

On course for 2006

Welcome to the first journal of 2006 and I am pleased to have this opportunity to update you on the following areas of Institute activity.

Membership matters

Institute membership continues to increase and all members should have now received their membership cards and diaries. They have proved to be very popular and we have received a letter of thanks from His Royal Highness Prince Philip who has been an Honorary Fellow of the Institute for some years now.

At the next Council we will be discussing ways in which we can increase our membership as we believe that our life membership is a unique selling point and should attract new members. We will also be seeking to expand our overseas membership base. We would very much like to hear from members who may wish to make a contribution to this initiative to increase membership. Ideas and so on should be sent to Brooke House and marked for the attention of Les Rose. In addition we would like to encourage affiliate members to apply to upgrade their membership grade where appropriate.

Financial matters

Following a period of sustained change which has resulted in securing the future of the Institute for the foreseeable future we have, thanks to the 'life membership' initiative been able to reduce our annual operating cost to the minimum. We have recently renewed the administration contract with the company that provides us with our administration service. The transfer from Stowe House to Brooke House in Lichfield went well and we are now settling in. Brooke House is located right in the centre of Lichfield near the medieval cathedral.



Institute regions

Our regions continue to do a good job of providing events and activities for Institute members and friends and I would urge you to support these activities. The annual regional financial grant has now been transferred to the Institute's regional bank accounts.

Education matters

The 'outsourcing' of the Institute's examination process has now been completed and four providers have been accredited for this purpose. They are Scott Grant, Chinal Management Services, Brian Cuthbert and IMG Consultants.

All the course providers are now providing certificate courses that are specifically designed to meet the needs of individual employers.

A contract has been entered into with Scott Grant for the production of a new DVD/ video for the practical part of the certificate examination and John Heap is managing this project.

Journal and website

The Journal continues to attract positive comments and has been well received by the membership in its new quarterly format. We are keen to develop the journal further and to this end Harry Downes is arranging for a series of 'high level' interviews on productivity with the first appearing in the summer issue of the Journal. Given the United Kingdom's recent poor performance on productivity improvement, I hope this focus will stimulate a wide-ranging debate on the issue of productivity. Our new website is now up and running and I would urge you to visit it.

Library service

Over the past ten years the Institute has provided members with access to a library service provided by the Chartered Management Institute. Sadly the provider for legal and copyright reasons is no longer able to provide IMS members with a library service. It is for this reason alone that as from the 31 March 2006 the Institute will no longer be offering this service. We apologise for the loss, but its loss was beyond our control. Use of the service had declined in recent years, I assume, because members are making greater use of the internet to obtain information.

Russell Currie Memorial Fund

An article on the origins of the Russell Currie Memorial Fund and the funds vision for the future is in this issue of the Journal. The trustees have reviewed the objectives of the fund and are anxious to regenerate interest and are seeking nominations for a 'productivity award'.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of the journal and as always I welcome your comments and ideas for improving the services your Institute provides.

John Lucey, Chairman

Stonyhurst College visit



Advance notice of a visit to Stonyhurst College, a Grade I Listed building with breathtaking scenery, located at Stonyhurst, Clitheroe, Lancashire, on Sunday 23 July, 13.45 for a tour (start time 14.00).

Numbers have to be confirmed beforehand, so booking is essential.

A special group tour rate has been agreed at £5 per head for all visitors (children under four go free).

Refreshments and gift shop. Limited facilities for disabled visitors.

Cheques payable to IMS, North West Region, should be sent to **Mr K Kelly, PRO, IMS, Pathways, Pincock Street, Euxton, Chorley, Lancs PR7 6LR.** Tel: 01257 271066.

Brewery visit



Final notice of a visit to the Unicorn Brewery, Stockport, on Wednesday 26 April 2006 at 7.30pm. Numbers are limited so early booking is advised. Cost: £6 a head (senior citizens price £3). Cheques payable to IMS (North West Region) should be sent to **Mr F Booth, secretary, IMS, 129 Rutherford Drive, Over Hulton, Bolton BL5 1OW.** Tel: 01204 656486.