

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING 2023

HELD ONLINE

THURSDAY 25 MAY 2023

THE ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING was held online on Thursday, the 25th May 2023 at 12:00 hrs.

The President, Phil Peel CEng FIMechE, was in the chair and conducted the meeting alongside CEO, Dr. Alice Bunn, Chair of the Finance Board & Deputy President, Dr. Clive Hickman, and Professor David Nowell, Trustee and HQ Working Group member.

In accordance with the Royal Charter & By-laws, only Corporate Members and Associate Members were entitled to participate in the business of an Annual Meeting. Other members attended as observers but were not entitled to be heard or vote. Members entitled to vote had a voting option that appeared on screen at the appropriate time. It was confirmed that Civica would be the tellers for the meeting.

Corporate Members and Associate Members were thanked for conferring their proxy votes ahead of the meeting. All proxy votes would be placed electronically, in accordance with the proxy wishes received.

The Institution's third virtual Annual Meeting was quorate with 120 members present from across the globe at the start of the meeting.

President Phil Peel confirmed that the business of the Institution's Annual Meeting would only be for the following purposes:

- The presentation and consideration of the Trustee Board's Report and Annual Accounts for year ending the 31st December 2022.
- Appointment of the Auditors.
- The announcement of results of the annual elections to Trustee Board and Council.

The Notice convening this meeting was published on the Institution's website on the 13 April 2023. A copy of the minutes from last year's Annual Meeting, held on the 25 May 2022, had been published on the Institution's website. There were no matters arising and the minutes were duly signed.

It was considered that the third annual virtual meeting format was much more inclusive, and allowed for members, globally, to participate. Feedback on the virtual meeting format can also be submitted to governance@imeche.org

The President invited the Chair of the Finance Board, Dr. Clive Hickman, to present the Trustee Board's Annual Report and Annual Accounts for the year ending the 31 December 2022.

The report is available to download from the Institution's website. A paper copy is also available to members who visit the Headquarters at 1 Birdcage Walk.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The vast majority of income derives from membership fees (92%). Whilst the rental income from tenants has decreased, there will be more focus on income from End Point Assessments, which is increasing. It was noted that expenditure aligns with the Institution's strategic objectives and that a surplus of £236,000 was generated in 2022. Over the last four years, operating income has exceeded operating expenditure. Free reserves have started to recover from a low point in 2018.

Finance Board

The Finance Board was established in 2019, following a financial review. It reports directly to the Trustee Board with a composition which currently includes three chartered accountants. Its purpose is to assist the Trustee Board by reviewing and overseeing the IMechE's financial plans and performance,

Plans for 2023:

- Budgets: the Finance Board will play a more central role in the budget setting process, reviewing draft budgets, with recommendations for the Trustee Board on financial plans, to determine a focused 3–5-year plan and consider income, and its overall fit with the strategy.
- HQ Working Group: provide support by detailed scrutiny of the financial implications of all options and the appointment of external financial advisors.
- Subsidiary Companies (Argyll Ruane and Sonaspection): oversee market testing, to assess whether a more entrepreneurial, commonly focussed ownership could give the businesses, and their staff, greater scope, to take advantage of their strong market position.
- Stephenson Fund: assessment of this fund will continue. No further investment will be made to this fund, other than to cover the fund management charges.
- Free Reserves: there may be an opportunity to realise some of the Stephenson Fund gains; and to divest the trading subsidiaries, to further improve the free reserves.

Trading Subsidiaries

PEP Ltd.

This company operates the IMechE's commercial trading activities. It is overseen by the PEP Ltd. Board who report to the Finance Board. The PEP Board monitors and reviews implementation of financial plans and commercial strategy for the four business units, namely:

One Birdcage Walk (OBW), Learning & Development (L&D), IMechE Argyll Ruane (IAR), including Fife and Sonaspection.

Post-Covid, three business units (OBW, L&D and Sonaspection), have returned to profit; and work is ongoing to return IAR to profit.

