

Deputy Chairman's Column

I have recently moved home and had the task of disposing of a lifetime of paperwork. During this process, I came across many documents that reminded me of my past activities and my community involvement over the past 45 years.

It was interesting to realise that I first joined the Institute in 1969 and started attending Liverpool Polytechnic to study for the then Institute of Work Study Practitioners examinations with the course tutor being Gordon Hesketh. This year also marks the 30th anniversary of my election to the Institute Council of Management. I suspect that 30 years must be a record for continuous membership of the Institute Council.

During those 30 years, I have witnessed many changes in the Institute. In those distant days we had a head office staff in Enfield of 22 people. What a change to the present staffing of Lynette who does an excellent job of administering our Institute. Membership has dropped from a peak of 24,000 in the 1970s to 1,850 today.

In those distant days we had a monthly journal with some 100 pages with half of these containing job adverts. We had a host of committees including membership, publications, specialist groups, technical, and geographical structure. We had 12 regions and some 55 branches catering for the membership.

I look back with many fond memories of the people I have met through my involvement with the Institute. I remember being invited in 1977 by Jim Spence, the then chairman of the publications committee, to join that committee. I served under a number of chairmen on that committee before finally becoming chairman myself.

To this day, I still hold responsibility for the production of the journal. I do feel that our journal is a quality publication that has always served its purpose of keeping the IMS membership

well informed. The move to a quarterly journal was, I believe, a positive decision which has been supported by the membership.

My long involvement with the Institute region and branch structure has been interesting and challenging. The various changes in our geographical structure were not always welcomed but history has proved they were the correct decisions. It is interesting that, as a body, the Institute and its members are dedicated to change and improvement but, as individuals, we have often resisted changes in the structure of our Institute.

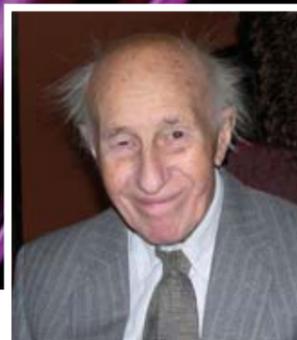
Recent years have seen many changes in the Institute structure, all designed to ensure we operate in an efficient and cost effective manner. The introduction of life membership was, indeed, a giant step which is now financially benefitting the membership. Our new examination structure is working well and serving the current needs of both providers and students.

I believe that the need for productivity improvement still exists and, only recently, a report on the National Health Service confirmed this fact. It appears that vast sums of money have been poured into the NHS in recent years but the increase in productivity has not risen in line with the allocation of this additional funding.

Any IMS member could have told Gordon Brown the simple fact that throwing money at an organisation without the associated improvements in working methods and procedures will not by itself bring about the desired improvements in productivity.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of the journal and that you will try to support some of the events organised by your local region. The visits and events are always very interesting and informative, and you are always assured of a warm welcome.

David Blanchflower, Deputy Chairman



Obituary

Alfred Minter, Hon Fellow of the Institute of Management Services, has died at the age of 85. He was a stalwart of the Institute and served on the Council of Management until he retired. Anyone who met or worked with Alf will have their own memories and stories.

Alf was born in New Zealand, his father was a fruit importer. From an early age, Alf showed an interest in mining, and studied long and hard to achieve this ambition. He soon qualified as a mining engineer. His early years of employment took him to South Africa, South America and Asia. On returning to the UK, Alf settled in Kent, where he met his wife Betty whilst working at a coal mine. Betty worked in the administration office. They settled in Sandwich, where they spent all their married life.

Alf's work moved on from mining and he became involved with the motor car industry, working for British Leyland at their Longbridge production line in the Midlands. It was here he became involved in 'Method Study' and 'Work Measurement'. He gained a PHD, of which he was very proud, and his thesis was on 'Relaxation Allowances'. This interest motivated Alf to persuade the IMS council of management to consider holding an annual technical conference. This proved to be a great success, and so was born the Institute's Summer School. It was held at St John's College, Cambridge, and ran for 27 years. This was perhaps Alf's legacy to the IMS.

Many of you will no doubt have some anecdote about Alf from this wonderful event. My own personal one was, Alf, aged 65, wired up, carrying a rucksack on his back, walking on an inclined treadmill for ten minutes, trying to prove the properties of relaxation allowances.

