

Brian Simmonite awarded honorary fellowship of the Institute of Highway Incorporated Engineers

At the end of November Brian Simmonite was presented with an Honorary Fellowship by the Institute of Highway Incorporated Engineers (IHIE). To mark the occasion, a prestigious group of people representing the great and the good from traffic signals industry met in Nottingham's Park Plaza Hotel for a celebratory dinner organised by the Institute.

Tony Sharp of South Gloucestershire, the current IHIE President, in making the presentation reminded everyone of the important milestones in Brian's career. After graduating from Loughborough University, Brian joined Nottingham City Council and the relatively new specialism of traffic signal design and urban traffic control. It was here that he began to write Basic programmes, producing his application SigAsp. Following a move to Lincolnshire County Council as Signals Manager, he developed LinSig, which led to a demand for training courses and workshops and JCT consultancy was formed. Eventually Brian left the day job to concentrate on developing the new business.

Tony Sharp continued: 'In an industry that isn't short of people willing to push boundaries, Brian has a reputation for innovation and trouble shooting. He has always challenged our ideas of what can be done, never accepting that there isn't a solution to whatever is the current problem.' There were plenty of milestones to celebrate. LinSig has gone from strength to strength with version 3 expected in a few months. The Consultancy recently moved into new purpose built offices, and of course the annual symposium regularly attracts around 250 delegates with signals on their minds. As Tony Sharp put it, 'if you don't come away from the event having learnt something or questioning why we currently do things in a particular way, then you are just not trying.'

What not everyone in the room that night might have known is just how vigorously Brian has also pursued his love of sport. Most people know he is a life-long supporter of Chelsea football club, but he is also chairman of the East Midlands modern pentathlon association, was a country champion for the butterfly stroke and has competed regularly in numerous half marathons and pentathlons. He is also a railway enthusiast.

Thanking Brian for his many contributions to the profession, Tony paid particular tribute to his pioneering work writing computer software tools. 'Brian has been able to clearly define the subject and pass on new



valuable skills. Long may he continue to do so. It is time to recognise the debt that we owe him which is why it gives me the greatest pleasure to present Brian with this Honorary Fellowship.'

The event was made possible by sponsorship from Buchanan Computing, Colin Buchanan, JSTMS, Sanderson Associates and Siemens.

Operations Traffic Technology Divisional Director, stressed the importance and need for greater integration and collaboration between the HA and local authorities in order to improve the efficiency of operations and the management of the overall road network. Stakeholder consultation and participation in the Vision and Strategy are seen as key ingredients to the success of INM.

In order to inform the nature of consultations and the level of engagement with different stakeholders, a list of valued stakeholders and their particular areas of interest will be finalised over the next five months as part of initial project scope.

If you are interested in being considered for inclusion in the Interest Group or simply to be kept informed of the INM project developments, contact the HA by emailing INMInterestGroup@mmbassociates.co.uk

New for Traffex 2009

New for Traffex 2009 is a three-day seminar programme which will be free to attend and is being organised by ITS United Kingdom and the Institution of Highways and Transportation. The seminar programme will take place in a completely new, purpose-built seminar theatre and will offer visitors a wide range of topical briefings and insights from the traffic industry's leading experts.

The event will also have a Passive Safety Zone where visitors can see the results of live crash testing and obtain free advice from the experts on the use of passively safe products in designing safer roads.

2009, for the first time, will also see the addition of Street Design, a new event for urban design in the public realm. Show Director Bill Butler says that the addition of Street Design, together with Traffex and Parkex, means that the next event, with over 500 exhibitors, will offer

an even more integrated overview of the transport, parking and external street design sector. To catch up on all 2009 features visit www.traffex.com

retro-fitted at existing high risk site. The report can be downloaded from the EuroRAP website at www.eurorap.org

Motorcycle champion a must to cut deaths

Highways authorities across the UK must appoint a motorcycle champion, tasked specifically with safer road design for bikers. This is the conclusion of EuroRAP who, led by European programme director Joanne Hill, has drawn together a panel of experts from across Europe to examine experiences and practices throughout the world. This panel has produced a report, Barriers to change: designing safe roads for motorcyclists, which calls for new and immediate guidance on the design and positioning of crash barriers, showing road engineers where motorcycle friendly systems should be fitted at new sites, and

Design guide adopted

A regional highway design manual, *Highways Transportation and Development* (Htd), which was adopted by Leicester City Council early in 2008, has now been endorsed by Derbyshire County Council. Nottinghamshire County Council is also carrying out a consultation process with the intention of adopting the guide. Htd is a guide to designing and providing transport infrastructure for new housing and employment developments and contains information for developers on what facilities they should provide for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users. It also contains technical details about road layouts, specifications and legal matters.