

The Civil Engineers' Club

of The Institution of Civil Engineers

Social and Sporting Events



2013 Newsletter



The Civil Engineers' Club Objectives

The objectives of the Club are:-

- i. to be “at the heart of society, delivering sustainable development through knowledge, skills and professional expertise” by
- ii. enhancing the image of the Civil Engineer through the organization of major events,
- iii. promoting social and sporting activities amongst civil engineers and their families, and
- iv. giving retired members of the Institution the opportunity for maintaining friendships established during their professional life.

Cover Photographs

Nicola Morris driving at the 8th at Remedy Oak. Close hauled in the Solent. The Orfords' Morgan at Loton.

Approaching Chertsey Bridge on the 14th January walk. Play during the Brunel Trophy.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – 2013

I am delighted to have taken over from Mike Cottell as Chairman of The Civil Engineers' Club from April last year. On behalf of all our members I would like to thank Mike for his leadership of the Club from 2009 to 2012.

The aim of The Civil Engineers' Club is to promote social and sporting activities amongst civil engineers and their families, whether working or retired, and to provide an opportunity to meet other civil engineers outside their working environment.

I am pleased to report that the Club continues to thrive in providing sports and leisure activities on behalf of our members. I offer my thanks on behalf of all members to our dedicated Section Organisers who do an excellent job in arranging events, competitions and activities. It is their hard work and your participation that makes the Club the active organisation that it is.

The Club remains active in many areas. However, we are always on the look out for ways in which to expand our activities and to widen the Club's attraction to members of the Institution. If you have any ideas in this regard the members of our Committee would be pleased to hear from you.

We are also looking to encourage more members of the Institution of all grades – from Student to Fellow, undergraduate to retired member – to join the Club. Anyone interested in joining should contact our Secretary, John Brownlie at secretary@ceclub.org.uk.

As Chairman, I am very grateful to our Committee Members who generously give their time to work on your behalf. The Civil Engineers Club would not function without them. Thank you to them all and my particular thanks to John Brownlie, our Secretary for his unstinting dedication and efforts on behalf of the Club.

Thank you all for your support.

Peter Hansford

28 March 2013

SECRETARY'S REPORT - April 2013

We have been very fortunate to welcome Peter Hansford, ICE President for 2010-2011, as our Chairman and thoroughly welcome his thoughtful initiatives at Committee meetings and wise input outside Committee Meetings

The sections are doing well with Sailing and Walking doing particularly well, as with the Golf Section with its Thomas Telford Trophy.

The Contract Bridge section returned to play the Brunel Trophy in Great George Street and had more players as a result.

There are two things that we are wanting to expand.

Young members – in particular, we feel that Presidents Apprentices might like to join.

New Sections – we are continually looking to expand and encourage anyone with enthusiasm to make a suggestion for a new section.

Please also remember to include your eMail address when you renew your ICE subscription. It would also be useful to have your mobile phone number for more swift access, please send this to me.

A regular look at the Club Web site (www.ceclub.org.uk) is a wise idea, particularly at the programme/calendar section.

We have been experimenting with alternative IT facilities and The Club is now twitterable on @ceclub – please follow if you tweet.

We now look forward to a very exciting programme in 2013, of which you received details in early January with the 2013 Flyer.

I very much look forward to meeting you on one of the events during 2013.

John D Brownlie
28th March 2013

WALKING

The Civil Engineers' Club Walks in 2012

All walks this year, except the last, enjoyed sunshine. The number of walkers ranged from 15 in November to 37 in April.

14th January 2012 - The walk started from Elmbridge Canoe Club Car Park near Woking taking the riverside path to the ferry and crossing to the north bank. The route followed the path upstream to Chertsey Bridge where we crossed to the opposite bank. We followed the riverside path downstream before heading across the field and through woods to the reach the Wey Navigation with its lock. We continued along the canal before crossing a bridge and taking a path to the "Old Crown" for lunch. In the afternoon we walked down river to and around Desborough Island before returning to the car park.



On the way to Chertsey



Chertsey Bridge

21st April 2012 - The walk started from the Kemsing Village Car Park. We crossed the Pilgrim's Way and climbed the hill up to the North Downs Way which took us along the top of the Downs past the grounds of Otford Manor. The route followed some wooded areas with bluebells and open areas with wild primroses and magnificent views over the Kentish Weald. We descended down a wooded track and followed a country lane to Heaverham for lunch at the Chequers Inn. In the afternoon we walked across the fields to Kemsing before returning to the car park..

