

## **Graham Spink**

### **President Report – Regional meeting – 6 October 2022**

Thanks to everyone for coming today, it's great to see so many of our members here. We have a packed agenda this afternoon and I'm looking forward to catching up with everyone.

While it seems like just a few weeks ago that we met at the AGM, it's been a busy six months for the UKWF as we've navigated our way through constant government changes to legislation, dealt with the impact of the NMO closing its doors in April, and responded to news of reintroducing Imperial Measurements. The UKWF team has worked closely with BEIS and OPS&S over the last six months, to ensure we are able to provide you, our members, with updated information about all of these topics in a timely manner. Ian will provide a comprehensive overview of the latest changes in his technical update shortly.

In addition to our lobbying work, the UKWF board has also focused its efforts on driving forward the set of priorities that we outlined at the last meeting. Those priorities are to:

- Grow the UKWF membership, create member benefits, and maximise on our partnerships
- Push forward with the apprenticeship scheme
- Build better relations with CTSI and local trading standards
- Continue to lobby for industry change with OPS&S
- And revamp the UKWF website

All these focus areas are progressing well. Back in July Ian, Richard, and Grace met with John Herriman, CEO of CTSI, where they identified lots of opportunities for the UKWF and CTSI to work better together. Also, today, you'll hear from Kevin Cartwright with an update on the apprenticeship scheme, and we will have an extended round table discussion session to gather some of your thoughts on topics such as existing partnerships and lobbying priorities. I'm really pleased with the work that is happening here and I look forward to seeing the positive change they collectively bring for our industry and membership.

We also have a guest speaker this afternoon - Adam Thompson from Thompson Insurance Brokers. Welcome Adam, thank you for coming along today and look forward to hearing from you later.

### ***New independent approved body***

As we mentioned at the AGM, we've taken the opportunity to create a new CAB company that will not only meet the needs of UKWF members, but also other manufacturers that may require this service. The new approved body called UKMB, is now fully set up as a separate legal entity, independent of the UKWF, with its own management structure and team. Paul Moody is here today and will be providing a full update on the progress of UKMB.

### ***CECIP***

We continue to work closely with CECIP, and it was great to be able to host their General Meeting back in June in London. The UK's exit from the European Union makes the UKWF and CECIP's relationship even more vital as we work together to share policies and best practice across our continent. We may have left the EU, but we are still a part of Europe and it's important we work with them to drive change across our industry.

CECIP has just launched its new 'Weighing you can trust' campaign. This campaign focusses on quality weighing equipment and the value of using the right partner when buying and maintaining weighing instruments. The UKWF will be supporting this campaign on social media and if you're on Twitter or LinkedIn then we'd encourage you to do the same.

CECIP is also carrying out some market research to help them understand the current status of the weighing industry market. They have created a survey and more details about this is on the members section of our website.

Next year it's the International Conference of Weighing which is a three-day conference organised by a partnership of weighing industry associations from all over the world and international organisations OIML and BIPM. It will take place from 24 to 26 April 2023 in Hamburg. This is a key event for our industry as it will bring together researchers, industry, and authorities from all over the world. During the three days there will be a number of presentations on state-of-the-art developments regarding scientific, legal and applied metrology. Moreover, it is an excellent opportunity to meet relevant stakeholders from all over the world. The focus of the first edition is '*Weighing in a global digital world*'.

There are lots of opportunities to attend and even sponsor the event so please take a look at the website, it would be great to have UKWF members companies there.

So, I think it's time to get on with the afternoon but before I go, I would like to thank the UKWF team and board for all of their work that has helped get the UKWF into the great shape it is today. We will continue to work hard to promote and further improve our Federation. I have always believed that creating a strong united voice and combining our talents is key to having a solid Federation. If you would like to be involved, please do contact me and we can work together to benefit all our members and the wider weighing industry.