

IBP BULLETIN

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION PRESS (UK BRANCH)

OCTOBER 1991

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JOURNALISTS SHOW INCREASED COMMITMENT

THERE ARE NOW MORE JOURNALISTS on IBP's Executive Committee than there have been for some years. The AGM, held on 26 September at the Building Centre, voted in the following slate:

Peter Bill (Building)
Geoffrey Bowden (Westminster Communications)
Jim Gardner (Europroperty)
Michael Hardware (William Sindall plc)
Paul Jowers (WS Atkins)
Lee Mallett (Estates Times)
Carol Millett (Contract Journal)
Carole Reardon (Freelance PR)
Kathy Stansfield (Public Service & Local Government)
Kimberley Storrs (Quentin Bell Organisation)
Russ Swan (Freelance journalist)
Doreen Walford (Freelance journalist)
Keith Wallis (Construction News)
Don Westcott (Don Westcott Associates)

It also re-elected, for another year, the three officers who are chosen at the AGM. Unanimously endorsed were Paul Finch (president), Gerald Bowey (treasurer) and Sheena Parsons (secretary), with heartfelt thanks for their work in the past.

The AGM then enthusiastically endorsed IBP's proposed European Initiative, presented by Gerald Bowey, which is to be launched at Interbuild on 25 November. Finally, it agreed to raise subscriptions from £15 to £20, as recommended by the Treasurer.

The first meeting of the new Executive Committee on 10 October re-elected Carole Reardon as chair for a second term. A decision on vice-chair was held over to the next meeting, but two co-options were agreed – of David Crawford (The Valuer) and David Helsen (Higgs & Hill).

DIARY DATES

WEDNESDAY, 20 NOVEMBER – IBP JOURNALISM AWARDS PRESENTATION. See separate item under AWARDS NEWS and please reply using the form at the bottom of the bulletin.

MONDAY, 25 NOVEMBER – INTERBUILD LAUNCH OF

IBP's EUROPEAN INITIATIVE. Venue: Lucas Press Centre, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham International at 1600. This event is being supported by Interbuild organisers Andry Montgomery Ltd, who are ensuring that invitations reach all overseas construction journalists planning to attend this year's Interbuild, which runs from 25 to 29 November.

The event is planned as an opportunity for UK industry editors and journalists to meet and entertain their overseas press counterparts. IBP members with overseas press contacts whose names they would like to check are on the guest list should please contact Gerald Bowey at Communications Solutions, (Tel: 071-403 9199); he will also appreciate a phone call from those planning to attend.

FRIDAY, 13 DECEMBER – IBP CHRISTMAS PARTY. Venue: Four Millbank (opposite Victoria Tower Gardens, south of Houses of Parliament) from 1800. Music, food, wine, romance, gossip and the chance to tread in the footsteps of Margaret Thatcher, George Bush and James Baker courtesy of Nisses Millbank Ltd. Admission charge – £5 per member, £10 per guest (members are invited to bring one guest apiece if they wish). NOTE: ENTRY WILL BE BY TICKET ONLY, WHICH WILL BE DESPATCHED ON RETURN OF THE FORM AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS BULLETIN.

AWARDS NEWS

THE IBP PROPERTY JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR AWARDS will be presented at the London International Press Centre in Shoe Lane, off Fleet Street, on 20 November 1991 at 1830 for 1900. Guest of Honour will be Sir Nigel Brookes, chairman of Trafalgar House plc.

The event is being generously supported by Trafalgar House Construction. Members planning to attend should return the form on the bottom of this bulletin.

Despite the number of journal closures suffered by our industry over the last 12 months, the number of entries has set a new record. When awards organiser Geoffrey Bowden tallied up the photographic submissions (which had a later closing date of 1 October), the grand total came to 130 – six up on the figure for 1990, which was in itself a record.

Meanwhile, IBP committee member Russ Swan has come out top in the journals and magazines category of the RICS Media Awards for the second time running. His article "Swimming to New Horizons", published in Surveyor, examined

IBP AWARDS EVENING, 20 NOV.

