

WOOD SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

Institute of Wood Science

MARCH 1992

FROM THE PRESIDENT

1991 was a year fraught with difficulties for timber traders. 1992, I am told, has started no better. With devastated sales revenues and profit margins, falling asset values, too heavy burdens of borrowing and interest costs; sleepless nights and anxious days have been the result for many. These have been times when a true friend has been a gift beyond price.

So what of the future for wood and those who love it for its beauty and strength, and seek to commend its fruitful use in the world we live in? Are our days numbered? Must we stand aside to make way for the steel and concrete and plastic brigade? I don't think so. but we must regain and reproduce the skills and flair with which our fathers found and used their timber. We must prevent its ab-use. And if we succeed in this, then the applications to which our timber is put will give pleasure and good service to many generations still to come.

Richard Venables, AIWSc., (President)

PRIZE GIVING AT THE IWSc AGM

The Officers of the IWSc entertained the prize winners to a sandwich luncheon prior to the Prize Giving and AGM at the TTF Offices on 24th September. This informal gathering is not only very pleasant but gives a splendid opportunity to meet the students and learn of some of the problems that they encounter in their studies. We have a very close relationship with the Colleges that promote our courses but little discourse with the students, and this occasion helps in a small way to alleviate that neglect.

Prizes to the winning students were presented by Mr. Peter Latham of James Latham Plc and Vice President of the Institute. In his address, he made the following points:

"Whether employed in companies or colleges, reduced staff numbers has put more pressure on those still employed and it is therefore a particularly commendable effort by the prize-winners and reflects well on them and their employers.

Obviously, I would like to see all the winners from the trade, but on reflection it is perhaps particularly beneficial that two of the winners work in colleges of education who are able to pass their new-found knowledge on to their students.

Companies are finding it increasingly difficult to release staff for block release courses, both as a result of the recession and changes in the structure of the trade. The Institute is looking to change the format of its courses, which is something that I particularly welcome, but it is essential that this is not at the expense of the current high standard of the Institute's qualifications."

The first prize, the Bryan Latham Prize, and a cheque for £250 from James Latham plc, together with the TTJ silver cup, went to Martin A. Wall of Reading College. The second prize of £100 presented by the Swedish Finnish Timber Council, went to Lewis J. Williams of Manson Group.

The Preliminary Examination (Open Learning) prize was shared by Harry T. Jones of Central Manchester College, Janet Munt of Timbmet Ltd and Moshe Shubinsky of Sandwell M.B.C., who each received the TRADA prize of £50 and the book "Timber in Construction".

Maurice Holloway, AIWSc (Director)



Peter Latham presenting the first prize to Martin Wall of Reading College.

OFFICERS of the IWSc

President Vice Presidents R. Venables K. Purcell

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Council Members

Elected

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R.D. Boyd, D. Carney, J. Coulson, R.F. Drake, J.A. Evertsen, A. McGregor, D. King, T.E. Shaw, R.A. Stock, Dr L.R.J. Whale, R.B.P. White, H. Greaves (Australia).

Chairmen of Committees

Education - Dr. J.D. Brazier, Membership - Dr. G.S. Hall, Finance & General Purposes - J.G.R. Perry.

IWSc CONFERENCE **CHELTENHAM** 3 & 4 APRIL 1992 "MEETING THE CHALLENGE" Book your place NOW

BWPDA CONVENTION 6th-8th MAY 1992

This year the Convention will take place at the Moat House, Stratford-upon-Avon.

The papers will cover; Wood Preservation Research in Australia and New Zealand; Fire Testing of Wood Products; Creosote; Microemulsion Wood Presevatives; Conservation of Historic Building Timbers; Occupational Exposure to Wood Preservatives; Environmental Issues and the Non Agricultural Directive.

Information from BWPDA No. 6 The Office Village, 4 Romford Road, Stratford, London. E15 4EA. Tel. 081 519 2588

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

FROM MOSCOW TO BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COLLEGE

With a Protocol of Intention

The Buckinghamshire College of Higher Education, which has a reputation for its network of international connections, has now established links with the Moscow Forest Engineering Institute. Professor Boris Ugolev of the Institute visited the UK during December to partake in detailed discussions with members of the College's Forest Products/Timber Technology Department, and to sign a protocol of intention with the Director, Mr. Bryan Mogford.

