



Presidents Report

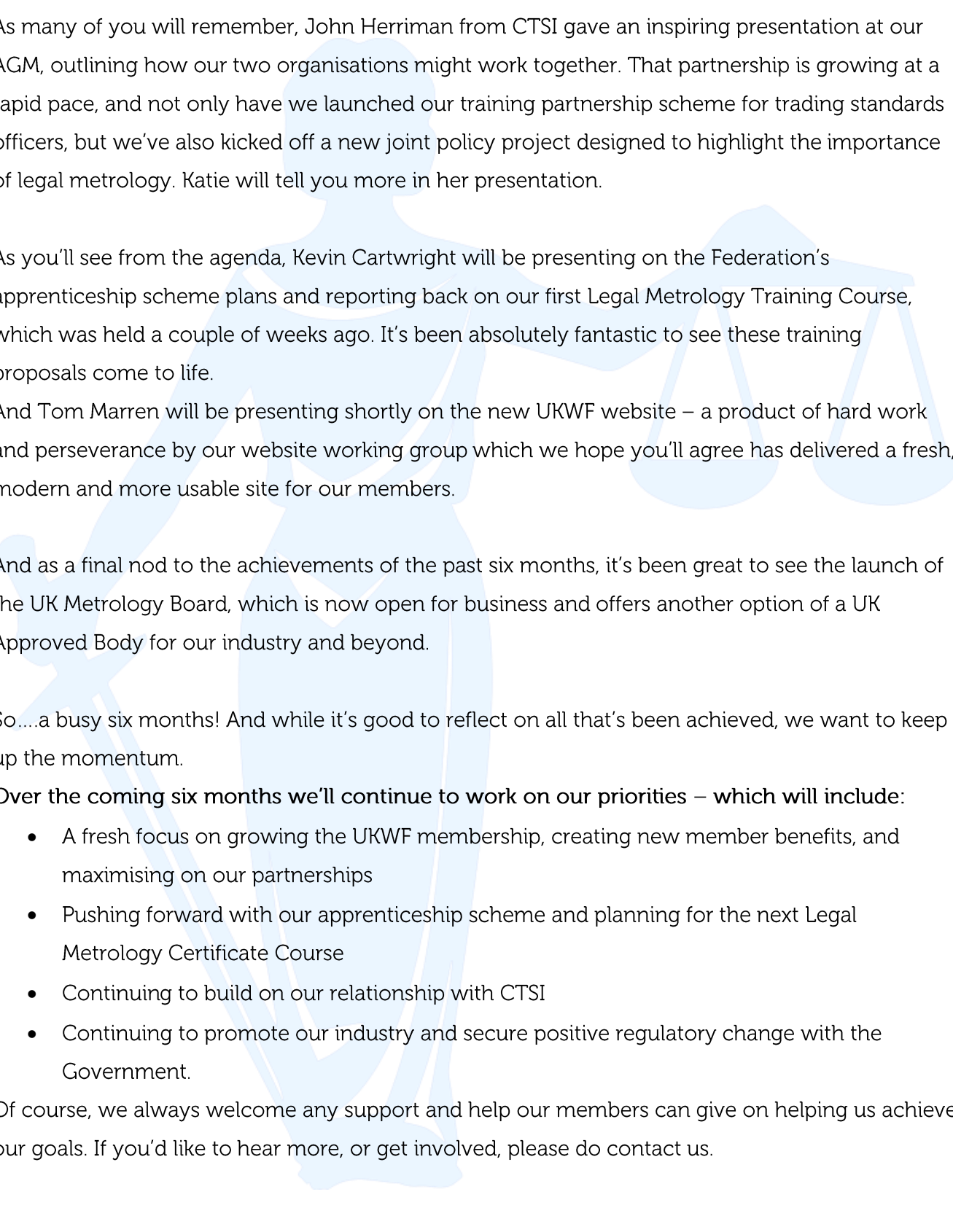
Thanks to everyone for coming today. It's really good to see so many of our members gather together. As ever, we have an exciting agenda for the afternoon, but equally, I'm always reminded what a fantastic opportunity our meetings are for catching up with colleagues across our industry and meeting new people.

