The INSTITUTION of
ANALYSTS & PROGRAMMERS

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INSTITUTION NEWSLETTER **June 1991**

THE DIRECTORY

We hope members will find their entries in the Directory are all correct. We closed for printing on 26th May, but inevitably some pink forms crept in even after that: members are joining, improving themselves or moving house all the time. We tried to squeeze changes in right up to the last minute, but to those of you who missed the boat we can only say we are sorry.

WE ARE GROWING

Members will have noticed the Institution's increased advertising in the technical press. As a result of this we are receiving a significant number of new applications, and the membership is growing, currently at the rate of about 25% a year.

As the Institution grows so will its prestige. Uniquely amongst the professional bodies, we only accept people as full members if they have actual working experience of computer programming. This rules out a lot of the people who help swell the numbers of some of the other computer-orientated bodies. As time goes on the Institution is likely to become more exclusive: now is the time to encourage your friends and colleagues to join us.

ACCREDITATION OF COLLEGES

Considerable progress has been made on new procedures for the Accreditation of colleges offering courses specifically designed to equip successful students for direct election as Graduates of the Institution. In recent months a number of colleges have approached us, and it is hoped that a package of new proposals will be ready for distribution by the early autumn, covering:

1. The Institution's core syllabus.
2. Inspection of colleges.
3. Moderation of examinations.
4. Charges for Accreditation.
5. Administative arrangements.

Broadly, it is proposed to charge the colleges a fee to cover the costs of regular inspection, moderation of exams etc., but to offset this with lower per-capita charges for students entering the Institution.

It is hoped that this policy will lead to the Institution forming closer links with the Accredited colleges, and that eventually there will be very few places in the world where a student does not have reasonable access to one of them. The Institution is not primarily in the education business; it is here to serve its members who are already established in the profession. But it is to the interest of us all that good new recruits are helped into the profession and into our Institution.

TAX RELIEF

An initial approach to the Inland Revenue has produced rather negative results. We have therefore been studying the specific provisions of the 1988 Income and Corporation Taxes Act, and this confirms that there is absolutely no reason why members of this Institution should not benefit from the reliefs already enjoyed by members of other professional organisations.

We are still hoping to reach an agreement with the Revenue, but the Act does also provide for an appeal procedure, and you can be confident that the matter will be pressed.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

We would like to thank those members who contacted their banks, following the note in the last Newsletter, to adjust their standing orders in line with current subscription rates. We would especially like to thank those who have taken the trouble to send cheques covering the shortfall for 1991 and in some cases for previous years as well. This is much appreciated. We would remind you once again that current rates for payment by standing order are:

Companion	£34.00
Fellow:	£25.00
Member:	£22.50
Licentiate:	£21.00
Graduate:	£19.50
Associate Member:	£17.50

A few members have written following their discovery that the subscription rates we quoted for those who pay by standing order are lower than for those who pay by cheque. This was intentional, the theory being, back in 1989, that it would be cheaper for the Institution if everyone signed standing orders. This concession is not likely to last, so enjoy it while you can.

In fact standing orders create their own problems. Firstly we have the banks coming between members and the Institution, like maverick middle-men. Some ignore standing orders and never pay them at all, while others hand out money wildly every month. Secondly, standing orders are troublesome when subscriptions have to be raised, so the only practical course is to keep rates fixed for as long as possible, and then raise them in one giant step. This is not very satisfactory for members or for the Institution.

Eventually we shall be able to overcome this problem by the introduction of direct debits, hopefully from the beginning of 1992. From that point on we plan to review subscription rates annually, taking account of inflation and any change in the scope of the Institution's activities.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

The Institution Office will be closed from approximately mid July to mid August. Members will be able to leave urgent messages on our answering machine and these will be dealt with immediately upon our return. We apologise for any inconvenience that may occur, but decided it was impractical to keep the office open without key staff. It has been a very demanding year: there are a lot of new challenges ahead. A good holiday will set us up to face them.

<u>MICHAEL C. RYAN</u> Director General