

## Chair's Annual Report, 2016-17

### 1. Meeting at Kortrijk

We had a successful meeting at the Park Hotel in Kortrijk, Belgium, in April of 2015. On the day before the meeting we had a tour of the Ypres Salient, almost 101 years after the first gas attack of WW1. This was expertly led by Major Tom Simoens from the Belgian Military Academy who was knowledgeable, personable and, not least, tactful. Colonel Peter Lodewyckx, Professor of Chemistry at the Belgian Military Academy, came down from Bruxelles and gave us a welcome talk on adsorption. At the AGM Stuart Harris ended his term as Chair of the European Section and I stepped up to take his place with Clair Hemmings as vice-chair. I would recommend the hotel in Kortrijk if it wasn't for the trip hazard in the dining room.

### 2. Vice-Presidential Election

Mike Parham was elected as Vice President of the International Society. I don't have the overall voting figures but I am told that 44 members of the European Section voted which, by my reckoning, is about 50% of the membership so well done, that's better than we get for some parliamentary by-elections in the UK. Stuart Harris's term as an International Board member came to an end at Yokohama and when we found out that Mike Lee hadn't succeeded in the election your committee co-opted Mike Lee as a European member of the International Board to replace Stuart. We should again thank Stuart for all of his work for the Society over the years.

### 3. Yokohama

Although I was unable to go to the Yokohama meeting I am led to understand that it was a great success. Two of our members were made awards at that meeting, Ian Maxwell was awarded the Hyatt Award and Graham Bostock the Revoir. Jamie Drew was awarded our own Bob Bentley prize to enable him to go to the meeting and present.

### 4. Birmingham

Our Autumn meeting at the Arden Hotel in Birmingham was timed to precede a Fit-2-Fit meeting the following day. I wasn't able to

stay to the latter but we had a full isrp meeting. In particular we had papers from Yokohama. Jamie Drew presented as did Rhiannon Mogridge from HSE. It's good to see the younger members taking an active part in our proceedings.

## 5. 2020 Conference

Your committee is looking at venues for the 2020 International conference. At the moment we are sticking to places where we have members who can do the local organisation, having had two International conferences in Cities where we have had no members. Leo is looking at a hotel venue in Amsterdam and I have investigated Pembroke college in Oxford.

## 6. Future Meetings and Brexit

None of us know what the outcome of the UK's negotiations to leave the European Union will be or even if the UK will still be united following the negotiations. However Europe is bigger than the European Union and the European Section will continue to believe in a United Europe that includes all countries in geographical Europe. We are aware that our membership is heavily biased towards the UK and we must make every effort to increase our membership in mainland Europe, and Eire, and to this end we need to hold at least one meeting a year outside the UK. We are looking for organisations which can host us for our autumn meeting. Our meeting in Belgium was the first time I recall being in Belgium and I don't remember, for instance, going to France recently though we have had meetings in Holland and Germany.

7. Finally I would like to thank Mike Lee and Claire Baker for all of their work as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. I would also like to thank all of the members of the committee for their support and suggestions, especially our past-presidents Mike Clayton, Andy Capon and current president, Lars Ronner.