



**IHBC South East Branch Committee Meeting
The George and Dragon, Westerham, Kent
7 pm Monday 13 December 2010.**

Present: Sean Rix (Chairman), Peter Mills, Ollie Chapman, David Kincaid, Lone Le Vay, Chezelle Bird, Debbie Gardener, John Davey and John Campbell

Apologies: Andrew Norris (Vice Chairman), Eimear Murphy, Jo Evans

1. Minutes of the Last meeting

Agreed.

2. IHBC Council Meeting.

Sean Rix provided some feedback. In 2010 19 people applied for membership of the IHBC. There was concern that potential members are put off by the complexity of the application form. In the IHBC Action Plan a 'monitoring' system was suggested to help new members and existing IHBC affiliate members with their applications. This scheme has not yet started. A day's training for Branch Membership Secretaries is being planned to introduce this new system.

David confirmed that the South East Branch Business Plan had been agreed by Council.

3. South East Branch AGM/Training Day, Wych Cross November 2010

This was a great success and made a substantial profit (thanks particularly to Eimear Murphy for her hard work). This was in contrast to the training day at Cobham, which made a loss. Some delegates have still not paid – this needs to be chased. Overall the branch bank account is in the black.

4. Treasurer's Day

Sean Rix went to this meeting, which provided a helpful way of assessing how other branches run their finances. The limit each branch can hold reserve is £3,000 although apparently the South West Branch has £10,000. There was some discussion about raising the limit to £7,000. The Yorkshire Branch complained that the criteria on what the reserves can be spent on were too restrictive, and suggested using some of the money on conference sponsorship.

David Kincaid mentioned that there was a possibility of Branch Education Officers also meeting up for a day, again to exchange ideas on management and potential improvements. Mike Knights, the IHBC Treasurer, is soon leaving this post.

5. Future events, South East Branch

The next event is the Selectaglaze event in Westerham Village Hall on 10 February 2011. The Branch is paying for the hall. Peter Mills confirmed that he has already started advertising the event, and will send out a flyer after the New Year. Selectaglaze is providing a speaker (Colin Bignell) and is paying for refreshments.

Other potential events include:

- Paul Reed in Hastings
- David Smith (Flintman) in Brighton
- Jo Evans – has undertaken to arrange a visit to the Watts Gallery near Guildford (when it has opened – so possibly June event?)
- Thatching day in Canterbury
- Peter Collings of Hutton and Rostron, specialists in timber treatment – possible seminar in Westerham Village Hall

Peter Mills suggested that perhaps each County Rep could organise one event in their area each year that would provide some geographical variety.

There was some discussion about next year's AGM. Possible venues include Margate (to look at the new Turner Gallery, seaside regeneration, and new conservation areas in Cliftonville) or Hastings (to look at similar issues including the new art gallery and Pelham Crescent/Arcade regeneration scheme including the 'My Space' project in St Mary-in-the-Castle Church). Chezel Bird will find out more about Margate and Debbie Gardener will find out more about Hastings.

6. Date of the next Committee Meeting

10 February 2010 after the Selectaglaze event in Westerham Village Hall.

There being no further business the Committee members adjourned for a Christmas meal at a nearby hostelry.

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