

Chaney volunteered to represent the Council at this meeting.

Membership Development

A discussion on how membership of the WPC might be increased from its current level of 44 organisations resulted in the formation of a sub-committee which will put forward proposals for the Executive Board to consider at its meeting in April 2004. Amendments to the WPC Bylaws to accommodate any changes in membership criteria might then be put before the 2004 Annual Meeting in Perth, Australia.

Education and Best Practice

Education and training are important challenges for all WPC member organisations, Robert Burgon told the meeting. He said that the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices (USA) Instructor Training Programme was an example of best practice which should be shared and understood. He also pointed to the UK's Plumbing & Heating Industry Alliance (see www.phia.org.uk) and its 'Big Book' project (see *WPC REVIEW November 2002*) which seeks to promote plumbing as a career to young school children.

Robert Burgon offered to take this issue further and will initially write to WPC members.

Chairman's closing remarks

Stuart Henry thanked delegates and guests for their attendance, particularly through the difficulties presented by the widespread power failure which hit North America that week. He also thanked the United Association and praised its Instructor Training Programme which had celebrated its 50th Anniversary earlier in the week.

Finally, Stuart Henry presented Mary Garvelink of Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors National Association (USA), Ed Lyczko (American Society of Sanitary Engineers) and Russ Chaney (International Association of Plumbing & Mechanical Officials) with WPC medallions to mark their royalty contributions to WPC. Arrangements will be made to present the UA at a later date.

'People and Plumbing' CD ROM

An interactive CD ROM 'People and Plumbing' which promotes the aims and objectives of the World Plumbing Council has been developed for distribution at trade shows and exhibitions etc.

The CD ROM provides a comprehensive look at the WPC, its membership, structure, current activities and projects, and also aims to encourage new members.

There are details of:

- WPC member organisations,
- Executive board members,
- WPC Missions and Objectives
- WPC Training Scholarship

including an application form

- Previous issues of the WPC Review.
- A Question and Answer Section
- Details of WPC Activities and Projects
- A special Message from the current WPC Chairman
- Upcoming Conferences in New Zealand 2005 & Canada 2008
- People and Plumbing Brochure in .pdf format

The CD will be updated on a regular basis and it is planned to produce versions in languages other than English.

WPC honours WorldSkills competitors

Plumbing apprentices who competed in the 37th International WorldSkills Competition were each honoured by the presentation of a WPC medallion engraved with the competitor's name, country and the WPC logo. Medallions were also presented to the plumbing experts, a combination of contractors, employers and trainers who supported each apprentice.

The WorldSkills competitions were held in Switzerland in June this year and WPC Chairman Stuart Henry was on hand to present the medallions, commenting, "The

WPC sees WorldSkills as an important global organisation promoting vocational training."

Our photograph shows Stuart Henry presenting a WPC Medallion to Nilsen Einar of Norway



ISH China

Chinese consumers spent US\$43 billion on home decoration in 2001, a high proportion of which was on kitchen and bathrooms.

Many foreign manufacturers are turning to ISH China, the China International Trade Fair for Sanitation, Heating and Air-conditioning as a means of providing a foothold in the Chinese market place. Jointly hosted by Messe Frankfurt and CIEC Exhibition Co. since 1996, ISH China has become one of the leading events for the sanitary sector in China, with over 13,000 trade buyers attending in 2002.



ISH China will run from 14-17 September 2004 at the China International Exhibition Centre in Beijing. For further details, visit the website at www.ish-china.com



October 2003

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Newsletter of the World Plumbing Council

"Uniting the world plumbing industry to safeguard and protect the environment and the health of nations"

Irish lecturer wins inaugural WPC Scholarship



The first World Plumbing Council Scholarship has been won by a senior plumbing lecturer at Dublin Institute of Technology, Republic of Ireland. John Smartt, pictured, is 51 and has been involved in plumbing training for 24 years. In June this year he was elected as the Chief Plumbing Technical Expert for the 2005 World Skills Competition in Finland.

The WPC Scholarship, established in 2003, is aimed at male or female plumbing trainers wishing to visit a country for the purpose of researching and furthering plumbing training and methodologies.

The purpose of the Scholarship, which has a value of US\$5,000, is consistent with the WPC's objective of promoting and assisting plumbing industry education and training, and facilitating international recognition of competencies and standards. The Scholarship will provide the opportunity to live

and work in the cultures of other countries and to increase global awareness of the contribution of plumbing to society.