I will be attending this event

NAME

ORGANISATION

Please return to Geoffrey Bowden
IBP Awards Organiser
Westminster Communications Group
7 Buckingham Gate
London SW1E 6JS
(tel: 071-630 5454)

IBP XMAS PARTY, 13 DEC.

ENTRY BY TICKET ONLY

Please send me ticket(s) for myself and one guest*. I enclose cheque, payable to Communication Solutions, for £..... (members £5, guests £10).

NAME

ORGANISATION

Please return to Gerald Bowey
Communication Solutions
Suite 406, Butlers Wharf Business Centre
45 Curlew Street, London SE1 2ND
(tel: 071-403 9199)

*Delete if inapplicable

the manner in which a local authority used a novel form of contract arrangement to obtain a much-needed swimming pool.

Daily Telegraph commercial property correspondent Bruce Kinloch, who judged the entries from shortlists produced by RICS members, felt that this was an example of the fresh approach that many journalists are now taking towards development. In all, Kinloch handed out £3,000 worth of prize money.

The national newspaper category was won by Margaret Buntrock for her article entitled "Rose Tinted Statistics", published in the Daily Telegraph on 31 October 1990. Kinloch felt this was a well-informed piece written at a time when house prices were of concern to most owners, who had become mystified by the conflicting statistical data.

Freelance writer David Lawson won the national property column category for his series published in the Independent. Highlighting the problems faced by both buyers and sellers of houses in a falling market, his column was thought highly topical, containing what many would claim were radical views on house valuations.

Winner in the regional newspaper category was Ian Sutherland for his article on "Quality Streets", published in the Aberdeen Press and Journal on 24 October 1990. This close look at the architectural aspect of development in Aberdeen reflected the growing awareness of design in both public and private sectors.

The regional property column was won jointly by Michael Blower and Susan Farrow for their series published in the Farnham Herald entitled "Michael Blower's Environmental Viewpoint". Kinloch found this a novel way to put the spotlight on environmental issues.

The television category, finally, was won by Arthur Anderson for his programme "Landward" screened on BBC TV Aberdeen on 15 July 1990. This was a highly professional programme which examined the way in which one estate in the Scottish Highlands was attempting to tackle the changing face of farming brought about by Common Market practice.

Kinloch thought it was well-argued and showed how change could save rural life by introducing alternative income-producing projects. (No award was given in the radio category).

The awards were presented at a ceremony at RICS headquarters in Westminster on Monday evening, 23 September. Entry forms for the 1992 Media Awards are available from Corinne Redhead at the RICS on 071-222 7000.

RADIO VISIT

A DOZEN MEMBERS ENJOYED an evening at the Euston Tower studios of Capital Radio on Thursday, 3 October, writes David Helsen who organised the visit. It provided the opportunity to look behind the scenes at London's liveliest commercial radio station.

Members saw, in close-up, how the station broadcasts Capital 95.8, the 24-hour FM pop programme, and Capital Gold. For those who have yet to hear it, this puts out hits from 1955 to the present day on medium wave.

It was intriguing to watch David Jensen broadcasting his show live, and to chat to him between records when he was

sorting out traffic reports, commercial breaks, news bulletins and a host of other pieces of information virtually single-handed. Being a DJ is clearly no longer a matter of playing with a turntable and emitting inane banter – it is high-tech with a vengeance.

Following a studio tour, the group was given a very detailed presentation on all aspects of the operation. The accent, of course, was on the commercial benefits and the stringent rules imposed by the ad industry's governing bodies on the amount of air time allowed for advertising.

"Finally," says Helsen, "we were generously entertained by the Capital Radio sales team. Their hospitality rounded off an unusual and interesting evening."

MEMBERS' NEWS

DON WESTCOTT ASSOCIATES (proprietors Don Westcott and Una Walker) have finally escaped from Great Queen Street to the Betjemanesque ourlieus of West Acton. The address is now DWA, 9 Kent Court, Queen's Drive, West Acton, London W3 0HS (tel: 081-992 1760; fax: 081-998 5914). Nearest station: North Ealing. (Glad you kept up the royal connection, Don and Una).

