

**UK WEIGHING FEDERATION**  
**PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**

Minutes of a meeting of the Regional Meeting, held on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> April at the National Space Centre, Leicester.

Present:

John	Swinburne	Precia-Molen UK Ltd	President
Derek	Christie	D Brash & Sons Ltd	Treasurer
Pam	Shields	Avery Weigh-Tronix	
Mark (Charlie)	Haworth	Bizerba (UK) Ltd	
Stephen	Hart	Ian Fellows Ltd	
Kevin	Cartwright	Avery Berkel	
Martin	Course	Mettler Toledo Ltd	
Jeremy	Sage	Stringer & Co (Scales) Ltd	
Nick	Catt	Weightron Bilanciai Ltd	
Lyn	Burnham	Accuweigh Limited	
Gerry	Burnham	Accuweigh Limited	
Jim	Cameron	Avery Weigh-Tronix	
Andrew	Dutton	Avery Weigh-Tronix	
Nikki	Meakings	AWM Ltd	
Mark	Worrow	AWM Ltd	
Mike	Glew	Bizerba (UK) Ltd	
Paul	Hodgkinson	County Scales Limited	
Tom	Marren	Coventry Scale Company	
Scott	Langlands	D Brash & Sons Ltd	
David	Weeks	Flintec UK Ltd	
Lynne	Topley	Globeweigh UK Ltd	
Frank	McKenna	Globeweigh UK Ltd	
Julian	Hope	Herbert Group Ltd	
Brian	Onyangi	John White & Son (Weighing Machines) Ltd	
John	Anthony	Legal Metrology Consultancy Services	
Chris	Buck	Lorrimar Weighing Ltd	
Lucy	Poole	Positive Weighing Solutions Ltd	
Tony	Bennett	Positive Weighing Solutions Ltd	
Suzanne	Booth	Satorius UK Limited	
Michael	Neal	Sartorius UK Limited	
George	Christie	Seca Ltd	
Ian	Webster	Select Scales	
Paul	Moody	Solent Scale Services Ltd	
Brian	Heath	Vandome & Hart Ltd	
Emlyn	Roberts	Weightron Bilanciai Ltd	
Dave	Clark	Westco Bilanciai Ltd	

In attendance:

Ian	Turner	UKWF Technical Officer	
Christine	Goodacre	Cognition AM Ltd	Secretariat
Paul	Turner	NSAI	Speaker
Deanne	Hughes	NMRO	Speaker
Jim	Harper	Thameside	Guest
Steve	Brown	Thameside	Guest
Janet	Marsden	Weighing Scales Ltd	Guest

## **President's comments**

JAS welcomed everyone to the meeting, and went through the general housekeeping points.

JAS introduced Paul Turner and Deanne Hughes who will be presenting today and Jim Harper, Steve Brown and Janet Marsden who are attending as guests at this meeting.

### 1. **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from 12 people as follows:

Lance Read	Avery Weigh-Tronix
Keith Gresham	Axle Weight Technology Ltd (AXTEC)
Alan Crossland	Berry Weighing Ltd
David Green	DCG Associates
Steve Cox`	Dini Argeo UK Ltd
Richard Herbert	Herbert Group Ltd
John Redmond	Measurement Systems Consultancy Ltd
Adrian Chapman	Norfolk Calibration Service
Alan Jones	Precision Instruments
Sam Jones	Precision Instruments
Ian & Linda McVicar	Scotweigh
Roy Taylor	Vandome & Hart Ltd

### 2. **President's Update**

“Ladies and gentlemen good morning and welcome to our spring regional meeting here at the National Space Centre. I hope some of you have taken the opportunity to look around the exhibition areas and had an “out of this world experience”! Perhaps this is how the Prime Minister, Mr Cameron must be feeling with an election result that was beyond the predictions of most polls and political commentators. Perhaps time for some “blue sky thinking”, on a more serious note let us hope that the prospect of a majority government will increase business confidence and investment and deliver a boost to all our order books.

Now that the political landscape is settled we cannot be complacent we must seize the opportunity and increase our efforts to lobby government at both local and national level and voice our concerns for this industry. As I have said on earlier occasions this is not an easy task or quick win situation but we, your board, need your help if we are to make a difference.

Since my address in October of last year it has continued to be a busy time for your board. Within a few weeks of our AGM, BHETA, after more than 15 years' service gave notice to terminate our contract for the provision of secretariat services. Following a selection process, the board were pleased to appoint Cognition AM Limited as new secretariat, and I am sure you will welcome Chris Goodacre and Sue Butler (who is not with us today) in their new role and wish them success in the future. I must record my thanks to Richard Herbert for his time and council throughout this process. Accordingly we have now completed the transfer to a new headquarters in Curo Park, Frogmore, St Albans. New contact details have been circulated if anyone does not have them please see Chris afterwards and she will be pleased to provide them.

