

TRUSSED RAFTER ASSOCIATION



DRAFT - Minutes

The Trussed Rafter Association Annual General Meeting: Thurs 25th February 2016

Thorpe Park Hotel & Spa, 1150 Century Way, Thorpe Park Leeds, LS15 8ZB

1. Welcome from the TRA Chairman

TRA Chairman, Richard Evans, welcomed all Members to the meeting.

2. Competition Act 1998

The Chairman reminded Members of the provisions of the Competition Act and informed them that information on its requirements are on the reverse of the Sign in Sheets at the back of the room. A list of Members present at the AGM is attached.

3. Formal AGM Notice convening the meeting

The Notice convening the Annual General Meeting was duly noted.

4. Apologies for absence- Are listed in attached document.

5. Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 26th February 2015 were approved unanimously.

6. Chairman's Report

Richard Evans, Chairman of the TRA presented his report, a copy of which is attached to the minutes. Richard closed by thanking all Members for their support during his term as Chairman of the Association. .

7. Housing Market Review and Forecast for 2016

A copy of the presentation from Paul Baron is available on the TRA Website.

8. Finances

- i. Nick Boulton presented members with a summary report on the detailed Income and Expenditure Account of the Association for the year ended 31st December 2015. A copy of the draft Accounts had been made available to members via the website prior to the AGM, and further copies were made available at the meeting.
- ii. Members were offered the opportunity to ask questions about the draft accounts or other matters relating to the finances of the association. No questions were forthcoming, however members were reminded that they have the opportunity to ask such questions at any time through the year should they wish to do so.

A motion to approve the draft Accounts of the Association for the year ended 31st December 2014 was proposed by – David Leaney, Seconded by – Richard Evans Members present and those submitting forms of proxy unanimously approved the motion.

9. Elections

i) Chairman

In accordance with the nomination recorded in the AGM papers, it was proposed that Jonathan Fellingham of Donaldson Timber Engineering Ltd serve as Chairman of the Association for the period to the AGM 2017. Proposed by – Richard Evans, Seconded by – Peter Andrews and unanimously supported by the Members present and those submitting forms of proxy.

At this point in the proceedings the chair was handed over to the new Chairman of the Association. And Jonathan thanked Richard for the work he had undertaken on behalf of the association during his Chairmanship especially in terms of Spandrel panels and Installation.

ii. Vice-Chairman

In accordance with the nomination recorded in the AGM papers it was proposed that Alex Duff of Merronbrook Ltd serve as Vice-Chairman of the Association for the period to the AGM 2017. Proposed by – Jonathan Fellingham and Seconded by – Daryn Scally and unanimously approved by Members present and those submitting forms of proxy.

