From the President:

Presidents come and go and this is the last of these short notes I shall write to introduce the Newsletter. It has been both a pleasure and privilege to address the affairs of the IWSc for two years and I am grateful to all those, members of Council and of the different Committees, as well as those in the Branches and in the Office, who have been so supportive.

The IWSc has an essential role for the timber industry in establishing and maintaining levels of professional knowledge and competence. Ours is not a high-tech industry, but it is remarkable for the broad spectrum of disciplines involved. The IWSc has played and must continue to play a leading role in ensuring that there are effective means for education and training over this wide range of disciplines. What is needed and how it is achieved may change but the importance of maintaining standards of performance and professionalism will become greater rather than less. This is a challenge which will be met and all members and non-members in the industry, as well as the IWSc will benefit.

Dr John Brazier FIWSc

IWSc NATIONAL CONFERENCE 1990

The 1990 National Conference was again held at Stratford-upon-Avon which has proved an excellent venue over the last three years. The theme, "Trees, Timber and the Environment!", attracted some ninety-five delegates and wives which was perhaps a little disappointing considering its topical nature. Without doubt, though, the quality of the papers was of the very highest standard with each speaker delivering his paper in a relaxed and absorbing manner, leaving the delegates wanting to squeeze a little more from the time available.

The selection of three sub themes allowed the Conference to flow logically from one speaker to another, firstly with Rod Leslie of the Forestry Commission emphasising the need and their desire to make the UK forest environmentally acceptable, and Dick McRae of C.O.F.I. highlighting some of the problems in Western Canada which face producers. Together they clearly demonstrated the difficulties encountered by both foresters and lumbermen.

The enthralling session quickly blew away any cobwebs caused by over-indulgence at the previous evening's Conference Dinner with Duncan Poore calling upon his vast experience and knowledge to explain what sustainability in the tropical forest really meant. This opened the way splendidly for Arthur Morrell to talk us through the objectives and achievements of the International Tropical Timber Organisation and to outline its future programme.

The final session seemed to come all too quickly despite a warm, sunny May day outside and the temptation of a vintage car rally in the grounds of the hotel as Chris Coggins held our attention under the theme "The Continued Protection of Wood". Like the last night at the Proms, the Conference was brought to a resounding close with Bart Banks' novel and stimulating thoughts for the future protection of wood.

It was a good Conference, well staged and difficult to follow. Next year, 3rd and 4th May, sees a new venue (Hilton International at Bath), a new theme and hopefully another success.

Maurice Holloway AIWSc (Director)

WOOD PROTECTION

Editor Dr. I.D.A. Saunders.

The first issue of the IWSc Wood Protection Journal will be published in November. It will contain papers from Canada and the U.S.A. as well as the U.K. as follows:

Banks, W.B.K. & Wright, J. The development of water repellent treatment for wood based on chromium carboxylates.

Bruce, A et al. Solid bed decay studies of softwood pole segments treated with CCA by sap displacement.


Smith, S.M. & Morrel, J.J. Measuring distribution of chromated copper arsenate around incisions in Douglas Fir heartwood by direct scan X-ray techniques.

Order forms for the journal (£15 = £2 overseas airmail) are available from the IWSc office.

LONDON BRANCH SEMINAR

Remedial treatment of timber in buildings.

The London Branch is holding a Seminar on 18th October at Imperial College, London.

The speakers will include:-
Mr. Greg Bungay, HSE,
Dr. Dave Dickinson, Imperial College,
Roger Berry, BRE,
Dr. Frank Brookes, Fosroc Timber Treatment Division
Dr. B. Ridout, Consultant.

For application forms contact the IWSc Office.

CORPORATE MEMBERS

The following companies support the IWSc as corporate members. Akzo coatings plc; J. Alsford Ltd; Anglo-Norden Ltd; John Boddy Timber Ltd; BSW Timber plc; BPBI: Crosby-Sarek Ltd; Collie; Cuprinol Ltd; James Donaldson & Sons Ltd; John Boddy Timber Ltd; EOLAS: Fosroc Ltd; Glennon Bros. Timber Ltd; Guildway Ltd; Harcers Timber & Building Supplies Ltd; Hickson Timber Products Ltd; Hunter Timber Ltd; James Latham plc; Marlów and Co Ltd; F.W. Mason & Sons Ltd; Meyer International plc; MBM Forest Products Ltd; Price & Pierce Ltd; Remotol Ltd; Timber Trade Federation; Timbmet Ltd; TRADA; Travis Perkins plc; Henry Venables Ltd; Watford Timber Co. Ltd.
EDUCATION AND TRAINING

ALTERNATIVES TO ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE TIMBERS

New FIRA course — Monday 19th November.

