

CHAIRMAN'S FOURTH QUARTER REPORT, MARCH 2019

Danny O'Brien, Chairman, CECA NW

I am pleased to provide the following report of the fourth quarter, in my second and final year as Chairman of CECA NW, together with details of plans for the rest of the year. I am grateful for the support I have received from my fellow CECA NW directors as well as the Executive Committee and the NW membership, in delivering a programme to continue to meet members' needs and aspirations. I would also like to wish my successor, Oliver Tolputt every success as Chairman of CECA NW, and offer him my full support.

I have greatly enjoyed my time as Chairman of CECA NW and CECA's Chairmen's Strategic Forum, and have been especially pleased with the progress made in both improving the image of the industry and attracting young people into civil engineering. There is much still to be done, but the efforts of the CECA NW Foundations group have been instrumental in getting the message across that our industry offers some of the very best career opportunities. They are currently planning a seminar for May.

Geraldine Fleming of Driver Trett kicked off the year with a seminar on the legal implications of Brexit – her timing was impeccable as it was the same day as the vote on Theresa May's proposed deal. Since then, Geraldine has run seminars on payment terms and NEC4, with more arranged for the rest of the year. We also started the year by supporting a rail-themed mock trial, attended by over 40 professionals, to show the risks and complexities involved in working under time pressures and difficult weather conditions.

We have held meetings with United Utilities, STAR Procurement, and Greater Manchester's highways directors. More are being planned, but please let us know if there are other organisations you would like us to arrange a meeting with. In March, we also attended a meeting with leader of Manchester City Council, Sir Richard Leese, together with the NW Construction & Infrastructure Alliance.

With members located throughout the North West, it is more important than ever that we put on events across the region, and your ideas will be most welcome. Our second CECA North by NW Dinner will take place in Penrith on 23 May, and there will be a seminar on NEC compensation events, also in Penrith on 11 June.

On 4 July, our annual Golf Day returns to Leigh Golf Club. It's always a great day and there are cups to be won, so I hope as many of you as possible are able to take part. Our other flagship event, the Annual Awards Dinner, will take place at the Midland Hotel, Manchester on 11 October. Full details of the awards will be issued before the summer, and this is a great opportunity to get real recognition for your company's achievements. I look forward to seeing you there.

Supporting our director, Guy Lawson, will be Chris Jackson, looking after transport-related matters, and we are recruiting a schools and colleges liaison co-ordinator to tee up visits to schools and colleges for members of CECA NW Foundations, Construction and STEM Ambassadors.

Financially, we are in good shape, and have a robust business plan for 2019, as we continue to report an increase in turnover year on year. I hope you will agree that we are continuing to make progress, but we are always looking to improve what CECA offers to our members even further. I would stress, however, that CECA NW is **your** Association and, rather than second guess what your business needs are, I would urge you to contact CECA NW Director, Guy Lawson or myself, with any suggestions for us to implement on your behalf.