In 2022, PEP continued to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic and downturn:

- Turnover increased by 53% in 2022 to £10.1m (£6.6m in 2021).
- Operating profit (before central overheads) was £0.53m (£0.22m in 2021).
- Net profit (after central overheads) was £0.01m (£0.25m loss in 2021).

One Birdcage Walk

Venue and room hire, primarily at Birdcage Walk:

- 2022 turnover: £1.14m (£0.36m in 2021).
- Operating profit: £0.31m (£0.06m in 2021).

Learning & Development

Based at Birdcage Walk:

- 2022 turnover: £2.46m (£1.60m in 2021).
- Operating profit: £0.37m (£0.15m in 2021).

Argyll Ruane

Non-destructive testing (NDT) training, based in Sheffield and Dunfermline (Fife):

- 2022 turnover: £2.92m (£2.00m in 2021).
- Operating loss: £0.36m (£0.27m loss in 2021).

Sonasppection

Flawed weld sample production, based in Lancaster (UK) and North Carolina (USA):

- 2022 turnover: £3.57m (£2.66m in 2021).
- Operating Profit: £0.21m (£0.28m in 2021).

Closing Remarks

The key objective is to improve the financial performance of the Institution, following an operating surplus for the fourth successive year and to ensure that the IMechE has a sound, long-term financial base for the future. Whilst some progress has been made, more is needed.

The President invited trustee, Professor David Nowell, to provide an update on the work of the HQ Working Group.

HQ FUTURE - PRESENTATION

The decision on the HQ's future is a key part of the IMechE's future finances; consequently, the HQ Working Group was set up in 2022, and has now reported to the Trustee Board. The report has been considered by the Finance Board, Audit & Risk Committee (ARC), Strategy Committee (StratCom), Council, plus other boards and committees.

HQ Working Group

The purpose of the group is to review various options, and consider financial viability, achievability, asset value, risk profile, strategic fit and non-financial benefits.

Work included a new financial model; new condition survey; and valuations of individual parts of the estate. Whilst the public parts of the building look nice and well cared for, sadly, behind the scenes, there are significant problems.

Two options emerged as financially viable.

- Move to a new London HQ (freehold or leased).

- Consolidate in 1 Birdcage Walk (BW); and use the 'sale' of 3 BW (and buildings to the rear) to fund repairs, refurbishment and ongoing maintenance, which might be done with a risk-sharing development partner.

A Programme Board has been formed and is being chaired by Past President, Peter Flinn. Professional workplace and estate strategy consultants, Baker Stuart, have been engaged. A full consultation, involving Council and other boards and committees, will be needed. Refinement of the financial model will be undertaken to test its robustness. A single proposal will be made to the Trustee Board, for consultation and approval by a member vote.

It is likely a member vote will take place by means of a virtual Special meeting in late 2023/early 2024. Constitutionally, a two thirds simple majority of voting members is needed, for either option.

Closing Remarks

The IMechE needs to move forward, to a decision, after many years of debate about the future of the HQ; doing nothing is not an option. The solution must be financially viable, acceptable from a risk perspective, consistent with the strategy and approved by the voting membership. Membership views are varied, and strongly held, which must be acknowledged alongside the acceptance that the final decision will not agree completely with individually held views. The aim is to provide a headquarters, which will serve the IMechE, and its members for the future, providing an outstanding example of the best of engineering practices.

THE TRUSTEE BOARD'S REPORT AND ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2022

The discussion on the Trustee Board's Report and Annual Accounts for 2022 was opened.

Question 1: *from Cliff Perry, who expressed his concern about the performance of the trading subsidiaries, over the last 5 years; particularly the apparent mismatch between the projected performance, and actual profit.*

Response from Dr. Clive Hickman, Chair of Finance Board: the trading subsidiaries did generate a profit before the 2020 Covid pandemic, including over £600k in 2019; but, like many businesses, they were significantly affected by the pandemic. In 2022, PEP continued its recovery: turnover increased by 53% to £10.1m, with operating profit (before central overheads) up at £0.56m. After central overheads, there was a small, net profit of c. £10k, up from a loss of £250k in 2021.

