

## National Secretary's Report 14<sup>th</sup> May 2008

### 1. Membership as at 11<sup>th</sup> May 2008

Membership type	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Corporate Members	60	64	71	69	70
Individual	175	170	145	147	132
College	5	4	4	4	4
Concessionary	33	31	28	28	20
Honorary	3	3	3	3	3

Subs are still outstanding from:

Corporate Members	3
Individual Members	3
Concessionary Members	1

They have been sent reminders and recently phoned; the above numbers have said that they will pay. Those who have not agreed to pay have been removed from the membership list.

The slight increase in Corporate Members is I believe better news than it looks. Over the year we have lost a few through retirement and other changes but in the last two months we have gained 3 new Corporate Members, two new, from the Agricultural Building Show one Contractor and one Supplier: plus one individual has traded up to small Corporate. Another 2 or three contractors are showing an interest in joining. The reduction in individual members is disappointing but is an indication of the average age of the individual members, more are retiring and leaving the industry than we are joining.

### 2. Budget

Attached is the budget for 2008/9, where I show a break even situation. These figures do not include the Farm Buildings Handbook, which is being accounted for separately to ensure that our Sponsors donations are used for the purpose intended and any surpluses are kept separate so that they can be used to keep the publication up to date and if possible to fund other papers and books.

### 3. Council

We have no new Candidate for council and no resignations, so if everyone is elected Council will remain at the same size as last year.

### 4. Countryside Building

Still being well received; although unfortunately, we are still not making enough money to be able to pay Ridba a percentage of the advertising revenue.

## **5. Enquiries**

They were either handled at the time or passed on to members.

## **7. Corporate Forum**

This is now running well although it is still not being used as much as we would like. It is one way of reducing our costs and saving members computers from being cluttered up with unwanted information. So please do log on and start using it. If you have other ideas on what information should be on the forum please let me know.

## **6. Agricultural Shows**

We are only attending the ABS; this year's was a great success again and so we will book again for next year.

## **7. Representation**

A lot of time has been spent representing the RIDBA on a number of different committees. In particular, the Advisory Committee on Roofwork plus its sub committees on Working on Fragile Roofs, Edge Protection and Nets, plus the Secretary has attended NSCC Council meetings, he is a member of their Health and Safety sub committee and attends their AGM. This is Simon Bottomley's final year as Chairman.

The Secretary continues to be a member of the Health and Safety Commission's Small Business Trade Association Forum, which gives us the opportunity to comment on HSE regulations and work practices in advance of them going out for consultation.

## **8. Advisory Committee for Roofwork**

Regular meetings have been attended with input into the revision of HSG 33 – Working at height. Work has recently been completed on the revision of the Orange Book – 'Recommended Practice for Work on Profiled Sheeted Roofs' and the Magenta Book – 'Recommended practice for use of horizontal safety lines in roofwork', both of which will be published soon.

## **9. Publicity**

At the time of the Agricultural Building Show, we had a case study printed in the Farmers Weekly. We now need more case studies from members, which we can use to show the benefits of using a competent contractor or the benefits of Ridba membership. So please send any information on interesting or unusual buildings which you have been involved in. They will certainly be published in our Journal and we will do our best to get them published in the construction or farming press.

As Members of the NSCC all our Corporate Contracting members, were eligible for free entry into the Specialist Contractors Directory, which was sent out with Construction News to all their readers.

We are investigating sponsoring a student for a year or two to run a number of projects and carry out research.

#### **10. Farmers' Hand Book**

This is progressing well, with £5553.00 in the bank from our Sponsor Marley Eternit Ltd and the RASE training fund. The Editorship has now been taken on by Richard Langley, with the aim of having it completed by Early 2009.

#### **11. Code of Practice.**

All contracting Corporate Members, have now signed their Code of Practice and so we will be promoting all that have signed as competent contractors. This Code of Practice has enabled Ridba contracting Corporate Members that have signed, to be listed as competent contractors in the ACR advice note on Competence. With the extra responsibilities on clients brought about by the revisions to the CDM regulations, this should create extra business for them.