UNDETERRED BY THE SUSURRUS of folding construction industry publications, Nottingham-based freelance Russ Swan has taken the bold initiative of bringing out a new title. He is joining forces, as editor, with ex-International Construction publisher Roger Adshead to publish World Highways/Routes du Monde, which will be appearing for the first time next month.

Scheduled for bimonthly publication from next year, it is appearing with synopses in French and German and a bilingual news section produced for the International Road Federation. Russ sounds very pleased with progress on the first issue of his venture which, he says, "seems to have found a niche in the market."

The editorial address is: World Highways, 6 Coronation Avenue, Wilford Village, Nottingham NG11 7AB (tel: 0602 820421; fax: 0602 820901). Bon voyage/gute reise, Russ and Roger!

"RETIRED" MEMBER BETTY GRASS - formerly assistant editor of the one-time Chartered Surveyor – is making good use of her Pennine leisure to write romantic novels for Robert Hale. Her first appeared last year, while number two has been accepted and is due out in April.

Meanwhile, she would like to hear from old friends in IBP who should write to her at Reeth Cottage, West Burton, Leyburn, North Yorks DL8 4JU (tel: 0969 663594). Who knows, you might even have the pleasure of finding yourself in a roman a clef (how about "Charter" an everyday story of publishing folk at Great George Street?)

IBP PERSONNEL

Chair:	Carole Reardon	0483 766959
Secretary:	Sheena Parsons	0727 864083
Treasurer:	Gerald Bowey	071-403 9199
Membership:	Phyllis Ferris	071-739 6667
Editor:	David Crawford	081-464 4708

IBP APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name:

Journal/Company:

Address:

Postcode: Tel:

Position: Qualifications:

If PR Consultancy, state construction accounts handled:

If less than two years, state: Previous employer and position:

Proposer: Second:

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DECEMBER 1991/JANUARY 1992

**SECRETARIAT: IBP, c/o ORMS, 1 Pine Street,
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**EDITOR: DAVID CRAWFORD (tel: 081-464 4708;
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SPRING TREBLE AT SHOE LANE

Near miss for Alexander in supreme award

AS BUILDER GROUP AND THOMAS TELFORD WRITERS divided the 1991 IPB Journalism Awards, Building architectural editor Martin Spring scooped no fewer than three titles. At November's presentation, sponsored by Trafalgar House at the London International Press Centre he was named IBP Journalist of the Year ahead of former NCE (now New Builder) staff writer Delroy Alexander by panel chairman Clive Branson, publisher of EuroProperty.

Earlier, Spring had stepped up twice before guest of honour and Trafalgar House chairman Sir Nigel Brookes to collect individual awards. He starred in the architectural category, sponsored by the RIBA (the Sunday Times' Hugh Pearman was highly commended for his "valiant support of good architecture") and in rehab/environment, sponsored by Kyle Stewart Ltd (highly commended Denise Chevin, technology editor of Building, and Dave Parker of New Builder).

Spring's portfolio was praised by the architectural judging panel, chaired by immediate RIBA past-president Max Hutchinson, for his ability to "communicate directly with all the construction industry and to discuss complex architectural theory in a clear and accessible style". The rehab/environment category judges, chaired by Kyle Stewart Special Works MD Anthony Harris, noted how the industry's positive role in improving the environment emerged in articles on hostels for the homeless, renovation of public housing and the restoration of Frank Matcham's County Arcade in Leeds' Victorian Quarter.

IBP Civil Engineering Journalist of the year is Delroy Alexander who recently switched titles within the Telford Group. The award was sponsored by Ove Arup & Partners and director David Gordon chaired the judges.

Their criterion, he said, was that the three articles submitted should present "an interesting and informative mix of subjects". David Fowler, news analysis editor of NCE, was highly commended.

IBP Building Journalist of the Year is Building assistant editor Penny Guest. Reporting for the judges Raymond Groves, MD (Operations) of sponsors Y J Lovell (Holdings) plc said that she "demonstrated her skills over a wide variety of topics."

