

Minutes of London SaRS Branch Annual General Meeting

19th May 2021, MS Teams

Attendees:

Vincent Ganthy (LB Chair)
Angela Ku (LB Chair Elect)
Ali Patton
Ben Gilmartin
Chris Harrison
Colin Dennis

Hesam Mehrabi Mahani
James Catmur
John Stringer (LB Co-ordinator)
Mark Sujana
Pete Stanton (LB Treasurer)

The formal AGM opened at 17:00.

1. Welcome

Vincent Ganthy opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees.

2. Meeting Agenda

Vincent Ganthy introduced the meeting agenda

3. Chair's Report

Vincent Ganthy gave a summary of the year, including a run through of the year's events (see chair's report overleaf).

The committee recognised how the outreach of the branch has increased over the years with increased attendance to the events. The committee discussed about the uptake in SaRS Memberships in relation the increased attendance. Colin Dennis advised there was a good start to the year although this has slowed down.

The minutes from the 2020 AGM were received and adopted by attendees.

Pete Stanton (SaRS London Branch Treasurer) provided a finance report with nothing significant to report - there has been no Branch expenditure in the year. The finance report was adopted by attendees.

4. Resolutions

No resolutions were tabled.

5. Chair role for 2021/22

Angela Ku was proposed as Chair of the London SaRS Branch.

Angela was elected (by unanimous vote).

6. Committee role for 2021/22

Pete Stanton is retiring from the London Branch Committee and his role of treasurer. The committee thanked Pete for his contributions over the years.

Chris Harrison was proposed to take on the role of the branch treasurer. Chris was elected (by unanimous vote).

There was no other change to the London Branch Committee which will continue in their roles.

The formal AGM was then closed at 17:22.

7. Plans for 2021

The Chair stated that she was delighted to be voted in as chairman of the London Branch and thanked the committee for their support. Angela outlined the plans and event programme for 2021/22 (see chair's report overleaf).

8. AOB

The committee discussed potential future events not yet included in the programme, some of which being tours requiring COVID restrictions to be lifted.

The committee had a discussion about the branch representation on LinkedIn, having both a page and a group. A review will be undertaken to decide on what should be kept going forward.

James Catmur introduced a potential new topic idea regarding 'building ventilation safety'. This will be reviewed further to determine what could be organised as part of the 2021/22 event programme.

Colin Dennis reminded that a team should be put together to prepare the recurring Early Career event and set a date in September. This will be decided at the next branch committee meeting on 9th June.

The meeting was closed and followed by the LB webinar 'The Value of Safety Culture: Panel Discussion'.

Chair's Report 2020/21

Despite unprecedented circumstances, considered another successful year - 8 events (up one from last year):

- March 2021 - Road Tunnel Safety
- February 2021 - Innocent Bystanders? Taking human activities into account in QRA
- January 2021 - Forecasting Reliability Through Life
- November 2020 - Smart Motorways
- October 2020 - Safety-II and the Functional Resonance Analysis Method (FRAM)
- October 2020 - Safety, Security and Sustainability in Space - MythBusters and Managing Risks
- September 2020 - Early Career Professionals
- June 2020 - Delivering Safety and Reliability through Industry Collaboration (Joint SaRS and YRP Webinar)

The Tour of the AAIB (initially planned for April 2020) has remained postponed due to the pandemic. The branch hopes to be able to hold it once restrictions are lifted.

Summary:

- All events have been moved successfully to webinars only due to the pandemic. Past experience of joint live/webinar events have been key in the smooth transition
- All events have been rated as good or excellent
- Our webinars have been well attended often attracting 90+ participants from around the globe
- Started running some events as panel discussions - increasing time to address questions from the audience (premiered for the Smart Motorways event)
- Increased interfaces with neighbouring branches via the national External Affairs Committee.
- Webinar recordings and presentation slides are available on the members area of the SaRS website
- Good representation of LB committee members on SaRS Council and participating in national initiatives (e.g. SaRS journal).
- Moving to online-only events has removed the opportunity for post event networking and reduced contacts with our valued affiliate organisations.

The London Branch Committee has been active meeting online every couple of months - particular thanks to John and Ali in managing social media posts and to the Webinar Working Group.

Overall, the London Branch has fared quite well despite the drastic change of environment and continues to diversify its offerings.

Plans for 2021/22

1. The focus for SaRS is on attracting and retaining members given recent declines in membership - this will be especially important given the COVID-19 situation and the disruptive impact across industries
2. Spreading the word to potential members and recruiting new members
3. Getting more young professionals involved in the Branch and the events
4. Expanding the committee to cover wider industries, ensure diversity (techniques, industries)
5. Seek regular feedback to check how we are doing

6. Deliver thought provoking, good quality, interesting and meaningful events that the members want
7. Greater online presence and more Webinars
8. Ongoing use of social media, continue to build a community, and S&R conversations
9. Taking up affiliate and non-affiliate company offers of using offices
10. We continue to focus on improving our events, including enhanced audio-visual support and responding to member's inputs, the importance of time management, keeping speakers and Q&A to schedule
11. When the COVID-19 situation gets better and the government guidelines allow, consider the return of face-to-face events e.g. tours, evening lectures, etc.

Event Programme for 2021/2022 is under development, with the following topics currently being proposed / planned:

- Career path presentation event series
- Building Safety
- Low Carbon / Sustainability and S&R challenges
- Early Career Professional Event - Recurring series planned for September
- Incident Digital recording and Data Recovery - November
- Tour of AAIB - Currently Postponed