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Newsletter of the Commissioning Specialists Association

This Edition of Index is sponsored by:



CSA NEW CHAIRMAN & VICE



We are very happy to announce that Mr. Neil Burdess of Banyards took the reigns as CSA Chairman on 11 November 2021 at the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING which

was held before the Gala Awards evening at the Guoman Tower Bridge Hotel and Mr Andrew Watkin of Airtech Premier has kindly volunteered to be temporary Vice Chairman.

- More details on page 3.





CSA GALA AWARDS EVENING HELD ON 11 NOVEMBER AT TOWER BRIDGE HOTEL

FULL DETAILS OF WINNERS AND FINALISTS AND OF THE EVENING INSIDE

CSA SOCIAL MEDIA #CSAHORSHAM or #COMMISSIONING

NEW MEMBERS We would like to welcome the following new members to the Association.

Corpoarte Members: STRAIGHTLINE CONSULTING.

Individual Members: GLEN CONLON, KEVIN GARDNER, ALAN SHEARER, PAUL BECKETT, ROBERT MAXWELL, JOSEPH ROBB, JOSHUA HURST, DAVID CLARKE, DALE WHITE, CRAIG EADIE, JACK RYAN, LANCE BARON, CALUM ALEXANDER, BEN FAURIE, DAVID GRIMWOOD, DYLAN BODELL, JOSS CURTIS, REECE BRIGGS, MAX BLOMILEY, DARYL O'NEIL, FRASER COUTTS, LEWIS FAIRLIE, ALLAN DOWDEN, BRYN HOWELLS, SAM BURGOINE, LUKE TUCKER.



Jules' News

for 2021. Firstly I would like to thank Mark Todd of Ashford Environmental Services Ltd for his 3 year tenure as CSA Chairman – It was so unfortunate that nearly 2 of Marks years were coping with the COVID pandemic which made it hard to achieve what he wanted to



for the CSA. Mark wrote some excellent articles in MBS et al., and is a confident and

entertaining speaker. He also represented the CSA at various other bodies seminars i.e. CIBSE, BCIA and BSRIA. We will miss his great sense of humour and his laid back approach but he always got the job done! He was very helpful to us girls in the CSA office and was always there to listen when we needed him. Thank you Mark!

We welcome Neil Burdess as our new Chairman for the next 3 years and look forward to working with him. So it's all new again. (I have had a lot of Chairmen in my 21 years with the CSA!) ::

Your renewal of membership invoices will be emailed/sent to you all soon and we now have PAYPAL facilities and a PAY NOW button will be on the electronic copy of your invoice, so there is no excuse not to pay this promptly plus if you pay within 45 days from date of invoice you receive a 10% discount.

I would like to thank all those sponsors and attendees of the Gala Awards event on 11 November and It just leaves me to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year!



Distance Learning Courses A, B & C

Well Done to those listed below who have recently passed the DLC tests.

DLC A

DALE WHITE, HAYDEN ROBINSON, ADAM HOBBS, ALEX HARKER, EOIN CUMMINS, RYHS MCKENNA, TAYLOR HARRINGTON, LIAM DRAKE

DLC B

GEORGE MCDONOUGH, PAUL FLOODY, KIERAN MCARDLE, ADAM MURRAY, ASHIN RAJASEKHARAN, JOSHUA SMITH, DANIEL NEWTON, BEN WHEATHELLEY

DLC C

DECLAN O'CONNOR, CRAIG WHITE, ADAM MURRAY, JACK GIBSON

GRADE 4 EXAM RESULTS FROM 16 OCTOBER 2021 EXAM

Well Done to those listed below who have re-cently passed the Grade 4 Exam.

ANTHONY BYRON, MATT WILDING, ROVEN LIPORADA, GENMER SILVA, JITHESH KUMAR, MOHIDEEN ABDUL KHADER, ANGELO ACOB, SYED NIYAS, MOHAMMED SHASTRI, AMMAR OMAR MAHMOUD ALJAMAL, QUASIM MAHATAB, AHMED, BURAK OZKAN.

The next Grade 4 Exam will be 28 MAY 2022. Please email CSA office to book.

GRADE 5 PASSES

Congratulations to those listed who passed the GRADE 5 THESIS.

CHRIS MORAN

BARRY GIBB

RICHARD DINNAGE



CSA NEW CHAIRMAN 2021-2024

Banyards.

Neil Burdess is 15th Chairman of the Commissioning Specialists Association (CSA). Neil will succeed retiring chairman Mark Todd of Ashford Environmental Services Ltd. The official hand-over took place at the Commissioning Specialists Association's AGM on 11th November.