26th May 2012 - We started from Teynham Railway Station and headed north towards the marina at Conyer and followed the path alongside Conyer Creek to the estuary of the River Swale, with views of the Isle of Sheppey. Our route continued through Conyer, Teynham Street and part of the Swale Heritage Trail leading us to Deerton Street and The Plough at Lewson Street, where we had an excellent lunch before returning to Teynham via Cellarhill.

8th September 2012 - The walk started from the Dorking Railway Station Car Park. We followed a footpath to the mill where we crossed the River Mole and continued past Lower Box Hill Farm and Boxhurst before ascending the Downs to join the North Downs Way. We quickly reached the viewing point where the Olympic Rings were displayed. After a short break we took a path through the woods along the top of the downs before descending to cross the zig zag road to take a track to the River Mole, which many of us crossed by stepping stones. After lunch at The Stepping Stones in Westhumble we took a path through Norbury Park, Chapel Farm and Denbies Vineyard back to Dorking Station.



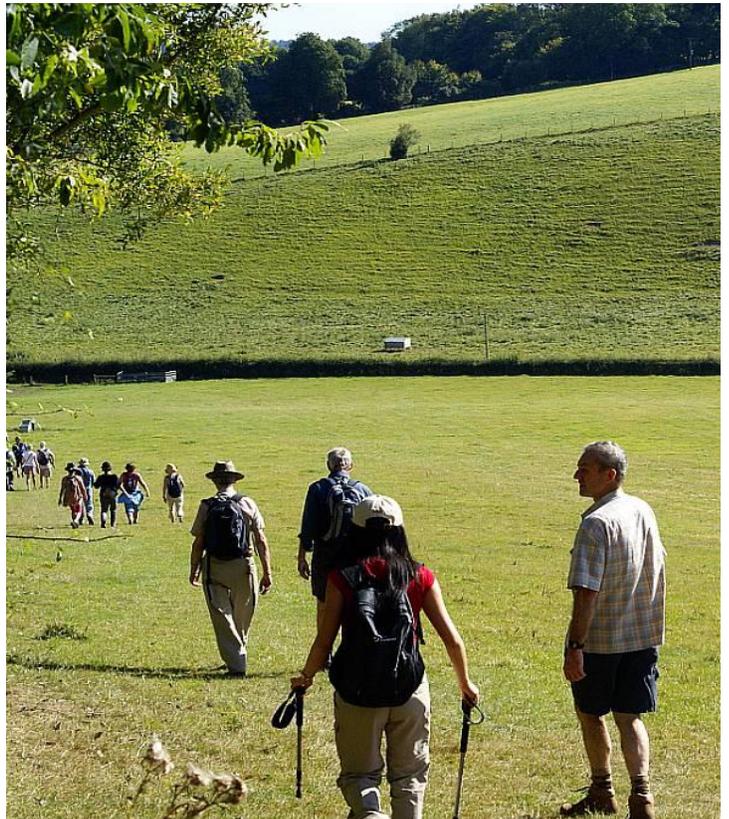
Approaching Lower Box Hill Farm



The Olympic Rings



Descending to the zig-zag road



Walking through Chapel Farm

21st October 2012 – This was an additional event where the walk was preceded by a visit to the Crossness Pumping Station which was holding the last open day of 2012 with steam. The venue is well worth a visit and we were able to see a beautifully renovated beam engine operating and compare it with the other three rusty engines. The walk started from Lesnes Abbey Woods with 9 walkers taking a path through the grounds and woodland to join the Green Chain Walk which we followed through Bostall Heath, Bostall Wood and Plumstead Common down to the Thames Barrier.



Crossness Pumping Station

24th November 2012 - The walk started from Richmond Railway Station. We took a footpath via Richmond Green to the road bridge which we crossed to join the riverside path heading downstream. We saw the recently re-opened footbridge at Richmond Lock and followed the Thames Path downstream to Kew Bridge. We passed the well known historic pub The London Apprentice and took the path through Syon Park. At Brentford we crossed the River Brent/Grand Union Canal and followed it to the Thames Lock which controls access to and from the River Thames. The path continued through Watermans Park and passed under Kew Bridge and on to The City Barge where we had an excellent lunch. After lunch we returned to Kew Bridge and crossed to Surrey to take the riverside path back to Richmond, passing the markers for the original longitude meridian en-route.