The Federation has done a lot since our last gathering at our AGM six months ago. Over the course of this afternoon, you'll be hearing a lot more detail about the projects and work we've been focusing on, but I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight just how much has been achieved.

Our Technical Officer, Ian, and our Communications Officer, Katie, will be discussing stakeholder engagement. They will be talking in detail about everything they've been doing over the past six months to understand the ever-changing regulatory environment in weights and measures, and build our relationships with Government and other stakeholders to ensure we're in the best position possible to understand and respond to them. Not only do they continue to meet regularly with the Department for Business and Trade and the Office for Product Safety and Standards, but they also work closely with CTSI, GAMBICA and CECIP on all kinds of issues of importance to our industry. Our relationship with the Government has been particularly important in helping us understand the UKCA marking changes and what impact they might have, and Ian will be updating more on that in his presentation.

We've also become members of MADE UK, which represents the UK manufacturing industry. MAKE is particularly well-connected in Government and it will be great to be able to participate more in their work.

To help us grow our capacity to communicate to the press and stakeholders on behalf of the weighing industry, some of the Board Directors also had what I hesitate to call the 'pleasure' of participating in media training in April. It was a really interesting experience which helped the Board feel more prepared for potential media interviews and more aware of what journalists are looking for.



As many of you will remember, John Herriman from CTSI gave an inspiring presentation at our AGM, outlining how our two organisations might work together. That partnership is growing at a rapid pace, and not only have we launched our training partnership scheme for trading standards officers, but we've also kicked off a new joint policy project designed to highlight the importance of legal metrology. Katie will tell you more in her presentation.

As you'll see from the agenda, Kevin Cartwright will be presenting on the Federation's apprenticeship scheme plans and reporting back on our first Legal Metrology Training Course, which was held a couple of weeks ago. It's been absolutely fantastic to see these training proposals come to life.

And Tom Marren will be presenting shortly on the new UKWF website – a product of hard work and perseverance by our website working group which we hope you'll agree has delivered a fresh, modern and more usable site for our members.

And as a final nod to the achievements of the past six months, it's been great to see the launch of the UK Metrology Board, which is now open for business and offers another option of a UK Approved Body for our industry and beyond.

So...a busy six months! And while it's good to reflect on all that's been achieved, we want to keep up the momentum.

Over the coming six months we'll continue to work on our priorities – which will include:

- A fresh focus on growing the UKWF membership, creating new member benefits, and maximising on our partnerships
- Pushing forward with our apprenticeship scheme and planning for the next Legal Metrology Certificate Course
- Continuing to build on our relationship with CTSI
- Continuing to promote our industry and secure positive regulatory change with the Government.

Of course, we always welcome any support and help our members can give on helping us achieve our goals. If you'd like to hear more, or get involved, please do contact us.

We also have a guest speaker this afternoon – Helena Robinson from GAMBICA. Helena is coming to talk to us about something which is bound to begin to affect our businesses in years to come – carbon reporting and Net Zero targets. She'll also be telling us about a new tool GAMBICA has developed to help companies understand their carbon footprint. I'm really looking forward to welcoming her to our meeting.

Finally, I'd like to thank the UKWF team and the Board for all their hard work over the past six months. Not only do they demonstrate real dedication to the Federation and our aims and objectives, but their positive, can-do attitudes have made my first six months as President very enjoyable. I can't wait to see what the next six months bring. Thank you all again for attending today, and without further ado, let's get on with our meeting!

1. Presentation : UKWF Apprenticeships – Kevin Cartwright, UKWF Director

Kevin gave his presentation which is attached to these minutes.

He presented Ian Turner and Jeremy Sage with a certificate of thanks for writing and delivering the certificate course.

All the UKWF members passed the course and those present were presented with their certificates. The remaining delegates will receive their certificates in the post.

Question: If you already have an apprentice that has started will the apprentice diploma training be ready for them to take in a couple of years.

Kevin confirmed it is our intention that the course will be ready in 12 – 18 months' time while the apprentice is still on their scheme.

