

positivenews

from the Electrical and Electronics Industries Benevolent Association

Results for 2007

At the Annual General Meeting held on 2 July, President, Jim Speirs, reported on an improved performance for EEIBA, announcing a modest surplus of £219,000, for the year to 31 December 2007.

This result comes from careful housekeeping, an increase in income from legacies, and transfers from other benevolent funds. More events have improved fund-raising revenue and the success of the charity's main event – powerBall, that last November broke another record producing £338,000. However, there is concern that company donations have decreased by some £60,000 over the last two years.

Third term for Jim

Jim Speirs, who has agreed to continue as President for a third term said, "As President,



Jim Speirs

I am glad, not to say relieved, that EEIBA is in good shape to meet the challenges to relieve need and distress. But we need our industry to get behind us at this time of financial uncertainty. Demand for our support and advice services will inevitably increase. We don't – and won't – turn away anyone who is eligible for help."

Population trends

Chief Executive, Timothy

Lambert, said "There are some 11.6 million people in this country who are struggling not only to make ends meet, but also to find help to deal with a family crisis.

Population and demographic trends over the next 10 years or so will mean that the way we live and work will change, and to meet the future demands and to put in place appropriate platforms of service, EEIBA is looking for the answers to the following questions."

- How many people in the UK could turn to EEIBA for help?
- When they do, what will they want in terms of welfare care?
- How can EEIBA address these needs?
- Where will the future funding come from?

Fantastic support from the ECA

At the National Conference of the Electrical Contractors' Association, Peter Hughes organised an auction in aid of

EEIBA. There were 10 lots which raised the fantastic sum of £6,180.

EEIBA's Chief Executive said "This is terrific, we are extremely grateful to everyone who contributed towards the

auction, this much needed money will go a long way towards helping those from our industry who are in need."

There is a dedicated help-line for all ECA members and staff: 0800 652 9909.



powerBall 2008

another feast of entertainment

This year EEIBA is bringing more legends to powerBall with a non-stop line up of 60s pop pickin' acts who will be entertaining the party with fantastic music.

Included in the line-up are the Bogus Brothers who have established themselves as one of the best and most entertaining party bands in Europe. They will be offering the audience a real blast from the past with 60s Motown – right up to the present day.

powerBall is again looking to be another record breaking event with the spectacular Grosvenor House, Great Room providing a sumptuous meal in the most elegant surroundings with all the usual fund-raising activities, such as the ever-popular tombola, stand-up-bingo, raffle and silent and live auctions.

Main sponsor is the NICEIC Group, with many important companies also committed to sponsorship

including the Conair Group, Dimplex UK, Draka, Electrium, GE Power IEC, Laing O'Rourke Infrastructure, MK Electric, Premier Prospects, Prysmian Cables, Schneider Electric and Tridonic Atco.

On this special night of the year, EEIBA's charitable achievements are made possible by the generous contributions of everyone attending and sponsorship by industry friends.

Fifteen minutes for a friend

Super Rod has launched its 'Fifteen Minutes For a Friend' campaign, which aims to raise awareness and much needed funds for the industry charity.

Focusing on the fact that Super Rod products save the electrical industry 9 million hours per year, the Company is asking electrical contractor supporters to donate some of that time back to EEIBA.

Each Super Rod kit saves at least three hours a week, which means that the industry as a whole is making huge financial savings.

Inside the packaging of every Super Rod product is a mailer which asks the user to donate some 'saved time' in the form of a donation to EEIBA. So all the user has to do is complete the form and

return freepost to EEIBA, who will then contact the supporter to arrange a secure form of payment.

Malcolm Duncan, Managing Director of Super Rod said, "In the last 8 years we have built up a range of products which have helped to save the industry a huge amount of time and money. It is now time for you to give something back."

WF Electrical supports EEIBA

In a new initiative, electrical wholesaler WF Electrical, with many branches throughout the UK and a customer base of over 18,000 electrical contractors, introduced a new Loyalty Programme that began at the beginning of August and will run until the end of July 2009.

