Annual Report - 2014

1. Board Membership.
   a. Total main board members: 14 (We also have representation on the Membership Committee, Natural Materials Association, Energy Materials Group, Sustainable Resources Group, PIABC, and Young Members Group. A further 2 Board Members have specific responsibilities concerning the quarterly Newsletter, and editorial for the International Wood Products Journal)
   b. Observer Members: 6 (Not invited to meetings – one represents us on the Energy Materials Group)
   c. Two people resigned this year.
   d. One new (younger) member was appointed, but subsequently resigned due to work changes.

2. Board Meetings.
   a. Three in the year.
   b. Two at 1 CHT, and one at Bath University.
   c. March Meeting: 8 attendees, plus 1 IOM3 representative
   d. July Meeting: 12 attendees plus 2 IOM3 representatives
   e. December Meeting: 10 attendees plus 3 IOM3 representatives

3. Activities.
   a. One issue of Wood Focus published (April). It has now been consumed within Materials World.
   b. Two Newsletters have followed, and a third is currently in preparation.
   c. Four issues of International Wood Products Journal have been published:
      i. There has been a burst of papers submitted, and the editorial workload is high.
      ii. The publisher is Maney.
   d. Careers Fairs and similar events:
      i. 8 events this year
   e. Web site hit rates are WTS in 2/3 place in IOM3 listings. Webmaster (Efi Fragou) is regularly updating the site
   f. Special “Away Day” with senior IOM3 management, resulted in a defined focus for the future.
   g. One of our members has set 6 crosswords for Materials World, and an article has been prepared for January 2015 Materials World.
   h. Links with the timber trade magazine, TTJ, have been opened, but IOM3 has been slow in taking this up.
   i. Established a permanent exhibition at Grantham.


5. Other Matters
   a. We are working towards introducing more Fellows into IOM3, and to work towards establishing Chartered status for some of our members.
   b. We are to provide the foyer exhibition material for the London in the first half of 2016
   c. We are concerned about the lack of wood related articles in Materials World (having lost Wood Focus), and will be working with IOM3 management to find a better balance, and thus have a tangible benefit to show to existing and prospective members
Addendum: **Future Strategy**

The wood sector represents annually an estimated £9 billion contribution to the UK economy, through imports, domestic production, trading, manufacturing, and related activities.

The Wood Technology Society (WTS) has developed with the assistance of IOM3 staff a strategy for the future, intended at giving a line of direction, expanding membership and improving wood training / education possibilities.

Key for the WTS is to develop a strategy that arrests the current membership decline, and looks towards future growth. This will especially encompass education and training, and will be regularly updated.

In addition the WTS is in a good position to facilitate networking and thought leadership.

The WTS can cultivate a collective energy supporting wood.

1. Membership. The WTS represents a potential for membership growth within IOM3. The target is to increase membership by 10% per year. This would be achieved by networking all aspects of the trade.

2. Education. Sound education and training can be used as a springboard for membership. The WTS can create a continuous level of learning for the timber trade.

The newly launched Timber and Panel Products course is a basic training platform for the trade, and currently under development is a Level 3 NVQ course aimed at technicians.

It is important to expand the scope of wood and wood science education to those outside the timber trade, such as the architectural and engineering communities, and to the universities/colleges/schools.

The WTS is also in a position to conduct master-classes, mini conferences/forums, and breakfast/evening events.

3. Exhibitions. The WTS will look at attending selected exhibitions to target membership growth, market wood technology courses and to partake in relevant seminars, and raise the profile of WTS/IOM3. The WTS is planning to attend Timber Expo in 2015.

4. Communicating. It is important to communicate the profile of WTS/IOM3, by making contact with the trade leaders, regular articles in Materials World, developing our in-house Newsletter and making it available to all IOM3 members, and maintaining the importance of our academic and well respected International Wood Products Journal.

Being lined up is a joint meeting in September 2015 with Scottish Polymers in Edinburgh, and initial talks are underway with the Packaging Society to hold a joint meeting.

A special timber conference is also being planned for 2016.

Also in the preparation are a couple of “Talking Heads” presentations on timber protection and grading.

The WTS will create events for WTS members and also including members from other communities within IOM3.

5. There is a long term aim of developing a Professional Recognition/Registration (for example Accredited Wood Professional) for the timber industry, that would lead directly to a post nominal.

AT: December 2014