

Lifts Group

Notes of Meeting of Lifts Group Committee Officers held at CIBSE HQ, Balham, London on Monday 8th December 2008 at 1100hrs.

PRESENT

Mr A Scott, (*Chairman*)

Dr Eur Ing G C Barney, (*Events Secretary*)

Mr J Bashford, (*Exhibitions*)

Mr J Snowball, (*CIBSE, BSI Codes and Standards Representative*)

Mr D Cooper, (*Lift Academy*)

Ms A Rothery, (*Treasurer*)

Mr S Hobson, (*Secretary*)

APOLOGIES

Mr M Bottomley, (*Vice Chairman*)

DISTRIBUTION

Those present plus;

Mr K Butcher (CIBSE)

Ms J Balian (CIBSE)

Ms S McDonough (*CIBSE – Director of Policy & Groups*)

Dr R Peters (*Website*)



www.cibseliftsgroup.org

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MINUTES

1.0 Welcome and Apologies

Adam Scott opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

Apologies were received from:

Mr M Bottomley, (*Vice Chairman*)

2.0 Previous Minutes

The following points were noted;

3.2 CIBSE Student Handbook action should have stated Adam Scott and not David Cooper and **3.3 The Lift Academy** should have stated David Cooper action and not Adam Scott.

Otherwise the previous minutes were accepted as read.

3.0 Matters Arising

3.1 Liason with CIBSE Heritage Group

A number of volunteers have come forward with offers to undertake surveys of the Heritage Group's fifteen buildings with historic lift installations as stated previously. However two sites at Derby and Altrincham remain and still require volunteers. Attached is the list of sites together with the volunteer surveyors name and notes for information.

Volunteers for the remaining two sites are requested to contact David Cooper at LECS, telephone 01323 431459 or by e-mail at David.Cooper@lecs.couk

All Members

3.2 CIBSE Student Handbook

Adam Scott is to prepare and send a letter to the CIBSE Chief Executive Stephen Matthews and the President John Swaffield in respect of considerations for incorporating Lifts within the CIBSE student handbook and or distributing separate lift guides.

AS

3.3 The Lift Academy

The Lifts Group sponsored a writing competition to encourage industry apprentices to write about their work. Entries were judged by an independent panel (Dr Barney, Mr V Sharpe and Mr N Mellor) and the awards were £250.00 for the winner and £100.00 for the runner up. In addition the Lifts Group paid for the eight entrants to be registered as CIBSE student members for a year. It is proposed to continue to support this activity as an annual event.

Consideration is being given to expanding the Academy training to cover existing trained staff in addition to apprentices, this will require additional support, LEIA feedback (Mr Terry Potter) is also to be obtained.

DC

3.4 BCO Guide Update

The updated and extended lift guide section in the BCO final draft is completed and being further evaluated in respect of valid issues relating to the current CIBSE lift Guide D.

The lifts group are seeking permission to hold a presentation of the BCO lift guide in April 2009, Adam Scott is to approach the BCO guide committee in this respect.

AS

3.5 Website and Member Communications

The e-mail address set up for lifts group members to request notification of group events electronically received only three requests for this facility and it was agreed by all to continue with the current tried and tested method of communication of events.

The group agreed it would like to record its appreciation of Dr Richard Peters' work in respect of the website and thank Richard for all his efforts.

4.0 Standards & Regulations

New Matters Arising;

- BS EN81-73, Clarification provided that this standard does not apply to evacuation and/or fire-fighting lifts under BS EN81-72:2003.
- BS CEN TR76:2006 Evacuation of disabled persons using lifts does not cover the evacuation of non disabled persons but the ISO / TR 15743 does.

- Revisions proposed to BS EN81-1 & 2 covering ‘uncontrolled movement with doors open’ as amendment A3.
- BS DD CEN/TS 81-82:2008 – Improvement of Accessibility of existing lifts for persons with disability.

Published

BS 9999:2008 Code of practice for fire safety in the design and management and use of buildings. Comments to draft BS9999 were completed 31st March 2008 and the standard is expected to be published soon.

EN115:2008, this is shortly to be published. prEN115-2 is in progress and deals with the safety improvement of existing escalator and moving walks.

Out for Vote

EN81-41: Lifting Platforms (vote approved with 77% QMV).

Out for Comment

prBS8300:2008 Design of buildings and their approaches to meet the needs of disabled people was out for comment to 31st July 2008.

ISO/DIS 25745-1: Energy efficiency of lifts and escalators (Dr Barney is UK representative).

To be amended /withdrawn

BS 5776 Stairlifts has been withdrawn with the publication of BS EN81-40:2008. BS5900 and BS6440 will need to be revised to remove conflicts with BS EN81-41 shortly to be published. Dr Barney is to chair MHE 4/2 revision panel. The resulting standards are to comply with EN414.

