

Cross Association Working Group summaries

# January to August 2019



The story so far....



## Cross Association HR Group – 6<sup>th</sup> February at ExCeL London

### "33% of event professionals will experience a period of mental ill health" (EventWell 2017)

Our first Cross Association working group of the year met at ExCeL London this week. HR professionals from across the sister associations joined forces and expertise to explore mental health first aid.

Led by Christina Barsoum and Jaan Madan from [MHFA England](#) the group discovered some sobering statistics, learnt a little more about themselves and how together mental health can be addressed across all corners of our organisations and industry.

Organised by the HR working group chair, Cheryl Busby from Clarion Events Ltd all welcomed the opportunity to prioritise and alter thinking.

The group will now work on the objective of approaching barriers/tackling the stigma and compiling a mental health tool kit for ultimate use across our member organisations.

The meeting concluded with a tour (by a Clarion Gaming Event Director) of ICE which was enjoying its third day residency at ExCeL London.

Thank you to all those that attended, Cheryl (chair) and Raj (vice) for organising, MHFA England for providing thought provoking content, ICE and finally ExCeL London for hosting and providing refreshment.

Our next (extra - due to demand) meeting takes place on 4th June at Diversified Communications in Brighton.

Contact your Association representative should you wish to join the conversation.

Take a couple of minutes to view PwC's This is Me campaign which was created to mark World Mental Health Day 2016 and shown during our meeting

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ol1ymSjPhBE>

MHFA England: <https://mhfaengland.org/>



**MHFA England**



## Cross Association H&S Group – 13<sup>th</sup> February at Alexandra Palace

Our second Cross Association working group of the year met at Alexandra Palace on 13<sup>th</sup> February.

H&S professionals from across the sister associations joined forces and expertise to explore the groups direction through an interactive workshop led by the Chair, Reed Exhibitions Emma Dengate.

Differing from previous meetings, the near 40 attendees took benefit from the cabaret room layout which gave the meeting a sense of informality which encouraged deeper collaboration.

After an update on specific agenda items Dengate steered the conversation facilitating an exploration into the group's purpose and (at an Association level then as a mix) what kept them awake at night. Out of this collective input a set of objectives and a strategy can now be finalised.

Thank you to all those that attended, Emma (chair) and Paul (vice) for organising, Alexandra Palace for hosting, providing refreshment and for Graeme Timms for leading the fascinating venue tour.

Our next meeting takes place on 29<sup>th</sup> August at Landsec, London.





## Cross Association Technology Working Group

– 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019

The Cross Association group met during the opening day of International Confex.

Utilising this great opportunity for members to congregate the **Technology** group combined (for their first part) with AEO’s Business Information Technology Group (BTIG) for a round table open discussion regarding advancing the opportunities in working closer together - The collective agreed there is a lack of knowledge or understanding regarding the differing expectations Vs reality of venue Wi-Fi. The Cross Association group will work on creating various tools which will aid in this (re) education.

This combined group agreed to meet annually but continue dialogue through Associations with another joint meeting later in the year IF required given technology advances.

The Cross Association group split from the BTIG for the second part of their meeting, and was led by the group’s chair, Amir Vered through International Confex to another part of Olympia London for a working lunch. The group also welcomed a representative from Rai Amsterdam who happened to be speaking at International Confex and was invited by Amir to witness our working group session. All welcome the Commercial Director of Exposure Analytics, Rob Murdoch who gave an insightful overview of the benefits of utilising tracking tech to gage the success of an event.

The meeting closed after the objectives for 2019 were discussed.

Thank you to all those that attended, Amir for chairing both sessions, hosting and organising refreshment, the BTIG, and Rob Murdoch for presenting.

**CROSS ASSOCIATION TECHNOLOGY WORKING GROUP**  
 26/02/19  
 Olympia London  
 11:15 - 13.30


 ASSOCIATION OF EVENT VENUES
 
 ASSOCIATION OF EVENT ORGANISERS
 
 Event Supplier and Services Association

**GUEST PRESENTER:**  
**ROB MURDOCH -**  
**COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR**

**EXPOSURE ANALYTICS**




## Cross Association Sustainability Working Group

20<sup>th</sup> March 2019

18 individuals from across 13 companies gathered at UBM/Informa’s spectacular central London offices for an afternoon of collaborative industry sustainability thinking. Olympia London kindly sponsored a workshop facilitated by the MICE Machine.

The MICE Machine exists to encourage and support greater sustainability in the meetings, incentives, conference and exhibitions (or events) industry. They developed and launched Olympia London’s reinvigorated sustainability programme – “The Grand Plan”. Champions from each of the Venue’s departments agreed objectives and a strategy to achieve. Over 130 staff and service partners have agreed to contribute to the success of the plan.

With steer from Siân Richards, Business Services & Sustainability Manager Olympia London and wanting the same successes the group chair and vice along with AEV and MICE planned a longer afternoon session.