Question: Where is the syllabus for the courses

These are in the members area of the UKWF website on the apprenticeships page and was also sent out to all members in April 2023 via email.

2. Presentation : UKWF Comms – Katie Begg, UKWF Comms Officer

Katie gave her presentation which is attached to these minutes.

She advised that the webinar recordings are available to view in the members area of the website.

3. Presentation : UKWF Website – Tom Marren

Tom went through the new website, which is not quite live yet but soon will be.

Tom advised that all of the key messages have been update by Katie. He thanked Katie and Chris who have driven the setup of the site over the last few weeks.

Member search

This is probably the most criticised area of the site. We have completely revamped the search so that all members come up on the initial search page on the map. The members are also shown in a random order, and everyone is listed on the one search page.

There is the ability to search by product or area etc.

Member area

The members area is password protected and your existing password and username has been transferred over. If you have any issue with logging in, please contact the secretariat.

We have not copied over the whole site, so if there are news items that you need, please let us know.

This has been a large project but there are still some areas that will need updating, we are pleased with the look of it and have got it to the point where we are ready to launch.

Question: Are we doing SEO and are we looking to have the site for end users to find a reputable company.

Yes, this is the plan, but we do need to keep it neutral to not promote one member above any other.

4. Presentation : UKWF Technical Officer presentation, - Ian Turner

Ian gave his technical presentation which is attached to these minutes.

The following questions were asked:

Question: What do Trading Standards think about the fact that you could put UKCA mark on the box.

UKCA marks need to be physically present on the box.

For requalification you need a UK approved body.

Question: Initial verification with CE Mark with UK approval – are you allowed to put a UKCA mark on them.

Yes, this is possible. You would put your UKCA mark over the UKCE mark. You have until the end of 2024 you can use CE marks and European

You can use a UKCA mark and still have an EU type approval, using an EU approved body,

Product comes in from Europe with CE mark on. You do module D with UK Approved Body. You become the manufacturer and you over sticker with the UKCA mark.

Question: There appear to be 2 costs if you go the UKCA mark route?
Ian confirmed this is the case.

Question: It is legal to dual mark?

Yes - You would need to have the Mark, M and approved body number for both marks.

None of this is set in legislation and if the government changed it could not be completed. It is secondary legislation which could be done quite quickly (in theory)

Artificial Intelligence

OIML R51 group – catchweighers and checkweighers the committee is considering whether to include legislation on machines that learn and improve themselves, whether they need requalification. The entire structure of legal metrology is based on checking on the day they are installed and then requalifying periodically

CECIP are wanting to write a position paper on this issue. If anyone has any machinery that they are developing in this area, then please get in contact with Andrew Goddard at Marel who is on the committee.

This is at present only R51, but it has implications for all weighing software in the future. This is the first time that Legal Metrology is being challenged by technology.

Question: What is the consensus at present on AI?

Already written in D31 is general stuff that makes people declare if your machine is using machine learning and tell the relevant authority how to test it.

5. Presentation : GAMBICA Net Zero, Sustainability and Emissions – Helena Robinson

Helena gave her presentation to the meeting which is attached to these minutes.

Question: How do you benchmark – is this done on size of company?

GAMBICA ask for number of people and size of site. This is the size of the facility. They would be benchmarked against the same sector (other UKWF members).

2023 Benchmarking will come out later next year.

Tom advised that University students are looking to do research on this so you may be able to get an intern to go through the data and put in the figures for you.

6. Round Table discussions

The GAMBICA presentation got the table thinking and net zero is becoming a big issue. Got on to discussing the costs of this work.

Graham's table tried to cover a lot of topics on the progress that UKWF has made. Training course was a big success. Could it be split to have an online course with a face-to-face element on the course.

Feedback was the course was pitched right for those who attended.

Vlogs and webinars all well received. New website looked good, need of keep the information current as advice is changing so quickly.

Latest news to come first on the website.

Richards table – how to recruit new members to the federation. Word of mouth recommendations.

Mark's table discussed the website and diploma and thought that the progress made was very good.

UKWF would like to reflect back on what we have achieved so far and looking forward to the next 3-5 years. If there are any ideas from members, please let the board know and they will consider them.

