ICorr AGM 2016

President’s Report

Thank you all for making time to attend the 2016 Institute of Corrosion AGM. You are all most welcome, not least to witness the formal end of my term as President and my passage to a bleak future as Immediate Past President, no more lime light.

I would like to start by thanking the Midland Branch for organising this half-day event on a variety of corrosion issues and for allowing the inclusion of the AGM in to the plans for their event.

It was very pleasing to be able to witness the presentation of the Society of Environmental Engineers 2015 award for the best PRI interview to our own Jim Preston.

Over the first weekend of September, starting on Friday the 2nd, the ICorr and Correx office team moved in to new leased premises in Barrett House in Northampton. Thanks are due to Trevor Osborne and the office team for all their work setting up and making the move happen on time and at minimum expense. Trevor will continue to look for suitable premises that ICorr can purchase but for now we are settled in Barrett House and we have an option on another 12 months lease from July 2017 thus giving us time to identify suitable premises, locally in Northampton. I am grateful for Trevor’s continued support to my Presidency, to London Branch and to the Institute as a whole.

Income from the ICorr training courses provided by IMechE, Corrodere/MPI and the CPA have continued to provide scope for these plans and my thanks are due to all three organisations and the members of PDTC and CAB who keep these courses relevant and attractive on a world-wide basis. New courses are also being developed, two of which are due to see the light of day in 2017, the Fundamentals of Corrosion and CP Marine Level 2.

The Cathodic Protection courses presented at the new IMechE Training Centre in Sheffield will be further enhanced when a CP demonstration pipe is buried in a trench at the edge of the site. Much of the work involved has been sponsored and there will be a plaque noting contributions when the work is
finished in the New Year. I now have a new respect for those of you who work on pipelines and are involved in CP, there is clearly much to consider when burying a pipe.

ICorr and Correx have embarked on the path to certification to ISO 9001. In the case of ICorr, the scope will be the Governance of the Institute, membership (Professional, Sustaining, the Professional Assessment Committee, PAC) and Training & Certification (PDTC & its sub-groups). LRQA will be auditing our Quality Management System in the first half of 2017 and David Harvey is driving this project for both ICorr and Correx.

At the beginning of 2016 Brian Goldie was appointed to be the part-time Editor of Corrosion Management magazine and he is overseeing an update to the format of the magazine, through the publisher SquareOne, in an effort to make the content more relevant to our membership. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bob Akid for his considerable work on the technical content of the journal over many years.

I am very pleased to be able to announce that Imma Mobbs has accepted the role of Editor of the ICorr website and as a result I have authorised SquareOne to start work on their proposal to update the website and make it more user friendly. Imma is responsible for the contents and keeping the information up to date.

ICorr, through Correx Ltd, is hosting the CEOCOR Congress in May 2018 at the Crowne Plazza in Stratford on Avon. CEOCOR is the European Committee for the Study of Corrosion and Protection of Pipes and Pipeline Systems. The congress programme is being prepared by CEOCOR and ICorr will host the event, arranging the venue in Stratford on Avon, sponsorship, a supporting exhibition and a spouse’s programme.

Based on the figures reported to the October Council meeting individual membership is currently 1,002 which is down from the 1,027 figure reported in September 2015 and included in my report to the last AGM. It is interesting to note that while numbers for Ordinary Members, Professional Members and Fellows have increased, the shortfall between the September 2015 and September 2016 is exactly matched by the loss of Student and Young Engineer Members. This reflects the current trends in the UK markets for our products
and services due mainly to the sharp decline in the oil and gas related activity. Overall Membership of ICorr is up as there has been a net increase in Sustaining Member Companies with their representative members.

I would like to offer my thanks and, through me, the thanks of the members to the Trustees for their continued monitoring and control of the financial aspects of ICorr. Particular recognition is required for Tony Collins who is willing to continue as Honorary Treasurer and to Jane Lomas who also is willing to continue as Honorary Secretary.

Thanks to all the members of Council for their support and guidance over the last two years. Council meets three or four times each year, not including this AGM, and often the agenda is full of many and varied topics. It is usually a long day of detailed discussions but the overall effect of these discussions has been positive in terms of outcomes for ICorr.

I have an interest in visiting the fine stately homes round the country particularly those owned or run by the National Trust. It is noticeable that in many of these fine houses there is a set of ancestors peering down from their portraits on the current generation and keeping the obligations of the family firmly in their sights. In ICorr things are slightly different, in that many of our Past presidents are still active and make themselves available to provide advice, guidance and their relevant experience. My personal thanks are due to all the previous Presidents who have provided their support and advice to me throughout this two year period.

There is a lot of unsung volunteer work that goes on behind the scenes in ICorr and this is particularly valuable. However, there has been a noticeable recent increase in the paid work undertaken on behalf of the Institute and this is required to get work done in a timely fashion. The pressure of day jobs is making volunteer work more difficult and ICorr is finding that it needs to pay for some of the tasks that need to be completed on its behalf.

I believe that overall the Institute is in good shape; the Corrosion Science Division met in September under the chairmanship of Julian Wharton and ran the 57th Corrosion Science Symposium in conjunction with Swansea University at the new Bay Campus. The Corrosion Engineering Division, chaired by Nick
Smart, is also meeting regularly and is currently operating with the intention of getting some of their recent work published in 2017.

There are plenty of opportunities on the horizon for further increases in corrosion related activity both in the UK and overseas, particularly in the field of training.

My principle regrets as President are that I have not been able to restore Young ICorr to robust health nor restore the North West Branch to its previous activity levels. Both of these tasks are work in progress and, perhaps, I will have more time to work on these areas now that the Presidential duties pass on.