The aim of the protocol is to foster close links between the two establishments in the field of Forestry and Forest Products. More specifically, plans are being prepared to instigate a student exchange programme and to enable the interchange of specialist staff for both research and teaching purposes in the areas of wood machining, wood conversion, sheet material development and timber engineering. The Buckinghamshire College and Moscow Institute intend to embark on a joint research programme; potential areas for reasearch such as Fracture Mechanics of Wood Drying and Mechanisation of Wood-Based Panel Products are currently being discussed.

During his six-day stay, Professor Ugolev was involved in meetings at the College and with the Timber Research and Development Association (TRADA). However, he also found time to deliver a lecture to students of the BSc Forest Products Technology course on Forestry and Forest Products Outputs in Russia, and to do some sightseeing.

Brian Mogford said: "We are delighted to be establishing links with the Moscow Forest Engineering Institute and we are confident that many benefits will acrue from the co-operation between our two organisations. I know that, like us, the Moscow Institute is totally committed to carrying out the proposals outlined in our protocol of intention, and that finance must not prove to be a limiting factor for continued development between our two institutions".

WERE YOU AN IAESTE TRAINEE?

If so where are you now?

When you were a student did you go abroad on a work placement arranged by the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience.

IAESTE has been providing course-related paid work placements for science and engineering students for 43 years. From its modest beginnings at Imperial College in 1948, when 9 countries exchanged around 900 students, IAESTE has expanded rapidly. Today 57 different countries participate and over 240,000 students worldwide have benefitted from gaining international work experience through the programme.

Since 1981 the National Secretariat of IAESTE UK has been based at the Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchanges, a government funded charity whose aim is to promote international education through exchange and interchange. Unfortunately IAESTE UK's records of past participants cover the last decade, and we would like to contact British trainees to set up an alumni association. We would like to ensure that past participants are aware of developments in the programme in the UK, and hope that, having benefitted from the programme themselves, past trainees may be able to help raise the profile of the exchange within British industry.

With the increasing breakdown of world trade barriers and 1992 now a reality, it is important that British companies are made aware of the opportunities available to them to internationalise their work force. IAESTE can help training in an international context and provide an efficient service to deal with visas, work permits and taxation. Employers can benefit greatly from IAESTE selected trainees who are employed on short term contracts, usually up to 3 months, as the trainees can undertake specific, professional or manual tasks assigned to them. The students can bring enthusiasm and a new perspective to the work assignment and provide valuable insight into standards and practices in related industries in other countries.

The IAESTE exchange still works according to the simple principles of reciprocity established at its inception: an IAESTE member country may send abroad only as many trainees as it is able to arrange placements for at home. In recent years IAESTE UK has secured placements in Britain for 200 plus foreign students and therefore has been able to send a similar number of British students to work abroad in over 130 different countries. But demand for placement is high and our exchange statistics have room for improvement. Perhaps you can help us?

IAESTE UK would love to hear from anyone who participated in the exchange or who would now like to discuss the option of becoming an IAESTE UK employer. Please write to Karen Jones IAESTE UK The Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchanges Seymour Mews House, Seymour Mews, London W1H 9PE

WANTED - INFORMATION ON WOOD TARS

Professor John W. Gorrod and Dr. B.L. Goodwin of Kings College, London are undertaking research on possible causative agents of Parkinson's Disease. To aid this work, they want information on:

- a) where samples of tar from woody materials can be obtained.
- any information on basic fractions of these tars.
- availability of wood tars prepared by low temperature carbonisation - could manufacturers of wood charcoal for BBQ's help?
- any potential source of funding for the project.

Information to: Dr. B.L. Goodwin, Kings College, Chelsea Department of Pharmacy, Chelsea Campus, Manresa Road, London. SW3 6LX

WOOD INFORMATION SHEETS - TRADA

TRADA members will receive an up-dated set of Wood Information Sheets in a new binder as part of their annual subscription. There are over 60 of these sheets providing an easily accessible source of reference on the use of timber and timber products to specifiers and timber traders. During the 16 years since the series began regular revisions have been made and new sheets issued to cover changes in legislation and advances in technology.