Thanks to all our leaders for arranging such enjoyable walks.

Four future walks are planned in SE England for 2013 plus a Walking Weekend in the Peak District in June.

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SAILING

2012 was a year of unrelenting bad weather which had a major impact on all our sailing plans. We hope it is not a portent of years to come.

At the beginning of the season, we met at Chichester harbour, and at the end of the season in December at Cowes for our Voyage Vache; but between these two events bad weather had a major effect on all events. Proposed cruises to St Vaast, and also to Keyhaven, were cancelled due to bad weather.

Despite forecast heavy winds there was a brave turnout for the Round the Island Race in June but rigging failure prevented Mailys from starting while a collision shortly after the start caused Fulmar retiring. There were four boats finishing, Cohort, Jika Jika, Roller Coaster, and Sagacious.

On Saturday July 14th, Cohort and Wehogi prepared to sail to Cherbourg and then on to the Channel Islands, but the weather had other plans and kept both boats in harbour until Wednesday when Wehogi attempted to break out, but was forced by crew sea sickness to return to Yarmouth. Once it became clear that we had run out of time for going to the Channel Islands, the weather relented and both boats cruised separately for the remainder of the week in the Solent, enjoying some sun, a remarkable lack of other boats and the truly stunning spectacle of a J Class regatta. And that was just about it, until December when Roger Hyde joined Alec Leggatt in Dreamer to sail to Cowes for the Voyage Vache. We had a bracing beat from Portsmouth to Cowes, an excellent dinner with Mike and Sally Broughton in the Island Sailing Club, a very cold night with ice on the deck in the morning, and a gentle run back to Portsmouth on Sunday morning in light sunshine. Details of the Trophies awarded are given below.

Smeaton Trophy,



Awarded to the yacht sailed by a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers or its staff in the ISC Round the Island Race having the lowest quotient determined by dividing the yachts finishing position in its class, group or division by its finishing position in that class, group or division.

There were five entries this year as follows:-

Cohort. Sailed by **Roger Hyde** in ISC Class8A. Quotient 0.231.

Fulmar. Sailed by **David West** and **Nick Hounsell** in ISC Class 8A. Retired.

Jika Jika. Sailed by **Jamie Holmes** in IRC Class 3B. Quotient 0.43.

Mailys. Sailed by **David Hardcastle** in the Bridgedeck Catamaran Class. Did not compete.

Sagacious sailed by **Bob Barlow** in IRC Class 3B. Quotient 0.767.

The Winner was Cohort sailed by Roger Hyde.

Telford Goblet

Awarded to the highest placed yacht sailed by a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers or its staff in the IRC class in the Island Sailing Club Round the Island Race.

There were two entries this year, Roller Coaster sailed by **Denis Bates** and Sagacious sailed by **Bob Barlow**, The winner was Roller Coaster.

Elvera Cup



Awarded for the most interesting and informative log submitted by a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers or its staff covering a cruise/voyage/race carried out by him/her in the past year.

The following logs were submitted

Log "True Blue of Hamble. Saints and Spirits Cruise" submitted by **Chris Jones** covering a cruise quote " *around the Inner Hebrides in the path of ancient Irish saints, Scotch Whiskey, Stevenson lighthouses and some of the less famous works of Thomas Telford*" starting and finishing at Dunstaffnage near Oban.

Log "Bumbling on the River Dart" submitted by **Gillie and Robin Whittle** covering a week exploring the River Dart and associated creeks in their Cornish Shrimper Bumble Chugger visiting the various hostleries and other places of interest including Dartmouth Castle and the home of Agatha Christie.

Both logs were well written and illustrated. But because of its greater scope and navigational content the Elvera Cup for 2012 is awarded to **Chris**.



Cohort under full sail in the Solent...



...and her skipper, Roger Hyde, winner of the Smeaton Trophy!

CONTRACT BRIDGE

The Brunel Trophy

This year the Brunel Trophy competition was held on 19 October 2012 in the Palmer Room at the ICE, with a record number of eleven teams entered. The bridge was, as always, both friendly and competitive.

