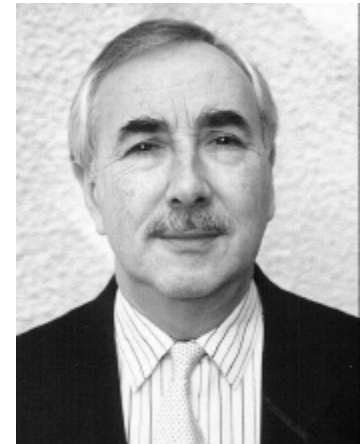


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Viva la France - Gary Kibblewhite Takes a Look at Club Optique

Early in June, FIA chief executive Gary Kibblewhite represented the Association at a meeting of Club Optique in Paris. His intention was to assess how the French fibre optic organisation worked and whether there would be benefits for the FIA and its members if some degree of co-operation were to be established. In particular, closer integration within the European Community, common standards and codes of practice, common educational qualifications and the growing movement of installers.



Gary Kibblewhite

Mr Kibblewhite believes that ties between European organisations with similar aims to those of the FIA may enable a more structured approach to the FIA's growing influence outside the UK.

Club Optique

There are two associations in France specialising in fibre and these are Credo and Club Optique. The FIA, in real terms, is larger than both organisations put together but the French organisations are both influential and offer different approaches to the way they serve their members.

Club Optique has more members than Credo and a lower annual fee while Credo has less members and higher fees depending on size of a member Company. There is considerable interchange between the two organisations with common members with both covering both data and telecoms. Credo, however, tends to be largely concerned with the telecoms area.

Meetings

Club Optique has 1-day meetings every 6 weeks which involve both association officials and members. The events look at developments in the fibre optic market and also provides a number of presentations from industry sources. The organisation is, at the moment, in the process of publishing a series of installation standards for fibre covering such areas as connectors, cable and test equipment.

The meeting attended by Gary Kibblewhite covered such areas as the proprietary Molex MT-RJ connector; the commissioning of networks; the activities of the FIA; a new 1000-termination circular patch system; and a presentation on the "Cabling Systems Europe" show which takes place in Paris from 5th to 7th October this year. This will be the third year for the "physical layer" show that is claimed to attract the majority of installers in France. Last year, the show had 6,000 visitors and 1999 forecast

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Mike Gilmore (Co-opted) - Technical Director
(*The Cabling Partnership*)

Andrew Watson - Commercial
(*3M Technical Centre*)

Industry Sector Directors

Laurent Amestoy - Passive components
(*Mod Tap*)

Paul Bateson - Test & Measurement
(*Optical Test and Calibration*)

Andrew Richards
(*Electra-Net (UK)*)

Colin Snook - Training & Qualifications
(*CableNet*)

Steve Strange
(*Anixter (UK)*)

Peter Thompsett - Installation
(*Ensign Communications*)

Chief Executive: Gary Kibblewhite

Secretary: Lady Helen Long

FIA Administrator: Jane Morrison

The FIA is a Company Limited by Guarantee

WELCOME to the following NEW MEMBERS

Corporate

- Lantel Communications Limited (402)
- Telesys (403)

is 9000. At the last FIA Council meeting, it was agreed that the Association will take up the offer of a free stand at the event which will be manned by Laurent Amestoy who is a member of the Council.

Benefits

Gary Kibblewhite believes there will be tangible benefits for both organisations if a co-operative venture can be made to work. It has been agreed, therefore, to formalise an agreement and further details on progress will be announced in future *Newsletters*. In particular, ways in which FIA members can benefit from the initiative will be placed high on the agenda.

Electra-Net's Ian Rowe Co-opted on to the FIA Council



Ian Rowe, Business Development Manager for FIA corporate member Electra-Net, was co-opted onto the Council at the last Council Meeting. He joined Electra-Net in April 1998 having previously worked in the telecommunications industry with such leading organisations as Telstra (the Australian equivalent of BT) and Hutchison AT&T in Hong Kong.

He has welcomed the opportunity to work more closely with the FIA, particularly as his company 'has a firm belief in the value of an industry body and recognises the importance of keeping up-to-date with the constant developments in a dynamic industry'.

Although the nature of his tasks and responsibilities on the Council have yet to be finalised, he hopes to provide some positive inputs on behalf of the installer community and, in particular, to work closely with another Council Member, Peter Thompsett, on the further development of the FIA's 'Approved Installer' scheme.

Ian Rowe can be contacted on 01425 612441.

FIA Golf Day

Members are reminded that the FIA is to hold a golf day later in the year Members and their guests. The course has been carefully selected both for its facilities and ability to provide a challenge for golfers of high and medium ability. Handicap certificates may be requested.

Details are as follows:

Tuesday 7th September, Puckrup Hall Hotel and Golf Club, Tewkesbury - this is a championship par 70 golf course set amidst 140 acres of rolling parkland with lakes adding to several natural water hazards. The well-designed course uses a variety of different trees to make life just a little more difficult and even the most discerning of golfers should enjoy themselves.

