

REGIONAL REPORT – YORKSHIRE & LINCOLNSHIRE, UK – DECEMBER 2010



Project Management Update from Yorkshire & Lincolnshire

By Philip Smelt

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Introduction

Welcome to my report, for the sake of brevity I'll go straight into an overview of the events that I have introduced over the past months since my last report.

Events

September 2010

Following the success of APM Y&NL's previous networking events in Leeds, we held a back to basics networking evening in late September in Huddersfield. Offering no



frills, no speed-networking, no quizzes, just good old fashioned networking; the evening was arranged so as to enable the sharing and gaining of knowledge, expertise and contacts. The evening event also provided an opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences with other like minded professionals.

Photograph: Andy Barnett (APM Y&NL branch committee member), third left, enjoys a joke with several attending members.

October 2010

Having seen Mark Kozak-Holland talk on Lessons Learned from History at last year's PMI UK Chapter's IPM day, I leapt at the opportunity for Mark to speak in our region when APM HQ announced his availability earlier on in the year. In fact it was more than a leap, as I managed to book Mark for 3 events across the region, all throughout October 2010.

Starting at The Source in Sheffield early October the presentation then moved to York the next day followed by The University of Bradford later on in the month.



The sinking of the R.M.S. Titanic is one of the worst maritime disasters ever. Mark's presentation analysed the project that designed, built, and launched the ship, showing how compromises made during early project stages led to serious inherent flaws in this supposedly unsinkable ship. Indeed all of the disastrous compromises and mistakes presented were avoidable.

Photograph: Mark Kozak-Holland, The Source Sheffield

To a total audience of 100+ Mark showed us how the lessons learned from Titanic's disaster can be applied to projects today, by cleverly juxtaposing situations where we believe that we have designed, built, or launched a "perfect" solution with that of the Titanic story.



**Photograph: Mark Kozak-Holland, Station Hotel, York
Courtesy Sarah Martin**

For me I particularly found Mark’s insights on how non-functional requirements can get overshadowed by functional requirements, extremely interesting and relevant to my role.



Photograph: Left to right, Dr. Ed Wallington, Philip Smelt, Mark Kozak Holland and Sarah Martin.
Courtesy Kevin Parry



Photograph: Mark Kozak-Holland, The University of Bradford
Courtesy Sarah Martin

Having sat through a total of three presentations I remained entertained by each, as there were always little details to pick up on. Titanic Lessons for IT Projects is from the “Lessons from History” series.

See www.lessons-from-history.com for more details.

November 2010

In early November I had the pleasure of attending another APM Branches & SiGs Forum. This time it was the turn of APM's London Branch to host our deliberations. Chaired by Russel Jamieson, chair of the APM's Branch Steering Group, the 3 day event ran like clockwork.



Photograph: Andrew Bragg, Chief Executive, APM'
 Courtesy Anna Grabham.

As usual Andrew Bragg started off the proceedings with a concise presentation on where APM is presently positioned and how its expansion strategy will be delivered, through the its 5 dimensions approach. See <http://www.apm5dimensions.com>



With the weekend packed full of reviews, update presentations, initiative launches and workshop, I believe these six monthly forums to be a great way of also finding out what other branches are delivering to their members.

Photograph: APM Branches & SiGs Forum attendees
 Courtesy Anna Grabham.



**Photograph: Philip Smelt (left) and Nathaniel Morosoli (APM HQ) discuss the one that got away, "Honestly Philip, it was this big".
Courtesy Anna Grabham**

Sorry Nat, it was too good a picture, not to use!



As with all forums, volunteers are rewarded for their tireless efforts by being dined at an unusual venue, readers of my reports may recall that earlier in the year The Imperial War Museum at Duxford was the venue. For this London forum we dined in the Gun room onboard H.M.S. Belfast.

Photograph: H.M.S. Belfast moored on the River Thames near Tower Bridge.



Through a clever link, APM HQ have organised the next APM Branches & SiGs Forum to be in Belfast.

Photograph: APM Branches & SiGs Forum attendees aboard H.M.S. Belfast

November 2010 Continued...

