

Southern Branch Annual Seminar 'Drive for Safety'

The day started with a flurry of activity as a technical hitch left Muriel Killin from the Dept of Transport starting her presentation on signing 2 hours early, whilst Peter Lazic from Marshalls Water Management drove back home to Romsey to collect his presentation on surface drainage.

The morning session Chairman, Nick Stillwell, MD of The Stillwell Partnership, tried to encourage speakers to stick to their allotted timings by his novel snoring alarm clock. Following on from Muriel's interesting and at times humorous presentation on signing and her advice that it is 'unwise to invent your own signs', Rob Gillespie from Ring way Infrastructure Services Ltd gave a short and factual presentation on a wide diversity of roads' surfaces fulfilling a wide diversity of needs.



Rex Perkins followed informing us how good quality road markings and studs can improve safety and reduce accidents by up to 32%.

Following the morning coffee break, Peter was back and spoke about the Beany Block, and how it was possible to 'install it and forget it', as they were built to last with minimal excavation required.

The last session before lunch, had a last minute stand-in of Philip Turner from Surrey County Council presenting Terry Felstead of WSP UK Ltd's presentation on Road safety and lighting. The presentation started with some facts from the 1950s through to the 1990s, and included video footage of passive safety posts.



The afternoon started with a presentation to Claire Gale of Gifford Ltd who was presented with the Brian Sefton Smith Award, an annual award for the best supporting report and evidence before undertaking their Professional review.

Then, Steve Parson and Colin Pennington from Siemens Ltd introduced us to a brief history of VMS and some more stats! The presentation encompassed Siemen's input into transportation safety and the range of measures that are available to address safety hazards.

Matt Smith, from Surrey County Council then gave an informative and varied presentation on Road Safety Audits, including some fantastic photos of engineering errors on the highway. Finally Keith Harwood of Transport for London gave us the salient aspects of the CDM Regulations 2007, providing a valuable update to the regulations that became effective from last year.

The afternoon session chairman – Judith Walker, Secretary IHIE, ensured we stuck rigidly to the timetable, and final questions were asked to the panel by the still attentive audience, prior to Alison Coffey, Chairman IHIE Southern branch committee, who summed up the day's events.

Finally before the delegates left, a golfing umbrella was presented to the speakers, and the delegates raffle took place.

Later that evening the committee members invited the speakers to share a dinner with them as a way of thanks, before everyone went home having earned a full day's CPD as well as learning and refreshing a variety of much highway knowledge.