



guildnews

SHORT STORY

CONFERENCE SPECIAL



Chief Executive Gary Amer opens the 48th GAI Conference

This year's GAI AGM and Conference – its 48th – was held in the lovely rural surroundings of the Forest of Arden in Warwickshire. Given the parlous state of the economy at the moment, the GAI Executive Committee made the decision earlier this year to fore-shorten the event, holding business over just one day instead of the customary two. This move not only better reflected the difficult times that our industry faces, it also made the event more affordable and accessible to many smaller companies who attended the event and made use of the networking opportunities it offers. In fact, eighteen different AI companies were represented – considerably up on previous years.

The whole event was only made possible by the conference sponsors; Allgood, DORMA, GEZE, Harbrine, Lorient and Assa Abloy. Their generous contributions helped make the Conference even more enjoyable and professional for everybody.

The shortened timetable meant that delegates had a packed programme of business and leisure to get through. As well as the formal business of the AGM and reports from all of the Committee Chairs (which you can read about on page two) the delegates enjoyed an inspirational keynote speaker, Chris Moon MBE, before

breaking for an afternoon on the golf course, visiting nearby Stratford-upon-Avon or rounding up ducks! The Conference was also attended by Door and Hardware Institute Industry President Scott Sabatini and his wife Mary Lou, a particular honour given the tough conditions that the American market is also facing.

In the evening the guests remained shaken but not stirred at a James Bond themed gala dinner. Roulette and Black Jack tables kept everyone busy before they danced the night away in a beautiful marquee.

Feedback has been very positive with many Conference first timers pledging to return next year.

GAI President Andrew Hall comments:

“I am very encouraged by the positive feedback we have received. We announced last year that we would change the format of Conference to encourage more AIs to attend. It seems we have gone some way to achieving this. As word gets about that the Guild is changing and is not just a manufacturer's club, I hope that even more AIs attend next year.”

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round-up



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out and
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conference



STOP PRESS:
Extended deadline for
filling out the GAI
Membership Survey:
visit www.gai.org



gary's view

A long term goal in our business plan is to only use electronic



communications with members.

As we strive to reduce the labour and logistical burden of the existing paper based communications it is very encouraging to see real progress is being made on a number of fronts.

Firstly, this summer we will be introducing a new email "notice board" for members. This will enable us to update and inform members by email on important and recent developments, or future events. It will provide direct links to the websites for more information. No paper in sight.

Secondly, with the coming Education Programme year, 2009/10, we are introducing a new Personal Development Pack for students. The content of the training manuals will no longer be provided in hard copy ring binders but will be contained on memory sticks kept in the Pack. This will bring portability, flexibility and ease of updating. No more warehousing of boxes of ring binders and manual content pages.

Lastly, strenuous efforts are being made to enable Level 1 students to be able to undertake their course work and book tests on-line in this coming academic year. A genuine step forward in eliminating the continuous flow of books to and from Stepney Green, students and the markers.

Watch out for the future announcements which accompany these developments.

Gary Amer Chief Executive

conference round-up

Education Committee Chairman, Keith Maer reported on a hugely successful year for the GAI's educational activities and informed the conference about some new initiatives, including on-line and open learning options designed to keep the GAI's educational programme at the leading edge. Impressively, enrolments for this year's Education Programme are up (by one!) on last year! As from September, the Education manuals will be produced in electronic format – a huge financial and environmental boost for the GAI, as well as a boon for students.

Newly elected Honourary Treasurer John Jefferies of Laidlaw reported another solid financial year for the GAI and increasingly firm foundations for future consolidation which will leave the GAI well positioned to weather any storm the downturn may bring.

Technical Committee Chairman, Paul Duggan from Exova (formerly Warrington apt) reported on significant developments in the harmonisation of European Standards, CE Marking of doorsets, and plans for tougher policing of CE certification.

New Communications Committee Chairman, Shafiq Sharif of Laidlaw reported on a successful year including recent developments in the promotion of GuildMark, the continuing development of the GAI website and plans for future marketing activity. He also announced a new GAI membership survey, calling for an open and honest flow of views and opinions in order that the GAI can give its members better value for money and the services they need.

Andy Howland, the Chairman of the Institute of Architectural Ironmongers reported on a successful year for the Institute with full programmes in all regions and attendance at events reaching new highs. He also reported back on exciting plans to establish a branch in Ireland.



AGM UPDATE

The GAI AGM formed the formal part of the day's proceedings, electing officers and formalising decisions.

