

IHIE Scotland

Campbell Divertie is one of that very engaged and committed team of IHIE members who have made this Branch such a thriving success in recent years. The main key to success he identifies is “the support of the branch members” and the way to achieve that support he says is to have a committee drawn from across the whole area covered by the Branch. Another key, of course, is unremitting attention to ensuring a steady flow of good and relevant events for members to attend. In addition Campbell identifies the importance of holding events in an attractive venue – a nice hotel, for example. Institutional meeting places are “too much like a continuation of the working day, and can put people off”.



The way to select good meetings, and to then find good presenters, is to ensure that the technical content is appropriate and the content interesting, and the full committee needs to be part of the selection and planning process as one person cannot continuously come up with excellent ideas, well executed.

Another useful aspect of the Branch’s role is the networking opportunities it provides people with. These have a direct and valuable role in putting members together to share experiences and expertise as new problems arise. The Branch is also an important engine for encouraging members to go for registration or CEng with recently successful registrants offering advice and support. More formal mentoring is also provided, although on a small scale as yet and local reviewers recently helped present at a course for Highland Council.

Campbell sees the Branch as very much the public face of the national organisation, particularly as IHIE’s Head Office, (its only office), is in London. (Although this might seem remote, the Scottish representative, Graham Milne, finds that in fact air travel puts it only a couple of hours away).

The South of Scotland committee meetings are usually held to the west of Edinburgh, whereas technical meetings (six each year) are held in locations that favour those coming more from the East and from the West alternately in order to ensure a good turnout .

Locally, members are heavily involved on a number of big projects, including infrastructural enhancements ahead of the Commonwealth Games in 2014, which should make for some interesting meetings.

Last year’s highlight though, which managed to combine the Branch’s social as well as its technical role, was a much enjoyed visit to the Cheshire Salt Mines.

The Branch also has its own website which is updated regularly and can be used more extensively in conjunction with IHIE’s website, which has just been significantly upgraded.