Runner-up was freelance Richard Catt. The judges also gave honourable mention to "a very good set of articles" from the Financial Times' Andrew Taylor which, they felt, could equally have appeared in the business/financial category.

This award, sponsored by Redland plc, was also taken by Building in the person of business editor Peter Cooper for his in-depth surveys of the state of the industry. PR director Anthony Shillington, reporting on behalf of financial director and panel chairman Gerald Corbett, gave a highly-commended Andrew Taylor his second honorable mention of the evening for "a style which is always consistent and views which are always well balanced."

CSW reporter James Whitmore is IBP property journalist of the year. Jeremy Neysum, chief executive of sponsors the Grosvenor Estate, praised the topicality and depth of interest and enthusiasm displayed in his profiles of property companies and personalities such as MEPC and Chesterton's William Wells.

The 1991 IBP News Reporter of the Year Award, sponsored by Higgs & Hill Developments, was split between New Builder news editor Alastair McLellan and NCE news reporter Richard Watson for their coverage of the construction industry implications of the Gulf War. Higgs & Hill Developments MD and panel chairman Nigel Dancer praised the editors of the sister publications for their initiative in despatching a news team "within a few hours of peace being declared." Freelance Mira Bar-Hillel received a commendation.

IBP Photographer of the Year is Richard Davies of New Builder. Panel chairman Paul Gates, of the Professional Photography Division of sponsors Kodak, praised a portfolio including studies of Cannon Street Station (New Builder's cover for 13 December 1990) and Canary Wharf. Highly commended were Alan Delaney of Architects Journal and Tony Weller of Building.

IBP Young Journalist of the Year, finally, is Andrew Duffy, formerly of Contract Journal and now of New Builder. Panel chairman John Trussler, president of sponsors the CIOB, praised his "keen insight into the building, industry, despite not having been involved very long" shown in articles on banks and the industry, the Bristol Galleries and the refurbishment of the Theatre Royal, Norwich, which have evidence of "great promise".

Thanks

The ceremony was introduced by Geoffrey Bowden, of Westminster Communications, who deserves the thanks of the entire membership – and industry – for his immense hard work in organising the awards. It is a tribute to his efforts that, despite a drop in the number of industry titles caused by recession, entries were up on 1990 at a new record of 130.

He joined in thanking Trafalgar House for sponsoring the ceremony with Paul Finch, who completed the formalities by introducing the company's chairman. Sir Nigel recalled his days in the publishing industry, from which he retained "an affectionate interest in IBP" and highlighted his group's strategy of rebranding its member companies under the Trafalgar banner.

Awards in Summary – see back page

EUROPEAN INITIATIVE TAKES OFF

SOME 45 MEMBERS AND GUESTS attended the launch of IBP's European initiative at Press Day at Interbuild in November. IBP President Paul Finch and Vice-chairman Gerald Bowey made a joint presentation of plans for an EC-wide network of contacts looking to IBP for information on the UK construction industry. The event was sponsored by Interbuild organisers Andry Montgomery.

Paul Finch gave guests, who included representatives from four EC countries, a flavour of IBP activities. He stressed the balance between enjoyable social gatherings and business events such as press briefings, seminars and the awards.

Gerald Bowey, who outlined plans for an IBP-run industry database, stayed at Interbuild for most of the week and was thus able to meet a number of additional EC journalists. As a result he reports that "apart from recruiting individual journalists in France, Germany and Italy, IBP has established formal contact with the Association des Journalists de la Construction (France)", while discussions are also under way with a German representative.

"In addition," says Gerald, "I am pleased to report contacts with Dutch and Russian press representatives, which are being actively pursued. As a result, IBP has made many useful contacts, I am confident that we will achieve our aim of a database network of overseas contacts by this time next year."

**NOTE TO MEMBERS: PLEASE SEE ITEM
"ONLY CONNECT" ON BACK PAGE AND
RETURN THE QUESTIONNAIRE INCLUDED IN
THIS ISSUE.**