



12 months

Contract Flooring Association

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CFA comment



The chief executive of ficer: Richard Catt

What a *busy* year it has been!

I HAVE mentioned anniversaries and milestones a number of times in my recent articles, but please indulge me again as October 1 marked my first 12 months at the CFA.

■ **FITA:** To say it has been a busy year, would be an understatement, not least because the FITA (Flooring Industry Training Association) council and I undertook a major re-structure of FITA.

The FITA council is of course made up of both NICF and CFA council members, but at the CFA we have also done lots of other things in addition to this.

■ **Recruitment leaflet:** We have re-written the 'Join the CFA' leaflet to bring it up to date and ensure we continue to increase the membership. We launched a newsletter, the second edition of which will be published soon.

■ **CFA website:** We have also revamped the website and as I mentioned last month, launched three new documents (practical guidelines for evaluating a resilient floor, hardwood floor and site applied finish) to help contractors to resolve disputes or queries that sometimes arise when handing over a newly laid floor.

Worth a look if you work in a customer service department too. You'll find them in the member's area of our website:

www.cfa.org.uk

■ **Dinner dance:** We ran a fantastic dinner dance in Scotland and have run regional meetings in eight areas. The next one is a bowling evening in Yorkshire on **November 12**.

Contact the CFA office for details. (T : 0115 941 1126)

■ **Ge up with the gee-gees:**

Whilst I mention regional meetings, our Scottish meeting at Hamilton park race course in Glasgow was a fantastic event. It was attended by 52 members and my thanks to you all. It was really good to meet you.

And thanks also to Hamish MacGregor of MacGregor Flooring and the CFA council for his assistance in organising things.

A great evening was had by all

'If you haven't been to regional meetings, please consider joining us. Dates are published in the CFJ and I guarantee you will benefit from the networking opportunity whatever role you play in your organisation'

with some good business being discussed over a very pleasant meal and a few drinks afterwards.

My first trip to a race meeting and I only wish I could say I came away richer in pocket as well as in knowledge....but I didn't!

■ **Regional meetings:** If you haven't been to a regional meeting, please consider joining us. Dates are published in the **CFJ** and I guarantee you will benefit from the networking opportunity whatever role you play in your organisation. The South and South East region had a smaller turn out, but you missed a lively meeting at a wonderful location.

■ **Membership is growing:** Encouragingly, membership is increasing. Renewal this year was just short of 98%, despite the tough economy, which means that we are likely to continue to grow this year. This sends out a clear message that CFA membership has value and benefits.

■ **FREE credit checks:** And on that theme of member benefits, don't forget that as a CFA member you can get FREE credit checks. Simply send your request to info@cfa.org.uk and we will arrange a credit check. I am sure you will agree there is no better time to be using this service. A request must be received by email.

■ **Exhibitions:** Domotex, Floorstyle, Harrogate and Interbuild all featured on the CFA calendar in my first 12 months and I look forward to attending them again next year as a fantastic networking opportunity. I never run out of people to see, just time.

■ **Manufacturers:** Another area of CFA activity that seems to

be growing in popularity is the manufacturer's meeting. The last meeting held in Yorkshire attracted 35 people.

A really interesting presentation was given by Dr Geoff Cook from the University of Reading relating to BS8300, a standard that provides guidance on good practice in the design of domestic and commercial buildings so that they are convenient to use by disabled people.

■ **Good practice:** A summary paper is being distributed to all who attended. He gave real world pictures of good and bad practice and it was interesting to find out how colour and shade both effect how we are able to make sense of a building's interior whether fully or partially sighted. Legislation, as well as social responsibility makes it important that we, as an industry, have an understanding and can respond.

■ **Anhydrite screeds:** I expect that our next meeting to be held on December 9 will be interesting as well; the committee will discuss moisture measurement of calcium sulphate (commonly called anhydrite screeds) with a view to developing a recommendation for one test method that could be adopted and promoted as sort of control.

■ **Guidance notes:** So that discussions can be more meaningful and are comparing apples and apples....so to speak. I will of course ensure we publish our guidance in the member's area of the website.

Thank you to all of those who have helped me in my first year and of course therefore supported the CFA. Here's to the next 12 months.