The wholesaler has produced a Rewards Catalogue and a dedicated website that can only be accessed by its customer base. Each customer has been given a personal target based on a slight uplift of previous annual spend, which will earn points that can be exchanged for such items as: CDs, ipods, games consoles, tvs, wine and even a Ford Focus.

Social responsibility

However, WF Electrical is also appealing to the social responsibility of its customers and offering them the option of making a donation of their rewards points (as opposed to choosing an ipod for example) to EEIBA.



If they wish, they can donate all of their points or a number of them (minimum 50 point donation) with EEIBA being treated as a 'reward', so that customers simply add 'EEIBA' to their shopping baskets.

At the end of the campaign all of the points donated to EEIBA will be converted into a financial value that will be presented to the charity.

SELECT support

SELECT, the Electrical Contractors' Association of Scotland, has made a contribution to EEIBA.

Dougie Geddes, President of SELECT, presented a cheque for £11,000 which was realised from the proceeds of the organisation's own benevolent fund which has run as a charity for decades. SELECT's board decided to dissolve the fund in the light of continually increasing costs entailing auditing and compliance with regulations

imposed by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

SELECT also awarded the sum of £11,000 to its own Electrical Engineering Training Foundation. This will be ring-fenced in an account to provide funds and bursaries for people who would not otherwise be able to afford training.

Dougie Geddes, who made the presentation at Archerfield Links Golf Club, East Lothian, said, "SELECT is more than pleased to be able to help

EEIBA which does such valuable work for people who have been involved in our industry. It is also gratifying to be able to direct such a substantial sum towards our own foundation."

EEIBA President, Jim Speirs, said, "Contributions such as SELECT's make it so much easier for us to provide information and advice to families and individuals in need, provide grants and financial support. We cannot thank SELECT enough."



BDC and IER Independent marketing Awards 2008

Left to right: Hannah Dedman, IER Publishing Manager, Leslie Burrage of Roberts Radio, who was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award, and Editor, Anna Ryland

The Independent Marketing Awards 2008, organised by electrical distributors BDC and Datateam, the publishers of Independent Electrical Retailer, raised £3,575 for EEIBA from a raffle and an auction at the annual awards ceremony and dinner.

Prizes were generously donated by BDC, Bissell, JVC, LG, RETRA, Samsung, Sanyo, Sony and Independent Electrical Retailer. All of the guests really joined in the spirit of the evening raising funds for EEIBA.

Timothy Lambert from the charity said, "Thank you to IER Publishing Director, Andrew Castle, and Editor Anna Ryland, for making it all happen, and also to BDC for its on-going support at this prestigious awards ceremony."

Pedal power raises cash

In June, Sales & Marketing Director Neil Gates and colleagues from Moss Electrical, embarked on a fund-raising challenge taking part in the British Heart Foundation London to Brighton Bike Ride, raising over £3,500. This is to be shared between EEIBA and the British Heart Foundation. Neil Gates said, "Working for a business which prides itself on going the extra mile, I relish a good challenge."



Neil Gates (right) receives a £500 donation from Nigel Palmer of Stearn Electric



Nice cheque from NICEIC

NICEIC Group has presented a cheque for £9,400 to EEIBA having raised the sum by pledging a part of every building control certificate it processed over a year. "This is just part of a much wider programme of support from NICEIC Group," says Jim Speirs, Executive Chairman, NICEIC Group.

Support and Advice Services (Welfare)

A good night's sleep for Robert

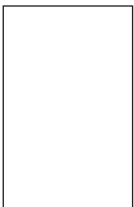
Robert Hansford who lives in Nottingham is 85 and lives alone. He was advised that he needed an orthopaedic bed as his back problems that he has had for many years are getting worse and seriously affecting his sleep. However, orthopaedic beds are expensive, but having worked for the Generating Board for many years, he was advised by a friend to approach EEIBA for some financial help.

EEIBA's Regional Welfare Officer visited Robert to reassure him that he was entitled to ask for help, to assess what he needed and to ensure that he was claiming the State benefits that he was entitled to.

The funding was soon found for an extremely grateful Robert to purchase his bed.

New WC for Joyce

Joyce Wylie is 73, has severe asthma and lives in Tamworth. Her late husband worked as a chimney cleaner at Hams Hall Power Station. Joyce lives alone in her own



house which is in need of some modernisation.

