



# WOOD SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

Institute of Wood Science

March 1990

## From the President

All of us would admit to being concerned about the environment and most to being confused by the welter of information put out about the reputedly disastrous effects of using the world's forests and their timber resource. No doubt, as a 'timber person' you are often on the defensive and unsure how to respond to the criticisms made.

This year, the IWSc Conference addresses this matter. It will consider some of the environmental problems facing the forest and timber industries, with speakers addressing the problems of creating and using the temperate forest resource, here and in Western Canada, of using the tropical forests — what does sustainable supply mean and is it feasible? — and how to protect timber effectively in the future.

The objective is to inform and, as always, there will be plenty of opportunity for discussion. So come, listen, learn and go away better informed. And what's more it's an enjoyable social occasion.

The Conference is on the 11th and 12th May at the Moat House Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon.

**Dr John Brazier FIWSc — President**

## THE MEMBERSHIP DEBATE

### How can we attract senior experienced members of the industry?

As you may well have heard from your Branch Committee, the IWSc Council is debating the subject of membership eligibility of experienced members of the timber trade and timber industry. This follows the initiative by the Membership Committee which is seeking to become more proactive than it has traditionally been. A discussion paper which it prepared for Council has been circulated to all UK Branches for their consideration. The responses from 5 Branches were reported at the most recent meeting of the Council and sparked off a lively discussion. Listening to this and the presentations by Branch Chairmen, I came to the conclusion that several side issues were getting in the way of clear thinking on the main topic. The most obvious of these is the question of what to call a new grade of membership if one is created. But this really is "cart afore t'hos". The fundamental decision to be made is whether the IWSc should open its doors and welcome mature and experienced members of the timber industry.

Both the Membership Committee and Council itself are unanimously of the view that such a move is desirable. The main arguments for are:

— membership has been hovering around the 1500 mark for several years and needs to be increased if the IWSc is to have a significant voice on relevant trade, technical and political issues.

— one of the main impediments to increased membership, i.e. why students graduating with IWSc qualifications do not take out full membership and why the number of new members is offset each year by people who do not renew their subscriptions, is thought to be the lack of awareness of the IWSc and recognition of its value by middle and senior management in the timber industry.

— some of these are IWSc members; most are not and indeed probably feel that they are being deliberately excluded by virtue of their lack of formal qualifications and consequent ineligibility for lettered-grade status within the IWSc.

— at present such people are able to be offered ordinary membership. A manager in charge of staff with Certificated and Associate status is hardly likely to be enamoured of being offered the lowest grade of membership which demands no entry qualifications beyond an interest in wood and wood products and carries no right to use letters.

— we can hardly expect 'our' industry to be enthusiastic about the IWSc, its aims and activities if we, in effect, 'exclude' most of the members of the most influential sector of it.

### The real questions are:

"is it desirable that our IWSc seeks to make membership and participation attractive to experienced members of the timber industry?"

If yes, "is it an appropriate way to do this to create a membership category that would entitle those eligible to use letters to indicate their status? This creation does not necessarily imply inventing a new grade; a viable alternative is to expand and redefine an existing grade.

Please think about them and if you have strong views and good ideas on the subject, please feed them into the debate via your Branch Chairman or write direct to the IWSc office.

Are your bosses members of the IWSc? Would their attitude to our IWSc not be vastly improved, with benefits all round if they were? How can we bring them on board?

**Dr Gavin Hall FIWSc (Chairman Membership Committee)**

## OFFICERS of the IWSc

President — Dr J.D. Brazier  
Vice Presidents — W.G. Keating  
R. Venables

Hon. Treasurer — Dr. G.K. Elliott

## Council Members

**Elected** T.G. Bagnall, R.L.H. Carlile,  
A. Comben, Prof. E.J. Gibson, Dr. G.S. Hall  
P.D. Latham, J.G.R. Perry, M. Ryan,  
D.B. Scutt, J. Sunley, W.D. Vincent,  
Dr. L.R.J. Whale, R.B.P. White.