Commenting on his appointment Neil said:

"I am delighted to be taking over the role as chairman for the next three years having been a member of the CSA since starting as a trainee commissioning engineer, straight out of school in 1993.

Employed as an apprentice, under the direction of the late Brian Townsend (End Systems), CSA chairman between 1994-1996, who guided myself and his other commissioning engineers through the CSA training scheme. From there to Banyards, huge advocates of the CSA, where I've been for the past 8 years. Nick Till a former Chairman himself (2009-2011) and David Cocksedge, who presently sits on the technical committee, were very keen for me to join one of the CSA committees; I initially joined the Training committee providing input into the content for Grades 1 to 4 and in 2018 joined the Application / Upgrade committee and Northern committee.

For the last 28 years the CSA has always been at the forefront of my mind, with the CSA commissioning compendium being one of the tools I use on a frequent basis.

During my time as the CSA's chairman my goal is to move the association forward, modernising the CSA offerings such as online training and exams that will keep the CSA moving forward utilising the latest information technology.

We will also be looking at the development path for commissioning managers that brings more balance to the grading system, as we recognise that the current Grade 1 to 6 is heavily weighted towards mechanical commissioning.

These days a commissioning manager can be witnessing systems as simple as an extract to a heavily serviced building with Integrated systems testing and smart building technology."



Nick Till, Managing Director at Banyards and a former Chairman of the CSA said:

"I am delighted that Neil has been appointed Chairman of the CSA, he is well known in the industry, and I am confident that Neil's experience, coupled with his background in the CSA coming up from a trainee engineer through to chairing subcommittees, will give him a sound footing to implement the growth strategies he is passionate about."



CSA GALA AWARDS HELD 11 NOVEMBER 2021 AT THE GUOMAN TOWER BRIDGE HOTEL, ST KATHERINE'S DOCK, LONDON

We are delighted to have finally held the CSA Gala Awards Evening on 11 November 2021 at the Guoman Tower Bridge Hotel, St. Katherine's Dock by the River Thames in London.

The dinner and presentation ceremony had previously been cancelled in June 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The evening was well attended bringing together some of the Commissioning sector to recognise and reward the achievements of both individuals and companies in this industry.

Listed below are all the Finalists and Winners and we congratulate all those who were selected as a Finalist. The comprehensive judging process, which this year was a remote assessment and scoring of each entry with a virtual gathering of the CSA judging panel and from this, 23 finalists of 7 categories were assessed.

Project of the Year – Sponsored by BSRIA Instrument Solutions FINALISTS

- Expo Villagte Dubai UAE, AESG
- Battersea Power Station Phase 2. Ashford Environmental Services
- T-Zone, 11-21 Canal Reach Kings Cross, BAM Construction/ Argent/Crosscount
- Sir William Hentry Bragg Building, Integrat-ed Campus for Engineering and Physical Science (ICEPS), Banyards
- The NOW Buildling Outernet London St Giles Circus, Banyards
- Manchester Engineering Campus Devel-opment, NG Baily

WINNER

The NOW Building – Outernet London, St. Giles Circus – BANYARDS

Product Innovation of the Year – Sponsored by Media Control Management FINALISTS

- Banyards Insite
- BASgatewayLX Modbus to BACnet Gateway, Comtemporary Controls
- Nucleus Project Managtement Software, HDR

WINNER

Banyards Insite

Commissioning Provider of the Year – Sponsored by Modern Building Services FINALISTS

- AESG
- Aittech Premier
- Ashford Environmental Services
- Banvards
- Engineering Commissioning Services
- Global Commissioning
- Media Control

WINNER

Ashford Environmental Services

Commissioning Management Award – Sponsored by HDR FINALISTS

- Thomas Townley, AESG
- Mark Pritchard, Airtech Premier
- Liam O'Donnell, Ashford Environmetal Services
- Tony Craig, Banyards

WINNER

Tony Craig, Banyards

Investment in Training Award – Sponsored by VEXO FINALIST

- Airtech Premier Academy
- Ashford Environmental Services
- Global Commissioning Management & Software

WINNER

Ashford Environmental Services

Student of the Year – Sponsored by RED Engineering FINALISTS

- George Dickinson, Airtech Premier
- Neil Allen, AIS
- Adam Murray, HDR
- Stephen Mancell, NG Bailey
- Ant Byron, Pureflow Commissioning
- Kalimulla Palekar, RED Engineering