On the business front the UK economy continues its recovery. The latest government statistics show a year-on-year increase in GDP in terms of value of 2.8%, and equally important, this is the first time GDP has increased above the 2008 levels (immediately prior to the recession). Inflation (CPI) for March is 0% , down from 1.6% the previous year and unemployment continues to fall and is now 5.5% from 6.8% a year ago, all good signs that confidence is returning to the industry and businesses are expanding.

Interest rates can be viewed as both a positive and/or negative depending on whether you are an importer or exporter. The pound has continued to strengthen against the euro but has fallen slightly against the dollar and currently stands at £/E 1.4 v 1.22 (+15%) and £/\$ 1.57 v 1.68 (-6.5%) a year ago.

Change in legislation continues to impact on our industry. At long last EN 45501 is finally with us and Ian Turner, our technical Officer, will be discussing and making us aware of the impact of this new standard later today. In addition we have commented on the construction products regulations and the concern this may have for our membership. Last week we met with NMO or rather now, following a planned change, NMRO the National Measurement and Regulation Office, to discuss the impact of the Weights and Measures Revocation act which has recently come into force. Although the UKWF commented on the draft legislation, our concerns were ignored and now we have to try and ensure that TSO guidance notes contain sufficient safeguards to help maintain standards and ensure our industry is not further disadvantaged.

In today's climate we need to adopt two-pronged approach. We have made further representations to our MPs and MEP's to make them aware of how our industry is disadvantaged with changes in legislation, or when EU legislation is not enforced in the UK. The removal of non-compliant instruments from the market remains a priority and we continue to work with our colleagues within CECIP to provide evidence and persuade the legislators to take positive action against the manufacturers of these instruments. The CECIP general assembly takes place next week when this will again be a major topic for debate and we will be promoting the UK position. As previously stated this is not a short term win, we need to work with our European colleagues within CECIP and play a longer term game.

May I take this opportunity to thank my fellow board members for their hard work and contribution on a whole range of topics. This has to be a team effort. I would encourage you to raise any issues you may have with our technical Officer, Ian Turner, or myself as we will be only too pleased to listen to your concerns and offer whatever practical help and advice available.

Finally I hope you find today's program useful and informative. If you have any suggestions of topics you would wish to be covered at future meetings, please let us know. Equally the board is here to represent the views of the industry as a whole. If there are any issues that concern you, or issues that you believe are not being addressed, please contact me as I would be pleased to discuss this with you. Thank you for your attention."

There were no questions following this presentation.

### 3. **Technical Officer's Update**

IT gave a presentation to the members on a number of topics, which can be found on the website.

In addition to the presentation, IT made these additional points, and the following questions were asked:

Ian Turner's Additional Points :

The new legislation comes into effect 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016  
Quality Systems will need to be updated by this date.

Question – Jim Harper, Thameside

What is the definition of a weighing machine for the purpose of this directive

IT – this directive only applies to weighing scales. load cell providers have to keep to other requirements. They will need to have technical information available for their customers if they are asked for this

Question – Julian Hope, Herbert group

10 years from CE Mark. Is this when you stop production or when it goes into market.

IT – this needs clarification, but probably when you go to market.

Question - Jeremy Sage, Stringer & Co (Scales) Ltd

Self-verification may replace testing?

IT – this needs clarification – need to clarify what the directive means by testing (may or may not be self-verification testing)

Question - Jeremy Sage, Stringer & Co (Scales) Ltd

Self-verification testing means different things to different people will this be left up to peoples discretion  
Ian Turner - that maybe possible we need to flag this to members attention we need to influence guidance on this question

Question - Chris Buck, Lorrimar Weighing

“When deemed appropriate” is a very woolly phrase

Ian Turner - we will probably deem as few occasions as possible as appropriate

Question - David Weeks, Flintec

What will happen if another member state decide something different and challenges us

Ian Turner - UKWF or CECIP will need to manage any challenges

Question - Lucy Poole, Positive Weighing

As members of UKWF do we have a right to ask UKWF to produce some recommendations

Ian Turner - that is the intention

Question - John Swinburne, Precia Molen

What is the definition of full postal address

Ian Turner – I had conversation with an NMRO and this has to be full postal address

Question - Lucy Poole, Positive Weighing

Does it have to be prominently displayed

Ian Turner - yes

Question - Lucy Poole, Positive Weighing

Can you get people to log into the software or can this be a QR code

Ian Turner - this needs investigation. Would hope that we can use innovative technologies

Question - Paul Moody, Solent scales

Can it be on documentation

Ian Turner – Only if weighing machine is too small then yes it can go on the documentation, but if one manufacturer adds it to the same machine, all will have to

Question - Jeremy Sage, Stringer & Co (Scales) Ltd

Does this have implications if the manufacturer and importer differ

Ian Turner – yes, you will have to show both addresses

Question - Nick Catt, Weightron Bilanciai Ltd

Does the sticker have to be indestructible?