**Co-opted** J.M. Baker

**Past Presidents** Dr. D.S. Belford,  
C.G.A. Latham, Prof. J.F. Levy,  
C.C. Lorenzen, T. Mallinson, F. Palmer,  
Miss J.M. Taylor, Dr. D.J.B. White

**Editor** Dr. R.J. Murphy

**Branch Chairmen** R.I. Arrends, R.D. Boyd,  
J. Coulson, Mrs J.A. Crome, Dr. J.A.  
Evertson, Prof. B. King, F. Perrins,  
T.E. Shaw, N. Townend, R.B.P. White.

## CORPORATE MEMBERS

Akzo Coatings plc, Anglo-Norden Ltd, B.S.W. Timber plc, B.P.I.B., Crosby-Sarek Ltd, Cuprinol Ltd, EOLAS, Fosroc Ltd, Glennon Bros Timber Ltd, Guildway Ltd, Harcros Timber & Building Supplies Limited, Henry Venables Ltd, Hickson Timber Products Limited, Hunter Timber Ltd, James Donaldson & Son Ltd, James Latham plc, John Boddy Timber Ltd, Marlow & Co. Ltd, Meyer International plc, MBM Forest Products Ltd, Rentokil Ltd, Timber Trade Federation, Timber Ltd, T.R.A.D.A., Travis Perkins plc, Watford Timber Co. Ltd, W.S. Shuttleworth (Timber) Limited.

## OPEN LEARNING — PRODUCT KNOWLEDGE TIMBER

In the September Newsletter in the list of colleges promoting the package I missed out Basford Hall College of Further Education, Nottingham, for which I apologise.

I am pleased to say that we can now add to the list Bolton Street College of Technology, Dublin 1.

Jean Taylor, Ed.

## A NEW JOURNAL — WOOD PROTECTION

WOOD PROTECTION is a new journal to be published bi-annually by the IWSc starting Autumn '90. It will contain original research articles, major and minor reviews and short communications on all aspects of the protection of wood and wood products. The journal intends to cover a wide range of topics including: wood preservatives, anti-stain treatments, preservative and decorative coatings, wood stabilisation, fire retardants, application technology, biological and chemical problems specific to wood protection and performance.

WOOD PROTECTION will cost £15 per issue (+£2 overseas airmail). The editor is Dr. L.A.D. Saunders and an international editorial panel will be appointed.

Enquiries and offers of papers to the IWSc office.



# EDUCATION AND TRAINING

## FOR YOUR COMMENTS

In the past Machine Woodworking students, after they had completed their apprenticeship which normally takes four years, would broaden their experience/knowledge by joining the IWSc course.

In order to do this the students would negotiate with their employers for further day release outside their apprenticeship. Some students would be fortunate, others not so, but in almost all cases they would be required to pay their own college fees and to lose a day's pay.

With the introduction of the TRADA Open Learning Course and the Package cost, together with college fees the steady trickle of Machine Woodworking students into IWSc courses has stopped. A number of these students do study on and pass the C.G.L.I. Materials Technology Option operated at advanced level by the London Institute (it is at this stage that their interest in Timber Technology develops) and I feel they would make good IWSc students if given the opportunity without the restraints of the TRADA Package costs.

I am not suggesting that they be given automatic entry on to the Two-Year course, they should take the Open Learning examination to prove they are worthy of further instruction in Timber Technology, increasing the number of students nationally taking IWSc courses and hopefully increasing the number of full members on the IWSc in the long term.

**K. Stout AIWSc, City College, Liverpool**

## THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

The staff and students continue to support the IWSc from a number of standpoints. Firstly, each year the graduates of the degree in Timber Technology apply for Associate membership. Over the 11 years of its existence, the degree course has thus provided something in the region of 150 Associate members. Secondly, at the local IWSc Branch meetings our undergraduates are always present and take a great interest in the topics presented.

At the moment there is a record number of 73 undergraduates studying for the B.Sc in Timber Technology.

The winner of the Timber Trade Federation Bursary for a thesis on Laser Applications for the Timber Industry was Rhys Davies (BSc 111). The Schauman Prize went to Phil Becker (BSc 11).

The Department of Timber and Materials Technology has expanded this year to include the Construction Department. The new department title is now Timber, Materials and Construction Technology and is headed by Geoffrey Livingstone.