Question 2: *from Graham Thorne (membership grade), who is concerned about the level of funding provided to the regions. What is the rule regarding the allocation of funding to overseas, and how is the overall income distributed across all the activities?*

Response from Dr. Clive Hickman, Chair of Finance Board: the difficulty with funding levels is recognised, but, unfortunately, revenue is down, due to fewer paying members post-Covid; membership fees not increasing in line with inflation; and loss of tenants in the HQ. As part of the long-term strategy ambitions, the IMechE wants to be both global and inclusive, but recognises that funding for all member offerings needs to be balanced. The generation of more funding is a key issue for the Finance Board, so that any surplus generated can go back into membership activities.

Question 3: *from Dr. Kerry Mashford (Fellow). Will the options, on the future of the HQ, presented to members, also include financial and other implications of doing nothing?*

And what courses of action are open to us, if the necessary majority is not achieved in a member vote?

Response from Professor David Nowell, Trustee and HQ WG member: For those who have been involved with the building for some time, it is clear that doing nothing is not a feasible option. It is important that the building is put into a decent state, structurally, in terms of water proofing, heating, ventilation, electrical supplies, etc. So, even if the whole estate was retained, there would be considerable expenditure involved with doing this, which the HQ WG considered was not financially viable.

If a membership majority vote was not achieved, then a vote could be requested on an alternative option; or the Charity Commission could be consulted on what options were available to the IMechE.

Question 4: *from Dr Alison McMillan (Member), who thanked the panel for the clear presentations on the finances and the building. To what extent will decisions about the future of the HQ impact on the profitability of the IMechE businesses [trading subsidiaries]?*

Responses from:

Dr. Clive Hickman, Chair of Finance Board: the overall project evaluation takes into account changes in venue and room hire, for all the current options under consideration. For example, a sale option would reduce income levels from venue and room hire, but, equally, the costs associated with that area of business would also reduce. So, it should be possible to gain a balanced portfolio across the whole of the IMechE, based on whichever decision is taken.

Professor David Nowell, Trustee and HQ WG member: if the decision is to move, then a new building would be nearer to the IMechE's existing and future perceived needs. The rationale behind having a room hire business, is simply to mop up surplus capacity at Birdcage Walk. A new building would have lower costs, as it would be better sized to the IMechE's needs.

Question 5: *from Mrs. C. Gruber (membership grade). Was a new HQ located outside of London one of the options considered, and discounted?*

Responses from:

Professor David Nowell, Trustee and HQ WG member: Yes. It was discounted after consideration of the advantages and disadvantages. Clearly, it would be cheaper to relocate to outside of London; and, whilst the IMechE would be closer to some of the membership, it would potentially be less accessible. However, the real issue for relocating outside of London is the potential for losing a considerable proportion of staff, who would simply not be able to relocate. Discussions have been held with other engineering institutions, particularly those who have moved out of London, most of whom regretted doing so.

Dr. Alice Bunn, CEO: a clear piece of member feedback, particularly from the international community, was that transport links into London are key.

Question 6: *from Mr. D. Terry (membership grade). Does the Institution know that the lack of funding to the regions is letting down the members, with the probable consequences that membership levels will be reduced, due to dissatisfaction?*

Responses from:

Dr. Clive Hickman, Chair of Finance Board: this is something that really concerns the IMechE. A position needs to be attained where the business is sustainable for the long-term and to reach a point where more of the funding can be used for member activities. A key element for the 2024 budget setting process will be to look at priorities and see where savings can be made, to achieve more funding for membership activities.