The 19<sup>th</sup> floor of UBM/Informa’s offices provided the perfect outlook for inspiration. A tasty buffet lunch was organised by the groups vice and host – Lucille which gave a chance for the group to gather and catch up.

Commencing at 12:30pm Ruth and Chris introduced themselves and MICE Machine’s purpose, their work with Olympia London and a couple of videos that all helped to set the scene.

Throughout the afternoon the group explored their collective needs and then as Association islands. 4 hours later these were then all pulled together into key focus areas and aims for the group with the ultimate aim to create commitment to obtain long term success.

Given the enthused attendees a follow up session is being explored before our next working group meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> October.

**CROSS ASSOCIATION SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP: SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP**

FACILITATED BY: **The MICE Machine**  
Inspiring a sustainable future for events


**MARCH 20 | STARTS 12:30PM**  
**2019 | ENDS 4:30PM**

Visit [www.aev.org.uk/aev-news](http://www.aev.org.uk/aev-news) for more info


Hosts: **UBM** | Workshop Sponsor: **OLYMPIA London**

## 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 – Technology Working Group and joint meeting with Electrical Technical Working Group.


TECHNOLOGY & ELECTRIC TECHNICAL  
CROSS ASSOCIATION WORKING GROUPS










# ALTERNATIVE POWER FORUM




THANK YOU TO OUR HOSTS,  
ALL WHO ATTENDED, THE  
CHAIRS AND GUEST  
PRESENTERS



 ASSOCIATION OF EVENT VENUES
  ASSOCIATION OF EVENT ORGANISERS
  Event Supplier and Services Association







## ALTERNATIVE POWER PANEL






**Duncan Robertson**  
Technical Director & Designer  
DK Fire Safety & Show Exhibition Services





**Archie Wilkinson**  
Managing Director of Lifesaver Power





**Tim Benson**  
Founder / Production Director - SMART Power Ltd  
Production & Sustainability Manager -  
Great Escape Festival  
Assessor - A Greener Festival

### **Technology Working Group meeting – 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019**

Meeting for the group's second get-together of the year a number of technology experts from across the industry met at Olympia London to progress conversations surrounding the outputs from the joint meeting back in February with the BTIG (Business Technology Information Group).

The group made headway pulling together ideas for content surrounding the first draft of venue tech guides for Organisers and Exhibitors to utilise. Further formats/functionalities were discussed.

Round table tech updates followed with suggested topics for discussion at the next meeting which takes place a day after our Conference on 5<sup>th</sup> July.

The group broke for lunch courtesy of our hosts where we were joined by the Electrics Technical Working Group for a joint discussion exploring alternative power at events..

### **Joint Technology and Electrics Working Group meeting – Alternative Power Forum**

A hot topic cross pollinated via these two and the H&S, eGuide, Sustainability working groups. The joint group welcomed (via a short introduction via the Electrics Technical chair Chris Morrison) three experts in this field.

Duncan Robertson – Technical Director and Designer from DK Fire Safety & Show Exhibition Services.

Archie Wilkinson – MD – Lifesaver Power

Tim Benson – Founder/Production Director – SMART Power Ltd

Each took to the floor imparting their wisdom and expertise in their specific areas around providing technical & electrical show/event services to the industry – which included the increasing supply of portable power. Over the last few years, each had noticed the increasing use of self-contained battery power solutions for exhibit displays and lighting. With the increase in lower powered LED equipment, this is becoming used more by some exhibitors on certain shows, however, we have seen an uplift with the bespoke stand builders designed equipment to incorporate this technology into their stands, the main usage, as to date, been utilised using lead sealed acid batteries for lighting schemes.

Further exploration ventured into the risks and hazards associated with the use of these types of batteries which would benefit review and consultation. As a result representatives from the eGuide subcommittee working group agreed to discuss this at their next meeting taking place on 12<sup>th</sup> June. The H&S Cross Association working group will also be discussing this as part of their longer meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> August.

Gratitude was shown to our hosts, attendees who travelled from the four corners of our island the presenters who offered their time to share their wisdom and afternoon with us.

Next meeting for the Working Group – 6<sup>th</sup> November – P&J Live



**Event Industry HR Working Group – 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

Diversified Communications UK welcomed the Cross-Association Event Industry HR working group to their offices in sunny Brighton this week. On UFI’s Global Exhibitions Day!

It was satisfying to see that since our last meeting in February there were 5 MHFA trained Champions and 2 mental health first aiders in the room. It’s been a busy 4 months!

The group split into two and explored possible tool box content for our cross-association members to utilise. Pulling our resources together the group arrived at various possibilities including a name for such a resource – watch this space!