The result was a clear win for the Europeans team, comprising Gitte Hect-Johansen, Szczepan Smoczynski, Mary Gordon-Smith and Simon Cochemé. At the end of the afternoon session the club Chairman Peter Hansford presented the Trophy together with glass tumblers to the winners. Congratulations are due to them and also to all the other players. Thanks are also due to Nicole Smith the Tournament Director who was in charge of proceedings and performed her task with her customary efficiency and good humour, keeping the event going smoothly and to time. The final results are summarised below.

Posn	Team	Team members
1	Europeans	Gitte Hect-Johansen, Szczepan Smoczynski, Mary Gordon-Smith & Simon Cochemé
2	Mushrooms	Bill Linton, Tim Pelling, Ron Harris & Robert Balchin
3	Four Herts	John Eyre, Glen Parry, Steve Mossey & John Morgan
4	Team Putney	Chris Elliott, Huw Bishop, Clarke Pitts & Jeff Clargo
5	Mass Debaters	Abhoy Agarwal, Indra Sethia, Hasan Taskin & Roy Cooper
6	Waltham Foresters	Martin Baker, Peter Richardson, John Stimson & Winnie Godber
7	Lemmings	John Walker, A. Edmonds, D. Edmonds & R. Ryburn
8	Primrose Hill	Rex Goad, Catherine Rice-Evans, Stephen Potel & Michele Potel
9	Utopia	Diana Beamish, Sati McKenzie, John Beamish & John Bernard
10	The Friday Club	Gordon Gillespie, John Rovey, Ken Whitleman & Charles Roomes
11	WBSW	John Walker, Trevor Wilkinson, Anil Bhandari & Gopal Srinivas.

After the bridge the evening dinner was taken in the nearby Bistro1 restaurant in Covent Garden. This is where we dined the previous year and everyone enjoyed the meal.

Photos of the winners with Peter Hansford and other photos taken during the day and at the restaurant are shown below.

The 2013 event will be on Friday 11 October at the Institution of Civil Engineers, 1 Great George St, SW1P 3AA. If you are interested in playing please contact me and if you don't have a team or even a partner don't worry- if you let me know early enough I can usually find others to make up a team.

Peter Richardson

Honorary Contract Bridge Secretary

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**Club Chairman Peter Hansford with the Brunel Trophy winners 2012,
The Europeans team (left to right):
Mary Gordon-Smith, Szczepan Smoczynski, Gitte Hect-Johansen & Simon Cochemé**



**Brunel Trophy runners up, Mushrooms team (left to right):
Bill Linton, Tim Pelling, Ron Harris & Robert Balchin**



Four Herts team Steve Mossey and John Morgan



John Walker (who has played in all but one Brunel Trophy), Helen Walker, Mr & Mrs Hassan Taskin and others



During play in the Palmer Room at ICE

NORTHERN IRELAND

I am delighted to report that the Civil Engineer's Club in Northern Ireland continues to thrive. Our members remain active in Institution activities, supporting learned society meetings, social activities and the work of PHEW. Some even find time to write books!

We have a number of CEC outings during the course of the year. Our first this session was a visit to Titanic Belfast, the recently opened visitor attraction and museum. This iconic building has been constructed in close proximity to the slipway where Titanic was built and has attracted worldwide interest. Our visit commenced with a presentation by RPS Consulting Engineers, who were civil and structural designers for the project. This was a fascinating account of the site development and foundation design, which resulted in the largest concrete pour in Ireland, as well as the highly complex superstructure, with its very challenging geometry and architectural features.

A very pleasant lunch allowed time to reflect on the engineering challenges which had to be overcome in the construction of this unique structure and for members to chat and catch up. The afternoon provided the opportunity for a leisurely stroll through the interactive exhibits which tell the story of Titanic from her birth in Belfast to the fateful maiden voyage and eventual discovery on the seabed. The feedback from the fifty or so members who attended this outing was very positive; everyone seemed to have had a very enjoyable day.



The challenge now is how we could follow such a wonderful experience as Titanic Belfast. However our next visit, in April, promises to be equally exciting and unique. We are planning a visit to the recently opened Giant's Causeway visitor centre. The Causeway is a UNESCO world heritage site and the new visitor centre has been designed to blend in to the landscape, with a grass roof and basalt columns, while also delivering a new interpretive centre. Our visit will include a strong engineering theme as always and should attract another large turnout from members.

