

WAREHOUSE TECHNOLOGY AND MATERIALS HANDLING FORUM

Real warehouse performance gain from MHE and process optimisation

The Forum has run a number of successful and well received events in recent years, mainly focusing on aspects of warehouse technology. We're conscious that we've not focused so much on the materials handling side of warehouse operations – the humble MHE, Materials Handling Equipment. Happily, that's about to change with our next event, a webinar planned for 21st February at 3pm.

MHE in warehouse operations can take many forms and fulfil many purposes – but, like people, it's a resource common to almost all warehouse and distribution operations. Within logistics, there is currently much understandable interest and emphasis on some of the advanced technologies being deployed by various operations – Automation, Robotics – and the efficiencies and capabilities that they can bring to intra-logistics processes. What is perhaps less understood is that significant benefits and efficiencies can be gained for potentially much less investment via process optimisation and improved integration of MHE within the daily operations and with the Warehouse Management System (WMS).

The possibilities and opportunities are endless. These include semi-automated and fully automated equipment but even just integrating person operated MHE to the WMS can deliver real performance improvements and enhanced capabilities.

LogisLift specialises in optimising Material Flows, MHE and Integration within a warehouse – on Monday 21 February at 3pm, using a combination of presentation and film, MD Darren Hartland and his colleagues will offer insights and experience into how process optimisation and appropriate use of MHE technologies can deliver major realisable benefit to your operation. This promises to be a fascinating webinar event that is applicable to almost anyone seeking to gain efficiencies within their logistics operations. We hope to see you there.

For more information and to book, visit: www.ciltuk.org.uk/Events/Events-Listing

Mark Hollowell

Committee Member,
Warehouse Technology and Materials
Handling Forum.



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RAILWAY STUDY FORUM

The Railway Study Forum (RSF) was finally able to host its much-delayed annual dinner on Tuesday 30th November at The Oval. This was rescheduled from June 2020 due to Covid-19, and fortunately occurred before Omicron had become a major issue in London.

We welcomed around 170 people to the new Duchy Suite at The Oval for a sit-down dinner, with various speakers and lots of networking opportunities. Unfortunately, our booked Master of Ceremonies Neil Micklethwaite was isolating at home with Covid, so Alex Warner, MD at Tracsis, the event sponsor, gamely stepped in to host the event instead. Alex did a great job at introducing the speakers and keeping the proceedings running to time, as well as ensuring that the sponsor got several mentions!

Jac Starr (pictured), CEO at Rail Delivery Group, and the outgoing President of the RSF, did a look back on her two years as President and what had been achieved. A key aspect was rapidly moving the RSF talks online in April 2020, following the first Covid lockdown, and keeping these going



throughout the rest of her time as President. The attendance at these virtual events had been very good, with one event even being a sell-out, and encouraging a greater diversity and younger average age of attendees.

After the starter and main course, we were treated to a very inspiring talk by Oliver Craig, Chair of CILT (UK) Next Generation Forum and Scheme Sponsor for the redevelopment of Euston conventional station. This really resonated with the

audience and in particular with some of the younger members present.

After dessert, our keynote speaker was Lord Tony Berkeley, who spoke passionately about his hopes for the future of rail, which again landed well with the audience.

Jac Starr spoke again at the end to welcome Charlene Wallace, Freight, National Passenger Operators & Customer Director at Network Rail, who would be taking over in the New Year as the next President of the RSF.

The feedback from attendees was very positive, in particular about the diversity of the audience, the informality of the event and the great turnout despite the emerging Omicron variant!

Finally, a big thank you to Lauren Elliott, our CILT Nations, Regions & Forums Manager, without who's efforts we wouldn't have had an annual dinner, and who put in an awful lot of work to ensure the evening went smoothly.

Simon Feast

Chair,
Railway Study Forum.