John Smartt, a Past President of the UK's Institute of Plumbing, submitted the United States as his chosen country, a choice which the WPC said "was supported by sound reasons ('to study their methods of plumbing training and its extensive use of IT technology in a very large country with a geographically widely spread population') and that the results of such a study would be of interest to WPC members generally."

The WPC was also impressed by John Smartt's passion for his subject and his future career goals which, he says, "will continue to be concentrated on improving the quality and quantity of plumbing training and education, firstly in my own country as Chief Examiner in Plumbing for the Irish Department of Education and secondly and ever more importantly nowadays, throughout the world especially in developing countries in the Far East and on the African continent...through the World Plumbing Council".

Applications open for 2004

Applications are now invited for the 2004 Scholarship with full details and an application form available at the WPC website, www.worldplumbing.org

Alternatively, contact the World Plumbing Council Secretariat at:

64 Station Lane
Hornchurch
RM12 6NB
England

Telephone: +44 (0)1708 472791
Fax: +44 (0)1708 448987
Email: secretariat@worldplumbing.org

Applications close on 30 June 2004 and the successful applicant will be announced no later than 30 September 2004.

WPC Conference 2005

The World Plumbing Council's next triennial Conference will be held in Auckland, New Zealand from 2 to 6 March 2005. The hosts will be the Master Plumbers, Gasfitters & Drainlayers NZ who represent two thirds of the businesses engaged in the industry. Further details will be published in the REVIEW and meanwhile there is more information on the WPC website at www.worldplumbing.org

Alternatively, contact:
Master Plumbers, Gasfitters & Drainlayers NZ Inc,
P O Box 6606, Wellington,
New Zealand
Telephone: +64 4 384.4184
Fax: +64 4 384.2456
Email: george@masterplumbers.org.nz
shirley@masterplumbers.org.nz
For information about the many delights New Zealand has to offer, visit www.purenz.com

2004 Australian National Forum

The Institute of Plumbing Australia will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2004. To celebrate this milestone the Institute will host the WPC 2004 Annual Meeting and the 2004 Australian National Plumbing Forum in Perth, Western Australia 1 to 4 September 2004. In association with the Master Plumbers and Gasfitters Association of Western Australia the closing event will be the MPA Awards for Excellence 2004 Dinner.

Call for Questions

Participation in the National Plumbing Forum is open to all individuals and organisations connected to plumbing or its associated callings. The objective of the forum concept is to achieve conclusions as a consensus opinion of Plumbing Professionals for use in promoting best practice plumbing. The Institute of Plumbing Australia will not set the agenda items but will act as the facilitator of the forum. An opportunity is provided to all individuals and organisations to provide questions or topics for discussion and debate by the delegates to the 2004 National Plumbing Forum. Questions should be provided in writing to the Institute Secretary by email to secretary@plumbing.org.au or by facsimile +61 8 94480420. Further information, including expression of interest brochure, trade and professional exhibition information and sponsorship opportunities, is available from the Institute website www.plumbing.org.au

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WPC Executive Board to meet in Edinburgh, Scotland

The next meeting of the WPC Executive Board will take place in Edinburgh, Scotland on 15 and 16 April 2004. This meeting will be hosted by WPC member organisation, SNIPEF, whose Director and Secretary, Robert D Burgon is a member of the WPC Executive Board. Visitors will be able to arrange to tour some of the spectacular beauty spots of Scotland either before or after the meeting.

Full details of the meeting and social programme (which is open to observers from any WPC member organisation) will be circulated to all members towards the end of 2003. In the meantime, anyone interested in visiting Scotland in April, 2004 is asked to contact Robert Burgon for further information and pre/post meeting tour suggestions. (robert.burgon@snipef.org)

The Taxi Plumber

IOP (South Africa) had an interesting membership application from an African plumber in Johannesburg. He arrived for his appointment two hours late, explaining that he had had to catch three different taxis to get to the IOP (SA)'s office.

His plumbing and business qualifications were fine and for the record, the IOP (SA) asked how many vehicles he had. He proudly

announced that he had none! Asked how he could possibly transport himself and his material to site, the plumber replied, "That's easy, I take a taxi to the plumbing merchant, load the material onto the roof rack and then catch the taxi to site." After working all day he catches another taxi home.

Oh yes, and he also doesn't have an office: he carries all his paperwork, invoices, accounts, etc. in a battered old briefcase, communicates by mobile phone and is quite happy to spend some 460 hours a year in a taxi!