The range of courses offered by the department now includes Brickwork, Carpentry and Joinery, Painting and Decorating and Plumbing alongside our Degree and Diploma, and courses for the Timber Preservation, Timber Engineering and Saw Technology Industries.

Finally we are glad to report the arrival of Dr. Simon Cragg to be our Principal Lecturer in Preservatives and Wood Science.

**G.D. Livingstone**

## PRESENTATION OF PRIZES AT THE IWSc AGM

At the Annual General Meeting of the IWSc held at the Timber Trades Federation offices on 26th September 1989, Mr. Peter Latham presented prizes to Mr. J.R. Barrett and Mr. D.R. Baker who had been awarded highest marks in the IWSc Final Examination.

The first prize, the Brian Latham prize, and a cheque for £250 from James Latham plc together with the Timber Trades Journal silver cup went to Mr J.R. Barrett, of Travis Perkins plc. The second prize for £100 presented by the Swedish Finnish Council went to Mr. D.R. Baker of Harcros Timber and Building Supplies Ltd. Both Mr. Barrett and Mr. Baker attended Mid Warwickshire College of Further Education.

The joint winners of the Open Learning Preliminary Examination who both won the TRADA prize of £50 each and the book 'Timber in Construction' were Mr. P.D. Briggs, John Ashworth (Timber) Ltd., who attended Central Manchester College, and Mr. C.D. Blanchflower, Irvin and Sellers Ltd., who attended Newtownabbey College of Further Education.

Mr. Peter Latham in his address, stressed the need for further education and for the timber industry to invest in the future but ensuring that young people coming into the trade were given the opportunity to study for the IWSc examinations. For those who had successfully passed the preliminary examination in Timber Technology (Product Knowledge — Timber Open Learning package) he pleaded with them to go on with their studies and to enrol for the IWSc 2-year course in Timber Technology and utilisation. The timber industry, he said, needs people with a professional qualification as only with sound product knowledge can it safely fend off unwanted competition from other industries.

**Maurice Holloway, AIWSc, (Director)**



*Mr. Peter Latham, J.R. Barrett, D.R. Baker and the President, Dr. John Brazier at the presentation of prizes prior to the AGM.*

## ADVANCEMENT OF CERTIFICATED MEMBERS TO ASSOCIATESHIP

Certificated members who have obtained their Certificate under the 'new' regulations shall be entitled to re-sit the examination within 3 years, carrying forward their homework mark. If recommended to do so by the IWSc, they may re-sit only part of the examination (core or optional module). Such a recommendation may be given if their mark in an earlier examination exceeds, say, 65%.

Certificated members under the 'old' regulations shall be encouraged to seek Associateship. This might be done as follows:

1. (as in the past) by a written submission after guidance. For a (very) few this could be by the submission of written papers. For others it will be by the submission of a paper written for the purpose. Guidance needs to be given on this. In the past, many submissions have been little more than a collection of extracts from published sources. What is needed is evidence of novel thought, e.g. a critical review of a practice, such as a review of change/development in the supply, processing, handling or use of timber, etc. The title and general subject matter must be approved by the IWSc before submission.
2. by examination  
Alternatives under this head are:
  - a) sitting the IWSc Final examination in any year and seeking to obtain the necessary level of pass mark. The homework requirement and mark would necessarily have to be waived. Non-inclusion of a homework mark would, generally, make the requirements in the other parts of the examination more demanding.
  - b) sitting an examination set especially for such persons. This would be of an interpretive nature and would comprise a section on core technology and another on current awareness topics.
  - c) sitting an examination on a specialised topic. We hope that the guidelines above will encourage Certificated members to advance to the Associate grade.

**Jean Taylor, FIWSc (Chairman, Education Committee)**



# BRANCH LINES

## LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT BRANCH

The Liverpool and District Committee spend long hours discussing how to improve attendance at their branch meetings. The answers that we come up with are many and varied but one conclusion has been that an interesting and informative programme is not sufficient. One solution is to raise the profile of the IWSc. The most cost effective way to do this must be to gain as much free publicity as possible.

