



The Fibreoptic Industry Association

[www.fia-online.co.uk](http://www.fia-online.co.uk)

Secretary: Jane Morrison

The Manor House  
BUNTINGFORD  
Hertfordshire SG9 9AB  
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0) 1763 273039 Fax: +44 (0) 1763 273255

e-mail: [jane@fiasec.demon.co.uk](mailto:jane@fiasec.demon.co.uk)

## **FIA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017 - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

This year the FIA Council and support staff have managed to maintain a positive financial position and worked hard to halt the fall in membership seen towards the end of last year. Political uncertainties, both nationally and internationally, appear to be restricting activities in our markets – but it is not all 'doom and gloom'. Council worked hard to revitalise the FIA, launch the new website and promote the FIA AIS and other initiatives. Please lend us your support and ensure that your colleagues and customers appreciate what the FIA can offer in technical support, training guidance and standards bodies representation.

Our 2017 Summer Seminar at Whittlebury Hall was the best yet with 65 delegates and a full room of table top exhibitors. We thank Hubble and all the other companies for their sponsorship and I am pleased to report that John Marson has already secured a commitment for sponsorship from Mills Ltd and from Fluke Networks for 2018.

Membership numbers have risen from the 155 reported at last year's AGM to around 165 but we still need to work hard to lift this to a sustainable 200 members. We continue to look at new initiatives to raise our profile, in addition to the revamped website, visibility via the vehicle stickers, activity on the Linked-In User Group and our long-established Newsletter.

Mike Gilmore, although not a Council member, continues to support Standard activities on behalf of the FIA, representing your interests on European and International Standards committees and various trade bodies. We owe him a great debt of thanks for all his work.

Another non-Council member, Richard Ednay has also provided standards support for the FIA through his involvement with BSI GEL/86 and GEL/86/3. However, due to ill health, he will be stepping down from this role in 2018 and I want to take this opportunity to thank him for his commitment to this activity over the past few years and wish him well for the future.

Our Communications Director, Jonathan Lewis, was instrumental in the launch of the new FIA website and with support from other Council members has introduced improvements, including the ability to join the FIA via an online portal, book places at the Summer Seminar and other initiatives. He also produces the excellent Newsletter and, with the support of his employer, Huber & Suhner, participates in UK Standards Development.

Alan Bullen has done some excellent work in the dual role of Treasurer and Marketing Director and has driven through some of the other initiatives in the transfer of knowledge and data from the old website to the new. Alan will table his Treasurers Report separately.

As AIS Director, Frank Kler has arranged seminars in the south and north of the country to support continuing professional education of our installers base in areas as diverse as Euro

Classes & CPR, fibre in Data Centres, Wiring Regulations and Contract Acceptance to name but a few. Frank and the Council will work in the year ahead to enhance and consolidate how the AIS is managed and how we can help subscribers to the scheme differentiate themselves in a competitive market.

Together our Training Director, Nigel Hedges, and Qualification Director, Simon Comben have tried to forge cooperation between training companies and bring more of them into the Approved Training Provider scheme on a common platform. Consequently, they now have oversight of a small supportive subcommittee of training providers, the FIA Training & Qualifications Committee (TQC), tasked with developing a common syllabus that can hopefully be fully endorsed by the FIA. Simon Comben also continues to maintain his MOD Liaison activities for members wishing to gain MoD N Cage Accreditation and is also now involved in some standards committee activities.

John Colton, Technical Director, has answered members queries as they arise and has also been instrumental in helping support the FIA TQC as its secretary, reporting on its progress and deliberations to the responsible FIA Directors, Nigel and Simon.

Our newest Council member, Keith Rowley of Liquid Telecom, has come on board as our FIA Director of International Operations. With his focus on fibre optic deployment in developing markets such as Africa and the Middle East, Keith is working to bring more international members into the fold and to also promote the FIA AIS and 'best practice' through FIA Approved Training Providers and FIA supported qualifications.

Once again, I must reiterate that Council Members are all volunteers with much of their time being given freely and I am pleased to see that we continue to have other volunteers, Like Keith, willing to fill the vacancies on the Council. It is only with their commitment, and the goodwill of their employers, that the FIA can proactively represent our industry. The support that they, Jane Morrison in the Secretariat, and Margaret McFarlane in Accounts, have provided to the FIA and to me as Chairman, has been invaluable, and so on behalf of the Members I would like to thank them for their efforts on our behalf.



Paul Bateson - Chairman