WINNER

Adam Murrey, HDR

Engineer of the Year – Sponsored by Ashford Environmental Services FINALIST

- Frederick Alconcel, AESG
- James Vigurs, Airtech Premier
- *Joe McCulloch, EnviroCom

WINNER

James Vigurs, Airtech Premier

Lifetime Contribution Award – Sponsored by CSA WINNER

* Paul Brown



CSA GALA AWARDS WINNERS

Category	Winner
Commissioning Management Award Sponsored by HDR	Tony Craig, Banyards
Project of the Year Sponsored by BSRIA Instrument Solutions	Banyards – The NOW Building – Outernet London – St Giles Circus
Product Innovation of the Year Sponsored by Media Control Management	Banyards— Insite
Commissioning Provider of the Year Sponsored by Modern Building Services	Ashford Environmental Services Ltd
Investment in Training Award Sponsored by VEXO	Ashford Environmental Services Ltd
Student of the Year Sponsored by RED Engineering	Adam Murray, HDR
Engineer of the Year Sponsored by Ashford Envir Services Ltd	James Vigurs, Airtech Premier
Lifetime Contribution Sponsored by CSA	Paul Brown, CSA Honorary Member





PAUL BROWN LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION AWARD

Paul Brown first started in the commissioning industry in 1989 working with Commtech and was a key member of the team until they closed in 2010.

He was a founding Director of Prime Environmental Services Ltd and worked there as a Commissioning Manager until the summer of 2018.

Paul became a member of the CSA in 1990 and joined the Training Sub-Committee in 1995. He then took over as the Chairman of the Training Sub-Committee in 2007 and undertook this role for 9 years only stepping down in December 2015.

Paul still remains on the Training Sub-Committee and was the first person who took and passed all the CSA exams and assessments from Grade 1 to 6!

As a result of his hard work and dedication to the CSA, Paul was Awarded Honorary Membership of the CSA in June 2016 at the Gala Awards Ceremony.

Even though he is now retired and has a busy life, especially with his grandchildren, he still finds time to work tirelessly for the CSA and actively participates in the meetings.

In addition to marking the students Distance Learning Courses homework, he writes the Grade 4 Technical and Theory examinations and also marks these – sometimes there are over 60 papers to mark after one Grade 4 exam!

With his experience and knowledge he a valuable member of the committee, and a real help to the CSA office.

We really appreciate everything he has done and continues to do for the Association.

Paul is a true gentleman and definitely one of the Best!

Well Done and Thank you Paul!

GALA AWARDS 2021



Paul Sinha from The Chase was speaker at the awards evening, who was fabulous and very entertaining.

Neo the magician also was part of the entertainment and he circulated the tables performing lots of fantastic magic tricks.

The Chairman's choice of Charity this year was MIND and we raised over £1000. Mind is a mental health charity in England and Wales. Founded in 1946 as the National Association for Mental Health, it celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2016. Mind offers information and advice to people with mental health problems and lobbies government and local authorities on their behalf.



Heads and Tails Game for Mind Charity



Neo the Magician with his card tricks



Paul Sinha happy to have his photo taken with everyone – especially his No.1 fan Tracey Horton





Roy Tyler of MEDIA Control and CSA past Vice Chairman was one of the sponsors of the event and had 3 tables for all their team to also celebrate their 30th Anniversary.



Chairman's Say



As my first entry into the CSA Index I would like to thank Mark Todd for his past 3 years a CSA chairman and for handing over a tightly ran ship. I'm looking forward to working with Andrew Watkin who has stepped in as Vice chairman even though only a few years ago he was the CSA chairman, also pleased to be working alongside the various CSA subcommittees and the CSA office staff.

I am delighted to be taking over the role as chairman for the next three years having been a member of the CSA since starting as a trainee commissioning engineer, straight out of school in 1993.

Employed as an apprentice, under the direction of the late Brian Townsend (End Systems), CSA chairman between 1994 -1996, who guided myself and his other commissioning engineers through the CSA training scheme. From there to Banyards, huge advocates of the CSA, where I've been for the past 8 years. Nick Till a former Chairman himself (2009-2011) and David Cocksedge, who at present sits on the technical committee, were very keen for me to join one of the CSA committees. So, a special thanks must be given to Brian, Nick and Dave for the trust and guidance they have given me over the years.

For the last 28 years the CSA has always been at the forefront of my mind, with the CSA commissioning compendium being one of the tools I use on a frequent basis.

