



FORESTRY ENGINEERING GROUP

Charity No. IAgRE Charity number 257303

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PAPERS

TO BE HELD AT

Rail Bridge Bistro,
South Queensferry

ON

11TH July 2017

Followed by Sailing on the
Maid of the Forth at 1030hrs

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FORESTRY ENGINEERING GROUP - FEG

TO BE HELD AT – Rail Bridge Bistro – Immediately prior to Sailing

In accordance with "Rules for Specialist Groups" by the Institution of Agricultural Engineers (IAgrE) paper AD/046 a General Meeting is called to re-elect office bearers and a committee, present accounts and set out the group policy for the near future.

All regular attendees of FEG meetings are invited but only members of IAgrE will be allowed to vote. The AGM will take place at 0930hrs on 11th July 2017 at Rail Bridge Bistro (Link Below).

<http://therailbridgebistro.com/index.htm>

General Meeting Agenda

Attendance/Apologies

Report from last General Meeting 2016 – Attached

Chairman Report – Attached

Accounts – Attached

Nomination and Election of Office Bearers and Committee – Attached

FEG Policy – **No Change.**

Next Symposium (Draft Synopsis Attached) – 7th September 2017 at Newton Rigg Campus.

All existing committee members are eligible for re-election. Will any existing committee member, not willing to continue in their current office, please contact me to say so otherwise you will be re-proposed for office even in your absence.

I look forward to seeing you on 11th July – **PLEASE NOTE TIMINGS BELOW**

09:30 to 10:15 AGM in Rail Bridge Bistro, South Queensferry, Edinburgh.

10:30 – 12:00 Sailing on the Maid of the Forth – 3 Bridges Tour

Bruce Hamilton
Secretary





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**REPORT OF
THE FORESTRY ENGINEERING GROUP
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT QUEENSFERRY CROSSING VISITOR CENTRE
15.30 hrs. 2nd July 2016**

Graeme welcomed everyone to the meeting. He hoped that everyone has enjoyed their visit to Queensferry bridge prior to the meeting.

Present

Graeme White
Bruce Hamilton
Geoff Freedman
David Sulman
Julie McMorran
Steve Penny
Andrew Easton
Guest - Dorothy Sulman

Apologies

Jim Christie
John Lyon
Jock McKie
Craig Grant
Malcolm Cattermole

Report from Last Year's AGM

David Sulman proposed Graeme White seconded

Chairman's Report

Accepted

Accounts

Geoff wanted to discuss the policy of the accounts. ie STEM project, Steve gave an update in this. The main support still required is for the start and end projects at Glentress to purchase wood and materials etc. Link to Natural partners website is available. Geoff is hoping that this year's Symposium will be more successful this year. It was agreed to leave things as they are until the outcome of this year's symposium.

Nomination and Election

As per sheet

Steve suggested that we consider working more closely with others.

FEG Policy

No change at present

Next Symposium

Thursday, 8th September 2016

Graeme informed everyone that its highly unlikely that the Minister will now be able to attend but that DEFRA had recommended a couple of others who we will chase.

Next meeting is at Newton Rigg on the 7th September.

AOCB

Geoff suggested a mail drop to the Bosses of the big firms.
Possible use of Twitter

There being no further business the day was closed at 1612hrs.



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Chair's report for AGM July 2017

This has been my second year as the chair of the FEG, and I am pleased to report that this past year has been a more successful one. The highlight was an excellent Symposium in September of last year at Newton Rigg.

Symposium

After the difficult decision to cancel the 2015 edition, there was much consideration about whether we should continue putting on this event in its current form, or if we should change the focus of our efforts to other events and activities. After weighing up the different factors such as our place in the calendar, the format of the event and the type of topics we were presenting, we took the decision to re-double our efforts and to go forward with putting on a 2016 Symposium.

We had two strategies to pursue in putting on this event. The first was to attract at least one speaker from abroad, and the second was to focus on one of the "hot topics" facing the industry.

We were lucky enough to have Morgan Vuillermoz of Institute Technologique FCBA in Paris attend our Symposium and deliver the key note speech on "Experiences of Forest Engineering in France."

The remainder of the Symposium concentrated on flooding. We had a series of speakers covering many aspects of this subject matter giving a good background, and some excellent case studies too.

Overall I was very pleased with the outcome which justified our decision to press ahead with holding this Symposium. It demonstrated that the right topics and speakers will still attract an audience.

STEM Project

Just before the Symposium, I was lucky enough to be asked to help out at Glentress when a group of trainee teachers from Moray House were introduced to the benefits of forestry and timber technology as tools for their future work in the classroom. I have listened to many of

the reports from Steve and Julie about the work from previous years, but this still didn't prepare me for just how impressive this day was.

Getting to the teachers of tomorrow is a terrific strategy and I am a big believer in trying to keep this happening for as long as we can.

A lot of work goes into putting this event on, and I am proud to have played a small part in that, and also equally proud that FEG continues to play its part in making this happen.

Educational Outing

In June of last year we visited the Education Centre for the new Queensferry Crossing to get an update on the progress of building this new bridge. This included a coach trip to see close up some of the work underway at Rosyth harbour, and a closer view of the North abutment of the bridge. This was very good chance to see close-up one of the biggest engineering projects of recent times.