For both events, the format will include a light lunch, 18 holes of golf and a 3-course dinner in the evening. Following the dinner, the prizes for the various competitions will be awarded.

The all-inclusive cost is £75 + VAT per person. If required, accommodation is available. Invoices will be sent after a booking has been made. Please refer to the booking form set to all members

Guide to Forthcoming Shows and Conferences

Asia CommuniTech 99 Hong Kong 6-9 July 1999

The 2nd Asian Telecommunications, Mobile Communications and Wireless Technology Show & Conference

Call Vivienne Caisey on +44 (0)171 486 1951 Fax: +44 (0)171 413 8211 Email: sing@montnbet.com

Planning and Managing the Transport of IP Over WDM Geneva 7 - 8 July 1999

A conference examining the best means of creating a strategy to carry IP over WDM in single- and multi-layer environments.

Call Vision in Business on +44 (0)171 839 8391 or fax: +44 (0)171 839 3777 or see information of web site at www.visibis.com

Asia Networks 99 Hong Kong 6-9 July 1999

The 2nd Asian Networking Show & Conference incorporating Asia Internet 99

Call Vivienne Caisey on +44 (0)171 486 1951 Fax: +44 (0)171 413 8211 Email: sing@montnbet.com

Broadband Year 99 Olympia, London 14-15 September 1999

Incorporating a previous show called **ATM Year**, this combined conference and exhibition explores the practical applications of multi-service technologies including the integration of ATM with Gigabit Ethernet, ATM/Optical, ATM/IP, DSL, Frame Relay, IP, FDDI, SMDS VPN, SDH etc.

Call Imark Communications on +44 (0)181 5040 Fax: +44 (0)181 974 5188 or check the web site at www.broadbandyear.com

exponet 1999 Dusseldorf 5-7 October 1999

International IT trade show

For further details, Fax: +49 8151 28503

CommunicAsia 2000 Singapore 6-9 June 2000. The 11th Asian International Information and Communication Technology Exhibition & Conference

Call Vivienne Caisey on +44 (0)171 486 1951 Fax: +44 (0)171 413 8211 Email: sing@montnbet.com

NetworkAsia 2000 Singapore 6-9 June 2000
The 5th Asian International Networking Exhibition & Conference
Call Vivienne Caisey on +44 (0)171 486 1951 Fax: +44 (0)171 413 8211 Email: sing@montnbet.com

CableSat 2000 Singapore 6-9 June 2000
The 2nd Asian International Trade Showcase for Cable & Satellite Technology & Services
Call Vivienne Caisey on +44 (0)171 486 1951 Fax: +44 (0)171 413 8211 Email: sing@montnbet.com

22nd Annual Newport Conference on Fiberoptics Markets Newport, Rhode Island, USA 18-20 October 1999
Hosted by the KMI Corporation
Call KMI in the USA on +1-401-849-6771 or register on-line via www.kmicorp.com

ASM Fulfils a Further Aberdeen Airport Contract

Accommodation Services Management (ASM) Ltd, an FIA Corporate Member and a specialist supplier of voice and data networks technology has successfully completed a further prestigious contract at Aberdeen Airport.

Undertaken on behalf of Milgo Solutions Ltd, the contract involved the design and installation of network structured cabling within the Main Terminal, MASU Tower, Broomfield Workshops, Belfast Lounge and Northern Walkway. It was the continuation of work previously completed in late 1998.

The cabling network is essential to support the many and varied services operated within the Airport complex by both BAA Aberdeen, and third-party users. These not only include the Flight information Display System, CCTV Installations, PA Information System and Common User Terminal Equipment but also embrace the many other varied services essential for the efficient operation of the Airport.

A major fibre optic backbone system was installed, based upon AMP 24-core fibre technology incorporating fusion-spliced pigtails. The final completed system involved the laying of over 3 km of cable with 608 outlets, each capable of delivering either voice or data services. The cabling was distributed from 6 main nodes which utilise the fibre backbone for inter-operability. ASM was in a position to offer a 15-year Performance Warranty for the complete system.

All work required to be carried out with the existing data network infrastructure operating in 'live' mode and, as a result, much of the work had to be carried out at night while the Airport was closed and completed before Airport operations recommenced the following morning. This required close liaison between all parties, including the client, was essential in order to safeguard the integrity of the Airport's services during the twelve-week contract period.

ASM supplied schematic and 'as-built' routing drawings using its comprehensive CAD facilities, and was also responsible for the production and supply of Installation Manuals and detailed cabling schedules for the network systems.

BICSI Credits for 3M Volition™ Course

The 3M Volition™ course run by CableNet Training has gained approval for 16 BICSI continuing education credits.

This means that delegates completing the course can put the credit time towards maintaining either the BICSI Installation Cabling programmes or the RCDD course.

BICSI awarded the credits to the course as an acknowledgement that its content covers areas included in the BICSI RCDD and Installation programmes.

