INTRODUCTION

As I write our new President, John Field, has been in-place for almost a month. The AGM and Presidential Address was very well attended at the Royal Society on the 5th May. John’s address was entitled “Improving Performance: Getting CIBSE to the next level” and can be viewed on YouTube via cibse.org – I commend it to you. John is a resident of Balham so must be the most local President yet and he has already been a frequent visitor to Delta House. I also must reflect on our outgoing President; Nick has had some challenges in his year but I know he looks back on some wonderful experiences and a job well done. Almost to mark the event, Nick married his long-standing partner Linda just a week after relinquishing the Presidential Jewel. For all of the CIBSE folk that were able to be with them at their wedding it was a great day - a very happy occasion and the weather obliged too.

Life is often full of surprises, I reflect on this as I am unexpectedly in England rather than France this week. Having spent 15 months organising a car rally to Cognac it had to be postponed at the last minute because of the French Industrial action and fuel shortages – I can push a car only so far with no fuel! CIBSE life is also full of surprises and hidden joys – I never cease to be amazed at the huge support there is from so many of our members and the companies we come into contact with. While I was pretty cross at postponing the rally and dealing with the participants who were very disappointed, I had to concentrate on the positive and opportunity a few days at Home would bring. And so it is with CIBSE - we all need to look for the positive and there is so much, some of which is described in the following pages.

Technical Symposium  Our sixth Technical Symposium, “Integration for Whole Life Performance” held at Heriot Watt University was another outstanding success. Over two days, 14-15 April, with three streams, and circa 60 speakers and 180 delegates, created, yet again, a really positive buzz – the technical standards are constantly improving. The Technical Symposium has a simple aim of engaging with our members in a vibrant and relatively affordable way. Low-key but high quality – I always enjoy the Posters and the Poster presentations, impressed by the scope of the research and enthusiasm of the researchers. We also had a delegation “on-line” from Dubai who added a very new and exciting dimension. “The Debate – putting your head above the parapet” lead by our stalwart, Richard Rooley, was a new facet that attracted very positive feedback and much laughter at the end of Day 1. Our evening reception at Edinburg Castle, complete with a piper, was another success. It was all very positive and our sponsors clearly loved it too. There was another indicator this year that I think is significant, not only was the age profile significantly younger but the diversity of the participants very noticeable - Building Services across the globe engaging the whole profession. Again, I must thank not only those who participated but also the hard working team; do try and join us at Loughborough next April this is a truly wonderful event.

Visit to UAE  Immediately after the Technical Symposium Nick Mead, Carilyn Burman and I departed for the Gulf, I have no doubt Carilyn will wish to cover this visit in greater detail. What struck me in Qatar was the enthusiasm and support for CIBSE; Doha is still maturing as a city and there is much expected from the 2022 World Cup with the realisation that good design and well-managed development is the key to success. While all would agree there is a long way yet to go there is no doubting the determination to succeed and the appetite for CIBSE advice and support.

We then moved to Dubai, for me since my last visit, four years ago, there had been significant and positive changes from a CIBSE perspective. The Regional Committee has some real drive and potential plus a view of what the future holds. I cannot stress how difficult and complex it has been to achieve a “legal entity” for CIBSE in Dubai but this now allows us to hold a bank account, run events in our own name and generally operate legally – the highlight of our trip was a celebratory dinner with 200 guests to mark the birth of the CIBSE UAE Region. This is the first new Region for 29 years, other than the question why has it taken so long, I am sure you will all join with us not...
only to welcome the new UAE Region, but also to congratulate them on this significant event. I hope we shall not have to wait such a long time for our next new Region.

Another positive sign of growth is that this is the first Council meeting for Jane Bastow, who will be updating us on the growth of ILEVE, the Institute of Local Exhaust Ventilation Engineers, our newest Division. We welcome Jane, who has taken over the Chair of ILEVE from Wally Gilder, who spearheaded the formation and establishment of ILEVE five years ago, and I am also pleased to welcome Wally to Council as an elected member. This is another sign of growth in CIBSE, though Jane and Wally will be the first to tell us that there is much more to do to take ILEVE to the next level.

**Board Away Day – Cumberland Lodge** On the 11/12 May the new Board gathered. The first day a strategic look at CIBSE Knowledge and then on the second day prior to the Board meeting, Membership CIBSE Broadening. We were supported by a number of experts to help our deliberations and for the first time four YEN were invited – the impact from the YEN was significant and extremely helpful. The whole two days was very positive and a wide range of issues were discussed but the whole tone and atmosphere was very encouraging for the coming year. In particular for the development of the Knowledge Portal (KP) and how we encourage the creation, production and dissemination of knowledge, building upon the success of the KP.

**Governance Review** You will be aware that the Governance Task Force reported to the Board last January and the recommendations were approved in-principle. The implementation of the recommendations were also reported to the Board in May and Nick Mead, as our Immediate President Elect, is leading on this and I anticipate that Nick will provide an update to Council. As organisations grow and circumstances change often the culture and governance has also to change, no one can say “governance is complete” as it is always subject to review and I hope that a continuous review will be the norm from now on. I must also mention the recent electronic ballot carried out on behalf of CIBSE by the Electoral Reform Society which, I believe it was widely felt to be a success. Indeed from a turnout perspective we saw a substantial increase to 21% and for the Institution it was less expensive than a paper option, although some members still prefer paper and we continue to provide that too.

**IT/CRM** We continue to work hard to develop the new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) and get to the “go live” date in July, yes that is very close now! We are almost at the end of User Acceptance Testing (UAT) when we try and break the new system. I don’t want to test fate as well but so far all the news from UAT has been positive, pause for huge sigh of relief, but we still have some way to go. I hope none of you will have noticed but we have moved the Content Management System (CMS) or website onto a new, more stable platform which will allow us to migrate to the new CRM, I cannot put into words how complex and stressful this project has been, but the goal remains the same though to create a first class membership organisation our business processes being automated as far as possible in order to give an excellent membership focus.

Finally, I would like to return to John’s theme of “getting CIBSE to the next level”. The framework for us is the 2020 Strategic vision, I reproduce the graphic – it is getting all these aspects in-place and synchronised and like any gearbox it does require good design, manufacture and operation plus effective maintenance and lubrication. CIBSE is an exciting place. Thank you.
CIBSE VISION 2020