

Secure future for members

I would like to start by thanking David Blanchflower, our Deputy Chairman for his comprehensive update in the Summer Journal.

For the first time in a number of years our membership base is increasing and new members are coming in through our IMS certificate. Of course it helps that life members do not resign! In addition we have recently written to members who have lapsed over the last three years inviting them to take advantage of life membership and rejoin. The initial response to these letters has been quite encouraging. We know that quite a number of existing members are eligible for a higher grade and if you are one I would urge you to contact Lynette at Brooke House for an upgrade form or download one from our website.

The new IMS certificate is progressing well through our three accredited education providers, who I would like to thank for their very helpful contribution during the process of revising the syllabus. The new certificate practical examination video/DVD is now finished and is available. In addition we will shortly be commissioning the preparation of a new certificated distance learning



package which will be a great help to overseas members. John Heap has recently completely revised the membership information pack which has been incorporated with the education regulations to form one comprehensive document. John has also converted the IMS training videos on to DVD and they are available for £100 each or £500 for the complete set of six.

The Journal continues to be well received and at the last editorial panel meeting it was confirmed that the technical content of the last Journal exceeded that of the equivalent four issues in 2004. We would still like to publish more articles on productivity

and associated areas so if you have any suitable material please send it to the editor.

The website is developing and more members are using it. We recently reviewed the content and will be making the Journal available online from December via a protected password for those members who wish it. This will be especially useful for overseas members who have to wait for the post and there will be an obvious saving in postage for the IMS.

The 41st IMS AGM takes place on Friday 6 October at the Council Chambers in Lichfield and I hope some of you will be able to attend. The notice was published in the Summer Journal together with the two resolutions. One is to receive the annual accounts and the other is to set the subscriptions fees for 2007. I am pleased to report that our financial position very sound and this sets us well for the future.

In conclusion, once again, I would like to thank the members of Council who have worked tirelessly to convert our ambitious change agenda into reality.

John Lucey
Chairman

Avoncroft visit

A group of West Midlands members and their guests went on a guided tour of Avoncroft one Saturday in April 2006. This was not the first IMS visit to the museum, the old Birmingham branch organised a trip about 15 years ago.

One or two members on the return visit had attended the first time. We are pleased to report the museum continues to prosper and as the site weathers the buildings look as if they have always been in their current locations.

Throughout the museum the buildings are brought to life with volunteers dressed to match the age and style of the building. Visitors are encouraged to engage in conversation to find out what it was like to live or work in the house or workshop. The ultimate being the windmill and seeing the massive wooden machinery inside. When working the noise for those working inside must be very uncomfortable.

We were very impressed with our guide, who had a good knowledge of the site and ensured we saw things which would be missed at a casual glance. The visit ended with all agreeing to return again in 15 years time!

Julian Cutler, IMS West Midlands

North West Region visits Stonyhurst College



Members and guests met at Stonyhurst College on 23 July for a conducted tour of this Grade I listed building, with its breathtaking scenery.

Our party was fortunate to have Liz Waddington as an enthusiastic and knowledgeable guide. She outlined the history of the College (circa 1593) to its present usage as a school for fee paying boys and girls - both day and boarding pupils.

Our group was able to observe how present day students live, work and play. The chapels and historic rooms created great interest, in particular the Great Hall, with its portraits of seven former pupils awarded the Victoria Cross. Also seen was

the table on which Oliver Cromwell was reputed to have slept on the night before the Battle of Preston (circa 1648).

We also had the opportunity to view a very fine museum room containing many uniforms and photographs of former students such as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

This was an extremely enjoyable afternoon and certainly to be recommended.

After many questions the tour came to an end with a vote of thanks proposed by Bob Fletcher to Liz and seconded by our Chairman Len Price.

Advance Notice North West Region AGM

Saturday 13 January 2007

10am for 10.15

The Rigbye Arms, 2 Whittle Lane,
High Moor, Wrightington, Nr Wigan
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Chairman, Len Price: 01204 840672

Secretary, Harry Hogg:

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