CableNet states that BICSI is the independent trade body for the cabling industry, providing training programmes and educational forums as a standard for quality assurance for those designing and installing cable networks. It places more responsibility for quality and reliability on the installer and, it is claimed, provides a world wide defined skill level for employers and specifiers. The European arm of BICSI, launched last year, is said to have been well received.

Having obtained the backing of the major players in the industry, BICSI Europe aims to become an increasingly important part of the UK's communications sector.

The BICSI credits are only available to delegates attending the 3M course at CableNet Training. As a BICSI Approved Training Provider, CableNet also has BICSI continuing education credits on several of its other courses relating to multimode and single-mode fibre and datacommunications in general

For further information, call Andrew Stevens at CableNet on 01284 767100

Optical Internetworking Conference

It has been announced that a conference will take place on Optical Internetworking from 8th - 10th September this year. The event will be held in London and is intended to provide valuable information to telecommunications operators about the merging optical networking technologies and provide an insight into the impact of an optical network on the services they provide.

Call +44 (0)171 436 5735 for further details

Long Serving Council Member Retires

CableNet's Colin Snook Bows to Increasing Business Pressures



Colin Snook, the FIA's Qualifications and Training Director, has been forced to resign from the FIA Council due to increasing pressure of work.

Colin is one of the longest serving members of the Council and has played a critical and, indeed, influential role across the whole field of training and qualifications in fibre optics. He has represented the FIA on TVSC committees in the development of NVQs, worked very closely with City & Guilds and other bodies on the structure of qualifications. He also created the FIA's highly successful Approved Trainer Scheme.

Colin has made a very valuable and personal contribution to most of the aspects of the UK's current initiatives in the training and qualifications area and his expertise will be greatly missed. He was previously a senior lecturer at Lowestoft College but, since joining CableNet Training, the rapid growth of the organisation has increasingly limited the time he can spend on FIA projects. He will be greatly missed.

Richco Solves Hungarian Problem

Diamond KFT is a leading supplier of CATV systems within Eastern Europe and turned to FIA corporate member Richco when a particularly difficult situation arose.

The difficulty was associated with the manufacture of a special pigtail for use in cable TV systems. The task was to assemble a 4-way indoor/outdoor cable in SM with plug-in connectors for a CATV-tranceiver. This cable is a loose-tube type (Daetwyler) with 4 cables 9/125/250µm. It is not possible to directly connect 250µm insulated fibre directly to optical connectors because even the force this creates is sufficient to break the fibre core. This usually means that a splice or splinter cassette is required to connect the fibres and pigtails. However the aluminium-cast housing in this case was far too small to accommodate such an arrangement.

The solution was to use Richco's mechanical divider, OFFM-4-1. This ensures the necessary tension relief of the loose tube and allows for the simple and fast feeding of the fibres into the Teflon

tubing of 900µm o.d. that are supplied with it. The tubing material and the OFFM's internal chamber arrangement guarantees that maximum tension relief for the fibres is achieved. The 900µm insulation also guarantees sufficient mechanical protection of the fibres to allow optical connectors to be mounted directly. Other advantages cited by include the fact that the protective tubes transparency allows identification of individual fibres according to the cable manufacturer's coding, aiding ease of recognition and avoiding mistakes. The OFFM's compact design and size made it ideal for this application as the finished product has to pass through the screw cap off a PG-style gland for later removal or maintenance - something other designs are unable to do.

For further details, contact Andrew Whalley, 01474 327527

The FIA's Exclusive Insurance Service

- now with Year 2000 cover

The FIA's exclusive insurance scheme for members, which has been made available in association with M. J. Mac & Co. Insurance Management and Colonia Baltica Insurance, has now been extended to cover Year 2000 problems - provided that the company involved can show conformity and has date change plans in place.

Under the terms of the cover, Year 2000 conformity means that:

- A. All computer systems, applications, networks, plant, infrastructure and products are able to recognise the calendar Year 2000 and dates prior to, during and subsequent;**
- B. the Year 2000 is recognised as a leap year.**

OTHER MAJOR FEATURES

1. Only available to FIA Members.
2. Wide cover at competitive rates.
3. Free insurance/legal HelpLine.
4. All Risks incl. Fire, Theft and Accidental Damage to buildings, contents and stock; goods in transit (UK and Europe); installation kits & tools (UK and Europe).
5. Consequential Loss or Business Disruption - All Risks to gross profit and/or increased cost of working (can be extended to customers if required).
6. Liabilities - Public, Products and Employer's - Employer's is £10m as standard; Public and Products is £5m as standard; cover available for USA, Canada and Offshore work; consequential loss cover e.g. failure of a product to fulfil intended function.
7. Contractors All Risks/Physical Loss or Damage - goods/employees in transit in UK and Europe; hiring in/out Plant and Contractors Plant; employees tools; unattended vehicle theft.
8. OPTIONS: Professional indemnity; Products guarantee; Performance bond/financial loss; Marine cargo; Directors' and Officers' liability; Personal accident; Credit insurance; Legal expenses. Other extensions to cover can also be arranged.

Contact the FIA Secretariat for more details