It has been a few weeks since the CSA AGM & annual CSA Awards Gala Dinner which was well attended, we acknowledged some excellent achievements on the evening, congratulations to all the winners and finalists you are a merit to our industry. I would like to give a special thanks and congratulations to Paul Brown on his lifetime achievement award, having worked closely with Paul on the assessment panel for the past seven years and more recently developing the commissioning management grading system, Paul is a true asset to the commissioning industry and I'm looking forward to working with Paul for many more years to come.

We could not do the CSA awards without the sponsors so a special thanks to Airtech Premier, Ashford, BSRIA, Cross Count, HDR, Media Control, MBS, PW White & Partners, RED & Vexo. Everyone enjoyed themselves on the night and even our entertainment joined in the spirit of the evening and was in the bar with the rest of us until guite late!

During my time as the CSA's chairman my goal is innovate the CSA's offerings with online training and exams that will keep the CSA moving forward with the technology trend all of which would not be possible without our dedicated committee that volunteers hours of valuable time to the association to ensure that the CSA remains at the forefront of 'making buildings work'.

We are also working alongside CIBSE to redevelop Commissioning Code M which are significant CIBSE guidance, referenced in the Approved Documents, to comply with the Building Regulation requirements for commissioning. Recognising the importance of CIBSE Code M and the need to include emerging Building Safety requirements and low or zero carbon designs, a technical update is underway in partnership with the Commissioning Specialist Association and an industry wide steering group, which provides a strong focus and brings expert practitioner expertise, look out for the publication mid-2022.

Early 2022 our new CSA commissioning managers grading system will be released which brings more balance to the existing grading system, as we recognise that the current Grade 1 to 6 is heavily weighted towards mechanical commissioning. These days a commissioning manager can be witnessing systems as simple as an extract to a heavily serviced building with Integrated systems testing and smart building technology. More thanks to Paul Brown and my old mate Lee Hewitt (Middle East GCC Chapter Chairman) for the assistance in developing the new CM grades. More news on this soon!

All that's left to say is thank you to all of our members for your continued support and hope all your company Xmas parties have been as enjoyable and eventful as BoJo's were last year! I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING





The 31st AGM was held at the Tower Bridge Hotel, St. Kathrine's Walk, London E1 before the Gala Awards evening. It was attended by many of our members and we appreciate those who attended and travelled from far afield to be with us and support us.

Mark Todd opened the meeting and announced that the official hand-over of Chairman to Neil Burdess will take place at this meeting.

MT reported Covid and the impending withdrawal agreement or lack thereof due to Brexit has meant that they have been tumultuous to say the least. However, the Association continues to support its members, given our foundation of hard work and sheer effort of the past 31 years and this year has been one where support has been paramount.

We have continued to grow and increase our membership both individual and corporate. A hearty thanks must be given to Julie, Jo, and Tracey without whose sterling support, we would no doubt have faltered. Alan Cram, the Treasurer and every member of our committees and the sub-committees must also receive praise for their tireless work. Sincerely thanks to all.

As the annual CSA Awards Gala Dinner and Ceremony were sadly cancelled in 2020 due to Covid, protecting our people was of the utmost importance to the association and something we will never compromise on, however, non-face to face meetings carried on over Zoom and Skype etc. As we faced challenging times, maintaining personal relationships in the industry was critical to our mental wellbeing. We are pleased that this event is happening this year, I think we all need a great night out!

When considering the coming year, it is incredibly difficult to predict the effects of the political decisions made prior and how we will tackle them. I would love to be able to say that there is a firm plan for the next twelve months but that simply is not the case. The Japanese have an analogy of being like the bamboo cane as it grows; epitomising strength and flexibility, and this is entirely how I see the industry having to be from now on. Manufacture, supply, staff, and projects in general will have to adopt a flexibility previously unseen in business as a whole due to the legal ramifications of Brexit and the social effects of Covid.

The CSA will continue to support the membership with facing these challenges as they arise and I have no doubt that the members will do the same for each other. Collaboration and cooperation have never been more necessary than now and I know that I have fostered this kind of energy both inside and outside of the association and that my peers shall do the same.

Communication is, as ever, key to constructive continuation and I encourage and invite all to keep open channels of communication in all aspects of their business. Take care of the mental and physical health and wellbeing of yourselves and your colleagues, and know that the CSA's door is open to all for resources in the success and survival of every member and their company. With an attitude open to going with the flow, adapting and overcoming, and maintaining strength and flexibility, 2021 can be fine year for all.

Each Sub-Committee Chairman went on to report progress and future key objectives of their individual Committee.

