

Weekly Update 3 Humble Pie!



Susan is a saint! Behind the scenes she beavers away to ensure that dates, copy and arrangements are perfect. The envy of other Local Institutes. Then came Team M&S (not the store – Mark and Susan). We started well but I then ‘helped’ arrange the Croquet Evening. Shall we just say that Robin is kindly booking us in for the 9th July and any other dates should be ignored ;) . This year we have asked Zoe and David to rally the 2020 team so be prepared for a competitive evening. Many feel that we need a level playing field/lawn. Perhaps introduce a handicap that enables pro to play enjoyably against novices. Any ideas Robin?

Last week I mentioned how I’m always on the lookout for hidden talents. My search this week landed on Zoe. We have an expert Cocktail Mixer in our midst (and perhaps a few expert drinkers too!). So I have asked Zoe to create an IIS cocktail and I’m hoping we might arrange to toast IIS at the Croquet evening if we can deliver the recipe to Robin in time.

It’s been a quiet week for me on the IIS front and this was fortunate as N&G have been busy preparing for the BIBA Conference where Zurich has a stand. I suggested that Paul should visit the CII stand while in Manchester. Zurich along with many companies has embraced ‘Wellbeing’. A futuristic set of scales arrived in our office on Monday with height and blood pressure monitors. Many of us are disputing the results...

Phil has arranged the first Programme Team meeting on 8th June at Paula’s office in Haywards Heath. Thanks to Marsh for accommodating us. We already have many events in the diary so the idea is to spread out some new events to October. I will share the extended meeting planner with the Programme team so we can avoid clashes during busy weeks. I admit to a self-preservation motive as I balance home and work commitments and I know from feedback that I’m not unique in this.

Our spy in the North Downs camp, Matt, attended his first Council Meeting on Tuesday. Either they had a light agenda or are super efficient – he was home by 7 after a 5.00 start! There was enthusiasm about our joint event in October. I’m hoping you will get two Longfords for the price of one but don’t let this put you off coming. Wait for it ... it will be our first BOGOF event ;)

Charlotte Roch is arranging the first meeting of the CSR Team. This is very exciting and the team’s work may soon get wider recognition in the CII. Possibly even an article in The Journal. Charlotte had conversations about Mentoring at the AGM and has been speaking with ‘Albion in the Community’ about how modern Apprenticeships work. I can’t resist mentioning that the CII and Zurich are both finalists for the British Insurance Awards in July competing for the Diversity category. See <http://www.insuranceawards.com/static/shortlist-video>

My plans for next week

Richard’s brief to review the Manual to ensure it is relevant for ‘Sussex’ may cross over into our Induction training to ensure continuity. I will be connecting with both Colin and Richard to see how we can best deliver the training to our new Council members. And a refresher for us all.

I am attending Network Conference “NC15” on Wednesday and Thursday with Richard and Zoe. Every UK Local Institute will be represented so a great opportunity to share ideas and network. I’m looking forward to meeting Victoria Rees-Price, our Area Marketing Manager, and Robert Fletcher, the incoming CII National President who has accepted my invitation to attend our Annual Dinner. Victoria is hoping to attend our first Council Meeting so save the date, 10th June.

A highlight for me will be Melissa Kidd’s presentation “Making Yourself Memorable”. I hope I do for the right reason as I am joining Melissa on stage describing Sussex’s journey and 2020.

(Still) to catch up with Mandi on Network News. There has been a suggestion that we might be able to insert an IIS sheet targeted at our Sussex members.

Deliver the projector to Clair Hall in readiness for Mike Mason’s talk on Business interruption next Wednesday. Phil is introducing the talk and around 30 places have already been booked.

Collect ‘The Bell’ and artifacts from Phil. Zurich’s new UK CEO, Vibhu Sharma is visiting N&G shortly so our CII office display is sure to make a great talking point.

And finally, after my teaser last week...



Kate and I have qualified following our Nordic Walking course. I’d recommend it to anyone who enjoys combining the countryside with a work out. The alternative was adopting a dog so I think I got off lightly after speaking to Diana! Phil, perhaps a Nordic Walking taster on the Downs might make a lovely evening event followed by a drink?

Best wishes.



Mark Longford

PS I like to throw in one or two slips so that you know it’s me writing. I enjoyed the King’s Speech when Lionel Logue said to King George VI at the end “You still stammered a bit on the ‘W’. The King replied “Well, I had to throw in a couple so they would know it was me.” Your President follows the King’s precedent. E&OE!