Over the past few years we have been fortunate in the quality of venues we have been able to visit, however the success of the Civil Engineer's Club is very much built on the enthusiasm and support of our members. They are passionate about engineering and take great interest in what is happening in our profession. They also embrace the social aspects of our activities wholeheartedly.

Ian Long ICE Northern Ireland

GOLF

ICE North West GOLF DAY

19 April 2012

Rain and hail greeted golfers at the ICE NW Golf Day on 19 April at Ashton-in-Makerfield Golf Club in Lancashire.

After tee-off in fine conditions, golfers were faced with half an hour of the worst weather the event has seen in years. At the height of the downpour one competitor observed that it would have been better sitting in a warm, dry car on the adjacent M6!

The Birse 2 team of Andrew Leach, Dave Rimmer, John Addis and Steve Capstick took the team prize. Paul Reeves took the overall ICE/IHT and competition prize and was awarded the W H Schofield Trophy.

John Boyd took the ICE/ IHT individual prize, Steve Capstick the individual prize and Chris Tollitt had the longest drive. Paul Reeves and Jonathan Meacher won the nearest the pin prizes.

Organiser Chris Davies said, "Despite the conditions, we enjoyed a good game of golf and look forward to the next fixture - the ICE Northern Regions Event at Penrith Golf club . Thanks go to our sponsors Hill Dickinson and Up and Under."

Chris is also pleased to confirm that the Penine Raider match against ICE Yorkshire Region will be held for the first time for several years in September.



Paul Reeves receiving the WH Schofield trophy from Michael Burns



The Winning Birse 2 team



Michael Burns presenting to Steve Capstick



Chris Tollitt



Paul Reeves and Jonathan Meacher

The Thomas Telford Trophy

West of Scotland triumph at Remedy Oak

A bright September day saw teams of engineers from 15 out of the ICE's 16 regions and branches gathered in the wooded depths of rural Dorset to compete on one of the south's premier golf courses for the Thomas Telford Trophy. The course, although relatively new, is set in mature woodland and presents challenges both arboreal and aquatic in nature.

Undaunted by strategically positioned oak trees and reed fringed lakes West of Scotland secured victory with a score of 198 points over runners up Wales, with 190 and East of Scotland in third place on 185.

Now in its 27th year, it was particularly appropriate that the Veterans competition was won by South's Barry Staynes, who was integral in setting up the competition in 1986 and whose commendable score of 31 points confirmed that age and experience are a formidable combination.

The bright autumnal sunshine assisted everyone in enjoying an excellent golf course and the company of members from other regions. The day concluded with a post-match dinner and prize giving with the Chairman of the South branch, Marc Griffin joining Malcolm Stephen of principal sponsor BAM Nuttall in congratulating the winners. The final act was the announcement by next year's hosts – the South East branch– that Monday 2nd September 2013 will see the 28th Thomas Telford Trophy played over the challenging Royal Cinque Ports links in Kent.

The annual competition for the Thomas Telford Trophy is contested on some of the best courses in the country and comprises 16 teams of 4 from the Regions/Branches of the Institution. If you are interested in playing please contact your Regional Office or the Civil Engineers Club, (golf@ceclub.org.uk) and we will put you in touch with your regional team organiser. The competition is open to male and female members of The Institution, of whatever grade, and Nicola Morris this year's sole female competitor, who came third in the foursomes, would welcome some support!

Events like this cannot take place without a tremendous amount of work by the organising committee of the host region – in this case the South Branch of South East Region – ably led by Dave Street. Their choice of course and attention to detail were fundamental to the success of the day. Also vital to the continued success of the Thomas Telford Trophy is the generous support of sponsors who recognise the value of encouraging interaction and networking to the profession. The organising committee and The Civil Engineers' Club would like to thank all those who provided sponsorship, and especially the principal sponsors BAM Nuttall for their particular support to younger players.