Increasing restrictions on the supply of tropical timbers from some countries and the publicity given to the ecological consequences of tropical deforestation, are having an effect on the range of materials used to make domestic and contract furniture and furnishings in the U.K. Although complete kitchen and office ranges can be manufactured without the use of tropical timbers, manufacturers and suppliers of more traditional furniture, can be under considerable pressure.

This new FIRA course on alternatives is concerned with more efficient use of tropical timbers in the form of lippings, mouldings and veneers. It covers the availability of tropical timbers and sustainable managed resources, as well as sustainable hardwoods from temperate forests in Europe and North America. It also addresses the already well established use of wood based sheet materials in conjunction with decorative veneers and solid wood trims, and areas where their use will expand.

Course content is aimed at furniture manufacturers and their suppliers of materials; and most importantly product and interior designers, architects and other specifiers both from public and private sectors.

More details can be obtained from Miss Janette Cock, Training Administrator, at FIRA, Maxwell Road, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2EG. Tel: (0434) 313433.

THE MEMBERSHIP DEBATE — Comments received

In the March Newsletter we invited comments on the desirability of accepting ‘experienced senior’ members of the timber industry into the lettered grades of the IWSc. We were not overwhelmed with replies — only 7 out of a total readership of 1500 — you do all read the Newsletter? Obviously these 7 letters do not constitute a representative unbiased sample e.g. none from non-members who might see the benefit from a different perspective. Categorising the replies gave 4 in favour and 3 against. These were the main points which corresponded made.

First, those who agreed with the proposal; an Associate who took over 7 years to qualify felt that all professional trade personnel whether sales/technical or management with reasonable experience should be invited to AIFWSc. Another reader (CMIWSc) agreed that the IWSc should broaden membership by acknowledging the contribution of the industry’s management. He referred to Prof. Tom Osley’s Proposals discussed in 1978-79 when he stated that the IWSc should cater for a wider range of interests in the industry and in fact proposed that the IWSc should be renamed the Institute of Wood.

A director (BSc, AIWSc, LinstBM) of a building supplies company agreed with the proposal and referred us to the system used by the Institute of Builders Merchants. Although not exactly similar, special entry to their Licentiate may be granted without qualifications to “deserving” people aged 30+ and with at least 5 years experience. They may then be recommended for member (the higher grade) at age 40 after a minimum 5 years as Licentiate. Associate is limited to those who have achieved the necessary examinations.

Another director of a Timber and Builders Merchant firm who is a Member pointed out that as a senior manager of 25 years standing, he has a high technical knowledge of softwoods, hardwoods and sheet materials and is often advising qualified personnel. He proposes that the IWSc might establish a class of membership whose experience and expertise is properly recognised. He also felt that the IWSc should cover a much broader view of the timber industry.

On the negative side, one AIFWSc felt that to admit senior members of the industry would demean the status of membership to the IWSc and it would be better if the IWSc ensured the professional recognition of Associates deserved. Similar comments came from a second AIFWSc who pointed out that early ‘lettered’ members should now be reaching positions of seniority in their firms and should be encouraging those serious in making a career in the trade to study for their Associate since the knowledge gained was invaluable. Such young people might be deterred if they see unqualified senior staff admitted as ‘lettered’ members.

Finally a retired AIFWSc who has spent all his working life connected with the timber trade suggested that senior membership would not be required in wood science were probably recruited for financial expertise or business acumen rather than their knowledge of timber. Such managers could if necessary, organise themselves into their own association eg under the TRADA umbrella.

Other comments were that the general problems of the timber trade were due mainly to high interest rates and taxation, thus membership will not tend to advance people’s pay and careers. Two of the Associates who replied above also commented on the lack of relevance of the Journal and felt that articles of a more general nature would be more appropriate to the majority of membership.

Our thanks to those who have written in reply to our Membership Debate proposal. Your views and comments will be taken into account when the matter next comes up for discussion.

Dr. G.S. Hall, FIWSc
Jean M. Taylor, FIWSc

FIDOR — Student Sponsorship 1991

Mid-Warwickshire College of Further Education have been selected to receive next year’s Raynham Award Bursary.

The college is not only superbly equipped to carry out the sponsorship but extremely professional in attitude with both tutors and students very enthusiastic about the forthcoming fibrobond project.

Over 200 students will take part in the sponsorship to explore the physical properties, characteristics and capabilities of fibrobond.

