



THE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2 • DECEMBER 2021



CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

BY SIMON PEARS

Our founders and company members are an essential & important part of the association, and your involvement and support cannot be under estimated. Through your support of IPSA, you have demonstrated your commitment to the ethical and professional approach of the association and you should be very proud of your involvement. With our individual memberships increasing by 3500 since March 2021, IPSA remains on target to become the largest security association representing the Fire and Security sector. IPSA has been proud to be different.

THE IPSA
NEWSLETTER

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We are leading the way in challenging the status quo, we are demanding that security and fire services are respected and appreciated and those that work in the sector must be recognised and rewarded as such.

We are proud of our Founders and Company members who have shown their commitment to the ongoing professionalism of the sector and IPSA is determined to ensure you are recognised for your enthusiasm and devotion to the sector. IPSA will not stand still, and we will continue to challenge and debate. Your ongoing enthusiasm and engagement is vital for IPSA to continue in our mission.

We are not afraid to have robust discussions with the Security Industry Authority (SIA), when we don't believe they are acting in the best interests of the industry. We are not afraid to challenge auditing companies when they are unreasonable, apply additional costs or where it is clear that they don't understand the sector.

What we won't do, is stay silent when areas of the industry are wrong or misguided. IPSA will ensure your voice and views are known, so please continue to engage and together we will make a difference!



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

BY UNA RILEY



Our Founders will be invited to join us at a lunch on 16th March 2022 (full details in the next Newsletter) where we will be able to thank them in person...subject to Government restrictions! Once again, we looked to our Founders and Company Members to help fund this event... along with some new supporters.

The IPSA philosophy regarding the Founders will be at the heart of everything we do in the future... because without them, we would not have been able to launch the new IPSA in 2020. They took a leap of faith when there was nothing in it for them...only their support of the Front-line. Without the Company Members and the Founders, we would not have been able to offer free individual digital membership to the Front-line members.

IPSA will continue to remember the Founders and they will not fade with history. They are the people who irrespective of the corporate and sometimes Global organisations they represent, took a chance on what was the right thing to do...to support the private security Front-line.



SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

BY SUNNY ARAF

After such challenging two years, it is fantastic that we are finally starting to see people come together face to face for some much-needed social interaction. I recently attended the Security & Fire Excellence Awards held at the Hilton, Park Lane in London. I was joined by our very own Simon Pears and Jane Farell, and what a night it was. We had the opportunity to celebrate the champions of our industry and some of the amazing achievements of security companies throughout the UK.

The awards were a sell-out, with around 1000 guests gathered to network and socialise face to face and to recognise the best individuals and companies in the fire and security sectors.



The Awards continue to be supported by IFSEC International and FIREX International, as well as the headline sponsors – First Response Group and ISA Support Services Ltd.

It is always great to get together and celebrate our individual wins. I look forward to meeting more of our members and the wider community at similar events in 2022. On that note I wish you all a Happy Holiday's and a Prosperous new Year.

HOSPITALITY SECURITY SECTOR



BY ABBY FULLERTON

The UK employment challenge is well documented and the competition for jobs is at an all-time high – we're expecting to see these challenges continue into 2022 and potentially be compounded by the impact of new Covid variants.

Staff shortages seem to be particularly impacting the hospitality security sector, which is not only being challenged on staff recruitment, but also by non-PAYE suppliers using 'cash in hand' tactics. Negotiating powers are definitely in the hands of security personnel, which means your offer has to be hard to resist and customers have to recognise the benefits of paying a premium.

In guarding, the challenge is not only staffing but also the speed of opportunity driven by Covid.

More than ever, companies cannot compete for business based on cost alone. Putting service first and delivering strong results is of paramount importance.

FRONT LINE FORUM

BY UNA RILEY

The FLF (Front-line Forum) are the 'Voice' of the Front-line as far as IPSA are concerned. They are the beating heart of the new IPSA...they are the people actually doing the job... they are on the Front-line of service delivery on behalf of the private security profession. We have three security sectors represented, they are Systems Security, Security Services and Fire Systems.

The FLF have been recognised as a unique concept and platform within IPSA and now the wider world of security...but I wanted to know what one of the actual members of the FLF thought about the concept. I turned to Ben Coom of Acctive Security Systems, to give me his views on the FLF philosophy. Ben said. "The FLF to me is an excellent opportunity to engage with my peers to discuss, plan and put forward what I/we believe are the changes the industry needs to make. To represent people in the industry and people I've worked with is an opportunity that I'm proud of and a chance to make a difference." That really sums up the FLF...it is all about the people who do the work...but at last have the opportunity to actually make the changes they see fit for their profession...and be able to have a 'Voice', thanks to IPSA.



ELECTRONIC SECURITY

BY DANIEL SHIPLEY

As many businesses prepare to shut down for the Christmas break and thoughts turn to family, friends and loved ones, turkey or nut roasts, groan-worthy jokes in crackers and presents under the tree, spare a thought for the Security Engineers, who will be working over the festive period.

Whilst most of the law-abiding start winding down and getting into the Christmas spirit, those on the wrong side of the law ramp up their activities, remorselessly targeting both domestic and commercial premises for ill-gotten gains. Regrettably, criminals do not rest on their laurels over the festive period, but thankfully, neither do Security Engineers.

Throughout the year, front-line Security Engineers work tirelessly to maintain and repair the critical security infrastructure we rely on to protect people and property. Christmas brings no exceptions, so this year, spare a thought and perhaps raise a glass to the thousands of engineers up and down the country who will be forgoing the sprouts, fizz and TV - and heading into work to keep us safe and secure.



INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

BY CHRIS PHILLIPS

A very Happy Christmas and brilliant new year to all IPSA members. And what a year its been. The security industry is growing fast and so is IPSA.

I have had the pleasure of working with hundreds of security officers this year on the Covid hotel quarantine programme. It was quite amazing to see the number of security officers who were drafted in, often at short notice, to ensure the Quarantine programme worked well to protect the country against covid threats.

The roles were often long and in my view underpaid and in this operation the strengths and weaknesses of the security business was laid bare. I encountered very many excellent, diligent, polite, highly qualified officers who worked tirelessly at their job which could be boring and laborious at times. I also came across some who clearly struggled with the English language and I have severe doubts as to how they could have ever passed the SIA certification. Not to say they did a bad job but communication is a key part of the security officers job. Some of these officers were travelling two hours each way to do a twelve hour shift. I couldn't help thinking that many actually most needed more support, more training and some representation in a world which often undervalues the security officer.

Thus IPSA has a role. If the role of the Security officer is to be further professionalised, then IPSA can play a big role in improving their lot. So speak to your colleagues get them onboard and lets do whatever we can to help our brothers and sisters in security to move their career forward and support them in their job.



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

BY MARK DEATH

2021 has been a challenging year for everyone, and as the year comes to an end, many people will hopefully be celebrating Christmas with friends and love ones. But, you might be struggling this year for the first time. Or you may have found Christmas difficult in the past, and you're dreading it again this year. You may also enjoy Christmas, but not be able to celebrate it how you'd like to. Or you might find some parts enjoyable, but other parts stressful.

IPSA would like to remind all our members that lots of great advice and support is out there. 'Mind' has a great website with lots of supporting material and tips to help you manage. This [link](https://bit.ly/3dNRsse) focuses on this time of year: <https://bit.ly/3dNRsse>



THE IPSA FOUNDERS



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