

COMMUNICATION HUB FOR THE WIND ENERGY INDUSTRY

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ISSUE 40 - 2017 | £7.50

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QUO VADIS CONFERENCE – A UNIQUE EVENT FOR THE INDUSTRY

Some 10 years ago we heard about the Quo Vadis conference and the work of Sigi and Kevin Donovan and their team. This is a 'by invitation only event', has no cost involved and is limited to windfarm owners and O&M operators. The reasoning is quite clear – concerns can be raised, discussed and solutions sought for the good of the industry as a whole.

We were honoured to be invited to help with that focus and intent.

The conference has been a feature of this magazine since its inception way back in 2007 – this one being the 11th. We will continue to feature the Quo Vadis conference and focus on some of the companies who regularly attend this event in future editions.

QUO VADIS CONFERENCE

Previous Quo Vadis venues have included Belfast, Northern Ireland; Leeds Castle in Kent, UK; Berlin followed by Hamburg both in Germany; Barcelona, Spain and last year Prague, in Czechoslovakia.

The conference has really grown over the years and takes on a very varied and international feel.

THE IDEAL VENUE

London was a very natural venue for such an important event being easily accessible to Europe and beyond. It also allowed access to a vast selection of restaurants/bars, historical buildings and places of interest.

SEMI SOCIAL EVENTS

Quo Vadis has always made use of the



interesting surroundings and facilities of the venues visited and London was no exception. The Copthorne Hotel in Kensington fitted the bill perfectly as our base and provider of the pre-event dinner.

We also enjoyed an organised boat trip along the Thames with commentary from a very enlightened and extremely humorous compere – you had to be there!

The attendance of Quo Vadis is free for invited guests and this was only possible because of the support of the sponsors and exhibitors who set up stands adjacent to the main conference.

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QUO VADIS CONFERENCE AND SPEAKERS

Welcome and introduction – Sigi Donovan, from WRS GmbH welcomed all present, explained why we were assembled then introduced the first speaker – Paul Sheldon, Technical Engineer at RWE who explained how to reduce main bearing failures in KW turbines.

Moderator – Clifford McSpadden, was our very able and active moderator, who started us off in the morning of the one day conference. Clifford not only made sure that the speakers were kept in line and on time, but also ensured the delegates were suitably enlivened by means of physical exercises at relevant times throughout the day – a must for any gathering of professionals who had previously enjoyed an evening of corporate hospitality!

Following lunch Clifford led us through a very amusing game of 'Simon Says' would you believe – again you had to be there!

During the day we were treated to various presentations from leaders in their field of expertise which proved to be interesting, informative and above all professionally delivered with the right amount of appropriate humour.

Sven Uellendahl, E.ON – 'Service with an owner's eye'

John Gates, Jacobs – 'The life & times of the Independent Service Provider'

Diego Kieffer, RES – 'Driving cost reduction in major component repairs'

Clifford McSpadden – 'GWA Supplies update'

John Skiller, SKF – 'Optimised spherical roller bearing for wind turbine rotors'

Stuart Naylor, Fred. Olsen Renewables – 'Turbine Maintenance transition'

Benn Faulkner, Renewable Advice Ltd – 'Smart data, smart blades – is it possible to know what is happening to your blades'

Keir Harman, DNV GL – 'Real time performance management from the control room'

QUESTIONS, DISCUSSION AND NETWORKING BREAKS – VERY WELL BALANCED

Yet again we experienced a well thought out format featuring relatively short presentations broken up by question and answer sessions, comfort breaks and ample networking opportunities.

ADJOINING EXHIBITION

The opportunity for relevant organisations and companies to exhibit was given and the stands were extremely busy, both in offering more detailed valuable advice, highlighted in the conference proper, as well as providing information on their relevant products and services.

SUMMARY

We can certainly report that many of the delegates made their feelings known to us personally that the efforts made by Kevin and his team were very much appreciated by the industry generally, as well as what has been achieved in setting in train something which helps the industry as a whole.

FUTURE PUBLICATION INTEREST

We will not only be following Kevin, Sigi and the team's future Quo Vadis conferences but will also be featuring a selection of the most interesting subject areas covered within the presentations in more detail in future editions.

WRS GmbH



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