For the beginning of 1992, a major review has resulted in the re-issue of a substantial number simultaneously. Other sheets will be re-issued to take account of changes to Building Regulations due to be published early in 1992. The up-dating process is continuous and membership of TRADA ensures regular mailings. Wood Information Sheets can also be purchased by non-members: details from TRADA Publications, Tel: 0494 563091.

NEW FORESTRY AND WOOD SCIENCE DEGREE AT BANGOR

The British forest resource is now at a stage where it can supply about 20% of UK's softwood requirement. As the end of the century approaches, this yield will increase to about 25% of the country's needs, and will remain at this level well into the next century. On the overseas front many developing afforested countries are moving towards the processing of timber and away from trading in logs and simple sawn products. Both in the UK and overseas therefore, there is a need for graduates with abilities connected not only with effective management of forest resource but also its efficient conversion into useful products.

This need is heightened by our increasing awareness of the need for industry to minimise any harmful impact it may have on the natural environment. Well trained graduates working within industry may play a most positive role in ensuring that appropriate technologies are developed to meet this need. Where it is well met, the wood based industries offer two major benefits: 1) their raw material comes from a sustainable resource and 2) their process energy demand is relatively low in comparison to competitive materials e.g. metals and concrete.

To provide an appropriate education to address these challenges the School of Agricultural and Forest Sciences has now introduced an Honours BSc degree programme called Forestry and Wood Science. This new degree allows students to combine sylvicultural, forest management and harvesting subjects with those of wood properties, process technology and marketing. Throughout the course emphasis is given to the impact of both forestry and the wood processing industries on the environment and in particular to positive approaches being developed which eliminate or minimise environmental risk.

Those looking for a challenging applied science degree programme bringing together resource management, technological development and business activities are encouraged to contact:

Dr. Mark Irle, Admissions Tutor, School of Agriculture and Forest Sciences, University of Wales, Bangor, Gwynedd. LL57 2UW Tel: 0248 351151 Ext 2449



Mike Croggon AIWSc (Photo courtesy Mail on Sunday)

BRANCH LINES

LIVERPOOL BRANCH

My fellow committee members continue to work hard to ensure the success of the branch. Halfway through the programme we already have half a dozen successful meetings under our belt, with another six to go. We certainly seem to e "on the up" at the moment, with increased attendance at all meetings helping to generate a lively atmosphere with much healthy debate.

Several members have remarked that the "feel" of the branch seems to be changing subtly. Meetings offer as much attraction on the social side as on a business or trade level, and members' wives or husbands have been more in attendance lately. This, of course, we are doing everything we can to encourage. Functions which are pleasurable as well as informative will most certainly result in increased participation, and this has definitely been the case this year.

All we need now is for some of the youngsters in the trade to put in an appearance or two. Several of our committee are mere thirtysomethings and the rest are only slightly middle-aged, but where are the bright young things, about to make their mark in the trade? My guess is they don't get involved not because of apathy, but more because they are afraid they will be bored stiff. Well it ain't like that, not in our branch, and from what I hear not in most of the others either. But until you've tried it, you can't judge can you?

So, young men and women of the IWSc, step forward please. Not because it's your duty, but because you might be in serious danger of enjoying yourself. There's a branch meeting near you soon. Be there!

Paul G. Davies BSc. AIWSc. LInstBM.

MIKE CROGGON PROJECT

In the last Newsletter we published a report by Mike Croggon on his progress with the Brazilian Rainforest Resource project. On January 12th, Mike was the subject of a report by Howard Smith in the 'Mail on Sunday'. The following extracts were taken from this report.

His pioneering work has won him a share of the £30,000 first prize in the Jameson Awards for conservation. Although his efforts have been hampered by his gradual physical deterioration he now needs round-the-clock care and has difficulty swallowing - Croggon insists he will finish his PhD research in two years. 'There are things I can do now, like using a specially adapted computer, which I couldn't a year ago' he said.

Notes are dictated to a helper or into a tape recorder and books read with the aid of a pageturner he operates with his knees.