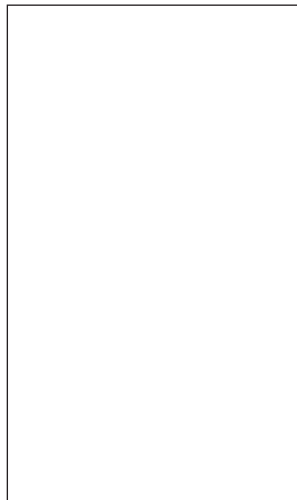
She requested help in converting her old coal-



Robert Hansford

house into a ground floor toilet as it was becoming increasingly difficult for her to use the bathroom.

The cost was £1,100, however, £500 of it was defrayed thanks to the generosity of another charity.



Continued support

Stephen Hardy (pictured above) worked for many years as an electrician in the Midlands. But due to his wife

developing a progressive illness, he had to give up work and care for her and their two young children.

Stephen contacted EEIBA for help and the charity provided financial support over many years, including a school trip for the children, a new washing machine and cooker, assistance with the cost of essential decorating, provision of a 'loan TV' for his wife and advice regarding State benefits and help with wheelchairs.

Sadly Stephen's wife died last year. EEIBA's Regional Welfare Officer has kept in touch to enable him to come to terms with his loss and to help him with his financial situation.

Advice and support for Denise

A member of the Electrical Contractors' Association (ECA), based in Nottingham, contacted EEIBA to ask if we were able to help the partner of one of their former employees, Denise Lambert.

Mick had worked for this company for many years, had developed a serious illness and was cared for by Denise who had become in need of advice and support following Mick's death.

Denise was extremely grateful for the visit she received by EEIBA's Regional Welfare Officer.

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Support and Advice Services (Welfare)

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Further help for Anne and Dennis

Dennis England lives with his wife having worked in the electronics industry as an inspector at Jasmin Electronics.

Dennis was referred to EEIBA by his local Citizens Advice Bureau some time ago, when the charity was able to help the couple following Anne's major stroke. Dennis had stopped work to become her full time carer and needed help to purchase ramps to get Anne's wheelchair from their house and into the car.

Their car, due to be changed in the spring, is provided by Motability but



Dennis England

due to Anne's need for it to have special suspension to help her with the pain, they had been told that they must find £1,500 as a deposit.

The Association has been able to help again and following protracted discussions and much letter

writing, Anne and Dennis, EEIBA and Motability have funded the deposit between them. Dennis who is forever grateful now has the car and in the little spare time that he has, is now doing voluntary work for the Citizens Advice Bureau.

More News

We need you, you, you!

Many of us will remember the 1980 musical comedy, *The Blues Brothers*, which starred the late John Belushi ("Joliet" Jake) and Dan Ackroyd (Elwood Blues), with such songs as *Everybody Needs Somebody*.

EEIBA's Northern Ireland Branch Committee earlier this year attended the Glasgow Branch Ball immaculately dressed in those famous hats and sunglasses, whilst lending support to their Scottish colleagues. This may

have reminded supporters of that famous line in the song that has something of a message.

Yes, we do need you, you, you! We all know that as winter approaches times become difficult for many, so we need you and your continued support.

EEIBA is gearing itself up for the coming months when it is expected that calls for help could well increase dramatically. Rest assured we will not turn anyone away



From left: Alfie Watterson, Ian Humphreys, Sam Millar and Bob McAteer

who is eligible for help and if you are able to help us and those in need, please get in touch.

News continued

Another magnificent effort by the Gloucestershire Branch

Gloucestershire Branch held its annual golf competition on 26 June at the Lilley Brook Golf Club, Cheltenham, with 100 players from 24 sponsoring organisations competing in fine but blustery conditions. Club Captain Mike Virgo and Rich Neale of Atkins were guests of Peter Neumann, chairman of the organising team, and led the field away.

Four power industry companies generously gave additional sponsorship this year. Atkins, BNS Nuclear Services (formally Alstec), Doosan Babcock Energy and Jacobs Energy sponsored various aspects of the competition including the prizes. British Energy was again the major sponsor of the event that produced a magnificent £24,700.