Final Thoughts

I would like to wish my successor, Malcolm Cattermole, all the best for his tenure as the next Chairman of the FEG. I am sure that the organisation will be in safe hands.

I would also like to record my great appreciation for our secretary Bruce Hamilton who is the real driving force that keeps the FEG going, as well as being of great assistance to the chairman.

And finally I just wanted to mention John Lyons who had left the committee in this past year. Over the years he made a tremendous contribution to our group for which I'd like to put on record our great appreciation.

Graeme White

Chair FEG – March 2015 to July 2017

Landward Write Up

Summary of 2016 Symposium

Forestry Engineering Group Symposium – “Engineering to Stem the Flow”

Forestry Engineering Group held their Annual Symposium on 8th September at their usual location of Newton Rigg Campus, Penrith.

Morgan Vuillermoz of the FCBA (the French timber supply chain technical organization) started the day off, her presentation gave an overview of the changes in the level of mechanisation of forest harvesting in France including a breakdown of the numbers and types of machines and their resulting improvements in productivity due to both machine technological advances and to improved working practices. The presentation also described the lessons learned from managing various crises – specifically the 1999 wind blow when 140Mm³ of timber was flooded overnight.

Dr. Andrew Black of Dundee University set the context with the main theme of the day being ‘*Engineering to Stem the Flow*’, describing the dark art of flood risk estimation.

He began by suggesting that the pragmatic solution will perhaps be to simply specify an oversize culvert to deal with the eventuality of a flood situation, but when it comes to expensive bridges and runoff mitigation measures, more multiple and complex sources of information (and a hydrologist!) are required to reduce uncertainty of forecasts.

Tom Nisbet of Forest Research and **Alan Eves**, Forest Management Director for Yorkshire FD, described the studies conducted since 2009 on flood risk management around the Pickering area. The studies focused on the effectiveness of large woody dams and timber bunds as a means of slowing runoff in the upper catchment areas. They showed that it was vital to intervene at the right place in the catchment area otherwise chance synchronicity with flows from other catchments can worsen the downstream situation. The study also made clear that, there are practical benefits of working in a well-roaded forest with plenty of available timber rather than in the middle of a boggy moor. It also raised the important question of the need to establish standards/guidelines for the construction of these dams, and for the need to identify who has the financial responsibility for their long-term maintenance.

Jock McKie of John Deere was our last speaker before lunch who described the manufacture’s continual struggle to balance the demand for bigger, more productive, more powerful, more robust, low-emission machines, with the extra physical weight these requirements entail.

Jock explained that the average forwarder was now 7 tones heavier than its counterpart of 15 years ago. In northern Europe where rising temperatures are driving the loss of the once typical hard-frost winters, the increased weight problem is much exacerbated on the softer and wetter ground conditions. To better distribute this weight manufacturers have moved from 3 to 4 axles, wider wheels, longer wheelbases and band-tracks which again make machines heavier thus, requiring more power, creating more weight etc. etc.

Prior to breaking for lunch the highlight of the day was the presentation by the CEO of I.Agr.E. Mr. Alistair J Taylor to John Scott of JST Services. The Special I.Agr.E. award was in respect to his many contributions to Forest Engineering. John started his working life as a timber haulier but his natural flair for problem solving led to him into delivering major innovations in low ground pressure vehicles, floating piers and loading equipment. Over the years he frequently attended the FEG Symposia and never failed to make pertinent contributions to the procedures.



On show over lunch was a shiny new John Deere 1270G harvester, which can be seen in the picture below with all the day's speakers.



Fiona McLay of SEPA gave a guided tour through the headings of the Natural Flood Management Handbook. To give a perspective on SEPA's scope the publication states that there are 108, 000 properties at risk of flooding in Scotland, with expected Annual Average Damages of £252 million. It also explains that The Flood Risk Management Scotland Act establishes the principle of Sustainable Flood Risk Management to manage this risk. A key aspect of this is "working with nature" or Natural Flood Management (NFM). In December 2015 SEPA published Flood Risk Management Strategies that set the national direction of future flood risk management, helping to target investment and coordinate actions across public bodies. For each Potentially Vulnerable Area the strategies identify agreed objectives and targeted and prioritised actions for managing flooding, including a number of NFM schemes and studies into the potential for NFM.

Hugh Chalmers of Tweed Forum described their ongoing work in accordance with the long-standing Tweed Catchment Management Plan. His presentation looked at how natural flood management techniques can be incorporated into changes to land use. Examples from two sub-catchments of the river Tweed were shown. On the Eddleston catchment, a large scale (70km²) trial is under way to try to measure the effect of installing natural flood management techniques into a variety of land use scenarios. These include; headwaters in forestry plantations, constructing storm water ponds, riparian native tree planting, removing artificial river banks and re-meandering the Eddleston water which had been straightened 200 years before. The driver for this trial is the Scottish Government funded project that complies with the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC). The questions the project seeks to answer are; how can we improve the quality of a water body and reduce flooding by manipulating land use, and how much will it cost? Behind this work is an appreciation of Integrated Catchment Management which is a pragmatic approach taking into consideration the awareness that forest and farm land is firstly a productive resource, but which, with a bit of knowledge and willingness, can also be managed so that it contributes a broad range of goods and services to the wider community.

