



BIAC AGM 2021

Chief Executives Report

What a difference a year makes!

Like it or loathe it we have all become very familiar with the virtual media. As I write this it remains our hope that the 2021 AGM will take place at Southill, Bedfordshire, courtesy of the Whitbread family. However, we are forced to have in place contingency plans in the event of further lockdowns.

We have encouraged members to engage in on-line activities and we have been very pleased with the autumn and winter 2020/ 2021 series of monthly Member Forums which have brought together members and facilitated discussion on a wide range of subjects. The plan is to reintroduce these in autumn/ winter 2021/ 2022 and members should feel free to suggest topics.

BIAC is in a good position financially with a healthy reserve. This helped when lockdowns were announced as we were confident that BIAC would survive. Income has continued to flow through on-line events and there have been cost savings meaning that we have been able to maintain profitable trading. While a cash reserve is helpful BIAC recognises that we should continue to develop and explore new ideas and provide new and innovative services to members. Again we ask members to make suggestions in this respect.

The on-line Business Management Conference and the on-line Rural Planning Conference were both very successful events. We have been very pleased with the technology and we thank Cooksley & Co Ltd. for their support in this respect, they have invested in additional software to enhance the member experience.

I continue to explore opportunities to introduce BIAC to wider audiences. BIAC is well received especially as members engage with the CPD program and evidence PI cover. Some members have found CPD a difficulty in 2020 but most have found it possible to provide more than sufficient CPD points using the written word and on-line events. Members should also be aware that BIAC is prepared to consider CPD points registered with other suitable organisations. Any members with CPD issues should contact Alex using membership@biac.co.uk

Certain bodies have had to put on hold forums previously held to discuss important matters affecting our industry. This is important given the change that we are experiencing and the demands being made by clients for answers and direction. I hope that we get some certainty in June as plans for future support are published. As I write there are initial announcements in the press but most are a rewrite of promises and threats already made.

The BIAC Foundation Courses will resume this autumn providing a training opportunity for consultants, young and old. We are reviewing the venues to ensure maximum safety to attendees!

I remain committed to taking the Institute forward in a dynamic and an innovative way and remain open to new ideas. Members should continue to feel free to forward suggestions for the consideration of Council.



Sadly I have to formally record the passing of two members who over time worked with BIAC to enhance its role and reputation. Last year we lost Richard Tustian. Richard was Chair at a time of change for BIAC. He was well known to all attendees of the AGM's and Business Management Conferences and will be remembered as someone who was always positive and always had a smile on his face. In May I was advised of the passing of David Whalley. David was Chair of the Publicity Committee and a long standing member of Council. As one of the early members of BIAC he was instrumental in getting BIAC known and respected. He was also a renowned horticulturist and was always happy to discuss client issues with BIAC members. I extend BIAC's sympathy and good wishes to Richard and David's families and also to those of other BIAC members who have passed away in the last year or who have lost family.

As ever I am indebted to Richard, Victoria and Alex in the support team for their assistance. Richard Cooksley has decided to retire from Cooksley & Co. Ltd and has handed the business to Victoria Bywater. We thank Richard for his support and assistance since 2008 and welcome Victoria who has, for some time been the lead at Portbury in the matter of BIAC. Finally I would like to thank all of Council for their valued support particularly to Tony Kernon, David Meredith and Adrian Cannon who have worked hard to ensure that BIAC has had a presence over the last 12 months.

Mike Greetham May, 2021