But Michael is facing financial worries as educational grants run out. And social services payments do not cover the cost of 24-hour care. 'If I don't raise more money I will end up in hospital' he said.

Despite these problems he plans to visit Brazil to explain his research. And after that? 'I want to get my pilot's licence' he said.

Donations can be sent to Mike Croggon Appeal Account, c/o Taylor House, 16 Osler Road, Headington, Oxford. OX3 9BJ.

SCOTTISH BRANCH

Two branch meetings were held in the year past on topics having a direct bearing on the quality of timber for building and construction.

A splendid talk was given by Mr. C. McClymount of Rentokil Ltd. embracing a comprehensive discussion about wood preservation including creosote, salts or organic solvent treatments. Methods and future requirements are being influenced by issues and legislation for environmental protection and health and safety.

The other presentation was given by our branch chairman Mr. A. McGregor of TRADA Technology Ltd. who spoke and illustrated on quality standards of stress graded timber for structural framing, joists and beams. The effects of introduction of the new European standards and moisture control were some of the topics discussed. Again this talk was instructive and far reaching with credit to our branch chairman.

This year we have speakers who will give talks on fibreboard construction materials, the present outlook within the timber frame building industry and the decline and conservation of the tropical train forest.

Broadening aspects of timber frame construction into more lofty residential properties, three, four or more stories in height and diversification into commercial and industrial building have given new problems to solve, increasing the scope of tried and tested methods introduced from North America and Scandanavia in earlier years of this century.

Conservation of all timber growing stock has become a vital factor in maintaining logging supplies, where the alarm has been sounded, particularly due to rapid ingress and destruction of large sections of the tropical rainforest, where prime hardwoods may have been lost and require supply of alternative species.

We hope that our members will be able to find time to come and listen to these expositions of significant consequence to our trade and wellbeing. We shall be very pleased to welcome any interested non-members to our branch meetings. The management committee have been thwarted in their attempt to hold a meeting in Glasgow, however this will be reviewed to see if a suitable meeting place with facilities comparable to Stirling Enterprise Park and within our budget can be found.

There are on-going preparations for 1992/93 programme of events now on the agenda.

Eric Wyllie (Branch Secretary)

OBITUARIES

Ron Kewley

Liverpool & District Branch were saddened by the death at the end of 1991 of Ron Kewley.

He was a founder member of the Branch in 1957 and served with the committee up to two years ago. He was chairman in the year 1959/60 and served as Secretary and Treasurer. Later he acted as Branch auditor.

Ron was a friend and adviser to us all and his knowledge of both hardwood and softwood, combined with his administrative ability, made him a complete "timber" man. A wiser man than the writer said "Ron was one of the men who makes the trade so good to be a member of". All who knew Ron would endorse that view. He will be missed and will be very well remembered.

Dorothy, his wife, and all his family have our deepest sympathy.

Don Jones CMIWSc (Secretary, Liverpool Branch)

Edwin Morris BSc, MSc, ARIC, FIWSc

We have learned of the sudden decease of one of our eminent members in Glasgow, at the age of 69 years. Mr. Morris started his career as a student at the Royal Technical College, Glasgow, graduating in Building Technology. He continued at the college as Assistant Lecturer teaching mechanics, structures and environmental physics. In 1972 he was appointed Reader in the department of Architecture and Building Science, University of Strathclyde. He was said to have a clear and encouraging way of instruction in building technology and served the department with keen and undiminished vigour over a period of 44 years, his later years in partial retirement.

He pursued research in timber structures, in liason with Mr. Harold Burgess of TRADA in investigation of mechanical connections for rigid joints, plywood gusseted joints and timber roof trusses. He was also interested in lighting, artificial and natural as well as climatology. Together with Professor T. Marcus of the University of Strathclyde, he was co-author of a publication "Buildings, Climate and Energy." in 1980.

His other interests were, stamp collecting, gournet cookery, and painting in water colours. He enjoyed travel, particularly to visit the northern isles of Shetland and Iceland. He is survived by his wife Margaret to whom colleagues and friends extend their most affectionate sympathy.