Conor Price, our final speaker of the day, then presented the recent work by Scottish Borders Council implementing a flood risk management scheme for Selkirk. It implemented, a combination of traditional hard infrastructure and 'deliberate' natural flood management; the latter sometimes involving some major civil engineering to reinstate the natural processes.

Alastair J Taylor CEO, IAgRE gave an excellent summing up of the day thanking all the speakers for their contributions and making this yet another successful symposium for FEG.

Finally, the FEG committee would encourage all foresters and engineers to attend the annual FEG symposia and so keep abreast of the new developments in Forest Engineering.



Bruce Hamilton MIAgRE MIQ MICE

FEG Secretary

FORESTRY ENGINEERING GROUP

	£	£	£
Balance at 1.1.2017			
Central Deposit Account			7341.72
Less: Contribution to Forestry			<u>1000.00</u>
Balance at 30.06.2017			<u>£6341.72</u>
Balance made up as:			
Central Deposit Account			<u>£6341.72</u>

FEG Committee Nominations for the Period 2017 - 2019

Name and Position	Proposed	Seconded
Malcolm Cattermole – Chair Elect	Graeme White	Bruce Hamilton
? – Vice Chair		
Graeme White – Immediate Past Chair	No Vote Required	No Vote Required
Bruce Hamilton - Secretary & Events Officer		
Geoff Freedman – Treasurer – Past Chair		
Jim Christie – Media Officer - Past Chair		
Steve Penny – Education - Past Chair		
Julie McMorran – Education – Scotland Recreational Rep - Past Chair		
David Sulman – British grown timber industry (harvesting, wood processing, timber research) Past Chair	Co-Opted Member	
Crawford Taylor – Estate Management – ICF Liaison	Co-Opted Member	
Steve Miller – UPM Tilhill	Co-Opted Member	
John Patterson - Egger	Co-Opted Member	
Chief Executive IAgRE	Co-Opted Member	
Jock McKie - Mechanical Manufacturers	Co-Opted Member	
Andrew Easton – Crichton Institute, Dumfries	Co-Opted Member	
Robert Hairstans – Napier University	Co-Opted Member	

Note: Co-Opted members are invited by committee so therefore no Proposer/seconder required.



Engineering Forest Access for All

DRAFT PROGRAMME v2

Thursday 7th September 2017

Newton Rigg Campus, Penrith

0930 – 1600hrs

Morning - Chair, Malcolm Cattermole, Forestry Commission

9:30 – 9:45 **Opening Address – Malcolm Cattermole FEG Chairman**

9:45 – 10:30 **Keynote Speaker – Paul Matthews – Engineering & Design Manager – Sustrans Scotland**

The current situation on the development of sustainable transport across the UK, the engineering challenges of creating new routes and managing existing ones, the differing access rights in the countries; dealing with the demands of the public and private landowners; the funding behind the projects, and the legislation involved too.

10:30 – 11:00 **???? – Yorkshire Dales National Park**

The management of the different needs of the park's visitors; how the conflicts between the working forests and countryside, and walkers, cyclists and horse-riders are dealt with. In particular looking at the increasing demands on public and private forestry within the area of the Park. - **MC**

Break

11:15 – 11:45 **Murray Swapp - Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland**

How creation of new access routes is being carried out by the National Parks in Scotland. This includes the planning of new routes, dealing with public and private landowners, the organisational set-up including the funders of the projects.

11:45 – 12:15 **Ross McGowan - McGowan Ltd**

The Contractor's view on the building new access tracks for walkers, cyclists and horse riders in the forest: the machinery and equipment involved; how best to organise the work on site; working safely around other forest users.

12:15 – 12:30 **Questions**

Lunch – Speakers Photograph

Afternoon – Chair (TBC)

13:30 – 14:00 Allan Plom or John Ireland - Visitor Safety Access Group

The risks and conflicts that can occur when opening up forests to greater and greater public access, and how best to manage and mitigate this. Also a look at some of the legislation involved too. – **JM/BH**

14:00 – 14:30 John Ogilvie – Planning Forester – Forestry Commission Scotland

A case study on the creation of a new access route at Nether Horsburgh in the Scottish Borders, focussing on the steps involved in planning this new work, the environmental aspects/issues and dealing with all the regulatory agencies. – **BH**

Break

14:45 – 15.15 Jim Colchester – Buccleuch Estates

Perspective of an Estate Manager on the benefits and difficulties of providing public access into private forests. Is allowing access worth it in the long run? – **DS**

15:15 – 15:45 Hamsterley – Alex McLennan – Forestry Commission

A creation of new mountain biking trails and facilities at Hamsterley, Co Durham, including how funding was sourced, the planning of the new routes and how construction took place.

15:45 – 16:00 Questions, Summary – Alistair Taylor, CEO IAgRE

Close – Tea and Coffee will be available for networking opportunities