

The highlight reel

Justin Ratcliffe, CAB CEO looks back at a busy and challenging year for CAB but looks forward with optimism to the year ahead

2017 was an incredibly busy and challenging year for our sector. UK construction must change following the tragic events that took place at Grenfell Tower. CAB represents the aluminium in building sector on the Construction Products Association technical expert panel which links directly to the DCLG industry response group. We are particularly grateful to all those members who have contributed and to the work of the CAB fire safety working group. We must ensure that positives emanate from this tragedy in the form of clearer regulations, improved guidance, increased levels of training and robust compliance procedures.

While the Construction Products Association forecast that construction output will show only a nominal increase

2018 Programme

The programme for 2018 will soon be under way with the first regional members' meeting due to take place in Leeds City Centre on Thursday 8th March 2018. The mini-conference will take place at the Carriageworks in Millennium Square, Leeds and the dinner in the Banking Hall at Aspire which is nearby. The format will again be a chaired forum, with senior industry figures across the supply chain discussing topical sector issues.



Justin Ratcliffe



Panellists at the CAB Regional Members meeting at the Library of Birmingham in November 2017 discussing 'Aluminium in Building delivers affordable quality'

in 2017 and no growth in 2018, our own CAB *State of the Market* surveys have consistently been more positive. Our Q3 2017 survey highlighted that 56% net balance of members expect to see growth over the next 12 months.

In addition to the vital work that our technical team undertake with standards and regulations, we have also worked on other important areas including BIM, environmental product declarations (EPD) and carbon embedded in building products.

Our events, seminars and training programmes were attended by over 700 members and their guests during the year. We were particularly pleased to see the high level of member engagement in our 500m² CAB Aluminium Pavilion at the FIT Show 2017 and the opportunity it provided to highlight and promote our entire membership. The success of the event is just one of the reasons that CAB membership increased yet again in 2017.

The FIT Show also saw the launch of our CAB fabricator/installer training days which aim is to promote basic competency amongst fabricators and installers through one day assessed training courses. Successful candidates can then apply for the CAB skills card. Training remains a key area that we will be looking to develop further in 2018.

The CAB AGM and Golf Day will take place on Thursday 28th June 2018 at the Forest of Arden Hotel and is always the social highlight of the association calendar.

We will shortly be launching a new series of quarterly contractual awareness seminars for the year ahead which will cover a variety of relevant and topical issues:

- Design liability and pre-contract awareness
- Post-contract awareness and payment issues
- JCT and contractual amends
- Claims (liquidated damages) and contractual nightmares

Due to the ongoing success of the seminar series, CAB is looking into making additional short 40 minute presentations accessible to members via webinars.

Details of CAB's annual aluminium in building conference and its autumn regional meeting will also be announced very shortly.

Finally, I would like to wish all the readers of the CAB column a very prosperous New Year ☐

Justin Ratcliffe

If you would like more details about CAB, its activities and membership benefits, please email jessica.dean@c-a-b.org.uk or contact the office on 01453 828851.