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Company Registration Number 498619
Registered Charity Number 227068

The Report of the Management Board - 1 July 2020–30 June 2021

G Armstrong FIMF, FTSC, MISM
Secretary General

Presidents report

Prof Karl S Ryder FIMF, FHEA, DPhil

Sustaining Membership

Since its very early days, the Institute has been privileged to receive support from industry, sometimes in the form of support for professional membership of employees, sometimes by signing up to Sustaining Membership grade and sometimes both!

Membership Subscriptions

The Management Board approved the following subscription rates that became effective from 1 July 2020: -

Student	£15 for a maximum of 4 years		
Affiliate	£60.00	Associate	£65.00
Technician	£70.00	Licentiate	£75.00
Graduate	£80.00	Member	£85.00
Fellow	£105.00	Retired Member	£35.00

Sustaining Membership subscriptions

The Management Board approved the following subscription rates (excluding VAT) that became effective from 1 July 2021: -

Grade A	£610
Grade B	£450
Grade C	£275
Consultants	£137.50 (<i>individual members</i>)

Officers and Members of Management Board 2020-2021

Members who served as Directors of the Institute of Materials Finishing as at 30 June 2021 were: -

President

Prof Karl S Ryder FIMF, FHEA, DPhil

Vice President

D Neal FIMF

Immediate Past President

B Gay FIMF

Secretary General

G Armstrong FIMF, FTSC, MISM

Treasurer

TBC

Member Representatives

Co-opted Member

P Lansdell BSc, PhD, CEng, FIMMM, FIMF

Branch & Group Chairman

Ireland	- D Chaplin FIMF
Sheffield & NE	- J Torr FIMF
Southern	- P Alexander
Organic Group	- B Peters FIMF

Standing Committee Chairmen

Education & Training	- E Cotton MIMF
Examination & Qualification Board	- D Eastham BSc, PhD, CEng, MIMMM, FIMF
Membership & Marketing	- J Burgess FIMF
Publications	- G Wilcox BSc, MPhil, PhD, MICorr, AIMMM, FIMF
Science	- T Crichton BSc, MSc, PhD, MRSC, CChem, MICorr, FIMF

Membership

The membership at 30 June 2020 stood at 349 Individual members 116 Sustaining Members.

During the year a number of Members were reported as deceased.

The Institute welcomed the following new Sustaining Members during the 2020-21 session: -

Oxford Nanosystems Ltd

Harwin PLC

Quantum Design UK & Ireland Ltd

Qualitetch Components Ltd

Chemtech Surface Finishing Private Ltd

Principal activity

The principal activity of the Institute is the promotion of the theory and practice of surface engineering and finishing.

Management Board Members' responsibilities

Company and Charity law requires the Management Board to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Institute and of the financial activities of the Charity for that year. In preparing these the Management Board is required to:

- a) select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- b) make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- c) state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the Financial Statement;
- d) prepare the Financial Statements

The Management Board is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and to enable them to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Report of Management Board to the Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 7th December 2021

I am really happy to welcome you all to this “face to face” Annual General Meeting; its so good to be able to shake hand (or bump elbows!) with you all again, and I do hope that, new virus strains permitting that we will be able to continue this into the foreseeable future.

It has been another strange year, with most of the time having been spent under some sort of lockdown, and with us all working from home.

It is pleasing to note, however, that the Institute remains in very good health, and that not being able to meet face to face has not affected how we have performed throughout the year. Both Helen and Karen have continued to work successfully from their homes throughout this difficult period, and I would like to thank them both for working with this degree of flexibility.

Your board continues to meet about every 4-6 weeks, now through the “zoom” virtual platform, without any detrement to the quality of discussion or decision making.

Likewise the committees, branches and groups have also held regular meetings again virtually, and I can report that these meetings have been pro-active. Even over the last few months, where there has been a degree of easing of lockdown, meetings have continued virtually, and it is fair to say that even if and when our lives return to pre-pandemic freedoms, it is probable some meetings will continue to be held over zoom, as, to be truthful these really are much more time-efficient.

Our education offering has held up remarkably well during the past year, which I think was a bit of a surprise to several of us, who expected a greater downturn in demand due to the pandemic, so well done Karen for your sterling sales efforts.

