

Chair's Report

20th June 2018



As I approach the end of my two-year tenure as Chair of the Single Ply Roofing Association, I have pleasure in reporting that we have experienced yet another busy and successful year.

SPRA and its members continue to deliver a valuable service to the industry with their ethos, activities, representation, products and services.

SPRA membership has never been 'just about the badge', although of course, I would hope that all members display and promote it with pride as it represents a level of quality and commitment that isn't found everywhere in our industry. But I don't say this with complacency – there is still a lot to do, and we all sometimes let ourselves and the industry down or find it hard to make a stand when external influencers

are overwhelming.

However – twelve months on from the Grenfell disaster and the demise of Carillion earlier this year, there is a renewed enthusiasm for a change in culture across the construction sector. I would like to think that SPRA and its members are at the head of this change and that we all take responsibility for improving the way we work with our colleagues and clients, the quality we deliver, the investment we make in training the future workforce, and our commitment to technical excellence. 'Doing it right first time, every time' should be our mantra.

The theme of this year's conference - Sustainability - was chosen with this in mind, and I am delighted that leading figures in industry have agreed to speak to us on a wide range of topics that all feed into the challenges of ensuring the sustainability of the single ply market. Another clear indication of the value and influence that SPRA has within the roofing and wider construction industry.

Objectives

This report is a useful opportunity to remind ourselves of the SPRA Objects. When you compare our activities, with these Objects (noted below), I hope you will agree that we are meeting and often exceeding them.

SPRA Objects:

- To carry on in the United Kingdom or elsewhere the activities of a trade association of organisations and bodies or individuals concerned with the single ply roofing industry.;
- To foster the responsible manufacture, specification, installation and use of membranes, create a healthy market environment in which sales of single ply membranes can flourish and create awareness and understanding of such membranes within the construction industry;
- To promote the wider use of polymer based flexible roofing membranes capable of application as single ply, which also involves recognition, of the role of design and

ancillary components, from fixing to insulation which contribute to membrane performance;

- To develop technical knowledge and establish standards and codes of practice for their manufacture and installation;
- To support and encourage operator training through nationally recognised accredited training and qualifications such as National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs), (in collaboration with CITB and other industry bodies) and manufacturer training programmes;
- To work closely with architects and other specifiers, contractors and industry bodies to ensure that various materials constituting the roofing systems are compatible and complement the membrane, to ensure optimum membrane performance under all situations;
- To collaborate with other national and international bodies representing the interests of members;
- To place an informed view on single ply issues before the press, Government Departments and other both in the UK and abroad;
- To provide industry data and statistics for the benefit of its membership;
- To do all such things as are ancillary or conducive to the attainment of these objects.

SPRA Activities July 2017-Jun 2018

At the time of writing our membership stands at 16 manufacturer members, 32 associate members, 51 contractor members, 1 Affiliate member and 1 Affiliate-Contractor member. There are currently 6 companies in audit for membership.

During the previous twelve months, SPRA undertook a number of significant initiatives, not least the re-branding of the organisation, the introduction of a new website and online training course, delivery of new guidance, investing in a new training manager, along with opening up new categories of membership.

This last twelve month period has seen more consolidation with fewer new initiatives, and increased resources put towards supporting the industry through our memberships and associations. SPRA also undertook an efficiency review, and changes have been implemented to both the administration of SPRA membership and the membership fee-structure. We have transferred many processes to the website, including the creation of new online forms for applications, audits and grants. The new members area on the website is filling up with valuable information and is a definite benefit of SPRA membership. We have also opened up the Weekly News to non-members, and this has allowed us to reach and influence a wider audience. Developments will continue to constantly improve this online resource and the services it can offer.

Although SPRA has experienced a small amount of turnover in membership, numbers are still growing, with six companies going through the application process at the time of writing. Due to income from increased training delivery I am pleased to also report that financial reserves remain untouched and have increased on last year. This has allowed us to plan for significant and continued investment in training, the website, marketing and promotional activity in 2018-19. It has also allowed us the luxury of a 5-month handover period between the outgoing Technical Director, Jim Hooker and incoming Technical Manager, Ronan Brunton.

