



Inspiring business
Surrey

Chairman's Report for 2018-2019 IoD Surrey Annual Members Meeting 31st May 2019

Good morning everybody and welcome to my first Annual Members Meeting as your Chair. Before I go any further I want to pay tribute to the Chairs that have gone before me and in particular to Rob May, our immediate past Chair.

As you may well be aware, the IoD has been undergoing a period of massive change in the recent past. This seems to have increased in intensity almost as soon as I won the right to be your Chair.

Stephen Martin, who, as DG was involved in what the IoD call 'Project Transform' stepped down in January this year to make way for new leadership to carry the project forward. He and our then new Chair, Charlotte Valeur, toured the country towards the end of last year speaking with members. A number of your committee members and myself, went to the Reading event to contribute to that conversation. There is a lot of work still going on at Pall Mall in terms of redefining the purpose, vision and mission of the IoD. There have been a lot of changes in terms of staffing and structure with a couple of high profile and many unsung heroes departing. There are options and some plans for changes in the way the IoD engages with members locally. As yet I am unable to elaborate on what this will mean for us in Surrey – Indeed the little I am privy to is subject to strict confidentiality.

Suffice it to say that I believe we are moving from 'Interesting Times' to 'Exciting Times'. As soon as I am able, I will be keeping all our Surrey members informed – and importantly – be sharing what we, as your Ambassador committee, will be doing as a result.

I do want to go on record in saying that, despite current events, I remain as committed to what the IoD stands for in building better Directors, businesses and communities, what it stands for in terms of developing and professionalising senior leadership and governance within businesses, and the voice it has in national political, economic and commercial debate.

In Surrey branch our total membership at now stands at 1992 – 15% are women – 10% are 99ers 5% are IoD Advance. We have 57 Chartered directors, the second highest after London.

Ever since I took over facilitating the 859 from our beloved Chris Ragg my ambition was to make the 859 reflective of the community we serve. I know we are getting there. It has taken effort, belief and overcoming some initial opposition to what I was doing to 'the club'. We still have a way to go and this ambition needs to be, and will be directed towards our general membership.

I'm proud that:

- As your committee, we resolved not to run exclusive 'Women' events.
- That your committee, immediately after this AMM, will comprise 9 people, 5 men, 4 women.

I ask you, our members, in joining me in the effort to attract more successful, ambitious women to our increasingly inclusive and open community.

I committed to 2 things within the interview and selection process for this role as your Chair:

1. To personally be and to lead the Ambassador team in being THE voice and channel of business in Surrey for the 3 constituencies we serve: You our members, the wider business community and society in Surrey and the interests of the IoD generally.
2. To provide meaningful engagement opportunities to members who are currently underserved locally. The 859 does a good job in serving our Solo and smaller business members. The BoE meeting extends this reach a little but we have more to do in engaging members within scaling and larger businesses.

I am acutely aware that our Ambassador team are all busy, successful business leaders who have limited bandwidth for voluntary engagements and, as those who know me well would attest to, I am not into busyness for busyness sake.

Once the new IoD Purpose Vision, Mission and Strategy is released, along with the supporting business and operational models, we will be in a position to move purposefully on our Surrey ambitions.

These currently include:

1. Mastermind / peer-to-peer events for business leaders running broadly similar sized businesses.
2. Speaker based events providing high value content
3. Reintroducing our IoD Surrey Special Interest groups
4. The possibility of providing IoD learning opportunities locally

This will also mean that we may well have new Ambassador opportunities which we will seek support for as our plans evolve.

IoD Surrey has always been blessed with ambitious diligent and generous committee members and I want to thank them and pay tribute to them all now. They are all busy successful business leaders with limited bandwidth and I thank them all for their service and patience in these 'interesting times' and look forward to the year ahead as we move, with hope, towards those more 'Exciting Times'

I want to mention, specifically Jeremy Frost. Jeremy is our Small Business and Finance Ambassador, who also flew the flag, often with no army behind him, in the Far East and in Croydon. Because he is relocating to Kent he is relinquishing his role with us, effective from today. Thank you Jeremy.

As a branch, we are truly blessed to have Polly Buckley supporting us. Polly always goes over and beyond whatever role specification and contract she has in place with the IoD. She has a heart for her work and her members. She has been a constant source of support to me personally and to the branch generally. Thank you Polly.

I also want to thank our IoD Surrey859 sponsors, Barlow Robbins and our new sponsors of the BoE events Robert Walters for their support.

I mentioned earlier the migration from interesting times to exciting times and I am hopeful that the meeting in Southampton on the 7th of June with Charlotte Valeur, our Chair, will provide us with some solid information we can use to plan and deliver increasing value locally to you and all our loyal members in the years to come.