Ian Turner - yes or you can print it on the data plate

Question - Martin Course, Mettler Toledo

In Europe it states there must be single point of confirmation from Europe what happens if manufacturer is in China?

Ian Turner - this has not yet been worked out

Question - John Swinburne, Precia Molen

What do they mean by risk – H&S? NAWI?

Ian Turner – They are talking about the risk of non-conformity with the NAWI Directive

Question - Paul Moody, Solent scales

This states “competent Authority” – are TSO’s a competent authority?

Ian Turner – yes

Question – Tony Bennett, Positive Weighing

So the rules for importers are that you just have sticker on the box?

Ian Turner – the distributor is just confirming it bears all the correct marks, they are not testing. The Importer is the first person who receives it in EU, a distributor is anyone after that, so you could be both importer and distributor

Question - Jeremy Sage, Stringer & Co (Scales) Ltd

Voltage and EMC directives are due, when will this come online?

Ian Turner – ATEX, Low Voltage EMC, NAWI are all caught in this legislation

#### 4. **What the NSAI Expects from Businesses Operating in Ireland**

Paul Turner, director of the NSAI presented. A copy of the presentation can be found on the website.

In addition to the presentation, PT made these additional points the following questions were asked:

Paul Turner’s Additional Points :

Main failure to comply comes when a seal has been broken for repair etc., but the instrument has not been re-verified.

In November 2015 the NSAI are holding a meeting to try and launch an Irish Weighing Federation.

Question - John Swinburne, Precia Molen

Do Ireland require periodic Re-verification?

Paul Turner – No, it is not part of the strategy going forward for the next 5 years either.

Question - John Swinburne, Precia Molen

What do you believe is the average time for inspection?

Paul Turner – every 2-2.5 years for weighbridge inspection and every 2-3 years for liquid fuel.

#### 5. **Technical Update of EN45501**

Ian Turner presented. Again, a copy of the presentation can be found on the UKWF website.

In addition to the presentation, the following questions were asked:

Question - John Swinburne, Precia Molen

After 2016 you will not be allowed extra amendments to patents or type approvals?

Ian Turner – that’s correct

Comment - John Anthony, Legal Metrology Consultancy Services

A sample from the same “family” can be tested instead of testing one of each type of machine.

Question – Julian Hope, Herbert group

Manufacturers already use software protection, although they are not obliged to do so under current licence. Embedded software is much more secure.

Ian Turner –TSO’s must be able to access software easily

Question - Lucy Poole, Positive Weighing

When is a weighbridge a portable weighbridge under this legislation? Is it anything that requires dismantling?

Ian Turner – The type approval will define it as portable

Portable is: Non-automatic weighing instrument having a load receptor, in one or several parts, which determines the total mass of road vehicles, and which is designed to be moved to other locations.

EXAMPLES: Portable weighbridge, group of associated non-automatic axle (or wheel) load weighers.

NOTE This standard covers only weighbridges and groups of associated non-automatic axle (or wheel) load weighers that determine simultaneously the total mass of a road vehicle with all axles (or wheels) being simultaneously supported by appropriate parts of a load receptor.

I think the important part of the definition is that the instrument needs to be designed to be moved to other locations. If it is not designed to be moved to other locations it is not portable

## 6. **National Metrology Project 2015 - 17**

Deanne Hughes presented. Again, a copy of the presentation can be found on the UKWF website.

In addition to the presentation, the following questions were asked:

Question - John Anthony, Legal Metrology Consultancy Services

As there is no funding what will take up of your project be like?

Deanne Hughes - as an MRO are offering free training we believe it will be a good uptake

Question - Lucy Poole, Positive Weighing

Is there any way you can contact trading standards officers is there a list somewhere?

Deanne Hughes – Most TSO's have a policy of non-contact. You can email trading standards at tradingstandards@"your locality".gov.uk

Members of UKWF have access to trading standards officers through Ian Turner our Technical Officer.

Question - Nick Catt, Weightron Bilanciai Ltd

If a manufacturer finds non-compliant weighbridge how can we escalate to trading standards officers as nothing seems to be done about it and non-compliant companies do not seem to get penalised

Deanne Hughes – At present business has no feed into intelligence leads for trading standards.

NMRO will receive reports of non-compliance but UKWF members can report to Ian Turner to escalate

Question - John Swinburne, Precia Molen

Does this not come back to questions on periodic re-verification?

Deanne Hughes - with our current remit there will be no return to periodic re- verification

## 7. **Any Other Business**

JAS asked whether there was any other business or queries from the membership.

### **Meeting Ends**

JAS thanked everyone for attending and for their input, and said he looks forward to seeing everyone at the AGM in York on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2015.