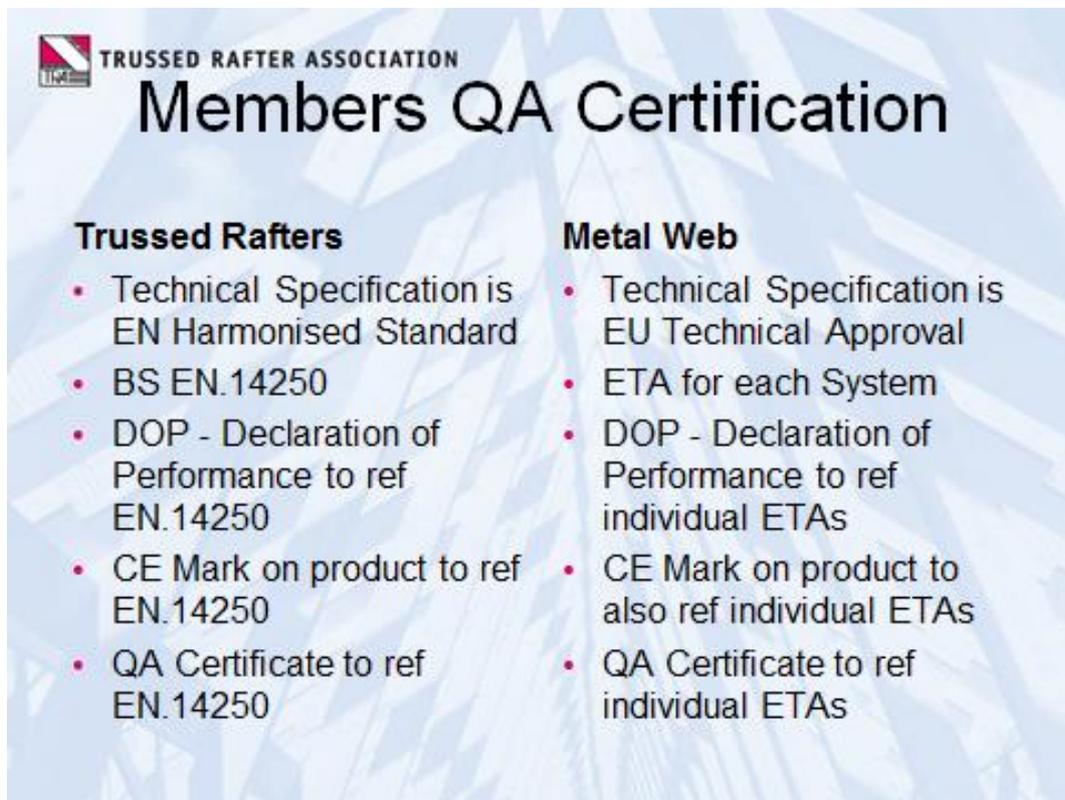
10. Subscription Rates

On behalf of the Chairman and the Management Committee, Nick Boulton was very pleased to inform members that for a further year there would be a freeze on subscription rates at the 2012 level, namely:

	Annual subscription payment before 31.03.16	Annual subscription payment after 31.03.16
Fabricators	£825.00	£925.00
Suppliers (1 Region)	£1300.00	£1400.00
Suppliers (2 + Regions)	£1950.00	£2050.00
Professional	£200.00	£300.00
System Holders	£6400.00	£6400.00

11. Members Quality Assurance Certification

Nick Boulton provided members with information about the need for separate QA Certification on Trussed Rafters and Metal Web Joists.



TRUSSED RAFTER ASSOCIATION

Members QA Certification

<p>Trussed Rafters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Specification is EN Harmonised Standard • BS EN.14250 • DOP - Declaration of Performance to ref EN.14250 • CE Mark on product to ref EN.14250 • QA Certificate to ref EN.14250 	<p>Metal Web</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Specification is EU Technical Approval • ETA for each System • DOP - Declaration of Performance to ref individual ETAs • CE Mark on product to also ref individual ETAs • QA Certificate to ref individual ETAs
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12. Amendment to the Members Procedure:

It was proposed to amend clause 2.3 of the complaints procedure to the following

“2.3 Where the complaint cannot be resolved by conciliation the complaint shall be referred to the Chairman of the TRA and where it is deemed appropriate a Disciplinary Panel shall be formed to determine in what manner the complaint shall be investigated and determined.”

It is proposed to amend clause 2.3 of the complaints procedure:

Proposed by – Richard Evans, Seconded by – Paul Baron and unanimously supported by the Members present and those submitting forms of proxy.

13. Eurocode Design:

Members were asked to acknowledge the formal position adopted by the TRA Management Committee in respect of transition to Eurocode design:

“From 1st January 2018 all TRA members will, for new design work involving Trussed Rafters and Metal Web components, design to EC5. Existing BS.5268 designs may be referenced for a further six months until 1st July 2018.”

14. Technical Committee

Les Fuller, Chairman of the Technical Committee, provided members with a presentation on the work of the committee, a copy of which is available on the website.

The meeting was adjourned at this point in proceedings.

15. Health and Safety

Ed Kirk, Chairman of the Health and Safety Committee, provided members with a presentation on the work of the committee, a copy of which is available on the website.

16. Publicity Committee

Karl Foster, Chairman of the Publicity Committee gave members a presentation on the work undertaken by the Committee on behalf of TRA Members.

17. Any Other Business

Members were given the opportunity to raise questions or issues they wished to be discussed or addressed, however none were forthcoming.