One particular area to note in our education offering is the re-write of our organic teaching modules, both at foundation, but particularly at Technician level. This was really necessary to bring these modules up to date, so well done to both the Education and Training Committee and the Organic group for their co-operation on this, with particular thanks to Ken Griffiths who has shouldered most of the re-writes.

Our Institute remains in a stable financial health, although there was a need to move some funds from our investments to our current account in the spring of 2021 as a precaution. Our investments are currently in excess of £500,000 and will, we expect be bolstered by a further deposit of funds early in 2022: more on this later.

Plans have been discussed by the board to investigate if we should look to change our attitude on the security of our investment policy to be perhaps less risk adverse. This will be discussed with Nathan at Rathbones, our financial advisor.

However, these plans were shelved due to the sad loss of our great friend, treasurer, and active board member, Nick Johnson, who passed away in May this year after a short but vicious battle with cancer. Nick was a great guy who cared deeply about our Institute, and we all miss him greatly.

Fortunately, for the “service to celebrate his life”, restrictions on numbers allowed to attend had been relaxed, so your President Karl Ryder, Immediate Past President Barry Gay, long standing friend Mike Smith and myself were able to attend to say good-bye.

Your board are actively looking to recruit a new treasurer, but for the short-term I have been overseeing financial matters.

One issue that the pandemic highlighted was the increasing difficulty in commuting to the office at Exeter House in the centre of Birmingham.

Both Helen and Karen were finding the travel becoming even more onerous, and allied to the “Clean Air Charge” introduced this year by Birmingham City council the cost and the challenge of the commute was becoming an issue.

Out of the blue, we received an offer for the offices and site, which was above what we thought the premises were fully worth. The offer came from the owner of the fuel station beneath our first floor offices, so we were safe in acknowledging this to be a firm offer.

This started us looking for alternative premises, away from the city centre but within sensible commuting distance for Helen and Karen and easy access for our members.

We identified a detached office unit in a small courtyard on the edge of Coleshill Industrial Estate, and to cut a long story short, we have now moved to these premises within the last week.

As a bonus, this new office cost £100,000 less than we sold Exeter House for, so even after allowing for moving costs etc, we will be able to invest significant funds into our investment portfolio.

So to close, it is pleasing to report another successful year for the Institute of Materials Finishing.

Graham Armstrong FIMF FTSC
Secretary General
November 2021

Presidents Report

Report of the President to the AGM, November 2021

Time has certainly passed quickly since my last report as President. Although we are still in the grips of a global pandemic we seem to have come to terms with our situation and life has, for the main part, returned to an approximate normal for many of us. During the past twelve months the activities of the Institute have continued in full operation although almost all of the regular meetings of the committees and the board have been held online. I have not personally visited Exeter House since January 2020! However, I am happy to say that our management group meetings have resumed in-person and I am delighted that this year we have returned to the face-to-face format for our AGM. It was a decision earlier in the year that we should move to a venue out of Birmingham in order both to facilitate travel for participants and to experience a hotel environment that is a little more luxurious than our usual. I hope that those of you in attendance approve of the choice.

Over that past year there have been a number of significant matters worth mentioning here. The first and saddest, was the loss of our treasurer, friend and colleague Nick Johnson. Early in the year we heard from Nick that he was very ill and he offered his resigning as treasurer. The management board was able to write to him and thank him for all his effort and commitment but sadly he lost his battle shortly after that. There was an in-person funeral service and a few of us were able to represent the Institute there and pass on our condolences to Nick's family. On a happier note, last year I reported that the IMF had been successful in a consortium bid for Innovate UK funds to explore the extraction and recovery of gallium from waste LED's. The short, 9-month project entitled ReGall was concluded at the end of July this year and has been both technically successful and has opened up potential new opportunities for the IMF to be involved in future projects. Details are available on the IMF website. Another highlight for the promotion of IMF activities was the international conference *InterFinish 2020*. This was (as the name might suggest) originally scheduled for September 2020 and due to be held in Japan, after the Olympic games. The meeting was delayed by a year because of Covid but continued concerns over high case numbers forced the organisers to hold the conference online. This was disappointing but the IMF made several strong contributions to the programme including a plenary session (KSR), technical and journal presentations (Graham Armstrong and Clive Larson). Hence the IMF was well represented here and our links with the *International Union of Surface Finishing* (IUSF) maintained.