Neil Burdess reported the key objectives for 2021/2022 to be;

- Continued growth of GCC Chapters.
- Continue to market and promote Commissioning Management Training course to include online course.
- Continue to develop the Grade 7 Commissioning Management
- Develop online functions such as G4 exam, payments, downloadable content etc.

Full minutes of the meeting are available from the CSA office.





CSA Gala Awards – Myths Need Exploding

By Keith Barker, Tectonic Techniques



I happened to bump into the boss of one of the smaller Corporate Members a while ago and after the usual pleasantries we got to talking about work (don't we always?). Chatting about the sort of contracts he was involved with, I mention the CSA Awards and suggested he enter one of his jobs for the 'Project of the Year' category.

He quite readily dismissed the idea, suggesting that his projects were usually run of the mill, of reasonably short duration and didn't grab any headlines. As such, he hadn't considered putting forward an entry for the Awards because he felt he had no chance of winning.

This belief concerned me on two counts. Firstly, I was disappointed that people might actually think that way about our awards programme, and secondly, I was curious as to why. So I asked a fellow CSA Committee Member to explain the main entry criteria, and his response was both forthright and encouraging. He said:

- 1. The size of the project is irrelevant.
- 2. It doesn't have to be a particularly innovative or ground-breaking building it's the way in which the project was man-aged that counts not the gravitas of the job.
- 3. A key element is the online entry form which has to be completed:
 - Think carefully about what you write.
 - Using standard phrases in a 'copy & paste' job from the company brochure doesn't necessarily do you any favours.
 - Give plenty of detail about why it was such a good project what made that job stand out.
 - A testimonial from the client, will always add weight to any entry.

He made some other interesting points as well, namely:

- The judging process is based purely on the information presented via the entry forms, which offers a level playing field for everyone.
- The judging is totally transparent so people can't influence things for their 'mates'.
- Each judge has responsibility for scoring each entry, against the pre-set judging criteria, but it is the combined aggregate score of all the judges that determines the results.
- The totalling of the scores takes place after the judging session, so none of the judges know who the winners are in advance of the ceremony.

The person Charing the Judging Panel is not a CSA member company, or associated with any of the members, and so it completely impartial.

So, armed with this information, and having always being keen to explode possible myths and prejudices, I would suggest that the saying 'you can't win it, if you ain't in it' is really quite apt in this scenario. Please don't think there is little point in entering because a certain other company is likely to win, as that is a self-fulfilling prophecy. If you haven't bothered to enter, that certain other company must surely have a far better chance of winning.

With such a strong and transparent entry/judging process in place, every nomination is assessed on its relative merits, and so each one has an equal chance and do remember, just by making the list of finalists you'll be rewarded with a bucket load of publicity – which has to be of commercial value to any business, large or small.

CSA Awards website - www.csa-awards.co.uk.

The Future is Web-Based Commissioning Portals



In this day and age, it's now expected that commissioning consultancies have a web-based reporting portal that can provide clients with live and accurate data on commissioning progress, programme status and associated commissioning documentation.

This enables instant access to accurate, up-to-date information coupled with open communication and transparency among team members which ensures all interested parties are kept in alignment.

Real-time reporting improves the effectiveness of commissioning co-ordination, largely because it makes it easy for everyone to share information at the same time which reduces delays in workflow.

Our research found clients wanted simplicity and flexibility; at Banyards we wanted to give our clients an overall picture that tells a story about where the commissioning process is at, using friendly graphical information pages.

We also wanted a system that standardised and regulated the ways we report across all our projects from a quality assurance perspective. Looking further into what we, as a business required, we found our operations managers wanted a system that provided them with direct and instant access for monitoring their own projects and performance.

Our "Banyards Insite" portal uses summary graphs and graphics to show the progress status of commissioning, documentation and associated witnessing, complemented by tabulated tracking schedules, covering all MEP systems and assets. The graphics and widgets can be customised on a project-by-project basis and as per any client's bespoke requirements. We have embedded hyperlinks within the pages to navigate to our Microsoft SharePoint platform for access to copies of all commissioning documentation relating back to the tracking schedules, method statements, commissioning reports and handover documents.

Commissioning progress "S" curves are generated from the associated commissioning programme progress droplines, showing actual progress against planned work and for predicting what progress targets should look like for project completion.



There are many different ways that Commissioning progress can be portrayed however having a web-based portal is essential for real-time reporting, project team collaboration and client interaction.

Our "Banyards Insite" is fully backed up, supported and updates are continually being released, providing new features for our managers and clients, it also gives us this ability to make the system display virtually anything the project teams would want to see.

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