WPC review available for download

At the Annual Meeting of the WPC in August it was decided that, since this newsletter is available for download from www.worldplumbing.org it is no longer necessary to produce as many 'paper' copies. However, if the number supplied to your organisation is insufficient, please contact Scott Marshutz at IAPMO: email smarshutz@iapmo.org or fax (USA) +1 909 472 4190

The Council will also be pleased to provide paper copies for your organisation to distribute at appropriate conferences, exhibitions, seminars, etc.

SARS Symposium

WPC member the IAPMO Group, together with the World Plumbing Council, will host a two-day international symposium on 11-12 February, 2004, in Los Angeles, California, USA, exploring the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in relation to plumbing system design.

Further details and a registration form are at www.iapmo.org

Annual Meeting 2003



The 2003 Annual Meeting of the World Plumbing Council was held in Michigan, United States of America on 15th and 16th August. A total of sixteen delegates attended, representing member organisations from as far afield as China, Australia, Scotland and the Virgin Islands.

We give here a summary of some of the most important issues discussed. Full Minutes of the meeting are being circulated to all members.

Strategic Plan

Initial business of the meeting involved a review of the Council's Strategic Plan. Stuart Henry, the WPC's Chairman, said that investigations into formal relationships and partnerships with other relevant international organisations were taking place but that, in some cases, applicable subscription levels were questionable and may not provide value to the WPC.

The IAPMO European Office representative, Tony Gordon, gave details of a CD ROM which he had developed and which set out the WPC's mission, objectives and activities. The initial cost of the CD had been met by the IAPMO organisation, and Stuart Henry, on behalf of the Executive Board, said that full consideration would be given to circulation of the CD ROM.

Finance and Membership

In the absence of WPC Treasurer George Verry, Robert Burgon presented the 2002-2003 Financial Statements which were accepted by the meeting. Looking to the

forecast of revenue and expenditure during the current financial year, Stuart Henry paid tribute to the significant royalty income realised from IAPMO and the United Association. He also stated that PHCC and ASSE have subsequently agreed to donate their royalties on IAPMO publications which display the WPC logo.

WorldSkills Competition

Stuart Henry and Russ Chaney reported on their visit to the WorldSkills Competition in St Gallen, Switzerland in June. It is anticipated that the WPC and WorldSkills will sign a Memorandum of Understanding at the next WorldSkills Council meeting in May 2004, following a due diligence process to be initiated by WorldSkills.

Stuart Henry then introduced John Smartt from the Dublin Institute of Technology, Republic of Ireland who was attending the meeting as a guest. Mr Smartt has been elected Chief Plumbing Expert of WorldSkills and he told the meeting that plumbing candidates at St Gallen had been grateful for the WPC's recognition of their efforts. He also told WPC members of the next WorldSkills plumbing competition in 2005.

Proposed agreement with Messe Frankfurt

The Chairman reviewed developments on this issue since the Executive Board meeting in March, telling delegates that, following wide-ranging discussions with Messe Frankfurt, it was felt there could be a mutually beneficial agreement between the two organisations. Messe Frankfurt, with offices in many parts of the world, are leaders in staging international sanitary and heating exhibitions in Germany, China and North America under the ISH banner. An alliance with Messe Frankfurt would be of great value to WPC and its

member organisations

George Verry has received a letter from Messe Frankfurt confirming their support for the next WPC Conference in March 2005, and this is expected to be followed by a formal agreement with the WPC which would involve financial support from Messe Frankfurt, and include booth space at each ISH event in Frankfurt, China and North America in return for WPC support and promotion of its events.

The meeting was informed that IAPMO USA has donated a WPC booth for use at trade exhibitions and that booth space had been provided by ISH North America. The booth would be used for the first time at the ISH North America exhibition in Las Vegas during October 2003.

WPC Scholarship Programme

Robert Burgon reported that eight applications in the inaugural programme had been received from six countries: one from Canada, two from England, one from Scotland, one from the Republic of Ireland and one from New Zealand. (See separate story)

Health Aspects of Plumbing

The World Health Organisation (WHO) publication, *Health Aspects of Plumbing* is being revised by the World Plumbing Council on behalf of WHO. WPC Executive Board member Russ Chaney reported that publication is planned for 2004 and that, subject to mutual agreement, both the WHO and WPC logos would be displayed on the cover.

SARS and Plumbing

Executive Board member Henry Hung told the meeting that he had represented the WPC on an investigative committee set up by the Hong Kong authorities following the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in the Amoy Gardens high-rise apartment complex.

Andy Watts, WPC Secretary, reported on an approach from WHO for the WPC to be represented on an international committee on SARS which meets in Rome in September. Russ

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