Technical Committee continues to work hard, and the latest revision of the SPRA Design Guide will be launched at the conference. As part of our efficiencies, new members will no longer

receive a printed membership folder, but instead all information will be provided on a special flash-drive, and of course, will be available to download from the members' area of the website. Flash drives containing just the Design Guide and other guidance documents will also be produced, and members are encouraged to give these to clients and specifiers as a way of raising awareness, improving quality, and promoting SPRA and its' members. Our Technical Director, Jim Hooker continues to engage with architects through presentations and seminars via the RIBA CPD Network, and members benefit from his regular technical 'Jotter's' which tackle a wide range of issues.

SPRA has also engaged Axion Consulting to complete Phase 2 of our research into single ply recycling and sustainability and the findings of this report will be presented at the conference.

Significant changes within the CITB, training course and assessment structures and grant funding have occupied considerable SPRA resources during the last twelve months. We are having to re-structure our training modules to ensure that they are CITB approved and therefore qualify for the new grant funding model. SPRA was also required to apply to CITB to retain our Specialist Applied-skills Programme (SAP) earlier this year, and I am pleased to announce that SPRA has been awarded this commission which has secured the course and associated funding for the next three years.

These changes have also led to welcome inter-federation collaboration, and SPRA is working in partnership with the LRWA, IoR and the NFRC to secure assessment resources for the roofing sector. SPRA has also signed up to a pledge to support an industry-wide accreditation scheme, provisionally named 'RoofCert', and we will work to ensure that this new scheme sits well with existing accreditations, training, assessments, audits and qualifications.

In addition, the SPRA Training Manager has been developing a Managers Single Ply Training Course in partnership with our membrane members, and the first draft will be presented at the 2018 conference. The course will be available as CPD and will be valuable training for any person who is responsible for site management, inspections and other activities where a knowledge and understanding of single ply roofing would lead to increased quality of installation and aftercare.

Financial

I am pleased to advise that at the end of 2017, SPRA had a trading surplus of £ 29,489 on a turnover of £329,514. Revenues increased by 23% on 2016, whilst costs increased by 18% for the year – again mainly due to training (up to £124,386 from £80,902). Membership fee income increased by 3% and income derived from training also increased by 62% - mostly as a result of the Basic Competency Programme. Reserves went up to £137,980 from £108,512 which covers all known commitments and allows for significant re-investment into the organisation in 2018-19 to support membership services.

Governance

Pete Baker of Tata Steel completed his two year term of office in January 2018, and was re-elected following an uncontested election. Council decided in May 2018 to appoint a Vice Chair to the Technical Committee to encourage new members into the SPRA leadership. Elections for the remaining Council posts will take place during June following election of the Technical Committee Chair and Vice-Chair and the new Council will be announced at the AGM on the 20th of June, when the Chair and Vice-Chair Council posts will also be elected.

Council have agreed a further revision of the SPRA Articles and full legal assessment and approval to ensure they are compliant. Approval of the revised Articles will form part of the 2018 AGM.

The Year Ahead

Our future priorities are to increase membership and influence through lobbying of a wider range of stakeholders, through digital, collaborative and direct means, with 2018 already seeing more printed advertising and articles in the roofing media. SPRA will also increase our training offer, and work with members and the wider sector to ensure that any changes to the existing training & qualifications landscape are reasonable, sensible and deliverable.

I would like to take this opportunity to announce that due to both work and external circumstances, I have decided not to run for Chair of the SPRA Council for a second term on this occasion. Although I would have liked to have completed a full four years-subject to the support of the membership of course-I must heed the sustainability message we will deliver at Conference 2018, and prioritise both work and personal commitments accordingly. I will therefore be stepping down from this role at the AGM on the 20th although I will continue to offer my support to the executive team and Council and promote SPRA and our work to all our stakeholders.

I would like to end this report by welcoming Ronan Brunton to SPRA as our new Technical Manager, and to thank my fellow Council members for their time and support. I would also like to recognise that, once again, the SPRA Executive and support team have risen to the many challenges placed in their paths and delivered an enthusiastic, professional and reliable service to the membership and wider industry.



Anthony Carlyle

*Chair
Single Ply Roofing Association*