I am also pleased to report that despite the pandemic, the financial position of the IMF is very strong and our investments have done well. This is largely because our accounts and investment portfolio were managed so well by our former treasurer. The IMF website, having received two major revisions recently is now modern and bright and is being used to support a vibrant series of webinars, technical presentations and other resources.

Finally, one of the most exciting developments of 2021 is the planned move of the IMF offices from central Birmingham to our new out-of-town site near Colehill. This was prompted by the culmination of issues at the Exeter House building as well as the difficulties in maintaining a city-centre site. The new HQ, to be known as New Exeter House, is in a semi-rural setting that offers a much more pleasant working environment, more space, facilities and will be easier to access for most of us. Many of you will be familiar with the rigours of moving house and these have been multiplied here by the complexities of charity law, access and the legacy of many, many years of stored documents and archives. Once again, the IMF has relied heavily on the good will and efforts of Helen, Karen and Graham and for this we owe them our grateful thanks. We very much hope that the move will be completed by the end of this calendar year.

Twelve months ago I wrote of renewed hope and enthusiasm during one of the most widespread and damaging social traumas that any of has experienced. The IMF continues to do well as an Institute and we look forward to another exciting and productive year.

Prof. Karl S. Ryder
November 2021



Examination & Qualification Board 2020 - 2021

Only Distance Learning courses have been run this year. The Technician course covers a number of different options including Electroplating Practice, Principles of Electroplating, Automotive, Electroforming and Paint, Lacquer & Varnish. The results can be summarised as:

Distance Learning Foundation 16 Passes, 17 Merits, 7 Distinctions, 1 Fail

Distance Learning Technician 5 Passes, 14 Merits, 9 Distinctions, 1 Fail

Technician Certificate 4 Pass, 3 Merit, 5 Distinction

This year the Covid-19 situation has played a major part in the setting of examinations, and the number of candidates coming forward. In particular the issue of referrals to delay examinations has become a major issue for candidates – personal issues and pressure of work once companies have managed to get going again. We have also had to deal with candidates having proven dyslexia, and provide special support during the examination.

Owing to Social Distancing requirements we have also run examinations in local hotels, and companies rather than in Exeter House.

I should like to express my thanks to Karen Yates and Helen Wood for the tremendous efforts that they have made to keep the examination system going during this very trying time.

Dr David Eastham
Chairman Examination & Qualification Board

Publications Committee

I was looking back at the Publications Committee report for last year's AGM. The opening paragraph described the direct effects of Covid-19 on the committee specifically and Institute in general. I guess we hoped that the pandemic would either be over or drastically reduced by the following AGM. Unfortunately, things haven't turned out quite as we hoped. The Publications Committee couldn't meet 'in-person' this year so we have switched to Zoom. Interfinish 2020 eventually took place in September 2021 with our IMF 'contingent' giving their papers remotely. Transactions is one of two official conference journals, so we are hoping for a significant number of Interfinish authors writing up their presentations for inclusion as journal papers.

Continuing with the Transactions theme, 2022 will be the 100th volume (the journal reaching its centenary before the Institute due to it having some volumes given over to conference papers in their entirety). Clearly the committee wanted to mark this milestone. Discussions ensued and resulted in the planned inclusion of some notable past papers, one in each 2022 edition of the journal.

The journal continues to be widely read, not only by members but also by researchers in industry and academia worldwide. This has been highlighted by a third successive yearly increase in our Impact Factor (IF), this time from 1.052 to 1.244.

We continue to receive a good flow of articles and papers from members in the European Academy of Surface Technology (EAST). Our relationship with EAST continues to be very beneficial to both organisations.

So in concluding this short yearly report can I thank all those who make up the Publications Committee, all the referees that have helped us maintain the quality of our journal and finally to Clive Larson who masterminds the production of our journal so well.

Prof. G.D. Wilcox FIMF

M & M Report for AGM 2020 – 2021

With Covid-19 still with us M&M meetings were carried out over the Zoom platform.

Website

The website has been kept updated and a new section has been added.

I thought that the idea of a "Podcast" may be of interest and initially roped our ex-president Barry Gay into testing it out.

