire & Rescue Service Training Centre, Wray Park Road, Reigate, Surrey
19th October 2005	Surrey Fire & Rescue Service Training Centre, Wray Park Road, Reigate, Surrey
17th November 2005	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

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FAXBACK

020 8547 1564

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