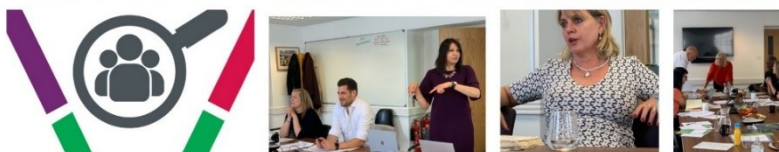
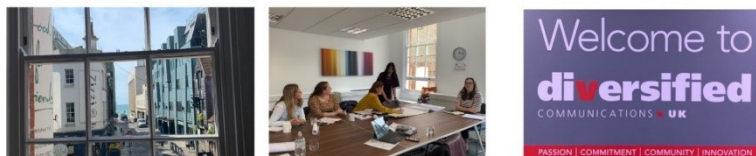
After a tasty lunch we welcomed Colleen Theron from Ardea International who gave the group insights into modern slavery and the requirements give the recent changes in policy.

The meeting closed after addressing Association Salary Surveys, IR35 changes and DBS checking.

The meeting then carried on at a local pub where the ideas flowed further. Great meeting, great friends, great direction.

Thank you to Cheryl and Raj (Char/Vice), Hazel for hosting and arranging lunch, Colleen for presenting and all who attended.

Next meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> October at Alexandra Palace.





## 5 Working Group meetings – 5<sup>th</sup> July – Manchester Central.

92 professionals from across our industry met at Manchester Central for a quintet of working group meetings namely Event Managers, MarComms, Catering, Security and Cross Association Technology Working Groups

The Event Managers welcomed back Lucy Pittaway, Senior Event Management Lecturer from Manchester Metropolitan University who helped the group work towards one of their objectives – an exciting new project - watch this space. Two of Lucy's students were also present – who were incredibly helpful during our conference the night and evening before. Next meeting takes place at Sandown Park Racecourse on 20<sup>th</sup> November.

The MarComms group continued their discussions on their forthcoming Marketing Benchmark Survey and gave further thought to their 2020 objectives. They look forward to their next meeting at Bournemouth International Centre on 26<sup>th</sup> September.

The Catering working group welcomed an update from their Chair Jamie Anderson over his attendance at the eGuide working group back in May. The group then explored the perceived complexities of the current catering eGuide section and welcome the current collaboration with Organisers into the ever-evolving section. Next meeting takes place at ACC Liverpool on 30<sup>th</sup> October.

The Security working group enjoyed a combined meeting with representation from the National Arena Association (NAA) who shared venue updates and a collaborative approach to crowded places best practice. Exploring areas of commonality and shared learning. Next meeting takes place at the Business Design Centre on 25<sup>th</sup> September.

The Cross-Association Technology Working Group explored emerging technologies and their ongoing projects of creating Exhibitor/Organiser venue connectivity guide cards. The group look forward to their next working group meeting at P&J Live on 6<sup>th</sup> November. They are also exploring the possibility of a group visit to a venue on the continent in 2020.



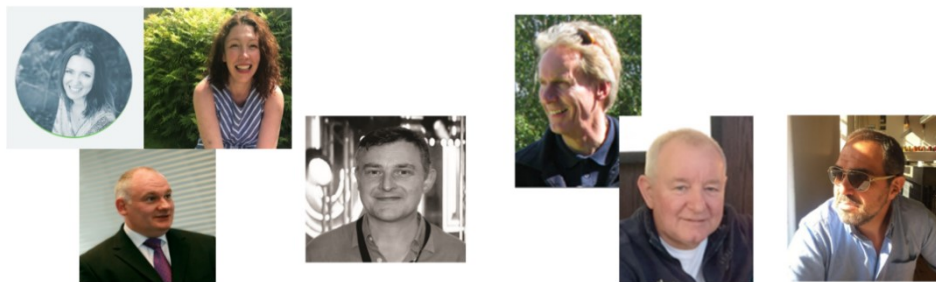
**H&S working group meeting - 29<sup>th</sup> August 2019 – Landsec**



44 individuals registered to attend our cross-association H&S working group meeting yesterday (29<sup>th</sup> August 2019) making it the busiest single working group meeting of the year. Ever. Mike Pearce welcomed us all to Landsec, our generous hosts for near 4.5-hour meeting.

The agenda allowed for a variety of topics to be discussed. These subjects were highlighted as hot topics at the group’s last meeting back in February. Well-being was explored as a collective with the help of Alex Joicey from PepFarley and Frances Trussell providing us with an understanding of managing the physiological responses to stress; particularly relevant to the hectic lives of those from all corners of the event world – great to see the entire room engaging with some breathing exercises.

After a short break the group split into 4 streams covering the importance of sleep with Circadian's Steve Goodwin, alternative power with James Eade, pedestrian and traffic control with Gerry Kilsby & Tony Hawkins and complex rigging with Nigel Winer.



*Frances Trussell, Alex Joicey and Steve Goodwin*

*James Eade*

*Gerry Kilsby Tony Hawkins*

*Nigel Winer*

The group were spoilt by a delicious lunch provided by Landsec’s caterers Bennett Hay Limited.

Post lunch the leaders from each stream imparted their group’s outputs giving all an idea of the direction we should travel as an Industry collective.

Thank you to all those who attended, our hosts and guests and to Paul Brough for stepping in as chair at the very last minute.

Our next meeting in on 26<sup>th</sup> February at ExCeL London, during International Confex.

# Gallery