Martyn Taylor
Honorary Golf Secretary
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Results

Thomas Telford Trophy

Winners	West of Scotland	
	Stuart Haddow, Colin Ritchie, Andrew Lindsay, David Dickson	198 points
2 nd	Wales	
	Anthony Parker, Simon Howell, Rhys Griffin, Alastair Watterson	190
3 rd	East of Scotland	
	Ian Scott, Paul Johnston, Mark Fisher, Mark Souter	185

Foursomes

Winners	Allan Campbell and Stuart Evans	41
2 nd	David Adams and Mike Broom	38
3 rd	Martyn Taylor and Nicola Morris	36

Singles

Winner	Colin Ritchie	39
2 nd	Paul Johnston	38
3 rd	Andy Hoffman	35

Nearest the Pin

TTT (9 th)	Mark Fisher
V & S (11 th)	Paul McCracken
In 2 at 18 th	Nigel Wilkinson

Scott Quaich

Winner	Stuart Haddow	32
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Longest Drive

TTT	David Smith
V & S	Andrew Harvey

Veterans

Winner	Barry Staynes	31
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Past Captain's Balls

Winner	Steve Hadley	13
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Sponsors

Winner	Clive Langton	38
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Thomas Telford Trophy Winners - West of Scotland



Singles Winner - Colin Ritchie with SE Chairman Marc Griffin and Malcom Stephen of principal sponsor BAM NUTTALL



Scott Quaich Winner - Stuart Haddow receiving the trophy from Charlie Scott



Andy Salmon putts and..... then celebrates



Vets Winner Barry Staynes chipping to the 8th



Iain Scott lines up a putt



Stuart Evans lining up his putt



Dave Street chipping to the 10th



The 18th green and Clubhouse

MOTORING

10 MAR 2012 HDLCC LOTON PARK MAINTENANCE

This was the first of four maintenance days at Loton Park, with the usual list of jobs needing to be carried out.

We were set the task of painting the apexes and clipping points with white paint. We were surprised at the state of these sections, some being wide and smooth, others being cracked and bumpy.

Anyway the task was completed after an excellent lunch, when we finally reached the top of the hill.

16 MAY 2012 HDLCC LOTON PARK – DRIVERS SCHOOL

Sixteen drivers brought their road-going cars to drive up the hill.

There was a teach in session first to explain hill climbing and the Loton Park track. They then walked up the hill, before being taken on, first a slow drive with a tutor up the hill, followed by a fast drive.

Their runs up the hill commenced with video being taken and the tutors swapping positions. At each position, they marked the driving standards and these marks were consolidated at the end of the day.

Lunch in the Clubhouse was taken and some of the video footage was shown to the drivers.

Samantha Lester had to swop from her Citroen Saxo to an Audi TT after its battery goes flat.

Afternoon runs were then made, before a wrap up session in the Clubhouse with prizes being given.

30 JUN 2012 LOTON PARK MOTORSPORT FESTIVAL

Vicar of Alberbury, Rev. Val Tait, couldn't resist the offer to try out the cockpit of a Dallara racing car at the presentation and commented on how comfortable it was – once you had managed to clamber in!

The recent Festival event featured passenger rides for members of the public who were driven up the hill climb course by club members in a wide variety of cars including Ferrari, Porsche, Aston Martin and Lotus, together with demonstrations, displays and produce stalls.

Reverend Tait is pictured sitting in the car with from left, Alan Broom of Cardeston Church, club president John Mould and Kath Titley, together with fundraising club members and officials.

Organised by Hagley Car Club, cheques for the monies raised were presented to representatives of local Alberbury and Cardeston churches, and the Midlands Air Ambulance.

Co-ordinator for the Air Ambulance, Kath Titley, of Shrewsbury, said: "We are very grateful to Loton Park for raising this money to help maintain such an essential service to the county community.

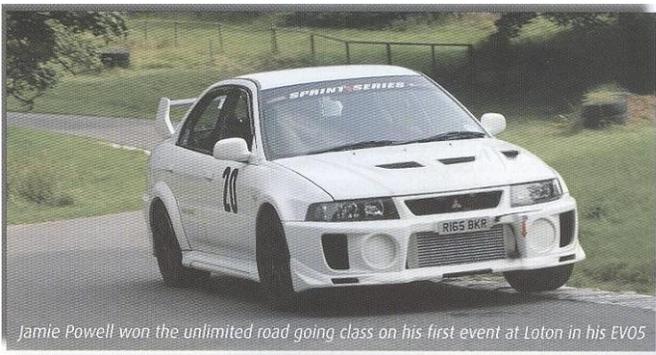
“Since 1991 the charity has responded to nearly 35,000 missions and requires £6 million each year to keep its three air ambulances operational, with all funds being raised by public donations, business gifts or gifts in wills.”