Professor David Nowell, Trustee and HQ WG member: the Covid pandemic has changed a lot, including the services that can be offered to the membership; for example, seminars, training and lectures can now be delivered online. So, there is perhaps a need to re-think the range of activities that the IMechE provides to the membership. The regions will need to play a part in that debate: to consider what is appropriate to offer in the 'new world', and the budget levels required. There are some really exciting opportunities ahead.

Question 7: *for the President. What did you enjoy most about the 175 anniversary celebrations?*

Response from the President: a highlight was being able to go to Birmingham for the annual dinner last November. Also, that the Birmingham Region was able to organise an engineering heritage award for the Curzon Street station building. It was a real honour to present the plaque, and to recognise its part in our engineering heritage where the IMechE's inaugural meeting was held.

Question 8: *observation from Alan Faulkner (membership grade), about the elections. It was a poor reflection on the IMechE, that only one candidate was female, and asks for some reflections on that point.*

Responses from:

President: we are disappointed too. We acknowledge the lack of diversity in this year's elections but had hoped for a larger number of female candidates. We remain committed to removing any barriers which may be preventing some people from applying, including those that are written in the by-laws and Royal Charter. The Nominations (NomCo), and Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) committees will take this forward and aim to create greater diversity across the IMechE.

Dr. Alice Bunn, CEO: thanked Alan for mentioning this. We are concerned and are very keen to do everything possible, to make the IMechE as welcoming an institution as we can and a real institution for the future.

Professor David Nowell, Trustee and HQ WG member: gender is one specific aspect of diversity, so we need to ensure that we are diverse in other ways too, including racial, and education, backgrounds, disability, etc. It is important that those who offer their services to the IMechE are a reflection of the membership, and its aspirations for the future.

Dr. Alison McMillan, Member [in the chat]: the D&I training launched by the IMechE is huge in scope and very impressive. The President thanked Alison for her comment, which was much appreciated.

President: we also need to reflect on the work that is currently being done to extend D&I across the IMechE: the tremendous work that the D&I Committee do, but also the

D&I strategy that has been put in place to roll out D&I training to members so that they understand the importance of having D&I in the organisation.

Question 9: *from Mr. R. Tablet (membership grade). Does selling a 100-year lease on 3 BW, to fund the refurbishment of 1 BW, with a 30-year life, as mentioned in one of the previous briefings, mean the options are really sell the HQ now, or sell in 30-years' time?*

Responses from:

Professor David Nowell, Trustee and HQ WG member: this is a very key point. It is quite clear that we cannot keep selling our assets: the financial model being put together includes provision for a 30-year refurbishment were the IMechE to remain at 1 BW; or, for refurbishment of a new building, if the IMechE moves. The funding model for the future must include this aspect of sustainability, with provision for properly maintaining the real estate, wherever it happens to be.

Dr. Clive Hickman, Chair of Finance Board: we are in the current position because we have under-invested in the building for the last 30 years. In future, we will create a fund, of about 1% of the building's value annually, which will allow us to invest the monies, when needed, during the course of the next 30 years, to avoid getting into the current position again.

Question 9: *from Cliff Perry (Fellow), in response to Question 1. He still has some concerns, in terms of understanding the financial data which has been presented. Dr.Clive Hickman was asked to elaborate further on the plans being put in place to address this.*

Response from Dr. Clive Hickman, Chair of Finance Board: the key thing is that Council is being asked to join the Finance Board, so that they can see the work being done, and get a better understanding of this. It is hoped that, by offering this opportunity to Council, some of the concerns will be addressed.

The Q&A session ended, and the President thanked everyone who had contributed.

MOTION 1 - TO ADOPT THE TRUSTEE BOARD'S REPORT AND ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022.

The votes cast were recorded and reported as:	For	Against	Abstain
Votes cast by proxy	3	0	0
Total votes cast (including proxy votes)	1,663	17	91

The President declared the motion carried and thanked members for voting.

MOTION 2 – TO APPOINT AUDITORS AT A REMUNERATION TO BE FIXED BY THE TRUSTEE BOARD.