Overall winner of the stableford competition with 37 points was Steve Wright from Hinkley Point Power Station narrowly beating Rich Neale of Atkins. Andy Deall won the best scratch competition with a round of 69, despite receiving a two shot reduction from his handicap as a previous winner. Peter Neumann, Mike Virgo and Rich Neale won the team competition.

The prize-giving dinner completed the day's proceedings with Peter



The winning team

Neumann thanking everyone for their support in raising such an exceptional figure.

Dave Chalk, Branch Secretary, thanked Peter Neumann for his leadership over the last three years, noting that this was to be Peter's last year as chairman of the organising committee.

The next Gloucestershire Branch event is the Annual Ball on Friday 21 November. Details from Dave Chalk on 01453 845471.

Continued support from the Kent Golf Days

Superb conditions and a welcoming venue added up to a great day as friends and supporters from Kent raised £3,000 for EEIBA at the annual Kent Golf Day, held at the Faversham Golf Club.

The winning team was from Millhouse Leasing and the overall winner of the

prestigious Jack Carte Trophy was Pat McKenzie.

Also in Kent, the annual 12 Electric Club Golf Day at the Weald of Kent Golf Club raised more than £2,000 for charity, including EEIBA. Craig Filer and Nick Maybourne won the handicap competition.

Trade Union support too

Dougie Rooney, National Officer for the Trade Union UNITE, recently invited EEIBA Chief Executive, Timothy Lambert, to accept a cheque which represented a financial surplus from UNITE's conference held in London on 26 March, to the value of £5,005. 31.

Timothy Lambert said "it is gifts such as this that helps EEIBA to provide much welcome assistance to those in need."

Opening doors to retailers

EEIBA is delighted to receive help from RTRA Benevolent Fund and in a move to inform electrical retailers that their staff, retired staff and dependants are eligible to apply for assistance from the Association, EEIBA is forging closer links with retra (radio, electrical and television retailers association).

“There is no point in being the industry’s well kept secret,” said Timothy Lambert, “Our job is to relieve need and

distress and we need people associated with retra to know about the help we provide.”

On-Line training

e-learning training company Eccomplish, has provided EEIBA with on-line training for its volunteers, Trustees and staff. Following extensive research, a framework of knowledge was identified which was broken down into EEIBA's training needs as 'learning modules'. These

contained information about the functions of the charity including internal databases, communication procedures and knowledge of vital aspects such as health and safety, insurance and home visits.

Each module can be added to a course or individual lesson, as it is needed, so that 'EEIBA people' can simply log in to one of a number of bespoke training modules and be trained without leaving their desk.



Diary of Events

Date	Branch	Function/Venue
26 September	London	Golf Day, Birchwood Park, Dartford
29 September	National Event	National Golf Championships, Woburn Golf Club, Bedfordshire
2 October	Midlands	Golf Day, Stoneleigh Deer Park, Coventry
4 October	Yorkshire Ridings	Annual Ball, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate
14 November	National Event	powerBall, Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London
21 November	Gloucester	Annual Ball, Tortworth Court
28 November	Northern Ireland	Annual Ball, Hilton Hotel, Belfast
28 November	Sheffield & District	Speakers Dinner, Bramhall Lane, Sheffield
3 December	Glasgow & West of Scotland	The Famous Glasgow Christmas Lunch, Marriott Hotel, Glasgow
5 December	Sussex	Brighton Christmas Lunch, Thistle Hotel, Brighton
11 December	Edinburgh & SE Scotland	Christmas Lunch, Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh
11 December	Sussex	Crawley Christmas Meal, Crawley Football Club
12 December	Midlands	Christmas Party, The ICC, Birmingham
12 December	Yorkshire Ridings	Christmas Lunch, Majestic Hotel, Harrogate
16 December	Sussex	Eastbourne Christmas Lunch, Hydro Hotel
17 December	North West	Christmas Lunch, The Midland Hotel, Manchester
2009		
7 February	Glasgow & West of Scotland	Annual Ball, Crown Plaza Hotel, Glasgow
27 February	Sussex	Annual Ball, De Vere Grand Hotel, Brighton

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