Having collated the takings from the gate, rides up the hill, Trial car rides and donations, we can now announce that the proceeds from the event were in excess of £2,000

The cheques were presented at Loton Park on 14 July



Rev.Val Tait is pictured sitting in the car with from left, Alan Broom of Cardeston Church, club president John Mould and Kath Titley, together with fundraising club members and officials.



Jamie Powell won the unlimited road going class on his first event at Loton in his EV05



Paul Masters in the Great Bear Distribution backed Jedi set FTD on 12th August



Various ways of negotiating Loton Park

VISITS

09 FEB 2012 VISIT TO ST CHADS

We were given an introduction to the Project by Tim Ratcliffe of Tim Ratcliffe Architects

This was followed by a tour hosted by James and Andy of Croft Building & Conservation, which involved climbing up 20 ladders through platforms to reach the bottom of the dome.

At some of the platforms we inspected the state of the stonework which had caused concern to the congregation when pieces fell off and were found on the pavement.

We were then very fortunate in being able to climb the final ladder in pairs to see the regilding of the cross, which was taking place in a tarpaulin tent to get the temperature up.

A fascinating visit and we are very grateful to St Chads Church for allowing us to visit.

We look forward to a repeat visit after the scaffolding is down, but this time from the inside.

24 JUN 2012 ACORN BANK GARDEN AND WATERMILL

Best known for its comprehensive herb collection with more than 250 medicinal and culinary plants and traditional fruit orchards, Acorn Bank is a tranquil haven with an almost forgotten industrial past.

We wandered along the Crowdundle Beck to the watermill, enjoying the wildlife in the woods on the way, and discovered more about the history of gypsum mining on the estate – there were three wheels, both overhung and underhung. We walked back through the woods, past the sluice to the entrance to the millrace.

There were views across the Eden Valley to the Lake District from the magnificent backdrop of the sandstone house, which although not normally open to the public, is available as holiday apartments.

We visited the tea room, where culinary herbs and fruit from the garden are used daily in soups, salads and puddings.

Leaving the tea room we walked through the sunken garden to the pond where crested newts inhabit, then into the fruit orchards and herb collection.

27 JUN 2012 ICE NORTHANTS SITE VISIT TO SILVERSTONE

ICE Northants paid a site visit to Silverstone in order to see first hand the work carried out on the famous racing venue.

The atmosphere was bleak around Silverstone Circuit when it was announced that the British Grand Prix would move to Donington Park. The announcement came in the summer of 2008 less than a year after plans were approved for a major £25m redevelopment of the circuit. What would become of the circuit that for over 60 years has been synonymously associated with Formula One?

Fortunately that question was never answered. In early 2009 it was announced that Silverstone would hold the MotoGP. Then at the end of that same year, following much speculation over Donington's capability to host the event, Silverstone was awarded the rights to host the British Grand Prix for the next 17 years. With Formula One guaranteed to remain at its original home, development continued with renewed impetus to include the new Silverstone Wing, a new pit complex and a remodelled track suitable for motorcycle racing. It was after their completion that the ICE Northants Branch arranged a special tour of the circuit and the surrounding facilities.

Past champions looked down on us from a wall of fame as we waited to board the coach. With everyone seated we drove off around the track although at a speed somewhat slower than those famous faces before us. Our guides were Lee Howkins and Lesley Cox, the Venue and Health & Safety Manager respectively, who provided insights into the sights we passed. One that springs to mind is the degree of accuracy in the track level – a tolerance of just 7mm, a figure that resulted in a few headaches during laying earlier on in the year. Another was the sheer scale of the racing teams due to arrive in force the very next day – Red Bull's hospitality suite alone arrives on no less than 39 articulated lorries. It became readily apparent that the work put in by both the Circuit and the teams themselves was truly quite something.

Perhaps the highlight of the tour was the 'pit-stop' on the starting grid. Standing on the tarmac, it was not difficult to imagine the upcoming atmosphere where drivers and fans alike will anticipate those green lights. It also enabled us a chance to view the exterior of the Silverstone Wing, built to emulate the form of the Formula One car. Although difficult to distinguish up close, the striking roof did epitomise the all important factor of speed. It was then that we sped off once more to complete the tour.

I would like to express my thanks to Silverstone Circuit and the ICE Northants Branch for an interesting and thoroughly enjoyable experience.