In mid-November Esther Fry from APM HQ came to talk to branch members in Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire about The Body of Knowledge Refresh. As part of the team responsible for the refresh programme since its beginnings in Autumn 2009 Esther works in the Professional Standards and Knowledge department at APM.



The Professional Standards and Knowledge team look after a number of areas including the Refresh programme, Registered Project Professional, Accreditation, Qualification standards, CPD and careers.

Esther also provided also a high level update on other APM projects including APM Registered Project Professional.

Photograph: Esther Fry



Photograph: Philip Smelt, Esther Fry

November 2010 Continued....



Finishing off APM Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire's event calendar for 2010, Keith Richards (no relation) presented to a large audience of project professionals a The University of Huddersfield on the ten golden rules for successful Agile projects.

With over 30 years of experience in IT and project management Keith is a board member of the DSDM consortium and recently led a team in the creation of a new version of the DSDM framework which can now be used on any project.

Photograph: Keith Richard, The University of Huddersfield

Through Keith's presentation I learnt new insights in people management, change management and communication.



Looking across the audience it was obvious that I wasn't the only one to be learning something that night, as everyone was eagerly scribbling down Keith's every word.

**Photograph: The Agile Audience, making notes.
The University of Huddersfield.**

So with the 2010 calendar complete that only leaves me to provide you with a short sample of things to come in 2011.

Happy holidays.

Forthcoming Events

18/01/11 Venue: NHS IC Leeds. An NHS IC, & APM Y&NL Branch Joint Event P3O, Presented by Sue Vowler – lead Author .

This session gives the potential users of the P3O (Portfolio, Programme and Project Offices) guidance a chance to learn about the content and the benefits it can deliver. It also gives attendees a chance to pose questions to the lead author. (FREE)

27/01/11 Venue: Leeds Metropolitan University. What is NEC3. Presented by Dr. Jon Broome, Chair of the APM's Contract & Procurements SiG.

Find out more on the NEC family of contracts – designed to facilitate the implementation of sound project management principles and practices as well as defining legal relationships. NEC3 is suitable for procuring a diverse range of works, services and supplies, spanning major projects through to minor works and purchasing of individual supplies and goods. The implementation of NEC3 contracts has resulted in major benefits for projects both nationally and internationally in terms of time & cost savings and improved quality. (£10)

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Philip Smelt, B.Sc.(Hons.), M.Phil., MAPM works at Lincolnshire County Council (England's 4th largest County) as a Project Manager within their new Programme Centre. Philip began his career as a research chemist for the Ministry of Defence at the Chemical Defence Establishment, Porton Down; studying gas adsorption on novel polymeric materials, research that resulted in an M.Phil. Philip has traveled the globe whilst working on projects in the scientific instrumentation industry, including 5 years in the Former Soviet Union at the time of Perestroika and Glasnost. His work involved the commissioning of multi-million pound state-of-the-art Surface Science Instrumentation. Philip also held the post of Innovation & Technology Counsellor for Humberside's new Business Links where he managed a portfolio of 200 companies, providing solutions and advice utilizing schemes and initiatives delivered through the UK's Department of Trade and Industry and European Commission. For a Westland Helicopters Computer Based Training sub-contractor, he led a team of courseware designers, authors, graphics artists and application software engineers in the production of multi-screen Computer Aided Instruction and Emulation Systems. He has also worked for several overseas Navies and delivered multi-million pound control room projects for a 'bluelight' company specializing in Integrated Communications Control Systems. As a Managing Successful Programmes (MSP) Practitioner and Management of Risk (M_O_R) Practitioner, Philip has broad private and public sector exposure. Philip also possesses a Post-graduate Certificate in Systems Thinking and a Post-graduate Diploma in Management Studies, both from the University of Lincoln. He has been a member of the Association for Project Management (APM) since 2005 and Chairman of APM's Yorkshire & North Lincolnshire branch since 2008. Philip is also an Associate Consultant for Cogenic Ltd., www.cogenic.co.uk a UK consultancy that specializes in helping organizations implement strategy, reduce wasted resources and effort, and increase return on investments. Philip can be contacted at project_prince@hotmail.com.