The timing was to be around 12 – 15 minutes and the theme was to discuss Barry's journey through the metal finishing industry, how he became a member of the IMF and what he felt he had gained from it.

The thought was that talking to people who were in the industry, students who had taken the courses and examinations may give potential future people the possibility of joining the IMF.

Since the initial podcast we are now up to 4 subscribers, some of whom are students and people who are in the industry and it appears (from the feedback I have had) that the podcast is found to be interesting and encouraging.

I am always on the lookout for new “recruits” so anyone who is interested let me know via Helen.

At the last Board meeting I was asked if I could get some Google Analytics on visits to the website. Below is a snapshot of the first 3 weeks of October and it is very encouraging to see the results.

Statistics on Website
Period Month October 2021

Total Number of Hits	21924
Total Pages	3919
Total Visits	1641
Hits/Hour	Av. 60Max. 1169
Will Green mp3	228
Videos	266

	Hits	Visits
Education	93	53
About the Imf	86	51
Sustaining membership	53	36
Individual membership	61	35
Publication	43	25
News	27	20
Members Publications	29	18

Countries	Visits
USA	2150
UK	1557
China	753
India	643
Italy	244
Malaysia	215
Germany	84
Russian Federation	120
Canada	140

Indonesia	116
Czech Republic	100
EU	58
Iran	68
Brazil	43
Egypt	49
Japan	50
Thailand	37
Vietnam	20
Sweden	11
Netherlands	4
Ireland	6
Korea	13
Columbia	12
Seychelles	10

Note that “Hits” are where people have clicked on the ink and “visits” are where they have followed the link through.

Webinars

These have been ongoing throughout the year with good attendances and now we are into the new academic year I am repeating the subjects over aging with a webinar on the “Introduction of Electroplating” in November and “Pre-treatment prior to Plating/Painting” in December.

Seminars

We have had two seminars this year both over Zoom and were reasonably well attended.

The first was the testing of ships for corrosion and the second was “Targeting the Electric Revolution” which was about the how we see the future of electricity in reducing carbon emissions.

Going forward M&M are still coming up with ideas which I hope will be beneficial to the Institute.

Finally, I would like to thank the M&M team for all their support and keeping the meetings lively and constructive.

John Burgess (Chairman M&M)

IMF Science Committee AGM Report 2020/21

Despite the ongoing issues connected to Covid-19, the Science Committee has managed to meet on a regular basis, albeit by using remote access (i.e., “Zoom”). The impacts of covid have severely limited our external activities, although we have managed to maintain a lot of communications with the IMF’s membership. The Committee has also expanded its membership to attract other people with useful expertise to the Institute.

One of the first highlights of the year was a presentation to the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee on “Sector Deals for SMEs” where over 80 attendees took part, including Parliamentarians, other Committee members and guests. The discussion was very well received and its feedback was extremely positive. Our submission comprised three speakers, Paul Mason (Director of Innovation Policy at InnovateUK), Brian Norton (MD of Indestructible Paints Ltd) and Karl Ryder (President of the IMF and Professor of Physical Chemistry, University of Leicester). Paul Mason described the benefits of industrial R&D and explained that “companies that persistently invest in R&D have higher productivity” and that “innovating companies are more likely to both export and generate growth”. He also pointed out

that future trading depends on today's innovation and that the UK should do everything it can to retain or improve on its position of 4th in the Global Innovation Index. Brian Norton described how Indestructible Paints has used InnovateUK funding to help create some essential high-performance coatings and how they impact the UK's infrastructure; he also took the opportunity to raise issues such as Brexit and REACh, both of which potentially have major impacts on industrial and commercial operations. The third speaker, Karl Ryder, discussed the importance of technology and information transfer for University research to practical commercial uses and the issues faced by SMEs in getting funding for their research. The IMF remains very active with the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee and any discussions of particular relevance or interest to our membership are published in either *IMF*ormation and/or TIMF. Reports have also been published occasionally on the Institute's website.