18. Close of the Formal AGM Proceedings

The formal AGM was closed at this point and Jonathan Fellingham introduced our guest speaker, Dr Robert Hairstans – Head of the Centre for Offsite Construction and Innovative Structures

Dr Robert Hairstans has extensive experience of the housing market and of lean production systems. He was a principal contributor to the Scottish Building Standards Agency Small Buildings Guide and an integral member of the IStructE's UK constitution for the Design of Timber Buildings to Eurocode 5.

He is the author of “Offsite and modern methods of timber construction – a sustainable approach”, a principal investigator on the EPSRC-funded project “Structural Optimisation of Timber Offsite Modern Methods of Construction” and an expert within the Institute for Sustainable Construction (ISC), Low Carbon Building

Technologies (LCBT) Gateway project. He collaborates extensively with industry conducting applied research in order to deliver construction technologies for tomorrow's communities

19. Meeting Close

The Chairman thanked all Members and speakers for attending the AGM and said that he look forward to working with Members in the coming year.

Well it's usual to say on these occasions that it doesn't seem 12 months since we were last here together.

I'd like to break with tradition and say it seems like a lot longer!

Here in the UK we've had a change of government and the commencement of a debate about our future position in the world.

We've had an economy which has shown conflicting health indicators – prolonged low inflation, prolonged low interest rates, prolonged increasing employment levels, with collapsing oil prices and share values, increased social inequality and recently falling exchange rates.

All set against initiatives to increase home-ownership, which have at least in part lead to an 8 year high in house building.

In the wider global community we have seen record levels of warfare and conflict, a slowdown in the global economic powerhouse of china, a humanitarian disaster on the doorstep of Europe which has re-ignited dormant super power posturing and created a wave of refugees seeking shelter amongst us.

All of which puts our personal lives into perspective however challenging they may have been.

But as they say – “life goes on” and the work of the TRA is unceasing!

The work of the various committees will be reported on shortly and all the detailed work carried on by those dedicated teams.

Initiatives which have carried on from last year are the spandrel panel fire and integrity project, continued debate around ec5 and a number of has projects.

As you know, apart from nick, the TRA is run on a voluntary basis by its members and my thanks go to all those committee members who have made it happen. However we do struggle with important projects and so we have set aside funding for key projects allowing us to employ external assistance. A truss installation video is high up on the agenda going forward, as is more H&S advice on site handling, installation and working at height with trusses and spandrels.

A couple of recent examples which may not have registered with you really demonstrate the power of the TRA;

Firstly - Taylor Wimpey had a problem on site with spandrel panels, their response to which would have resulted in suppliers having to do unreasonable amounts of design work. Fortunately the TRA was able to intervene and put forward an industry position which resolved the matter without additional burden to those members affected.

Secondly - the NHBC dropped any reference to bs5268 in its design guidance and adopted an ambiguous position on timber design and ec5. Again we were able to approach them on behalf of the industry and put forward a proposal which allowed a timescale to switch over. This is underlined in the vote we will be asking for later, in relation to ec5 and which was agreed by those present here last year.

Of all the issues going forward H&S has to be at the forefront. The primary driver for H&S improvements generally has not been autocrats in Brussels, but “messes fleesum and scarper” the no win no fee solicitors.

As the large house builders become ever more profitable they can commit more resources to risk management. As an industry we need to seriously embrace the difficulties our customers have in using our products.

In contrast panel roofs are in-flexible, but come with a system of managed installation.

They now account for around 5% of new terrace roofs in the UK and probably the majority of room-in-the-roof style terraced roofs, built by the nationals.

Bear in mind that Kodak was a multi-national household name in the 90's and filed for bankruptcy protection in 2012, overtaken by technology.

I'm not suggesting panels will wipe out trusses in 10 years but we can't be complacent, we must support the TRA and get involved with the issues to protect our industry and promote our products.

Finally I'd just like to say that following a meeting in Dublin earlier this month, a number of Irish manufacturers and associated companies have decided to join the TRA and I would like to welcome them again to the association.

In conclusion I'd like to say it has been another interesting year, and it's been a privilege holding the chair for the last two years

I know it will continue from strength to strength.

Richard Evans, Chairman



Date: 25 February 2016