5.0 Treasurers Report

Accounts continue to be healthy with a good level of revenue generated and received from the group events, leaving the group with a current positive balance.

A copy of the group account balance sheet is attached to these minutes.

6.0 Meetings / Seminars / Presentations

Dr Barney wished to thank John Bashford, John Snowball, David Cooper and Agnes Rothery for their work and assistance in respect organising the groups 2008 events.

The group AGM is proposed on 11th February 2009 at 6pm.

Presentations topics to follow at 6.30pm include;

- Heritage Group – Tyntesfield House, by David Cooper
- Mending a Lift in Ethiopia – Dr Gina Barney

DC
GB

The group is to consider the possibility of increasing the available area for trade displays and further consider attendance of Lift Companies for the proposed future Lifts Group annual seminar in Manchester - to be held in Autumn 2009.

All

7.0 CIBSE Lift Group Hong Kong

An incident involving the failure of a lift installation occurred recently within the region and David Cooper has provided the group with some details of this, as reported within the regions press. The article is attached to these minutes.

8.0 Any Other Business

Following the untimely death of a well respected person from within the lift industry whilst undertaking a charity event, David Cooper has approached CIBSE membership secretary to enable the group to consider a donation to the lift charity, however the groups constitution requires to be changed in order to permit a donation of this nature and therefore this will need to be agreed.

CIBSE Guide D is being revised by a panel of authors under the chairmanship of Adam Scott a draft is expected in Autumn 2009 for review.

AS

9.0 Date of Next Meeting

Next meeting to be held on 11th February 2009 at 5pm prior to AGM

Faulty part seriously corroded but not replaced during inspection

Rusty pulley led to 14-floor lift plunge

Ng Kang-chung and Phyllis Tsang

A rusty pulley bearing was responsible for the accident in a Tai Po public housing estate in which a lift car crashed 14 floors to the ground, seconds after its last passenger stepped out of it.

The bearing, atop the counterweight of the lift, was seriously corroded but was not replaced despite an inspection two months before the accident, according to a government report.

At 7:21pm on October 25 it broke, setting the counterweight free and sending the lift on its plunge down the shaft in Shin Nga House, Fu Shin Estate, Tai Po.

The Electrical and Mechanical

Services Department has launched a further investigation under the Lifts and Escalators (Safety) Ordinance into why the problem was overlooked and whether anyone should be held responsible.

Department director Ho Kwong-wai said a prosecution would be launched if any offence was found to have been committed.

An engineer of ThyssenKrupp Elevator, which took over the maintenance of the lift in August, inspected it on August 18 and pronounced it in safe working order.

Tai Po district councillor Yam Kai-bong said residents had lost confidence in the company and called for it to be disqualified.

Democratic Party legislator

Andrew Cheng Kar-foo expressed disappointment that the report failed to pin down the party that should be held responsible.

Releasing the report yesterday, Mr Ho said the accident was a rare occurrence.

"It should not have taken place and the rusty device should have been detected if proper inspection procedures had been strictly followed," he said.

He declined to comment further to avoid pre-empting the continuing investigation.

He also promised to step up checks and publicity on lift safety, as well as tighten the existing codes of practice.

The empty lift had ascended to the 14th floor, 55 seconds after taking a passenger from the 17th floor to the ground floor, when it plunged into the lift pit.

When it fell, seven of its eight suspension cables broke.

Laboratory tests confirmed the strength of the cables was up to standard, according to the department report, which found the "seriously corroded" counterweight pulley bearing to be the immediate cause of the accident.

The pulley broke and the counterweight was set free. Without the support of the counterweight, the lift car fell, the report said.

The safety gear of the lift slowed it but failed to stop it from falling, partly because of the loosened suspension ropes.

The lift car overshot the ground floor into the lift pit.