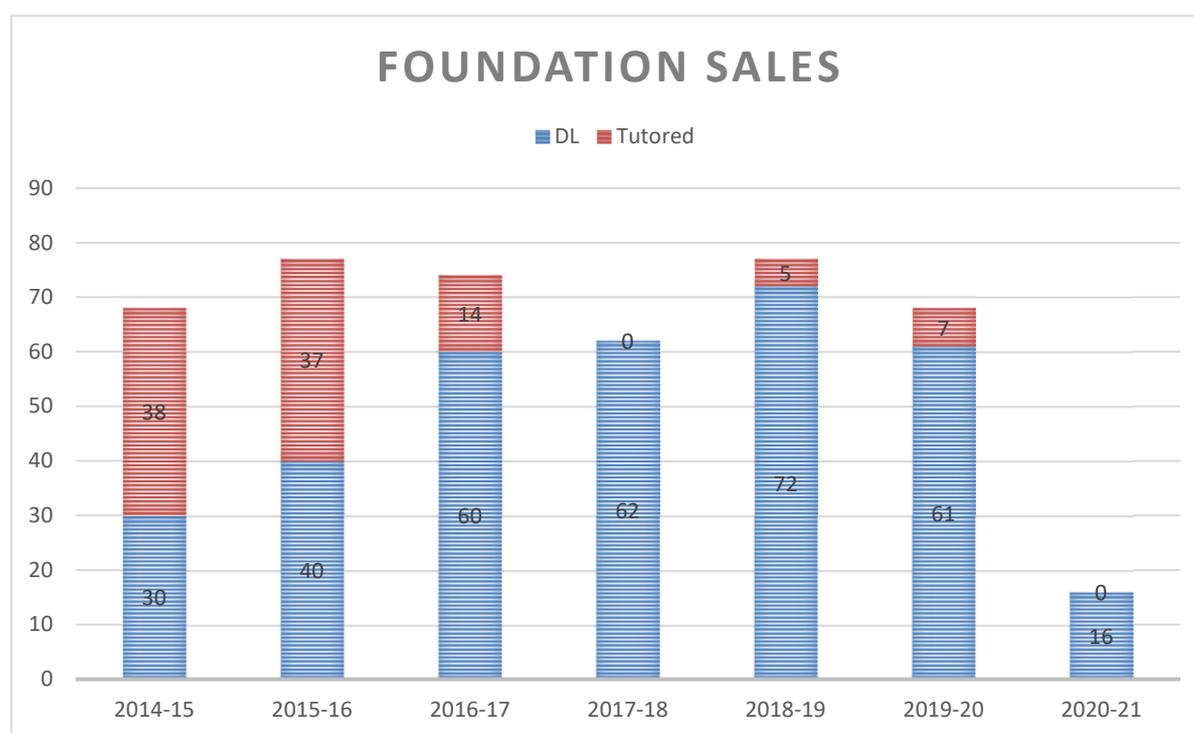
In our 2020 report, we reported that the IMF had become involved in an InnovateUK funded project - *ReGaIL*; this is primarily through to the involvement of our President in the project and has resulted in another income stream being made available to the Institute. The main role of the IMF was to provide dissemination opportunities for the project and its consortium. The outcomes of the project were very successful and it was nominated for the SEA's (Surface Engineering Association) Process Innovation award. Unfortunately, it was put in second place by a very worthwhile project led by Texture Jet Ltd. This was another InnovateUK funded project that had developed a novel surface processing technology process, capable of redefining the surface texture of a component; this includes roughening, polishing, and etching.

In conclusion, this year and despite the adverse operating environment we have encountered, the Institute, through the Science Committee, has successfully demonstrated how our industry and members can obtain Government funding to help develop new ideas and technologies. We have also demonstrated to the highest levels of Government how important our industry is to our economy and have brought to its attention some of the real practical issues being faced by it

