

**Minutes of the CIBSE Lifts Group
Executive Committee Meeting – SoVT
Session with Richard Goldsbrough**

06 March 2025, 1530-1700h



**The Chartered Institution of
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PRESENT

Adam Scott	AS
Ben Richardson	BR
Dave Cooper (Online)	DC
Erkan Soydan (Online)	ES
Gemma Moore	GM
John Bashford	JB
Jonathan Bracken (Online)	JBr
Leonora Lang	LL
Michael Bottomley	MB
Paloma Huelva Coronado	PHC
Paul Clements	PC
Phil Pearson	PP
Richard Peters	RP
Rory Smith (Online)	RS
Vincent Sharpe	VS
Wee Chuan Lim	WCL
CIBSE:	
Richard Goldsbrough	RG
Ceri Saunders	CS
Ella Sumner	ES

APOLOGIES

John Carroll	JC
Nick Mellor	NM
Stefan Kaczmarczyk	SK

DISTRIBUTION

Those present, apologies and web site

1.	Introduction	
	Purpose: RG debrief from recent Feb CIBSE Board Meeting and next steps	Note
2.	Debrief	
	a) This will be the first society for CIBSE in about 5 years. And will be a long-term commitment for CIBSE.	Note
	b) RG tabled the paper to the CIBSE Board, who, at the onset, said they would not sign off but wanted to understand and review the paper, the history, and what the CLG has achieved, including the potential of what a Society of Vertical Transportation (SoVT) can bring.	Note
	c) The CIBSE Board were very positive about the transition to SoVT. Especially since CLG has been very active, established, and well-organised and is a good foundation for society. We are almost there. The difference is that a society is like a “mini membership body”, more formal with membership grades.	Note
	d) Some follow on actions for the next board meeting before 23 April:	
	i. Cost – what will be the operational cost to CIBSE? (e.g. Marketing, resources and other operational costs). Ceri Saunders brought in at the start of 2025 in preparation to support the societies.	RG
	AS: What are the typical activities required of the existing societies? RG: The Societies get more time and support, more marketing, more launch and a branding piece (compared to an interest group).	
	RP: Does it mean you need 1 day a week from a full-time staff? RG: We have one staff member to cover four societies, but we still heavily depend on volunteers.	
	ii. The name of the Society – can it be SVT instead of SoVT?	Note
	In CIBSE, mostly 3 letters,	
	RP: SVT sounds like a sexually transmitted disease.	
	MB: There is precedence with SoPHE. We want SoVT for 2 reasons. The first is a “HUB” to focus on Vertical Transportation within CIBSE. The second is a “NODE”, a gravitational force to attract people from all backgrounds, not just another old boys club. The “SoVT” enforces these.	
	The CLG has been quite forward in how we attract people from all elements of the industry, not just chartered engineers, so we can share experience and learn from each other.	
	WCL: The logo we have so far is not a simple one. It has gone through a long debated process, the executives voted, and we shared it at the Annual Seminar last year.	
	iii. Marketing and Branding —The society must launch a marketing	

campaign, which the CIBSE Marketing team will help put together. This will be in conjunction with the new CIBSE re-logo and fonts exercise, which is aimed for the end of the year.

MB: We will not be precious about fonts, but Paul Clements must be involved as he has been instrumental in the CLG social media so far.

RG: Absolutely. It is a collaboration on everything and we do this together all the way through.

PHC: what is the time frame?

RG: We have some time because we want to launch this in September.

RP: Launching SoVT in September is so essential, alongside the CIBSE Guide D Launch. We have already booked the venue etc.

RG: Yes, we have time.

RG to connect
PC to
Marketing
Team

- iv. **The Global Structure** – 25% of our members are non-UK-based. There is, therefore, more thinking towards everything globally at CIBSE. We need to articulate this more when we go back in April. Eg how a group in HK form a group around VT? Perhaps a sub-committee-type thing? The view is will that work?

WCL: From my conversations with the SFE committee, we learned that they have regional and international committees, but not much is happening in those groups. So, what is CIBSE's direction on this?

RP: We will do better, as we have done good work with LES in Hong Kong. The MIAE is fairly meaningless because they pay a subscription to be a part of it. However, I think the MSoVT will be a serious qualification. Therefore, we have a great opportunity internationally. Happy to help with some words in the report.

RP to help
articulate

AS: the SFE website mentioned "HUBS". So are we expected to use this?

RG: : The SFE have taken that approach but it is not one we need to set up here.

