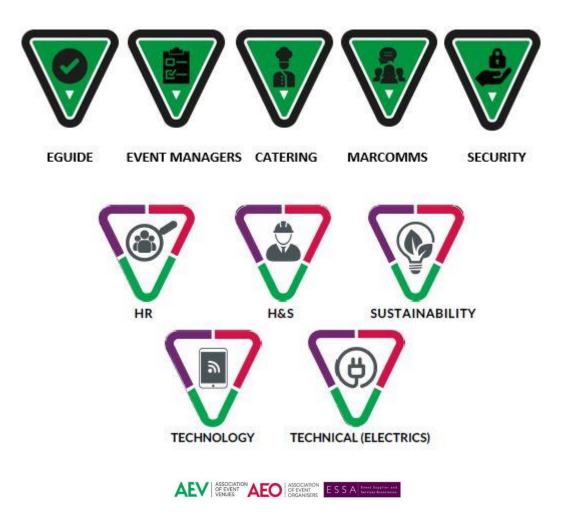


# Working Group summaries January to October 2019



## The story so far....





#### "33% of event professionals will experience a period of mental ill health" (EventWell 2017)

Our first Cross Association working group of the year met at ExCeL London this week. HR professionals from across the sister associations joined forces and expertise to explore mental health first aid.

Led by Christina Barsoum and Jaan Madan from <u>MHFA England</u> the group discovered some sobering statistics, learnt a little more about themselves and how together mental health can be addressed across all corners of our organisations and industry.

Organised by the HR working group chair, Cheryl Busby from Clarion Events Ltd all welcomed the opportunity to prioritise and alter thinking.

The group will now work on the objective of approaching barriers/tackling the stigma and compiling a mental health tool kit for ultimate use across our member organisations.

The meeting concluded with a tour (by a Clarion Gaming Event Director) of ICE which was enjoying its third day residency at ExCeL London.

Thank you to all those that attended, Cheryl (chair) and Raj (vice) for organising, MHFA England for providing thought provoking content, ICE and finally ExCeL London for hosting and providing refreshment.

Our next (extra - due to demand) meeting takes place on 4th June at Diversified Communications in Brighton.

Contact your Association representative should you wish to join the conversation.

Take a couple of minutes to view PwC's This is Me campaign which was created to mark World Mental Health Day 2016 and shown during our meeting

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ol1ymSjPhBE

MHFA England: <a href="https://mhfaengland.org/">https://mhfaengland.org/</a>







Our second Cross Association working group of the year met at Alexandra Palace on 13<sup>th</sup> February.

H&S professionals from across the sister associations joined forces and expertise to explore the groups direction through an interactive workshop led by the Chair, Reed Exhibitions Emma Dengate.

Differing from previous meetings, the near 40 attendees took benefit from the cabaret room layout which gave the meeting a sense of informality which encouraged deeper collaboration.

After an update on specific agenda items Dengate steered the conversation facilitating an exploration into the group's purpose and (at an Association level then as a mix) what kept them awake at night. Out of this collective input a set of objectives and a strategy can now be finalised.

Thank you to all those that attended, Emma (chair) and Paul (vice) for organising, Alexandra Palace for hosting, providing refreshment and for Graeme Timms for leading the fascinating venue tour.

Our next meeting takes place on 29<sup>th</sup> August at Landsec, London.







## AEV MarComms Working Group – 27<sup>th</sup> February

The sun continued to shine on the second and final day of International Confex. The AEV Marketing and Communications Working Group utilised the space in the sun drenched Pergola Olympia restaurant.

After a meet and greet where group colleagues had the opportunity to catch up over a coffee and pastry kindly supplied by our hosts the group settled down for an informative presentation from Silke Hoersch – Executive Director Marketing & Business Development from Ungerboeck EMEA. Together they explored current and new capabilities regarding software but also the ways in which we as businesses can improve our customer acquisition and relationship management.

Kate Simpson from Business Design Centre then led the group into breakout sessions where the group's objectives were explored - a strong collaborative direction was established.

Our next meeting is on the day after our Conference, July 5<sup>th</sup> at Manchester Central.

Jumping to September (26<sup>th</sup>); Bournemouth International Centre are kindly hosting and Elizabeth updated the group on what will promise to be an excellent afternoon and evening visit! News on that to come.

Thank you to all who came, Silke who presented, Pergola for hosting and providing refreshment and to all those that attended.







The Cross Association group met during the opening day of International Confex.

Utilising this great opportunity for members to congregate the **Technology** group combined (for their first part) with AEO's Business Information Technology Group (BTIG) for a round table open discussion regarding advancing the opportunities in working closer together - The collective agreed there is a lack of knowledge or understanding regarding the differing expectations Vs reality of venue Wi-Fi. The Cross Association group will work on creating various tools which will aid in this (re) education.

This combined group agreed to meet annually but continue dialogue through Associations with another joint meeting later in the year IF required given technology advances.

The Cross Association group split from the BTIG for the second part of their meeting, and was led by the group's chair, Amir Vered through International Confex to another part of Olympia London for a working lunch. The group also welcomed a representative from Rai Amsterdam who happened to be speaking at International Confex and was invited by Amir to witness our working group session. All welcome the Commercial Director of Exposure Analytics, Rob Murdoch who gave an insightful overview of the benefits of utilising tracking tech to gage the success of an event.

The meeting closed after the objectives for 2019 were discussed.

Thank you to all those that attended, Amir for chairing both sessions, hosting and organising refreshment, the BTIG, and Rob Murdoch for presenting.







## AEV Security Working Group – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019

The AEV Security Working Group met at Olympia London last week during SCTX – Security & Counter Terror Expo.

Thanks to our engaging presenters the extended meeting commenced with the chair, Steve Neal prompted those present for a round table venue security snapshot. It is always fascinating to hear and great to see collaboration between venues.

Received from those congregated around the table, the group explored their combined direction and objectives which included new input from individuals from International Centre, Telford, Ricoh Arena, EventCity and SEC.

We welcomed two guest speakers. **Andy Smith** Counter Terrorism Security Adviser from **NaCTSO** who gave an succinct update on the ever evolving UAV/drone legislation and **Andrew Palmer**, Border Security Manager from **Gatwick Airport** who gave an insightful exploration into their successful implementation of Behaviour Detection Officers (BDO's).

The meeting closed with thanks to our hosts (Olympia London) for arranging our room and their caterers Levy's for providing a tasty working lunch.

Thank you to our chair Steve for driving the group forward and to all who attend.

Next meeting is on 5<sup>th</sup> July at Manchester Central (the day after our conference). This will be a combined meeting with the Security group from the NAA.







### AEV Event Manager Working Group 13th March 2019

Not even Storm Gareth could keep us away.

SSOCIATION

Event Managers from 13 member venues congregated at Manchester Metropolitan University on 13<sup>th</sup> March. Welcomed with an array of tasty refreshment the group explored a quick catch up with each other. They then welcomed the students and settled in for a combined workshop/think tank session led by Lucy Pittaway, Senior Lecturer in Events Management & Level 6 Year Manager.

The session follows the successful MMU Connect Conference on October 26, 2018, which was supported by AEV and it was attended by several of our members where events management students and event professionals met. It was an opportunity for students to quiz event professionals and find out how best to get their careers off the ground after graduation, and get answers to industry-related questions from the source. This collaboration led to our meeting on Wednesday. It seemed a logical approach to bring the event managers who work for the venues of today together with those of the future.

After a short introduction from Lucy and venue representatives, Alden Arnold, AEV Project Manager presented the ethos behind the AEV, its purpose and current state of play and direction the collective are heading. Closing with a look at venue legacy and the investment in the industry's future (i.e. TECA, ICC Wales, Olympia investments, proposed openings of Magazine London and the "Sphere") the students gained a solid understanding of the venue world and the benefits membership to such an Association can bring.

Michelle Baldwin (NEC), Tom Edwards (ExCeL London), Dean Meehan (Manchester Central) and Lynne Guthrie (SEC) took to the floor, in turn presenting their respective venues to the group.

Lucy then fielded relevant questions and the students noted down panel responses, which in turn will help with their end of year projects/dissertations. The remaining venues who were sat at each table also gave response, giving a broader opinion/experience for the students to absorb.

After a short break a round table speed dating session commenced giving the students the ability to ask those from the venues a set of predetermined questions posed by Lucy.

Insights shared, learning through real life experiences, collaboration. A successful day all round.

Thank you to our members who attended, the panel, Lucy, MMU and their students and Storm Gareth.

We are certain a repeat of this will happen again so watch this space!

"It is always invaluable to take advantage of these opportunities to learn more about the industry I am progressing in!" **MMU Event Management Student** 

"Another amazing experience yesterday gaining insight from industry professionals! It was great to hear their opinions on current issues within venues and how expectations of clients and delegates has changed over the past 10 years." **MMU Event Management Student** 

"Brilliant -what an opportunity for our students" - Senior Lecturer MMU

"It was a great success and amazing that so many of the EM working group could attend. We wanted to say thank you as we also got an incredible amount from the experience." – **AEV member** 





18 individuals from across 13 companies gathered at UBM/Informa's spectacular central London offices for an afternoon of collaborative industry sustainability thinking. Olympia London kindly sponsored a workshop facilitated by the MICE Machine.

The MICE Machine exists to encourage and support greater sustainability in the meetings, incentives, conference and exhibitions (or events) industry. They developed and launched Olympia London's reinvigorated sustainability programme – "The Grand Plan". Champions from each of the Venue's departments agreed objectives and a strategy to achieve. Over 130 staff and service partners have agreed to contribute to the success of the plan.

With steer from Siân Richards, Business Services & Sustainability Manager Olympia London and wanting the same successes the group chair and vice along with AEV and MICE planned a longer afternoon session.

The 19<sup>th</sup> floor of UBM/Informa's offices provided the perfect outlook for inspiration. A tasty buffet lunch was organised by the groups vice and host – Lucille which gave a chance for the group to gather and catch up.

Commencing at 12:30pm Ruth and Chris introduced themselves and MICE Machine's purpose, their work with Olympia London and a couple of videos that all helped to set the scene.

Throughout the afternoon the group explored their collective needs and then as Association islands. 4 hours later these were then all pulled together into key focus areas and aims for the group with the ultimate aim to create commitment to obtain long term success.

Given the enthused attendees a follow up session is being explored before our next working group meeting on the  $16^{th}$  October.





AEV Catering Working Group 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Our Catering working group met at The National Railway Museum in York earlier this month.

Catering experts from across our venue membership made their journeys to this historic city from far and wide - London, Glasgow, Dublin and from venue locations in between. As with the other 9 working groups, it was encouraging to continue seeing the dedication of our members who are able to incorporate their AEV responsibilities into their every day.

Jamie Anderson (SEC) chaired his first meeting as such with great aplomb, supported by his vice, Amy Chong (ExCeL London).



We welcomed David Slack (Levy Restaurants) as our guest presenter who explained the evolving challenges of museum catering i.e. incorporating the corporate/retail offering, sustainability, and allergen awareness. The group were pleased to experience Levy's offering via a tasty lunch which was provided.



Round table discussions powered through key topics – revisiting how venues manage ongoing sustainability pressures/waste management, allergen advice/labelling and food safety management.



After lunch Jamie headed discussion surrounding the group's 6 key objectives and strategies for success.

The meeting closed after each attendee added their mobile numbers to be added to a WhatsApp group.

For those that remained a tour of the venue was arranged and it was incredible to walk amongst the legacy locomotives that dwarfed us and admire the splendour of Queen Victoria's carriages. A nostalgic experience for the groups, one couldn't help but have admiration for this bygone days of steam.



Thank you to Jamie, Amy and David, for all those that attended and of course our incredible hosts.

If you are an AEV member and would like to join the Catering Working Group please do contact us via <u>info@aev.org.uk</u>

Next meeting is planned for July 5<sup>th</sup> at Manchester Central – the day after our annual conference.

www.aevconference.org.uk





18 individuals from across our venue membership and 1 invited AEO member converged on a sunny Silverstone circuit for the first eGuide meeting of 2019.

Situated inside the circuit and via the famous Brooklands Gates; our hosts welcome us all to the British Racing Driver's Club House –indeed a unique and prestigious venue. Once inside, the spectacular views of the Silverstone circuit were enjoyed from the comfort of the three storey building either from an armchair, the roof terrace or garden. Photo opportunities a-plenty.

A meeting did take place!

We welcomed Jamie Anderson (chair of AEV's Catering Working group) who presented their group objectives and facilitated a mini discussion on allergen labelling. Additional appreciation was show to Jessamy Ganesh from Reed Exhibitions who gave the group insights into the ways that the eGuide is utilised from an Organiser approach and suggestion over how it could evolve.

The group further explored a plethora of topics including the use of glass in stand construction, stand plan certification, sustainability and rigging. Alden Arnold, AEV Project Manager provided those present with a summary of all the working groups who have met thus far in 2019.

The meeting closed with appreciation to our hosts, chair and guests.

The groups split into two, with one taking lunch and the other jumping on a minibus for an incredible tour of the circuit, the farm, The Wing and control room.

Further appreciation must go to Hannah and Danielle for organising.





## 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 – Technology Working Group and joint meeting with Electrical Technical Working Group.



## ALTERNATIVE POWER PANEL





SMART

Duncan Robertson Technical Director & Designer DK Fire Safety & Show Exhibition Services



LIF=SAV=R<sup>®</sup>

Archie Wilkinson Managing Director of Lifesaver Power







#### **Technology Working Group meeting** – 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019

Meeting for the group's second get-together of the year a number of technology experts from across the industry met at Olympia London to progress conversations surrounding the outputs from the joint meeting back in February with the BTIG (Business Technology Information Group).

The group made headway pulling together ideas for content surrounding the first draft of venue tech guides for Organisers and Exhibitors to utilise. Further formats/functionalities were discussed.

Round table tech updates followed with suggested topics for discussion at the next meeting which takes place a day after our Conference on 5<sup>th</sup> July.

The group broke for lunch courtesy of our hosts where we were joined by the Electrics Technical Working Group for a joint discussion exploring alternative power at events.

#### Joint Technology and Electrics Working Group meeting – Alternative Power Forum

A hot topic cross pollinated via these two and the H&S, eGuide, Sustainability working groups. The joint group welcomed (via a short introduction via the Electrics Technical chair Chris Morrison) three experts in this field.

Duncan Robertson – Technical Director and Designer from DK Fire Safety & Show Exhibition Services.

Archie Wilkinson – MD – Lifesaver Power

Tim Benson – Founder/Production Director – SMART Power Ltd

Each took to the floor imparting their wisdom and expertise in their specific areas around providing technical & electrical show/event services to the industry – which included the increasing supply of portable power. Over the last few years, each had noticed the increasing use of self-contained battery power solutions for exhibit displays and lighting. With the increase in lower powered LED equipment, this is becoming used more by some exhibitors on certain shows, however, we have seen an uplift with the bespoke stand builders designed equipment to incorporate this technology into their stands, the main usage, as to date, been utilised using lead sealed acid batteries for lighting schemes.

Further exploration ventured into the risks and hazards associated with the use of these types of batteries which would benefit review and consultation. As a result representatives from the eGuide subcommittee working group agreed to discuss this at their next meeting taking place on 12<sup>th</sup> June. The H&S Cross Association working group will also be discussing this as part of their longer meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> August.

Gratitude was shown to our hosts, attendees who travelled from the four corners of our island the presenters who offered their time to share their wisdom and afternoon with us.

Next meeting for the Working Group – 6<sup>th</sup> November – P&J Live



#### Event Industry HR Working Group – 5th June 2019

Diversified Communications UK welcomed the Cross-Association Event Industry HR working group to their offices in sunny Brighton this week. On UFI's Global Exhibitions Day!

It was satisfying to see that since our last meeting in February there were 5 MHFA trained Champions and 2 mental health first aiders in the room. It's been a busy 4 months!

The group split into two and explored possible tool box content for our cross-association members to utilise. Pulling our resources together the group arrived at various possibilities including a name for such a resource – watch this space!

After a tasty lunch we welcomed Colleen Theron from Ardea International who gave the group insights into modern slavery and the requirements give the recent changes in policy.

The meeting closed after addressing Association Salary Surveys, IR35 changes and DBS checking.

The meeting then carried on at a local pub where the ideas flowed further. Great meeting, great friends, great direction.

Thank you to Cheryl and Raj (Char/Vice), Hazel for hosting and arranging lunch, Colleen for presenting and all who attended.

Next meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> October at Alexandra Palace.





#### **5 Working Group meetings** – 5<sup>th</sup> July – Manchester Central.

92 professionals from across our industry met at Manchester Central for a quintet of working group meetings namely Event Managers, MarComms, Catering, Security and Cross Association Technology Working Groups

The Event Managers welcomed back Lucy Pittaway, Senior Event Management Lecturer from Manchester Metropolitan University who helped the group work towards one of their objectives – an exciting new project - watch this space. Two of Lucy's students were also present – who were incredibly helpful during our conference the night and evening before. Next meeting takes place at Sandown Park Racecourse on 20<sup>th</sup> November.

The MarComms group continued their discussions on their forthcoming Marketing Benchmark Survey and gave further thought to their 2020 objectives. They look forward to their next meeting at Bournemouth International Centre on 26<sup>th</sup> September.

The Catering working group welcomed an update from their Chair Jamie Anderson over his attendance at the eGuide working group back in May. The group then explored the perceived complexities of the current catering eGuide section and welcome the current collaboration with Organisers into the ever-evolving section. Next meeting takes place at ACC Liverpool on 30<sup>th</sup> October.

The Security working group enjoyed a combined meeting with representation form the National Arena Association (NAA) who shared venue updates and a collaborative approach to crowded places best practice. Exploring areas of commonality and shared learning. Next meeting takes place at the Business Design Centre on 25<sup>th</sup> September.

The Cross-Association Technology Working Group explored emerging technologies and their ongoing projects of creating Exhibitor/Organiser venue connectivity guide cards. The group look forward to their next working group meeting at P&J Live on 6<sup>th</sup> November. They are also exploring the possibility of a group visit to a venue on the continent in 2020.







Cross Association H&S meeting – 29<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at Landsec

44 individuals registered to attend our cross-association H&S working group meeting yesterday (29th August 2019) making it the busiest single working group meeting of the year. Ever. Mike Pearce welcomed us all to Landsec, our generous hosts for near 4.5-hour meeting.

The agenda allowed for a variety of topics to be discussed. These subjects were highlighted as hot topics at the group's last meeting back in February. Well-being was explored as a collective with the help of Alex Joicey from PepFarley and Frances Trussell providing us with an understanding of managing the physiological responses to stress; particularly relevant to the hectic lives of those from all corners of the event world – great to see the entire room engaging with some breathing exercises.

After a short break the group split into 4 streams covering the importance of sleep with Circadian's Steve Goodwin, alternative power with James Eade, pedestrian and traffic control with Gerry Kilsby & Tony Hawkins and complex rigging with Nigel Winer.



Frances Trussell, Alex Joicey and Steve Goodwin James Eade

Gerry Kilsby Tony Hawkins

Nigel Winer

The group were spoilt by a delicious lunch provided by Landsec's caterers Bennett Hay Limited.

Post lunch the leaders from each stream imparted their group's outputs giving all an idea of the direction we should travel as an Industry collective.

Thank you to all those who attended, our hosts and guests and to Paul Brough for stepping in as chair at the very last minute.

Our next meeting in on 26th February at ExCeL London, during International Confex.

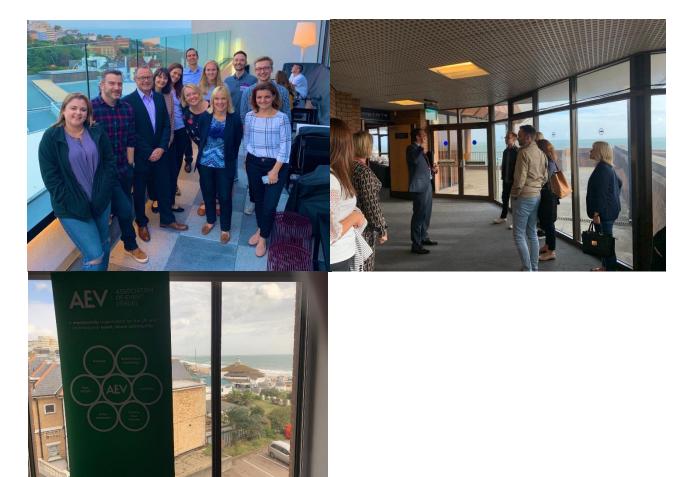


#### MarComms Working Group Meeting 26/10/2019 at Bournemouth International Centre

Our Marketing and Communications Working Group met on the 26th September 2019, at the Bournemouth International Centre. With amazing views of the seafront, 9 marketing professionals shared their latest endeavours.

The chair, Kate Simpson (Marketing Director, BDC) led the group through a packed agenda which included the results from the group's Benchmarking survey, exploration into student placements/apprenticeships, death of a monarch, venue updates, attendance at the Festival of Marketing and the group's plans for 2020. The meeting closed with a tour from Ben Mutton (Sales Manager) of the BIC venue and Bournemouth Pavilion Theatre.

Our evening social was facilitated by Business Events Bournemouth, with drinks at the Sky Bar, a wonderful dinner at Neo and then onto a Virtual Reality experience at the VR Centre! Thank you to the team at BHLive for their generosity and taking care of us.





#### The Event Industry HR Working Group 2/10/2019 at the O2

The Event Industry HR Working Group met on the 2nd October 2019 in the Indigo lounge at the O2 with over 30 HR professionals from across the AEV, AEO and ESSA membership attending. We had two guest speakers with us on this day, Heather Beach from Healthy Working, and Helen Moon from EventWell.

Our chair Cheryl Busby, Vice Raj Pragi and AEV's Alden Arnold, presented the journey and progress of the Wellbeing toolbox which included the announcement of its name and logo.

We had a fantastic tour of the all new ICON outlet and circumference of the venue. Members had the opportunity to go 'Up and Over the O2' after the meeting or a great arena tour of the venue courtesy of its venue director Dan Rolfe..





## Sustainability and eGuide Working Group 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at Telford International Centre

Representatives from the three associations car pooled to the Telford International Centre yesterday where two working groups were taking place. The Cross-Association Sustainability and eGuide working groups.

Both groups were met with welcoming way-finding and smiles from the TIC team.

Led by A1 Cleaners and ESSA Board member Martin Cottrell and Lucie Ryan (Sustainability Manager at Informa PLC) the group explored the outputs from the hard work the MICE Machine workshops and sub groups have produced throughout the year. The accumulation of outputs was reviewed and tweaked by those in attendance and the group are close to forming a set of sector relevant sustainability commitments that those members of the group can follow for 2020. Responses will not currently be audited or reported publicly – they will solely be discussed within the group. It is recognised that sustainability planning is for some in its infancy and these can help our members direct focus and evolve their environmental responsibility considerations in line with industry peers. If you want to be involved, and a member you are welcome to join the group and this journey.

After a fantastic lunch with eGuide representatives and insightful tour of the venue the two groups merged to share the further thoughts on the sustainability commitments.

After a short break and goodbyes to the Sustainability working group the eGuide team discussed the 2019 outputs from all working groups which included a brief presentation from Alden on the work the Event Industry HR group have been achieving regarding the mental health toolkit. Further discussions carried focus on the H&S working group surrounding rigging and traffic management, Technology and Electrics journey into alternative power and the catering sub group's review of the catering eGuide section





## AEV Catering Working Group 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at ACC Liverpool

15 catering professionals from across 12 AEV UK and International venues enjoyed a warm welcome to ACC Liverpool for the final Catering Working Group meeting of 2019. Tom Lechthaler (Venue Director) welcomed attendees from as far and wide as Dublin, Glasgow and Farnborough.



The group congregated in the sunny corner of the Lounge, overlooking the river Mersey, where they were greeted by Natalie from Centreplate UK/Sodexo who in turn was thanked for the wonderous buffet that awaited.



During the next four hours the group enjoyed a diverse agenda including presentation from Natalie who gave insight into the catering challenges/reward across the ACC Liverpool campus and from Caroline Stevenson, founder of Foodinate who helped the venues explore how they can help tackle food poverty in deprived local communities.





The group explored the sterling efforts of the catering sub group who have streamlined the entire catering section of the eGuide. This was met with appreciation and will now be reviewed for final approval in January 2020 at the eGuide committee meeting.



Additional topics discussed was venue sustainability and the support of the catering element of the sustainability pledges created by the Cross-Association Sustainability Working Group.

The meeting closed by exploring the agenda for 2020 and an insightful tour from Colm Graham of what seemed every nook and cranny of the venue! Great for the step count!



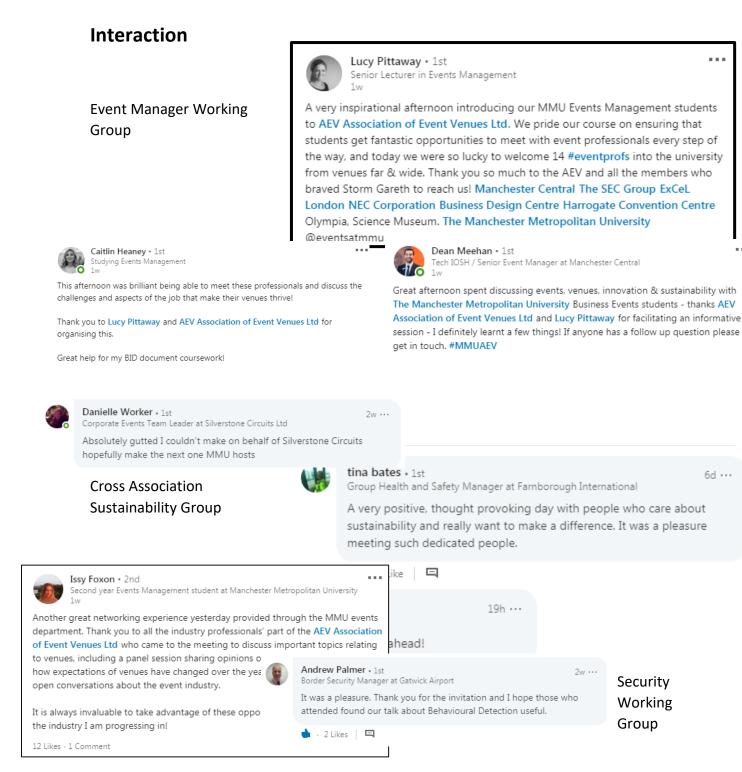


For those staying the night the group were thrilled to have a tour (and courtesy of) the Liverpool Gin Distillery. A meal at Bacaro opposite was a great way to catch up as friends. A visit to the Cavern Club followed for those staying overnight in the great city of Liverpool.

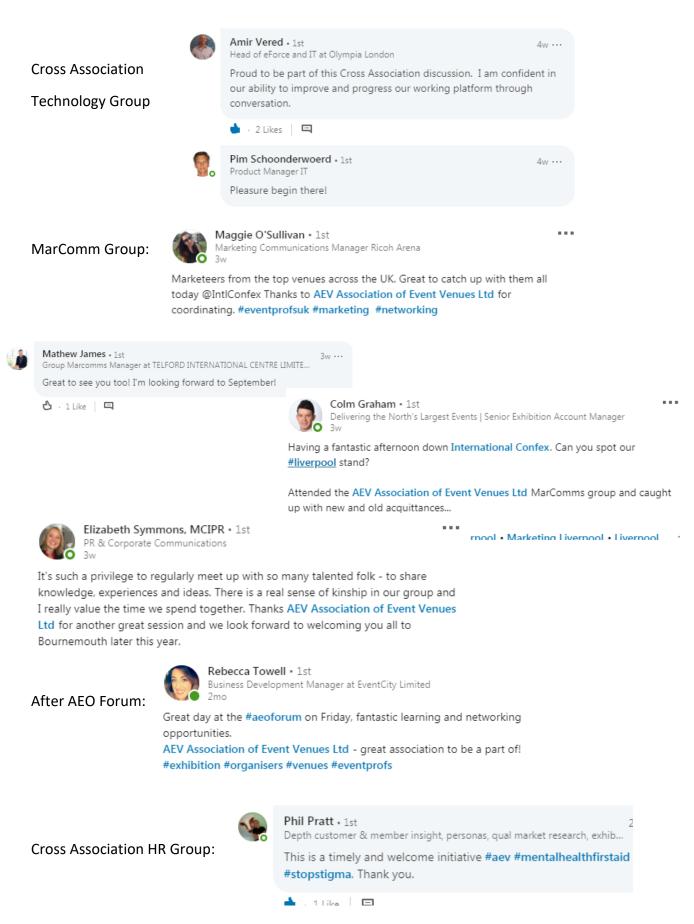


Thank you to all those who attended, the team at ACC Liverpool and the Liverpool Gin Distillery.











### Accolade:



Danielle Worker • 1st Corporate Events Team Leader at Silverstone Circuits Ltd 18m

Great day hosting our first AEV working group event! It was my first event as an attendee and wow did I learn a lot and get some great insight into how other venues work and the challenges they are trying to overcome. If you are a venue looking to network with other likeminded professionals I would recommend looking at joining the AEV. **#eventprofs #networking #learning #eventmanagers** 

## Gallery