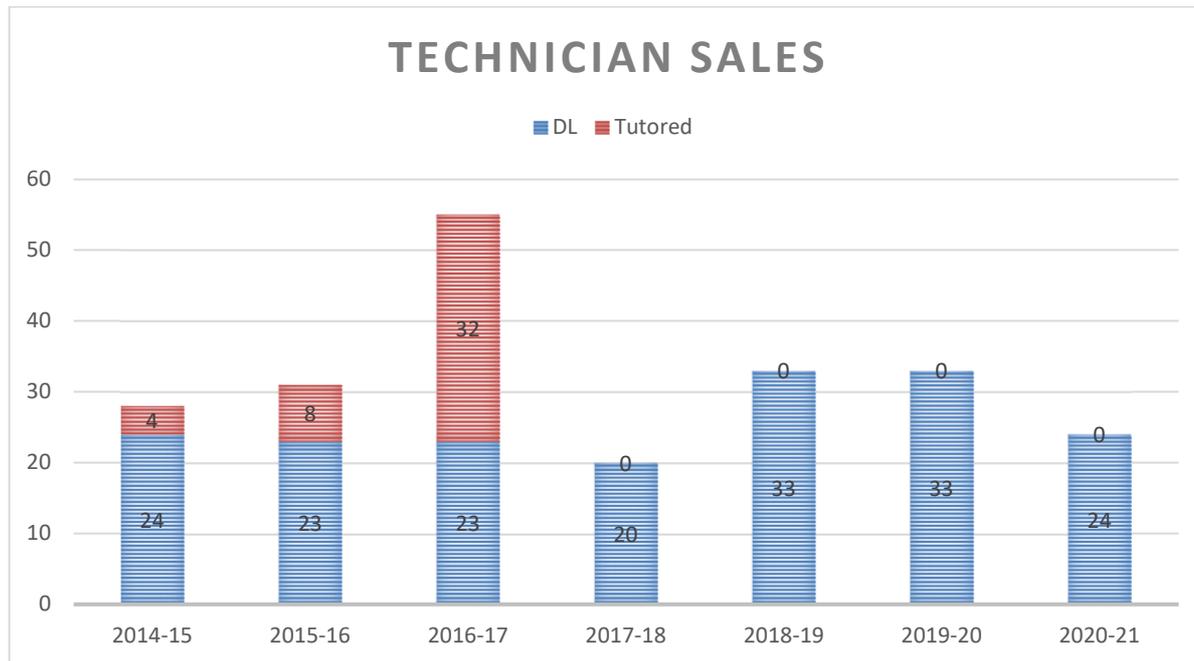
Trevor Crichton

E&TC Committee

Foundation Sales Summary



Technician Sales Summary



2020-21 Summary

The lower sales figures we saw last September were a sign of what was to come for the remaining year for uptake of our courses. The sales figures for Foundation are significantly down from previous years. The Technician sales have dropped, but not to the same extent as Foundation. Are companies wary of spending on training in the current climate? Can we look to Covid as a possible cause for the drop in sales? The latest figures for Foundation are similar to those of last year but Technician has showed an increase for the September enrolment. Hopefully, a sign of things improving.

Tutored sales have been minimal in recent years. We have had little ability to offer tutored courses even if the interest was there. Barry Gay has managed to get a group of volunteers together who are willing to offer their services for both electroplating and organic coatings tutoring should we get enquiries. The tutored courses could be done either on-site or via the internet. Thank you to those who have offered their time and expertise.

The main focus for the committee has been the updating of our Technician courses. Ken Griffiths, with the help of the Organic Group, has made significant inroads into the PLV course. The Organic Group are also helping update sections of the Foundation course. Mike Smith continues to work through the Electroplating Practice course. We have also received some welcome help from volunteers outside the Education & Training Committee to help with specific units. So, I must offer a big thank you to those who have volunteered to help rewrite units (both within and outside the committee) and to those that have read and reviewed these rewrites. I would also like to thank both Karen and Helen for their help in keeping things running smoothly over the last year. Personally, I believe our course continue to offer excellent value for money and provide a good option for any companies within the surface finishing industry who wish to upskill their staff.

E Cotton

Organics Group

Report for AGM 2021

The main focus for the group over the last three years has been the upgrading of the PVL course, which proved to be a very slow process, however, it was decided that the best way to maintain focus and impetus was to expand the membership of the committee and hold meeting more regularly. This approach has worked, we now have completed the Foundation course and several modules of the Technician course have been completed and are now with EQB for final approval. Thanks are due to Graham and Ken for all their time and effort.

In addition It was decided that the going forward we should try to encourage more Organic papers from both students and industry and to grow the organic membership. To encourage more of the existing membership to take an interest in the Organics group we have decided to put an article into every edition of IMFormation going forward.

To have closer liaison with other committees Brenda has joined the Science Committee and is already a member of the Publications Committee.

B Peters