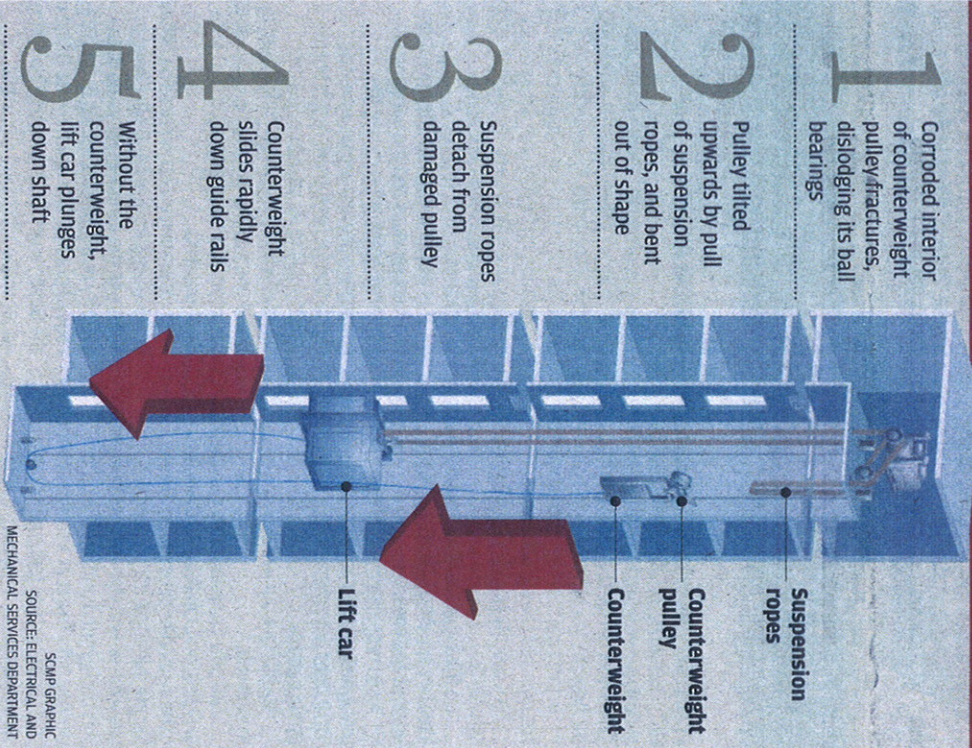
A counterweight is often used in traction lifts to counterbalance the load of the lift car.

The lift car and the counterweight both have pulleys attached to them to prevent irregular movement and provide a smoother ride for passengers.

The government came under criticism for not disclosing the accident until it was revealed by the media 10 days after it happened.

Yesterday Mr Ho promised to revise the current practice and make public serious lift accidents – those involving fatalities or serious injuries, failure of suspension ropes or safety gear – within 12 hours.

The plunge explained



Call for workers to be registered

A lawmaker and unionists have called for a registration scheme for lift workers in the light of the fact that about 1,000 of the city's 4,000 lift workers are not qualified.

According to the Lifts and Escalators Ordinance, a competent lift worker is one who is a holder of a certificate in mechanical or electrical engineering, or someone who has completed a course relating to lifts at any technical institute or vocational training centre; or someone who has been employed as a registered lift contractor for not less than four years.

Lawmaker Andrew Cheng Kar-foo said there were about 4,000 competent lift workers in the city, but about 1,000

working for registered lift contractors had no related certificate or had not completed any related course.

"Some workers cannot even read a lift manual properly," Mr Cheng said.

The chairman of the Hong Kong General Union of Lift and Escalator Employees, Tse King-wa, said his union had urged the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) to set up a system to register lift workers for more than 10 years, but the department had ignored the calls.

"The current mechanism for competent lift workers is defective," Mr Tse said. "The department does not lift workers' standards enough."

There was wide variation in the skill

levels of non-certified lift workers, he said. Some were very experienced and had worked for contractor companies for more than 20 years, but they had come under pressure recently because of outsourcing of lift maintenance services.

The union suggested a transition period for experienced lift workers who might have difficulty passing a written examination to obtain a certificate. The EMSD said it would set up an inspection system to enhance monitoring of registered lift contractors and enhance the content of its code of practice in conjunction with the trade.

Phyllis Tsang

NATIONAL TRUST SITES

ADDRESS	SURVEYOR	NOTES
Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire	Graham Bayne	Used to service it in the 1960's when he worked for Otis!
Plas Newydd, Anglesey	Dr Gina Barney	
Calke Abbey, Derby		
Dunham Massey, Altrincham		
Nostell Priory, Wakefield	Mike Bottomley	COMPLETED
Tyntesfield House, Bristol	Dave Cooper	COMPLETED
Wimpole Hall, Royston, Herts		
Castle Drogo, Exeter	Dave Cooper	
Treasurers House, Martock, Somerset		
Polesden Lacey, Surrey	Dave Cooper	
Chartwell, Kent	Dave Cooper	
Petworth, Hants	Dave Cooper	
Hatchlands, Surrey	Dave Cooper	
Ham House, Richmond	Steve Hobson	
Lanhydrock, Bodmin, Cornwall	Dave Cooper	

Income

CF from 2007 to 2008	£3,669.47
income from Annual Seminar to date	£1,650.00
	£5,319.47

Expenditure

Lift Charity	£500.00
Travel, room hire, refreshments	£622.45
Writing 1st prize, RU prize	£350.00
CIBSE student fees	£276.00
Annual Seminar expenses	£260.00
	£2,008.45

Balance

£3,311.02

Commitments

Pay CIBSE exhibitor fees	£700.00
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Mtg of Apprentices 18 Feb 09 in mcr.