It was proposed that BDO LLP be reappointed to act as auditors for 2023 at a remuneration to be negotiated. The auditor appointment was opened for discussion and comments were invited.

No comments were received and the vote for the Auditors was opened.

The votes cast were recorded and reported as:	For	Against	Abstain
Votes cast by proxy	3	0	0
Total votes cast (including proxy votes)	1,639	24	98

The President declared the motion carried and thanked members for the voting.

The full voting figures, for the proxy vote, would be ratified and published on the website.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Phil Peel stated: It has been an exceptional honour for me to represent the Institution as its 137th President, during its 175th anniversary year. When I took over from Peter Flinn last May, I chose as the theme for my Presidential address, *Our Institution, Building the Future*. I wanted us to realise where we have come from, as a distinguished engineering body; and also acknowledge that we continue to have a significant part to play in society, and the future challenges it faces. I hope that I have managed to achieve some of that during my Presidential year.

In reflecting back on the year, I would like to cover the indicated areas:

- Tribute to HM The Queen Elizabeth II: I would like to pay tribute to our former Queen. The UK's longest serving monarch was patron of many engineering institutions in the UK, including our own, for almost 70 years. It is sad to see her no longer in that position, but we look forward to having a new patron in the near future; and I wish King Charles III a long and prosperous reign.
- Past Presidents: we have sadly lost three this year:
 - Denis Filer (1992)
 - Bill Edgar (2004). In particular, I had the pleasure of working with Bill, when he chaired our Financial Review Committee in 2018/19. He also worked as our Interim CEO (2008/09), and brought a wealth of experience to the discussions.
 - Oscar Roith, CBE (1987)

As I previously hinted in the response to the Q&A session, a particular highlight for me was hosting the annual dinner in Birmingham, last November, at the Queen's Hotel, Curzon Street Station, where the IMechE held its inaugural meeting on 27th January 1847, including the election of George Stephenson as our first President.

Reflecting also on the other activities that took place during the 175 anniversary celebrations, the unique roles that Bromsgrove and Curzon Street stations played in the early history of the Institution, have also been rightly recognised, with prestigious IMechE engineering heritage awards. My thanks go out to John Wood, chair of the Heritage Committee, and all the members of the committee, for the excellent work that they do.

During the year, I have managed to travel widely, and have met many of you, in person, which I have greatly enjoyed. Being the first international-based President, I have been

keen to emphasise the international activities of the IMechE, and have travelled to several countries outside of the UK:

- Spain (November 2022): to support the European Regional Meeting there.
- Malaysia (March 2023), where I was able to handover, in person, the country's first engineering heritage award; our 137th, which was appropriate, as I was the 137th President! This was for the country's last surviving tin dredge, affectionately referred to as TT5, for the contribution such machines made to the tin mining industry. At 4,500 tonnes, it is probably the largest recipient of an engineering heritage award, to date.
- Hong Kong (March 2023): I combined my visit to Malaysia with one to Hong Kong, and met many people who were passionate about the engineering activities there. But, they are also passionate about the IMechE, and it is so welcoming to travel outside of the UK, and just see what a wealth of support there is for the Institution, in the international community.
- Dublin and Belfast (April 2023): I rounded off my international travels closer to home, where I made a combined visit.

It is really important to emphasise, that we are a global organisation, and we have a global vision that is critical to our future development; and, I am sure that Giles will focus on that during his Presidential term too.

I have visited many engineering companies during the course of my year, and they all act as a showcase of engineering excellence in the latest technology. I found a real commitment in furthering the work of engineering, and supporting the work of IMechE in those locations; and I was really glad for being hosted there; and, I wish each one of them all the best for the future, in their continued endeavours.

I would also like to spotlight some other excellent events that I have attended, organised by our volunteers, staff and sister institutions. My thanks to all of you for the time spent in arranging, and executing, these events.

