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## From the President: last word

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## From the President



### Last word...

April marks the end of my term as President and my last column for *The Ergonomist*. It feels like it has been quite

a year. Back in April 2014 we were still waiting to hear from the Privy Council about Chartership, with just a degree of apprehension that problems might arise with our petition. We were also working on the advert and selection process to recruit a new Chief Executive. These two activities, set in train by my predecessors, are both now completed.

Much has been said already about the Royal Charter and the recognition it brings. A sister society, the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS) were granted their Charter a couple of years prior to us. I was interested to hear the Past President of BOHS's advice to me at the event held in March to launch the Chartered Institute. He emphasised that although it is a great achievement to become Chartered, it is what we do next to drive home the advantage that really counts. We have considerable work to do now to translate the new status into greater awareness of the benefits of ergonomics & human factors and to see more widespread adoption.

In this respect, I hope my legacy as President will be in having initiated the preparation of a new five year strategy. I have offered the opinion before that we have not always been as clear as we should about why we are doing the things we are doing, nor have we prioritised sufficiently and evaluated progress. The Strategic Plan 'Towards 2020' aims to provide a

framework to remedy this and to help us to be more proactive rather than reactive.

A significant project during the past year was the replacement of our membership database, the existing system being cumbersome, expensive to maintain and a risk to the CIEHF's operations. Moving to a new database, along with the implementation of an upgraded membership package was a major challenge for the office team, working with external consultants. They are to be congratulated for bringing this through to fruition and positioning us now with much better capability to give members a better service. Our members, of course, remain central to all that we do.

At the AGM in April, I will be handing the President's medal to Sarah Sharples. Sarah will, I know, 'make a difference'. I am also pleased that Ian Randle will become President-Elect, bringing his wide experience of consultancy practice across different sectors.

I would like to end by thanking the members of the current Executive and Council. Giving freely of their time, their contribution to the leadership of CIEHF is of considerable value to the wider membership. I would especially like to thank Amanda Bellamy, Becky Kelly, James Walton, Jackie West and Tina Worthy in the office. Their uncomplaining hard work keeps this boat afloat!

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roger". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.