



A magical knight

Institution Dinner: 21 September 2012

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MAGICAL, stunning, spectacular, historical are just few of the words that can be used to describe Warwick Castle; the venue for this year's institution dinner. Stunningly restored, the castle provided a magnificent backdrop for ICES president, Jason Smith, to welcome over 130 members and guests. There is a mystical aura about the place and around every corner you expect to bump into Harry Potter, Hermione et al or catch a glimpse of an ancient knight of the realm. Armour, weapons and shields adorn the walls of the Great Hall – where the dinner was held – and it doesn't take much imagination to picture a wild boar being carried into the room for a banquet when it was built at the command of William the Conqueror in 1068.

On arrival, guests were greeted by the president and ushered into one of the state rooms for reception drinks. Costumed characters

complemented the experience by guiding guests on the castle's Secrets and Scandals tour and enlightening everyone on the history of the building.

Following drinks and tours, guests were invited into the Great Hall for an evening of fine dining. Before guests sat down to begin a marvellous feast, incoming president Alan Barrow started proceedings with grace. Other toasts throughout the evening were given by ICES honorary secretary Bert Palmer to Her Majesty the Queen and by ICES past president Ken Hall to the institution.

Gulp!

In his reply and toast to the institution guests, Jason Smith spoke affectionally about his time as ICES president and the honour that holding the title brings. He recalled – with a tinge of horror – the time he was invited to Rome to attend a FIG working week in order to represent the institution. By his own admission of never being one to turn down the chance of a free meal and a glass of wine, Jason enthusiastically accepted the invitation. It was only after closer





inspection, it dawned on him that he had, in fact, accepted an invitation to present a paper on building information modelling (BIM) to leading experts from around the globe. Needless to say, the paper was presented without a hitch and even a grilling from the finest minds on the subject matter didn't deter Jason from his stride – or his wine!

During his tenure as president, Jason has strived to make ICES the institution of choice for surveyors within civil engineering and he went on to talk about the burgeoning relationships that ICES has developed with other institutions. A few years on from gaining its royal charter, ICES now stands shoulder to shoulder with other influential bodies within the profession. Jason finished his speech by thanking all those who had assisted him during his time as president and wished his successor, Alan Barrow all the best in catapulting the institution forward.

Awards

Every two years the institution awards the Richard Carter Prize to a geospatial engineer who is judged to have made an

significant difference to the civil engineering surveying industry, either individually or through team leadership. The calibre of nominations in 2012 was extremely high, that said, the decision of the judging panel was unanimous. This year the award was presented to David Parker from Newcastle University. David was a clear winner, and was awarded the prize based on his significant lifelong contribution to the profession. Having recently retired from teaching in September this year, David accumulated 38 years of dedicated service to the university and his CV demonstrates an almost incomputable scientific and technical contribution to the profession. On collecting his award David spoke about how fortunate he considered himself to be to have carved out a successful career working in such a fascinating and ever-evolving profession.

The President's Medal is only presented at the discretion of the president during their term of office (in some cases not at all) and is given to an individual who has made an outstanding