Eric Wylie (Scottish Branch Secretary)

WESTERN COUNTIES

Sponsored Walk - Westonbirt Arboretum

On May 17th, the Timber Trades Benevolent Society, Bristol & District Committee will be holding a sponsored walk in the woods at Westonbirt Arboretum in Gloucestershire. The arboretum is one of the finest and largest collections of trees and shrubs in the world. It is managed by the Forestry Commission as a very important research establishment and now contains some 17,000 trees and shrubs. The short two mile walk will be combined with a competition to locate and identify different tree species.

The American Hardwood Export Council, the BPIB representing Easter Canadian Timber Agencies, Kymmene Scharman (UK) Ltd, TRADA, and of course the TTBS will be presenting information displays during the day.

Picnic areas are available to ensure an enjoyable day out for the family. (Dogs are also allowed in the arboretum - Ed.)

Sponsor forms are now available on receipt of £2 which will allow you access to the Arboretum and the freedom to explore other walks after completing the competition. There is no fixed start time so you may join the fun at any time during the day.

Please contact Geoff Osborne, C/O Clarkes Wood Co. Ltd., Silverthorne lane, St. Philips, Bristol. BS2 0OJ. - Tel: 0272 716316.

David King AIWSc (Chairman, Western Counties Branch)

SIDE LINES

NEWS FROM FURNITURE INDUSTRY RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

Industry takes lead on BSI Committee

The British Standards Institution has just signed a sub-contracting agreement with FIRA who will now take over responsibility for the secretariat of a series of British Standards committees for furniture.

The committees are as follows:-

CCM/1 - Test methods for furniture

CCM/3 - Domestic furniture

CCM/4 - Office furniture

CCM/5 - Educational furniture

CCM/6 - Hardware for furniture

CCM/44 - Fire tests for furniture

CCM/46 - Flammability performance of furniture.

This new initiative is designed to benefit BSI, furniture manufacturers and users by bringing the secretariat closer to the technical centre of the industry. FIRA have of course been closely involved with, and committed to, BSI's work in the furniture standards area for many years, and this new challenge is of particular benefit with the increasing tempo of European activity in CEN. FIRA already offers a Standards Updating service whereby they check that the standards held by members are current and updated on a regular basis.

Contact: BSI Nicola Potter - Tel: 0908 220022 Ext: 2119

FIRA Patti Bristow - Tel: 0438 313433

Dr. Colin A. Aitkenhead appointed Vice-Chairman of EURIFI

The European Association of Research Institutes for Furniture, EURIFI, has been founded to promote research and technical assistance in the European furniture industry. FIRA represents the UK and is one of the founder members which include Research Institutes from Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Sweden with Dr. Aitkenhead, Director and Chief Executive of FIRA taking on the post of Vice-Chairman.

The activities of EURIFI will include research and technological development, design and product development, quality, information, training and ecological issues, all aimed at assisting the European furniture industry to grow.

FIRA's experts will be involved in all these activities in addition to their current representation of the UK on the many European Standards committees and in the development of test methods for these standards.

Contact: Cherill Sheer, FIRA Maxwell Road, Stevenage, Herts. SG1 2EW. Tel: 0438 313433

NEW - WOOD PANEL PRODUCTS FEDERATION

Alan Twitchet announced to delegates at the FIDOR conference that FIDOR and UKIPA are to form a federation called the Wood Panel Products Federation. The new Federation will be operational from January 1st 1992 as the main international representative body serving the particle board and fibre-board sectors in the UK.

It is expected that during 1992 (when functions of the separate organisations will remain as now) development of the final Organisation, its staffing, funding and operation will be decided and agreed by the constituent members.

It is envisaged that the new structuring will result in more efficient, comprehensive and value for money service for members who have previously subscribed to one or both organisations. Membership of the new federation will be open to overseas manufacturers of board and their UK agents as well as to board distributors, processors and certain categories of associate membership.

Contact: FIDOR Tel: 081 751 6107

EUROWOOD CONFERENCE COMES TO UK IN 1992

The second conference of "Eurowood", the prestige gathering of the timber related industries in the EEC, is to be held in the UK on the 1st and 2nd of October 1992, organised by TRADA.

