

CHAIR'S FIRST QUARTER REPORT, JUNE 2023

Tommy Cubby, Chairman, CECA NW

Please find my first report as Chair of CECA NW, together with details of plans for the coming months. First, I would like to say thank you to the CECA NW team, Alison, Guy, Chris, Jacqueline and Joe; my fellow directors, Adam, Danny, David and Oliver; and the Executive Committee for their support during my term in office. And most importantly, the members of the CECA NW.

We are continuing to build on the work led by Adam Onyett, to address members' workforce needs and to attract more young people into the industry. That has included the development of the Career CECA initiative and the creation of work placements following student project support and presentation judging by three members at the University of Liverpool Civil Engineering department.

Our industry continues to be extremely challenging with increasing numbers of projects being cancelled or delayed, therefore it is more important than ever that we maintain a close eye on both workload and labour needs. No doubt there will be pre-election pledges to invest in infrastructure, which may indicate further recruitment needs, but if the next Government deems them unaffordable contractors may be left with less work than anticipated. It is the belief of the team that the next twelve months will be a time for very careful planning.

The CECA NW team are working to develop a 3-5 year plan, so that a sustained programme of activity is developed that genuinely reflects the needs of all CECA NW members, and flows seamlessly into the next chairman's tenure, and I am most grateful for their input. Later this year, we will also circulate details of a charitable foundation whose aim is to benefit the members and employees of CECA NW.

In May, we held the annual CECA North by NW dinner in Penrith, where we had an inspirational after dinner speech by the adventurer, Alex Staniforth. Following that, in June, an adventurous group of CECA NW Foundations members tackled the ascent of England's highest mountain, Scafell Pike. More events are being planned by CECA NW Foundations, the group for people new to the industry, and details will be circulated in the weekly newsletter. It is open to anyone, and I would urge members to encourage colleagues to get involved.

Leigh Golf Course is the setting for our annual CECA NW/CICES Golf Day on Thursday 29 June, and we hope as many members as possible will take part. We shall shortly be opening entries for our annual awards, which will be presented at the CECA NW 2023 Dinner at the Midland Hotel, Manchester on Friday 6 October 2023.

Geraldine Fleming of Driver Trett continues to run her excellent commercial and legal seminars and webinars for us. Other training events are being planned, but please let us know of any topics you would like to have included in the programme.

The CECA NW team is here to assist you: Alison Shea looks after regional operations; Jacqueline Vail is our first point of contact on skills and links with the NW's five Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and universities; Joe Fitzgibbon leads on support for SMEs and mentoring; Chris Jackson continues to lead on transport initiatives and research into the pipeline of workloads; and Guy Lawson looks after supporting members with tenders, market intelligence and public affairs.

Your participation is essential to ensure we remain member-focused. After all, CECA NW is your Association and we rely on members to let us know what CECA's priorities should be. I would urge you to contact me or the CECA NW team with suggestions for us to implement on your behalf.

Thank you for your continued support.

Tommy Cubby, Chairman, CECA NW, June 2023.
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