We have also reached out to other engineering bodies, to extend our collaboration and impact. For example, in Germany, we have developed closer ties with the VDI; and, I have been involved with several joint events with the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET). In February 2023, we had a historic meeting in Huddersfield, where the Presidents of the IMechE and IET met for the first time, and thanks go to IET President Professor Bob Cryan for organising that.

I also want to recognise the success of our five main challenge events. Our Events Team, and all our volunteers, involved in that work so hard to deliver these; and the sense of team play, and enthusiasm for engineering, which is expressed by the participants, is truly infectious.

Another area that we do not shout loudly about are the excellent podcasts produced by Dr. Helen Meece, in the '*Impulse to Innovation*' series. So, many thanks to Helen for being such a great ambassador for the profession; and, please continue to do your podcasts, as they are greatly received.

In closing, I would like to spotlight the achievements of our staff. It has truly been a pleasure working with Alice and her team over the year; they bring so many positive contributions to the way that we function as an institution.

Siobhan Wren was rightly honoured with the award, IMechE Employee of the Year. Like many of our staff, Siobhan goes the extra mile in delivering the gold standard of service for our institution, and it is great to recognise, and celebrate, that.

Also during the year, we have had to say goodbye to some long-serving staff members:

- Joan Gibbins: who has contributed so much to our institution, since she joined in 1973. In 2011, she was rightly rewarded the MBE, in The Queen's Birthday Honours' list, for her support to the engineering profession. Several years ago, we made her a Companion of the IMechE, to reflect the great esteem we held her in; and, still do, even though she has retired.
- Denis Healy: has been the Business Development Manager for Yorkshire and the North Eastern Region, since 2008; and has faithfully supported the members and activities there, over the years.

I wish both Joan and Denis a long, well-earned retirement; and many, many thanks for all their work for the Institution.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those with whom I have worked during the year, whether you be members, staff, or engineering friends and acquaintances. It has been an exceptional honour, to represent this fine Institution as President, and one that I will treasure, for the rest of my life.

As I pass over to Giles, as the next President, I leave the Institution in his capable hands. I wish him every success in his endeavours, during his Presidential year, as, together, we continue, to improve the world through engineering. Thank you.

2023 ELECTIONS FOR TRUSTEE BOARD AND COUNCIL

Dr. Alice Bunn announced results of the elections.

The following were declared elected to the *Trustee Board*:

President: Giles Hartill
(Having been elected Deputy President in 2022)

Deputy President: Matthew Philip James Garside

Vice-Presidents: David Nowell
Simon Evans

Ordinary Members:

Trustee Board: Ruth Shilston
Trustee Board International: Chris Chong
Trustee Board Under 30: Joshua Thomson-Smith

Council:

Ordinary Members of Council

Fellows (4): John Butler
Paul Johnson
Frazer Mackay
Fraser Maitland

Members (5): Gianpaolo Benedetti
John Bruce Buchan
Adam Burgess
Amr Elbanhawy
Robert Rayner

Separately, and for information only, following the UK Regional and International Regional Elections:

UK:

- North Eastern Region: Allan D'Ambrogio, elected on the 10th May 2023.
- Yorkshire Region: Alan Hunt, elected on the 17th April 2023.

International:

- Middle East and Africa Region
 - Regional Chair: Mohammed Uneeb, FIMechE
 - Young Member: Ifeanyichukwu U. Onyenanu, MIMechE
- South East Asia Region
 - Regional Chair: Chanaka Wanniarachchi FIMechE (re-elected for a second term)
 - Young Member: Shivaskaran Kanthalingam, MIMechE

The total number of votes cast was 3,427 being 5.3% of the eligible Corporate and Associate Members.

- The number of votes cast by post was 369.
- The number of votes cast online was 3058.

The total number of abstained votes were 1,998.

The successful candidates were sincerely thanked, for bringing their knowledge and experience to the Trustee Board, to Council, and to our regional and international deliberations. The President and CEO gave a special thanks to retiring members, for their outstanding support; and, to the time and effort devoted by volunteers, which was truly amazing and humbling.