Alf was also an avid motor cycle enthusiast. He rode his Honda Fireblade regularly and even devised a contraption to fix onto his handlebar to carry the coin for the Dartford Toll Bridge, so as to save time passing through the check point.

He once arrived at a 'black tie' occasion in Colchester, clad in a one piece leather riding suit, along with a large helmet. The guests were assembled when this figure burst through the door. He calmly stood in a corner and took off his leathers, revealing a smart suit, bow tie and buttonhole rose – James Bond eat your heart out!

Alf was a lover of classical music, particularly choral music, and regularly attended his local church.

Alfred is survived by his wife Betty, two sons and a daughter. They lost their first born son, and it was Alfred's wish that he be buried in the same grave.

He will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.

Student Of The Year Award 2007

The Harry Mitchell College was proud to arrange the ceremony for the presentation of its selection for the Student of the Year Award for 2007 on 22 January. The certificate and the prize of £100 was presented to Mrs Samantha Parkins by Geoff Mansfield, IMS Council Member. Also present at the ceremony was Eugene Chinal, Chairman of the college, Andrew Reid, Tutor, and some of the college administration staff.

Samantha first attended the Harry Mitchell College in 2005, passing the Work Measurement Practitioner Course with flying colours. Due to her central role in the development of continuous improvement initiatives and lean management at her company, her attendance for the remaining courses of the old six-week IMS syllabus had to be spread over the next two years.

However, she had the advantage of combining the steady increase of her knowledge provided by the college with the ongoing practical application of the new skills within her working

environment. This has not only been recognised by the IMS due to the high level of her academic achievements, but also by her employers, who have given her increasing responsibility over their lean implementation programme.

As a measure of the high level of her organisational capability, Samantha also found the time to get married, and then give birth to a baby boy, Jack. He was also present at the ceremony and we hope to see him following in his mother's footsteps, earning his SOTY to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the College.

The college tutors and staff all wish Samantha and her family well for the future, and hope that she will soon return to the larger family of industrial engineering.



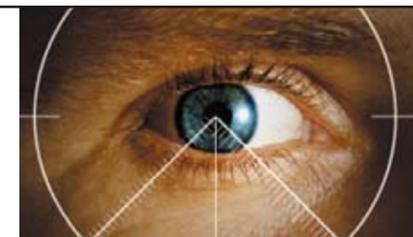
College Tutor Andrew Reid, Samantha Parkins, IMS Council Member Geoff Mansfield and Chairman of the college Eugene Chinal

North West Region

Forthcoming event

There will be a visit to the Manchester Museum of Science and Technology on 3 June. Meet at the Byrom Street Entrance at 2pm. Entrance to the museum is free. Enquiries to Keith Gowing (0161 962 0367).

The very best professional help



We are always keen to help members and any enquirers of the Institute in their quest for knowledge or assistance when it comes to productivity issues. We'd like to draw readers' attention to the following solutions for help with Performance Rating, which is still an internationally used technique.

New rating films for professional analysts

We have explored the possibility of creating new rating films but found the costs quite prohibitive. We were advised by Scott-Grant Ltd, one of our accredited training providers, that they had recently produced a new and comprehensive series of 12 rating films on DVD and we have fortunately managed to secure access to them. The rating films show examples of real jobs

being undertaken in the workplace and the industries include

manufacturing • electronics • engineering • distribution • timber • needle trade • retail • manual work • warehousing • high volume distribution

All the films are intended to develop the application skills of analysts. They are an invaluable means of professional development for re-calibrating and maintaining the rating accuracy of every professional analyst, to ensure that the high standards of the Institute are maintained.

Performance Rating explained Scott-Grant have also produced "How do you rate?" – a practical, 35 minute DVD to explain clearly

how to use Performance Rating when measuring work. We would encourage every industry to use this film if they want to improve productivity in their workplace. Although the subject matter is very serious, "How do you rate?" delivers its message in a relaxed and entertaining way. Above all it is designed to be informative, practical and memorable.

Within 20 minutes viewers will have the opportunity to assess performance in carrying out a simple task, using the criteria explained in the film.

Please contact Lynette at the Institute head office Tel 00 44 (0)1543 266909 for more details.