The following officers with voting rights were elected:

President: **Andrew Hall**, GEZE UK

Vice President: **Phil Newson**, Allgood

Honourary Treasurer: **John Jefferies**, Laidlaw Solutions

The Executive Committee was also elected, consisting of:

Eoin Corcoran, Balmar

Nick Dooley, KABA

Paul Duggan, Exova

Wayne Harris, Harbrine

Keith Holt, HOPPE

Andy Howland, GEZE UK

Paul Johnson, Assa Abloy

Keith Maer, KABA

Douglas Masterson, MB Architectural

Nick McGrail, Frank Allart

Nish Mohamed, Em-B

Shafiq Sharif, Laidlaw Solutions

Graham Shirville, Allgood

Maria Simmonds, Lorient

David Stacey, DORMA

Chris Taylor, 3V Architectural

In addition **Gary Amer**, CEO, is a member of the Executive Committee and has voting rights.

Conference also ratified changes to the GAI's Memorandum and Articles of Association. The changes were put forward by a small sub-committee consisting of Gary Amer, Nish Mohamed, Andrew Hall, John Jefferies and Graham Shirville who have given the organisation a much more modern and workable set of documents. The new Memorandum and Articles of Association can be viewed at the GAI web site at www.gai.org.uk

president's address



HALL MARK

This was President Andrew Hall's first conference in the role and he used his address to highlight some of the issues he hopes to tackle in the next two years. He outlined a number of long and short term goals, plus six key issues which are close to his heart.

Short Term Goals:

- **Admin:** upgrade and modernise the GAI's administration
- **Communications:** improve the functionality of the websites and review membership services and PR strategy
- **Consolidate** the improvements in the GAI's relationship with the RIBA
- **Improved financial management**

Long Term Goals:

- **Effective collaboration** with allied trade associations – the RIBA, DHI, DHF, BMF, BWF, CPA to name a few
- **Continue to improve** the content and delivery of our very well respected Education Programme
- **Continue to lobby** for higher technical standards in the UK
- **Further improve** operational efficiencies
- **Raise the awareness** and respect for Reg AI

Andrew also outlined the six key issues which will set the tone for his Presidency:

EDUCATION: this lies at the heart of the GAI's and Institute's activities and continues to be an enormous success with record enrolments for the current year and record levels of passes, last year. We are opening up a more modern, efficient method of delivery but we must also start to offer further learning opportunities, for example, specific one-off seminars, possibly learning from the DHI's Fire Door Assembly Inspection programme in the USA.

EMPHASIS ON THE AI: particularly the smaller ones. We are determined to get them more involved in the GAI and offer them more value.

We aim to continue to remove the "Manufacturer's Club" image with a number of measures such as the structure of the Executive Committee with an even balance of AI and manufacturer written into the new Articles of Association, clause 8.4

THE INSTITUTE: This is an intrinsic, essential part of the GAI, and

a vital communications conduit to the core of the AI industry. The GAI is working hard to remove the perception that the GAI and Institute are separate, unrelated organisations.

TECHNICAL: European standards continue to be important to our industry and the GAI must continue to influence their development by actively representing OUR industry on UK and European technical committees

FALSE OR MISLEADING PRODUCT CLAIMS: too many companies are still making misleading product claims and the GAI is determined to take more control over this issue. Everything in the AIJ is now independently vetted for accuracy by Warrington Certification and we are working to extend this stringent policing to all the claims member companies make in their literature and websites.

GUILD MARK: despite a difficult start this scheme is now up and running with twelve GuildMark member companies, each playing their part in promoting the scheme. The GAI will continue to promote it at every opportunity. The RIBA are, and will be, helping to create more awareness amongst their members.



Keynote speaker Chris Moon MBE

delegates relax



Delegates had the choice of an afternoon on the golf course, visiting nearby Stratford-upon-Avon, laser clay pigeon shooting or rounding up ducks! In the evening the guests remained shaken but not stirred at a James Bond themed gala dinner. Roulette and Black Jack tables kept everyone busy before they danced the night away in a beautiful marquee.

MAKING ACCESSIBILITY ACCESSIBLE

The GAI has issued guidance to specifiers and stakeholders with regard to the complex area Accessibility for All, with a new Technical Update. This new guide offers straightforward advice on the changes in this field in the recently published BS 8300 and is available free of charge at www.gai.org.uk.

This area has long been a source of confusion for stakeholders due to issues identified in the original BS 8300 published in October 2001 and its conflicts with Approved Document M, most noticeably concerning opening forces and visual contrast. The original Code of Practice often identified issues and problems, without providing solutions or guidance in how to solve them.

The new Technical Update from the GAI gives detailed guidance on these changes as they relate to architectural ironmongery and doors, including substantial changes in handrail design and fixing, clear widths through doorways, the design of vision panels, and manual door opening and closing furniture. There are also extensive amendments to the way in which internal doors are scheduled.

The new BS8300 now clarifies the way in which specifiers use light reflectance values (LRVs) to assess visual contrast between door opening furniture and the face of the door. The GAI Technical Update sets out how specifiers can specify and test to meet the new standard in an uncomplicated way.

