



IHIE @ 40 Celebrating Excellence



Gordon Wilson IEng FIHIE
Technical Director, Pell Frischmann Consultants Ltd

Gordon has reached his present senior position after leaving school to join the RAF serving from 1963 to 1970. After which he worked as a civilian in Police communications from 1970 to 1977 before taking up a position with Leeds CC in Urban Traffic Control. He remained at Leeds until 1991 when he joined Pell Frischmann Consultants Ltd in Wakefield where he now holds the position of Technical Director. He spent many years in the TA, with 34 Signals Regiment. His interests have always focused on quality and delivery, developing good working relationships with Clients.

Currently he manages a specialist team delivering a number of projects. The projects he is managing include monitoring the design and implementation of the communications elements associated with the Darrington to Dishforth DBFO Contract. This covers some 63 kilometres of the A1 and M62 for which the total project cost is approximately £270 million. He is also developing the communications designs for M62 junction 6 ECI Contract and a number of the desktop studies associated with SWYMBUS proposals on the M1.

He has been a member of IHIE for 6 years. "This is something I was always keen on, but I was not confident of achieving registration for quite a while. I then met up with a very helpful mentor, through the IHIE network, who was based in Doncaster. Now I have been through the registration process I am keen to help others do so and in my team I currently have three people who are interested in becoming members."

He has a firm belief that "Registration helps raise your profile and keeps you in touch with developments in the industry hence promoting awareness and best practice". Gordon notes that there seems to be more interest in membership in the private sector than in the public sector "probably a cultural difference". He also believes that Sector 8 accreditation "confirming a level of understanding and competence with respect to the installation and maintenance of traffic signals, VMS signage and street lighting" is an opportunity for some organisations and that Pell Frischmann are developing its own courses for achieving accreditation.

Gordon believes that through education far greater benefits can be achieved through the application of technology "once people stop thinking within the box". He believes that if young technicians and engineers appreciate the benefits in terms of job satisfaction that can be gained by resolving transportation problems then more would be keen to seek careers in these disciplines. He believes youngsters "need to be taken out of their home environment, so they can properly understand the practical needs of the world they live in" and that they would respond positively to such exposure. He himself found the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme "a great confidence builder, even if it included 50 miles of orienteering in three days, in winter across a cold and rainy north Wales." Good character building stuff!

An innovator, Gordon is currently involved in how best to monitor the performance of maintenance contractors and in developing monitoring systems that do not require a lot of Client activity to provide in depth information of faults and costs.

In Blackburn he has worked with the Authority in proposing and implementing, as part of their UTC deployment programme, a 24 core single mode fibre transmission network around the town to support traffic signal, CCTV and data communications between Authority Offices. Apart from providing reliable communications this network has saved the Authority a significant amount of revenue by reducing costs associated with leased lines.

While Gordon sees a wealth of new opportunities and possibilities opening up in the fast developing communications field he maintains his "focus on quality and the ability to deliver well engineered projects." He wishes IHIE well, as someone who has found it a helpful and encouraging organisation to be part of.