The conference, entitled "The Commercial Impact of the Single European Market" will address the impact of SEM for wood product manufacturers and timber traders in the EEC and for exporters to this significant market. Eurowood 11 will examine how harmonised codes and standards are affecting trade flow and how buyers and sellers are exploiting the opportunities and overcoming the obstacles of the single market.

Bath has been chosen as the conference venue and the official proceedings will take place in the magnificent Assembly Rooms complex. The social programme will include a reception in the Roman Baths and a banquet in the Pump Room.

For details and reservations contact Mrs. Patricia Presland, TRADA - Tel: 0494 563091.

IWSc JOURNAL - NEW EDITOR

After some seven issues of the Journal and four long years, Dr. Richard Murphy has decided to retire as Editor of the Journal. Our thanks go to him for his enthusiasm and dedication in upholding the very high standards which we have all come to expect of our Journal.

We are fortunate in that Dr. Anne Handley, who preceded Dr. Murphy as Editor, is able to take on that task again.

CORPORATE MEMBERS

The Council of management wish to record its thanks to those listed below for their support as Corporate members.

J. Alsford Ltd., Anglo-Norden Ltd., John Boddy Timber Ltd., BSW Timber plc, BPIB, Buckinghamshire College of H.E., Crosby-Sarek Ltd., Coillte, Cuprinol Ltd., James Donaldson & Sons Ltd., EOLAS, Fairlight Preservation, Forest Service N. Ireland, Fosroc Ltd., Glennon Bros. Timber Ltd., Harcros Timber & Building supplies Ltd., Hickson Timber Products Ltd., James Latham plc, Marlow & Co. Ltd., F.W. Mason & Sons Ltd., Meyer International plc, MBM Forest Products Ltd., Price & Pierce Ltd., Rentokil Ltd., Timber Trade Federation, Timbmet Ltd., TRADA, Travis Perkins plc, Henry Venables Ltd., Watford Timber Co. Ltd., Wickes plc.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- March 12-5 Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition
 Earls Court.
 - 23-27 Catchment of Green conference Adelaide, S. Autralia.
- April 3-4 IWSc Conference Cheltenham Park Hotel, Cheltenham.
 - 7 FIDOR Annual Dinner The Brewery, Chiswell Street, London.
 - 17-21 'Metropolis' Interior Design Business Design Centre.
- May 5-8 BWPDA Annual Convention Moat House Hotel, Stratfordupon-Avon.
 - 10-13 Kitchen, Bedroom and Bathroom Equipment KBB/TRADEX — Alexandra Palace.
 - 10-15 IRG Harrogate.
 - 12-14 Building a Better Britain Business Design Centre.
 - 17-21 International Interior & Retail Designs Exhibition — Earls Court.
 - 31-2 Conservatories (T) Sandown Park.
- June 9-10 Building 7 Construction Show Bloomsbury Crest Hotel.
 - 18-21 Elegant Homes Sandown Park.
- Sept. 22-24 Building Materials Exhibition Wembley.
 - 24-27 Woodworker Show Sandown Park.
 - 27-29 Inorganic-Bonded Wood & Fibre Composite Materials Conference — Spokane, Washington, USA.
- Oct. 1-2 Eurowood Conference (TRADA)

 Assembly Rooms, Bath.
 - 8-10 FIDOR Conference Hotel Masstricht, Holland.
 - 28-29 Systems Builder Sandown Park.

WOOD PROTECTION

The second issue of our Wood Protection Journal is now available.

Contents

Australian marine test of pesticides impregnated as supplementary treatments for creosote or CCA-treated wood. - L.J. Cookson, J.E. Barnacle, and J. Beesley.

A laboratory evaluation of the corrosion resistance of some metal alloys to copper chrome arsenic wood preservative solution. - R.I. Davis. Microemulsions - a new development for the wood preservation industry. - H.B. Dawson and J.J. Czipri.

Decay detection using Pilodyn and ultrasonic techniques. - G.H. Kim, H.M. Barnes and W.C.B. Banks.

Utility pole performance: pentachlorophenol distribution and content in recovered pine poles. - J.N.R. Ruddick.

PLEASE NOTE - Papers are required urgently for the next edition.