Unfortunately free publicity is extremely hard to come by, and with this in mind the Branch invited Jean Kloos (then editor of the Timber Trades Journal) to speak to us. Jean entertained us to a detailed description of the workings of the journal and then responded to a specific question about the lack of copy space afforded to the Institute's branches.

We were informed in a polite, firm manner to get our act together! Competition for space is high and the only way that a submitted piece will be printed is on its individual merit. So how do we succeed when we have almost always failed in the past?

Ten tips from Jean Kloos were as follows:

1. be prompt (submit the same or next day)
2. include names of people and companies.
3. always provide basic information such as dates, locations, speakers, etc.
4. don't be long winded.
5. don't be boring.
6. humour is not essential, but can help.
7. send a photograph — but mug shots of Sir Reginald Doo Daah and Rupert Thingy trussed up in dinner suits are becoming boring.
8. make the article relevant to current trade developments/issues.
9. be specific about details such as questions raised, points made etc. Generalities are of no interest.
10. a healthy bribe may prove useful (only a joke Jean — please don't sue!)

Finally if I can offer you one piece of advice it is this — re-read this article and see how it shouldn't be done! But then I have got guaranteed copy space — I hope. (just this once — Ed).

Don Jones, CMIWSc (Secretary)

## IRISH BRANCH

The Irish Branch was officially launched on 29th September 1989, by the Minister of Science and Technology, Mr. Micheal Smith T.D. The launch took place at 'WOOD IRELAND' the first Irish timber fair which was organised by the Society of Irish Foresters. The IWSc was represented at the exhibition with a display which was made available from the IWSc HQ at Hughenden Valley.

Since the formation of the Branch several new members have joined including, 5 Associates, 1 Ordinary member and 2 Corporate members bringing the total membership of the Irish Branch to 31. The development of an active Branch programme has now become our next priority.

On the educational front, developments have taken place. The completion of the first introductory course 'Product Knowledge-Timber' (Open learning) was successfully achieved. The second course will start in Dublin during February. In addition, arrangements have been made with a local vocational school to have

the course incorporated in a full time introductory course in timber technology and utilisation. This course will be taught during a post-secondary year of instruction and commences in September 1990. The IWSc component of the course is completely subject to the IWSc standards, examination and certification.

A special presentation evening has been arranged during which IWSc certificates will be issued to newly elected members, corporate members and students who are either starting or who have completed the IWSc introductory course. A book prize (sponsored by the local TRADA office) will be given to the most successful student who completed the course.

Dr. Jos Evertson, AIWSc (Chairman)

## SCOTTISH BRANCH

Four Branch meetings have now been held at the TRADA Office meeting room and a considerable and lively interest has been regenerated for our Scottish Branch.

The presenters have given excellent talks on a variety of topical subjects. The autumn meeting heard informative and thought provoking presentations on Wood Preservative Treatment and the Environment and 1992 — Implications for the Timber Industry. On the latter subject it was enlightening to hear that many of the changes affecting the Construction Industry may be in effect by 1991!

The meetings have been enjoyed by those attending, with easy access and parking, together with good meeting room facilities. Many interesting questions have been posed to the Speakers and there has been time for discussion of common interests between members over a cup of coffee.

Five meetings are being planned for 1990 by your management committee and we hope that we shall meet the members and other interested parties this year, who have been unable to attend the first of our new series of talks and discussions.

Eric Wyllie (Secretary)

## OBITUARY — Andrew Scouler, FIWSc

Liverpool and District Branch learned of the death on 10th January of Andrew Scouler with deep regret. A Fellow of the IWSc he was a founder member of the IWSc and of our Branch in 1957 and apart from three or four years, when his work took him away from the area, he served on the Committee until his death.

Andy was a wonderful person, a kind and considerate husband to Norah, a much loved father to Jean his daughter and her family, and a friend to all who knew him.

His knowledge and abilities were great, extending through Scottish and English history, the English language, trees, timber technology, timber preservation and art, particularly water colour which was his hobby and passion since he retired. He made his knowledge available to everyone who needed it and his ability to help and guide without ever criticising was remarkable.

Andy's wonderful sense of fun was with him to the end, as were his beautiful manners. A gentle man whose memory will live whilst anyone who knew him survives.