By Matthew Letts, Project Engineer - JPP Consulting



SPORTS

THE IRONMAN

22 JUL 2012

Jordan Nelson, a University of Wolverhampton Civil Engineering student, competed in the Ironman UK endurance triathlon event in Bolton Lancs in July to raise money for his volunteering placement with Engineers For Overseas Development (EFOD).

The Ironman was a 140.6 mile endurance triathlon in consisting of a 2.4 mile open water swim, a 112 mile cycle (up and over Winter Hill three times, total course elevation 5000 feet) and a 26.2 mile marathon run (total course elevation 1000 feet) all under the time limit of 17 hours.

Jordan completed the race in just over 14 hours and ranked 25th in his category, out of 1500 competitors. At 18 Jordan was the youngest to finish the competition which was his first official triathlon and marathon.

The money raised will help to pay for Jordan's trip to Uganda to build a community hall with other EFOD volunteers.



EVENTS

BIG BANG FAIR, NEC BIRMINGHAM

15-17 MAR 2012

BIG BANG PUSHED STUDENTS TO NEW HIGHS

Teams of students at the 2012 big bang fair at the Birmingham NEC in March competed to build the tallest observation tower for an imaginary ski resort at the ICE stand.

Competitors were limited to 60 building blocks and had to incorporate a tunnel in their structure as a part of an access route to the resort.

Students had just five minutes to build their structure. A prize was to be awarded to the tallest tower but several structures measured the same height, so a winner drawn from a hat by ICE Director General Nick Baveystoke.

The winners got an "ice contract" to build the resort.

Around 40,000 people visited this year's Big Bang Fair over the three days, an increase of 5,000 on last year and 250 different schools visited the ICE stand to take part in the tower challenge.

The big bang event embraced all areas of science and engineering and included the Young Engineer of the Year and Young Scientist of the Year events.

Young Engineer of the Year winners were Wassim Miah and Jessica Jones, both 17 year old from St Davids College, Cardiff. They had invented a portable device for monitoring the intensity of foetal contractions

Prizes were awarded by Minister of Universities and Science David Willetts

"Inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers is vital to our economy and society - that's why the initiatives, such as the Big Bang Fair and the National Science & Engineering competition are so important. The talented young people I've met today will not only have the skills and knowledge to work and live in an increasingly advanced world, but will make a real contribution to future growth," he said

Roland Jackson, chief executive of the British Science Association commented: "the National Science & Engineering competition continues to do an incredibly important job in encouraging young people to explore their interest in science and engineering

"We'd encourage anyone with a project they're proud of to take part in next year's competition, which starts at the next round of regional fairs this summer"

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APPLICATION FORM

The Civil Engineers' Club – www.ceclub.org.uk

TCEC is for you, your friends and your family

As a breed, civil engineers work hard, so the chances are you like to play hard as well. But what do you really like to do in your precious spare time? Are you interested in tennis, golf, walking with all the family, sailing, wine-tasting or visiting unusual places? Would you like to meet other members with similar interests?

If so, The Civil Engineers' Club is for you. It is run by an enthusiastic group of volunteers and all members of The Institution of Civil Engineers are eligible to join (subscription £10). We are pleased to announce that subscription is free to Student members!

The TCEC promotes and supports sporting and social activities for civil engineers throughout the UK.

The Club's activities are likely to be of interest to families, and provide opportunities for members to maintain contact with colleagues in an informal context. Sporting and social events are organised throughout the UK, including sailing regattas, golf and tennis tournaments, wine tastings, as well as trips to major sites of national interest such as the Eden Project in Cornwall. A regular Newsletter keeps members informed of events.

Please fill in the short application form below, identifying your particular interests and return it in the same envelope as your ICE subscription, together with your cheque for £10 (free for Student members), and you will be enrolled in the TCEC for the current year. Renewal of your subscription will automatically be included on your subscription notice in future years. We look forward to seeing you at some of our future events.

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Application for Membership of The Civil Engineers Club
(Please fill in block capitals)

Membership Number

Title First name Surname

Address (for correspondence)

Postcode

Email Address

Daytime telephone number Membership Grade

Employer/University

Interests

Please return to Subscriptions PO Box 4479, Institution of Civil Engineers, One Great George Street, Westminster SW1P 3AA