RP/DC : In 2018 we did 2 seminars to launch CIBSE Guide D 2020 and they were packed rooms.

RS: Yes and EN 81 as well.

MB: Does CIBSE has a Map they want to to "carve the world up"? Think we need to focus on China/HK, Italy, Spain, Brazil and India.

WCL: We already have International Representatives in North America, Australia and UAE. This can grow but we must avoid the current silos that are operating detached from the main society in UK.

RG: Yes that sounds really positive.

- v. **Membership Grades** – This is the final piece. May need a working group to nail this before April. There is a lot of people with lots of different backgrounds. What we do not want is setting the benchmarking too high for Society grades that no one could get it. Or too low that it does not hold credibility. The Highest level through CIBSE is MCIBSE, licensed by the Engineering Council UK. The SoVT should have its own Membership grades with a clear competency assessment that is robust.

Note

Taking MSLL as example, some are not engineers but lighting designers who are not interested in CEng or MCIBSE, they want something that

shows they are competent. The route to MSLL is mapped against 4/5 of the competencies of the UK Spec as it is all about competencies not age, length of experience. The route has two sides: the competencies and a rigorous assessment model.

MB: There are two things that need to happen. Firstly, we want those in the VT industry with MCIBSE to be in the SoVT to get as many assessors to be in place for the wider rollout. The next stage for membership will need to go through the MCIBSE route that will need one assessor from CIBSE and one from SoVT.

The other side of it are those in the industry who wants to be part of the conversations, maybe to move on in the future to the corporate titles, but for now, maybe just affiliate members of CIBSE?

RG: if you are MCIBSE already and wants to be in SoVT, there will be a streamlined process for you, involving a demonstration of your VT experience

Speaking to Nick Mellor from LEIA there is a whole world of people within the industry who do not have a professional home body. Also, Student membership and YEN.

DC: this is good as cause of fear is by allowing post nominals, we gave people false credibility. But with this, it is clear the criteria required to obtain each grade.

AS: so is there a route that will get MCIBSE and MSoVT?

RG: yes those who pass the MCIBSE can be MSoVT simply by providing a CV demonstrating relevant experience. What is needed is those who do NOT want MCIBSE but MSoVT.

RG: The Lowest paying is Affiliate £159 (2025) but this give you access to the CIBSE Library.

WCL: Some of the Societies charge £10-30 above the £159. Why?

RG: It is such a small sum SoVT may choose not to charge.

WCL: I think CIBSE is already charging so much, SoVT should not charge more.

MB: we need to have a grade for the current CLG Members who are not paying CIBSE Membership/Subscriptions.

RP: A Mailing List membership for non students. Eg "Friends of SoVT".

JB: so, if you are MIMechE and wants to join SoVT. You can either join as Student / Friends (Free) or if you want access to the CIBSE Library, as Affiliate (£159) or MCIBSE (£318).

GM: So if I am Affiliate and after a 5 years I want to move up, what do I do?

RP: If you want to move to ASoVT, we will have an assessment model. If you want to go for ACIBSE via the Experience Route (instead of the Academic Route) that is a possibility too.

PC: What about the CEng HRB?

RG: will share contacts with the Engineering Council. That's how SFE started.

RG: will connect with MB/PP/WCL to progress this.

RG/MB/PP/

Example Membership Grades of SoVT may look like:

		Benefits						
Membership Grades	Annual Subscription 2025	SoVT Mailing List	SoVT Free Seminars	Access to CIBSE Library	SoVT Post Nominal	SoVT Awards / Bursaries	Corporate Post Nominal	HRB - Corporate Post Nominal
Assessment by SoVT								
Student of SoVT	Free	✓	✓					
Friends of SoVT	Free	✓	✓					
Affiliate of SoVT	£159	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Associate (ASoVT)	£159	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Member (MSoVT)	£159	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Fellow (FSoVT)	£159	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Assessment by CIBSE								
Licentiate / EngTech (LCIBSE)	£175**			✓			✓	
Associate / IEng (ACIBSE)	£232**			✓			✓	
Member / CEng (MCIBSE)	£318**			✓			✓	
Fellow (FCIBSE)	£350**			✓			✓	
ACIBSE / ASoVT	£232**	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
MCIBSE / MSOVT	£318**	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
FCIBSE / FSoVT	£350**	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
EngTech HRB	tbc							✓
IEng HRB	tbc							✓
CEng HRB	tbc							✓

**** Additional Engineering Council Registration Fees apply.**

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