



The Fibreoptic Industry Association

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FIA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

The Council and support staff continue to work tirelessly to maintain a positive financial position despite the fall in membership over the last few years. With the Covid-19 breakout and Brexit looming it's been a tough year. The FIA can still give our members a competitive edge through technical support, training guidance and standards bodies representation.

Summer seminar did not take place unfortunately due to the Covid-19 breakout, we have plans to hold this next year should we be able to do so.

Membership numbers have dropped to 144 and as ever we still need to work hard to lift this to a more sustainable 200 members so please help raise our profile at every opportunity.

Our Communication Director, Jonathan Lewis, keeps an eye on the FIA website and is supported by Ed Bullen in maintaining its integrity and functionality. Jonathan also represents the FIA on various standards subcommittees. Jonathan is also working on another project within the FIA and the BCA, more information on this will be available soon.

Our Treasurer, Alan Bullen, supported by our day-to-day account manager, Margaret McFarlane, they keep a tight rein on our finances. Alan will table his Treasurers Report separately. Alan also takes the role of Marketing Director also looking over our website with Ed Bullen and there have been some updates behind the scenes.

The AIS Scheme has undergone further changes by reducing the number of qualifying events to just one and pegged this to the Summer Seminar that did not take place this year. The FIA is constantly promoting the AIS to industry to ensure our accredited members have a commercial advantage and Frank Kler has worked with the IET to ensure that this is now part of the new NHS Code of Practice. Frank has also been working on the UK Gigabit programme to see how our members can benefit from this.

Our Training Director, Nigel Hedges, has worked with our Qualifications Director, Martin Smith, to put together a training course matrix now in draft format, supported in part through his oversight of the Training & Qualifications Committee (TQC) and feedback from its secretary, John Colton. Nigel also now produces our excellent news letter.

As MoD liaison Nigel also looks after MoD N-Cage approvals although we have had no applications this year.

John Colton, Technical Director, has answered members queries as they arise and has also acted as secretary of the TQC, an advisory panel of four training providers who give their time voluntarily. The panel members are busy people and so meet infrequently. As a committee of equals they were convened to promote best practice in training and offer guidance on how the FIA might underpin its Approved Training Provider Scheme. John is also involved with our new sub committee FTTX .

I must remind you that Council Members are all volunteers with a lot of their time being given freely. 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 Chair, over the years has been invaluable, so on behalf of the Members, and for myself, I would like to thank them wholeheartedly for all their outstanding support.

Yours Sincerely

JMarson

John Marson MSc
FIA Chair