

# IMS 40th AGM

The 40th AGM took place on 7 October and three resolutions were carried. They were to:

- Reappoint Lefty Row as our auditors
- Accept the 2004/2005 accounts
- Increase the annual subscription to £105.00

As usual an open session followed the AGM and these were noted and taken to the Council meeting which followed. It was reassuring that all the issues raised were on the Council agenda.

### IMS Council meeting

The officers of the Institute were elected for another year and they were as follows:

- Chairman, John Lucey
- Deputy chairman, David Blanchflower
- Treasurer, David Blanchflower
- Company secretary, Harry Downes

Key items from the Council meeting were:



Now that all subscriptions have been received, the membership card and Institute diary will be mailed to members in early December. The proposed investment strategy for the Institute's reserves was also approved. A demonstration of the Institute's redesigned website took place and it

will go 'live' at the beginning of December. We would encourage you to visit it and let us have your views ([www.ims-productivity.com](http://www.ims-productivity.com)).

The newly outsourced education process has gone live and is progressing well. Four providers have been approved to provide certificate and diploma courses (see page 20 for more information).

A proposal to commission a new practical examination video/DVD was agreed and it is hoped that it will be available in the spring of 2006.

Preparations are in hand to conduct interviews with senior prominent people who have responsibility for improving productivity and we hope to publish the first in the spring journal.

It just remains for me to wish you and your families a happy and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous 2006.

The next meeting of Council will take place on Friday 20 January, 2006.

**John Lucey, Chairman**

## North West Region News

### Vauxhall tour

IMS North West Region members and guests were privileged to make a two hour conducted tour on 5 October, of car manufacturer Vauxhall Motor's plant. The large complex, located at Ellesmere Port, provided an opportunity to study features which were related to both engineering and management services.

Early observations revealed a steady flow of car assemblies with the occasional use of overhead handling equipment to join units. Visitors noted the types of precision designed materials handling equipment being used to ensure effective coupling of units. And on occasion a stop motion was incorporated. Automated units using electronic and computerised control were advances from the days of manual handling and this was of great interest to most of the visitors.

Very many applications of management



services principles and practice were observed and discussed during the visit, with only a few recorded here.

First, a flow line production procedure with a product moving on conveyor at controlled speed was seen. Components here were in a 'two hand position'. Lean Manufacturing 'just in time' was in evidence, as was workload

balancing throughout the assembly lines. The use of job rotation in sub groups was also observed.

Ergonomic practice has resulted in more comfortable work patterns together with health and safety awareness. This is the pattern from start of assembly through to a car tested, then driven from a final test area.

Discussions before and after the tour concentrated mainly on production rates, control of conveyor systems, output, health and safety, operator training, number and placement of operators and how a car was finally tested and moved to a delivery area.

At the end, everyone offered a big thank you to Vauxhall for an enjoyable and informative tour. A direct appreciation of a well conducted tour and for frank replies to a number of questions was warmly extended to Messrs Vic Jenkins and Alan Jones who so ably directed the visit to the Vauxhall facility.


 We wish you a  
 merry Christmas and  
 a Happy New Year

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*The chairman, John Lucey and  
 members of the IMS Council wish  
 all members a very merry  
 Christmas and a prosperous 2006*

### North West Region Board

On scanning a list of North West Region members on 22 October, Board members were pleasantly surprised to identify with quite a few names. The Board meet three or four times a year, usually in Bolton with the exception of the next annual general meeting, which will be held on 14 January 2006 at 10am at the Rigbye Arms, Wrightington. The invitation is extended for you to attend. Should you, however, be interested in an update on IMS Region activities and forward plans, please telephone one of the following:

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|---------------------|--|
| <b>Len Price</b>    | 01204 840672, <i>chairman</i>                      |
| <b>Bob Fletcher</b> | 01204 524279, <i>education and liaison officer</i> |
| <b>Kevan Kelly</b>  | 01257 271066, <i>public relations officer</i>      |