



The Fibreoptic Industry Association

[www.fia-online.co.uk](http://www.fia-online.co.uk)

Secretary: Jane Morrison

The Manor House  
BUNTINGFORD  
Hertfordshire SG9 9AB  
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0) 1763 273039 Fax: +44 (0) 1763 273255

e-mail: [jane@fiasec.demon.co.uk](mailto:jane@fiasec.demon.co.uk)

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Paul Bateson - Chairman



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Secretary: Jane Morrison

The Manor House  
BUNTINGFORD  
Hertfordshire SG9 9AB  
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0) 1763 273039 Fax: +44 (0) 1763 273255

e-mail: [jane@fiasec.demon.co.uk](mailto:jane@fiasec.demon.co.uk)

## **FIA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018 - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Succession planning – a phrase that I'm afraid will crop up more frequently in the coming years! All being well I intend to retire in March 2020 and so have advise Council that I will be stepping down at the next AGM in 2019. Time perhaps to look for new blood to bring some youthful vitality to bolster the excellent work undertaken on your behalf by a dedicated and committed Council who strive every year to keep you, the membership, informed and enthused about everything to do with fibre, associated technologies and industry standards

The FIA Council and support staff have worked tirelessly to maintain a positive financial position and halt the fall in membership seen in previous years. The dreaded 'B' word and other political uncertainties, both nationally and internationally, still affect our markets – but it is not all 'doom and gloom'. The FIA have revamped and launched the new website and continue to promote the FIA AIS and other initiatives. Please lend us you support and ensure that your colleagues and customers appreciate what the FIA offer in technical support, training guidance and standards bodies representation.

John Marson ensured our 2018 Summer Seminar was bigger and better than last year. Our thanks must go him, the main sponsors, Mills Ltd and Fluke Networks, as well as other sponsors, table top exhibitors and speakers for making it such a memorable experience, including an excellent presentation from Chris Condor MBE (B4RN) and the after-dinner speech from Dr Simeon Barber (The Open University). Who will forget handling moon rock?

Membership numbers hover around the 160 mark (currently 157) and as ever we still need to work hard to lift this to a more sustainable 200 members. Please help us to help you by raising the profile of the FIA at every opportunity.

Mike Gilmore continues to provide first class support for Standard activities on behalf of the FIA, representing your interests on European and International Standards committees and various trade bodies. Indeed, such is his standing he received an accolade for his services to 'Information Technology' in the IEC1906 Awards and was a nominee 'BSI Standards Awards in the International Standard Maker category. That just goes to show what a great ambassador he is for the FIA and we owe him a great debt of thanks for all his work.

Our Communications Director, Jonathan Lewis, manages the FIA website and drives initiatives such search optimisation, booking of Summer Seminar places, payment of membership fees etc. He continues to produce the excellent quarterly Newsletter, now migrated to a solely electronic publication, and, with the support of his employer, Huber & Suhner, participates in UK Standards Development.

Alan Bullen, our Treasurer, ably supported by Margaret McFarlane in the accounts, have kept out tight rein on our finances and have, through careful management, reduced our overall operating costs. Alan will table his Treasurers Report separately.

The AIS Scheme underwent some significant changes in 2018. With technologies and associated standards maturing it is getting harder to attract participants to the seminars and so the AIS Director, Frank Kler, and Council, revisited the AIS requirements and held one event at the Summer Seminar and a further two in October (one in the South and one in the North). Frank is also involved in an IET initiative to develop a Code of Practice for the NHS that should help members of the AIS differentiate themselves when tendering in this market.

Following the departure of Simon Comben, our Training Director, Nigel Hedges, has taken on the role of MoD Liaison and is currently investigating requirements for MoD N Cage accreditation. He has also overseen the qualification of new, and requalification of existing, Approved Trainers during 2018. He maintains his oversight of the FIA Training & Qualifications Committee (TQC), supported by John Colton who acts as secretary, and it is hoped that there will be more members on this Committee when it next meets in 2019.

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