Don Jones, CMIWSc  
(Secretary, Liverpool Branch)

## TYNE TEES BRANCH

The Tyne Tees Branch has had problems arranging speakers for the 1989/90 programme, however all members are invited to attend the TRADA Seminar on the 'Ecological Defence of Timber' (essentially the Rainforest Debate). This will be in place of one of the Branch meetings.

The Branch A.G.M. will be held on 24th April and will be, as usual a social evening at the 'Border Minstrel' in Gosforth Park, Newcastle. This will include a quiz and a buffet meal, and will be open to all members, wives, colleagues, friends and passers-by!

This year will be one of retrenchment for us as a Branch, but we are taking steps to stimulate more attendance in 1990/91 onwards.

James C. Coulson, AIWSc FFB (Chairman)

## AN INTELLIGENT COMPUTER CAN HELP WITH THE DESIGN OF TIMBER FRAMED BUILDINGS

A joint research project by the Structural Timber Research Unit and the Information Technology Research Institute, Brighton Polytechnic.

A survey carried out at Brighton Polytechnic in 1985 showed that the UK is one of the lowest users of glued laminated timber (glulam) in Europe. This is apparently due to lack of awareness of its possibilities, since in many cases there is no reason to exclude it on cost.

Timber is frequently not considered for structural roofing problems, mainly due to lack of understanding among engineers, yet it is one of the most pleasing building materials, and is a renewable resource which, with proper planning will never be exhausted.

Now a computer program in the latter stages of development using the latest techniques of artificial intelligence and which runs on a British designed Acorn Archimedes 440 microcomputer can help the architect or civil engineer. The program, which is of the type known as an expert system, incorporates both knowledge about the design process and technical expertise about structural timber roofs in general, including glulam.

A designer of a building inputs information about the proposed structure via the keyboard and graphically using a simple input device called a mouse.

The system will give advice as to what form of structural timber roof is appropriate, and will produce a preliminary design.

For further information contact Prof. Gordon M. Bull BSc MSc PhD FBCS Brighton Polytechnic.

## NEW PARTICLEBOARD INDUSTRY VIDEO

A new video film is now available entitled 'Particleboards — Managing Wood the Modern Way'.

Made for the United Kingdom & Ireland Particleboard Association by Renaissance Vision of Norwich, the film depicts today's techniques of particleboard manufacture in Great Britain and Ireland, and explains the new product standard BS 5669:1989 'particleboard', four of the five parts of which were recently published. Chipboard, oriented strand board and cement-bonded particleboard are described in relation to their principal uses.

Suitable for conferences, marketing and education programmes, the video can be obtained from UKIPA, Maxwell Road, Stevenage, Herts. SG1 2EP, price £26 including postage (VHS and PAL systems).



# SIDE LINES

## INTERFOB '89

A group of furniture and Timber Technology students from the Bucks College in High Wycombe were the sole U.K. representatives at the INTERFOB '89 games. This event which was held in Epinal in NE France at the end of last year consisted of a 5-day series of sporting, educational and recreational events and was aimed at promoting contact between Forestry and Wood Technology students from Europe.

Over 400 students took part from colleges in Hamburg, Manerheim in Bavaria, Paris, Madrid, the Netherlands, Switzerland and High Wycombe. Sponsored to the tune of £¼ million by French industry, INTERFOB '89 included football, basketball, volleyball, handball and canoeing as well as a number of factory visits and lectures.

Although not successful in any individual sport, the Bucks students made an impression at Epinal by being awarded the prize for being the most sporting team! INTERFOB will take place in Madrid in 1990 and the Bucks College team leader Ian Jack hopes to see a stronger UK contingent there to match up with the enthusiasm shown for this event by the other European countries.