INTRODUCTION OF PRESIDENT

Giles Hartill will be the 138th President of our Institution. He has been a member of the IMechE since 1999, becoming a Fellow in 2014.

He gained a BEng in mechanical engineering, from University College London in 2002, and has worked in the UK defence industry since 2003, at AWE plc. During that time, as AWE design authority for Trident, he led the design, qualification, assessment and approval of the Mark 4 modifications to the UK's Trident re-entry system; and then, as Chief Warhead Engineer, working closely with the Ministry of Defence and US agencies, supported the assessment and establishment of the UK's replacement warhead programme.

Giles is very proud of the contribution he has made towards maintaining the UK's continuous at sea deterrent over the past 20 years; and looks forward to continuing this in his recent appointment as Chief Technologist, responsible for technology improvements, providing direction on R&D, innovation and experimentation, and driving technology integration into capital investments.

He has been volunteering continuously for the IMechE, since 2004, focussing on supporting career development for members, and promoting STEM to schools, via various initiatives. Giles started as a publicity officer, promoting activities and events, to young members (YM) in the Greater London Region; and was then elected London YM panel chair, where he greatly expanded the size and diversity of the panel, winning YM Panel of the Year award in the process. Following this, he represented YM on the IMechE's YM Board, Council and TB.

In 2008, Giles joined the London Region Committee, starting as publicity officer, and was then elected Honorary Secretary for four years. He also obtained an MSc in Industrial Materials, from Loughborough University, and became a chartered engineer in the same year. In 2014, he was elected London Region chair, as well as representing members on Council, and the Regional Strategy Board.

Giles served as a trustee and Vice President in 2016–2017, and during this time, sponsored the set-up of our digital transformation programme, as well as serving on the Audit & Risk Committee. He was re-elected as Vice President in 2018, initially chairing the Education and Skills Strategy Board, providing leadership to the profession and society at large, by facilitating the inspiration, and retention, of young people in engineering.

Giles was a member of the team that delivered the 2019 governance review, and was subsequently a member of the Implementation Group, responsible for actioning the review recommendations; and helped the start-up of the refreshed NomCo.

In May 2021, Giles took over as chair of the new Strategy Committee, responsible for developing our long-term vision for the IMechE, and leading strategic planning activities. Since becoming Deputy President in May 2022, he now also continues to support NomCo, in its important work in opening up volunteering opportunities, and supporting the improvement of D&I across the IMechE.

Giles Hartill was formally installed as the new President of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. The badge of office was handed over by the outgoing President, Phil Peel.

VOTE OF THANKS

As his first duty, Giles Hartill invited Past President (2021–2022) Peter Flinn, to propose a vote of thanks for Past President (2022–2023) Phil Peel.

Peter Flinn thanked Phil Peel for his all his work during his Presidential year and noted that he was the first President to hold office outside of the UK. He noted that a hidden part of the President's role is all the governance work undertaken. The IMechE is a complex organisation with much to do managing finances, strategy, the building, culture, qualifications, etc., and he has managed this, being held in high esteem by Trustees, members and staff.

Phil Peel thanked Peter Flinn for his all work in championing the IMechE's approach to net zero, including writing a very impressive report; and ensuring that the IMechE remains at the forefront of the impact and policy of this very important area.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Giles Hartill echoed Peter Flinn's comments on Phil Peel's contribution during his Presidency.

Giles Hartill thanked everyone for attending today, and stated that he was proud and honoured to be the IMechE's 138th president.

His online Presidential Address and question session would take place on 7th June 2023, with full details available on the Institution's website. He would be launching the IMechE's new strategy, laying out what is to be achieved, how the IMechE intends to succeed, and, importantly, explaining why. It is the vision of how the IMechE will be transformed into a global, inclusive, and digitally enabled engineering community, to deliver the mission of *'improving the world through engineering'*.

The meeting formally ended at 13:24 hrs.

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CHAIR

Dated: