

INTERVIEW

Women Leading the Way at BHR Group



Sarah Fairhurst & Ally Lynes
Heading up BHR's Water and Wastewater
Pumping Conference

Just in time for International Women's day, we caught up with two of our senior female leaders, Sarah Fairhurst and Ally Lynes.

Sarah and Ally are currently working together on an exciting new BHR conference, Water and Wastewater Pumping, which takes place on 20-21st November, 2019 in Cambridge, UK.

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It's not often BHR launches a new conference, can you tell us a bit more about the reasons behind it?

A: Yes it's true that, given the success of our long running conferences, we don't regularly launch new topics, however, after reviewing the market, we felt there was an opportunity to create an event that would help industrialists working with pumps and pumping systems.

S: Water and Wastewater pumping is

an area that the BHR team has extensive experience in, so it's a subject we're passionate about.

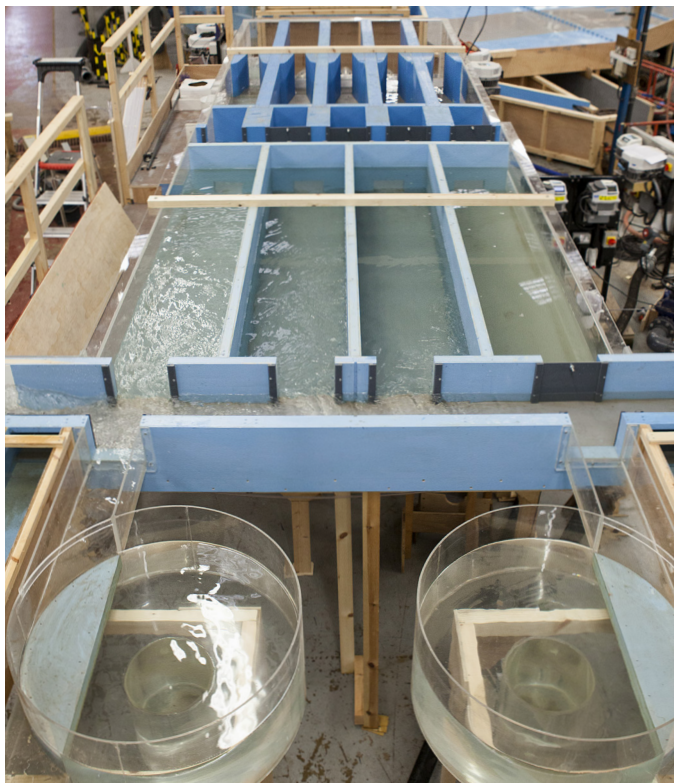
A: Using our industry insight and working closely with leading operators working in this important area, we're developing a programme that will help people in the industry address some of the core challenges they are facing both strategically and on a day to day basis.

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What sort of issues will you be addressing?

A: Essentially, we'll be addressing the challenges the industry faces in response to OfWat's current price review (PR19), particularly around resilience, innovation and how operations impact on achieving affordable bills for customers and of course customer service overall.





“We’ll be addressing the challenges the industry faces in response to OfWat’s current price review (PR19)”

On that basis, is the conference just applicable to a UK audience?

S: Not at all! We work both domestically and internationally and, whilst these issues are specifically addressed within the water companies PR19 business plans, they really do affect the water industry worldwide.

A: The conference is an ideal opportunity for knowledge transfer to be shared between countries. It’s something that’s been very successful with our other conferences and we’re hoping to replicate it here.

Can you provide us with some more detail behind the headline topics?

A: Well of course, we currently have our call for abstracts out, so the programme will be defined later in the year when our Technical Advisory Committee has reviewed the submissions, however, there are some hot topics we are sure will be addressed. For example, digital transformation is something many organisations are using to innovate, maximising efficiency and effectiveness.

S: Resilience is critical for the industry. Looking at ways to get the most out of assets through utilising data in a more effective manner, and assessing all the options is something we’ve worked on a lot here at BHR and I’m sure it will come up in the conference. However this is just one of the topics I’m anticipating – how long do you have?

Fair point, how can people get involved?

A: We are currently inviting people to submit abstracts for consideration. You can find out more on our website [here](#), but essentially authors are invited to submit a 300-word abstract that’s relevant to the scope of the conference. Abstracts will then be assessed by an independent referee. On acceptance of the abstract, we provide authors with a template to write up a full article. Articles must be original, unpublished and not pending publication elsewhere as we will then publish the article at the conference within a new conference journal. Authors will also have a slot to present their piece at the conference. This approach gives water industry professionals the opportunity to share their experience and insights with likeminded peers in a friendly, informative environment.

S: If you don’t want to submit an abstract of present at the event, there are also some exhibition and sponsorship opportunities available, again you can find all the details on our [website](#). Or of course a lot of people attend as delegates.

Is there anything else we should know?

A: We try to pack as much value into the conference as we can, so there will also be a site visit to the Thames Tideway Pumping Station at Beckton, that we are very excited about.

S: This is a great opportunity to see one of the most recent engineering successes in the UK first hand. Tideway is a project very close to my heart as we have been involved in the wider project from the outset.

A: As part of the conference package, there will also be a gala dinner, held at the Tamburlaine Hotel in Cambridge. These are usually great fun and not to be missed.



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BHR Group Water and Wastewater team

Our Water & Wastewater team provides core expertise in hydraulic modelling and network analysis. Our approach is to work in close co-operation with you to understand the specific and individual needs and drivers, so that we can provide solutions that are both technologically sound and commercially viable. We work with our clients to support effective asset management, improve hydraulic efficiency and undertake pressure surge analysis. We add value by improving safety and reliability, lowering construction and operational costs through identifying, unlocking and solving complex problems for our clients.

[Read more here](#)

Profile: Sarah Fairhurst, Operations Manager

Sarah heads up BHR Group's team of engineers that specialises in Water & Wastewater.

She works closely with clients to solve design and operational challenges through her extensive knowledge and experience in fluid modelling of complex flows and related technical analysis and consultancy.

Her 30 year+ career has been spent at BHR, leading many industrial projects and a number of large collaborative research programmes.

Having progressed through the organisation, working with stakeholders of all levels across the industry, she is passionate about knowledge sharing, best practice and supporting staff development.



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Profile: Ally Lynes, Event Manager

Ally is responsible for all of BHR Group's internationally respected technical conferences and symposia which attract expert speakers, delegates, exhibitors and sponsors from around the globe.

Having worked for BHR Group for almost 12 years, she's travelled the world, leading conferences covering topics from Multiphase technology to Pressure Surges and Hydrotransport. Ally oversees all aspects of the events, with the support of her team, BHR's experts and the members of the Technical Advisory Committees for each conference.

Always keen for delegates to get the most out of attending BHR's events, Ally is an advocate of continuous improvement, open feedback and effective communication.



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BHR Group Conferences

BHR Group's leading international conferences address the challenges industry is facing across a range of subjects, with fluid engineering at their core. From tackling the implications of climate change to improving safety in operations, our conferences attract professionals engaged in the application, development and research of their industries. Our long-running series of events cover hot topic such as: Pressure Surges, Fluid Sealing, Multiphase Flow, Hydrotransport and Waterjetting.

[Read more here](#)

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If you'd like to find out more about our conference or services to the water and wastewater industry:

Drop us a note: Marketing@Bhrgroup.com

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Visit our [website](#)

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