To congratulate the INTERFOB participants, Deputy Director, Bryan Mogford presented each of the students with a gift from the College and presented the trophy to BSc Timber Technology student Adrian Taylor.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- |           |   |            |   |
|-----------|---|------------|---|
| April 1-5 | KBB TRADEX — Alexandra Palace.  | 18-19      | Nordic Timber Conference — Umea, Northern Sweden.                                   |
| 3         | FIDOR Annual Dinner — The Brewery, London, EC1.   | 20-21      | Study Tour N. Sweden and Finland forests and sawmills — following conference above. |
| 3-4       | Exhibition, Design Projects in Fibreboard by Berks Coll. Art & Design, Building Centre, London, WC1. (Sponsored by FIDOR) | Sept. 4-6  | B'MEX — Wembley.  |
| 5-7       | International Construction Exhibition — Wembley.  | 9-11       | Windows, Doors and Conservatories — Alexandra Palace.                               |
| 8-10      | Conservatories '90 — Sandown Exhibition Centre.   | 25-27      | Buildings and Construction — Ramada Inn.  |
| 11-12     | IWSc Conference — Stratford-upon-Avon.  | Oct. 16-18 | Floors — Building Design Centre.  |
| 20-22     | Garden Show — Alexandra Palace.   | 25-27      | FIDOR Conference — Dromoland Castle, Nr. Shannon, Eire.                             |
| May 13-17 | Interior Design International — Earls Court.  | 28-30      | DIY Trade Exhibition — Earls Court.   |
| 15-17     | SHOPEX International — Olympia.   | Nov. 6-9   | Windows International — Alexandra Palace.   |
| 15-17     | Engineering Materials Technologies — Wembley.   | 27-29      | Warehouse '90 — Alexandra Palace.   |
| 22-23     | Control of Insects and Rot in Buildings — BRE, Watford.   | Dec. 5-7   | RESTOREX '90 — Alexandra Palace.  |
| 26-28     | DIY Exhibition — Wembley.   | 1991       |   |
| June 6    | FIDOR AGM — Royal Horseguards Hotel, London, SW1.   | Sept. 2-5  | International Timber Engineering Conference — London.                               |

## STANDARDS IN THE NEWS

### FIBRE BUILDING BOARDS — BRITISH STANDARD 1142:1989

A new British Standard for Fibre Building Boards has now been published replacing BS1142 Parts 1 and 2 1971 and Part 3 1972. A number of important changes are incorporated into the new standard including the adoption of a new system of board identification. While reference to certain boards e.g. softboard acoustic tiles, has been deleted, moisture resistant MDF (MDFMR) has been introduced.

Determination of vapour resistivity, thermal conductivity and a new test, recovery after compression, have been included as tests related to specific end uses. These and other changes in methods of testing have, whenever practical, been made to conform with ISO and European (CEN) standards.

Guidance is also given on the use of Fibre Building Boards in the Construction Industry.

Full details on the use and application of Fibre Building Boards — Hardboard, Softboard, Mediumboard and MDF can be obtained free from FIDOR, 1 Hanworth Road, Feltham, Middlesex, TW13 5AF.

### EUROPEAN WOODWORKING MACHINES

Manufacturing standards for woodworking machines are to be unified for the open market of 1992. Eight European working groups have now been set up to produce these standards; they will cover general instructions, planing machines, bandsaws, circular saws, spindle moulding machines, single and double end tennoners and tooling.

The Furniture Industry Research Association is represented on five of these groups to help preserve the UK's existing high standards and, where appropriate and warranted to adopt higher ones. For details of this work or if you would like an opinion to be represented, please contact, Tony Hollyer, FIRA, Maxwell Road, Stevenage, Herts. SG1 2EW — Tel: (0438) 313433.

## NEWS OF MEMBERS

### Tom Nunn AIWSc

Tom Nunn, an Associate member since 1974 advises that he will be acting as an Independent Timber Inspector and Arbitrator.

Tom has 22 years Timber Trade experience both in the Importing and Agency business in the U.K. During the last 10 years he was the full time Timber Inspector and Claims Assessor for the Price and Pierce Group dealing with a wide range of softwoods. Tom is qualified to stress grade to BS4978 and is a member of the Timber Arbitrators approved by the National Importers Section of the Timber Trade Federation.

During the last eight years he has acted as examiner for the IWSc in Timber Trade Practice and is a keen supporter of the London Branch of the IWSc.

Tom can be contacted at his home address:- 18 Five Oaks Close, St. Johns, Woking, Surrey, GU21 1TU — Tel: (04867) 4716.