These will include sculpture, product design, jewellery and textile students as well as those on traditional 3D and furniture courses so that new uses and ideas are encouraged, rather than repetition of old ones.

EXAMINATION QUOTE

(Reply to a question re information contained on a can of wood preservative).

"Answering this question would probably mean a page or two of more mind-blowing rubbish, so I will save you from that because I am Scottish and quite a nice guy actually. All I can say is that I wish I read the label when I had the tin at the time. I hope you have as much fun reading the other students’ essays as you hopefully have had reading this one. Get a cup of coffee, put your feet up and think about the nice things in life for 10 minutes. Until the rest...Bye, Byel!!"

MID-WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE of Further Education have produced a new brochure detailing their Timber Technology Courses. Copies are available from MWCFE, Warwick New Road, Leamington Spa, CV32 5JE — Tel: (0926) 311711.

TRADA PUBLICATIONS
Preservation treatment for timber — a guide to specification.

Wood Information Sheet 16. (Jan 1990) £2

This Wood Information Sheet does not aim to substitute for, or to paraphrase the two important standards, BS2660 Part 6:1989, but more to act as an explanatory introduction to their contents and intended end use.

The final message of the W1 Sheet is “If preservation treatment is appropriate to the circumstances, do it first, do it well and do it once and for all.”

Introduction to wood-based panel products.

Wood Information Sheet 23. (March 1990) £2

W1 Sheet 23 deals primarily with the manufacture and characteristics of the basic board types and also indicates some of the novelty products derived from them. It includes plywood (veneer plywood); blockboard/laminboard (Core plyboards); solid wood; chipboard (mentions other chipboards); Flakeboard — Wafer board and oriented strand board (OSB); Wood cement particle board; Fibre building boards.

A list of relevant associations is also included.

Timber pole construction by Lionel Janyati (£5.95 + P&P) Published jointly by TRADA and the Intermediate Technology Development Group.

This introductory survey describes the basic methods of harvesting, preserving and using timber poles. It details some preferred methods of pole-frame construction, as well as describing specific applications in foundations and floors, walls, roofs and jointing. Other uses — space frames, retaining walls, groynes and bridges — are also pointed out, and guidance given on sources of further information.

NEWS FROM FIRA
Progress in furniture labelling and endorsement

Following February’s critical official of Fair Trading report on furniture and carpets, FIRA has produced, from its Hertfordshire centre, by increasing the awareness of its furniture labelling and award schemes based on a product’s technical merit and standards. FIRST from FIRA test certificates and labelling possibilities (urged on by the OFT) as well as their prestigious Gold Award system for materials and complete items of furniture, are summarised in the 1989 Annual Report placed before the FIRA AGM held May 16th.

As the world-leading furniture test, technology and business consultancy centre with 950 members worldwide, FIRA also highlighted their depth of work on furniture flammability, and testing to tough Regulations for consumer-acceptable upholstery fabric and fillings in a greatly expanded test facility.

Research featured strongly into the properties of the large variety of tropical timber replacements, to ensure strength and durability would remain as high. Other green issues probed and advised on include the growing replacement of solvent-based finishes by water-based materials and laminates.

For copies of the report, more detailed information, or to arrange a visit, please contact Tony Spillard at FIRA, Maxwell Road, Stevenage, Herts. SG1 2EW. Tel: (0434) 313433.
LEEDS AND SHEFFIELD BRANCH

Extract from the Chairman's report presented at the AGM, May 2, 1990.

The year has been the first that the Branch has held its meetings at the Conference Centre of Hicksons Timber Products Ltd. The venue has been first class and has greatly eased the organisation of meetings. On behalf of the Branch I wish to thank the company for their support.

The committee organised an excellent line up of topics and speakers for 1990; all of which were relevant to the needs of the U.K. timber industry. The year's meetings started off with a visit to Castle Howard near York. At this outdoor social meeting for families and friends an enjoyable time was had by all including the chairman who was photographed on the slide in the children's play area.

In December, Dr. Frank Brooks, Fosroc Timber Treatments Division, talked on an insight into 1992 — Construction Products and European Standards. This was a well attended and informative talk by someone with first hand experience of what happens within the EEC. This provided a useful insight of things to come and it would be well worth inviting him back for an update as 1992 gets even nearer.

With impeccable timing by the committee, Don Thompson of the Forestry Commission was enabled to speak on February on the Great Gale of 1887 and its continuing effect. This took place only days after the Great Gale of 1990. The problems of dealing with large quantities of storm damaged timber were highlighted and the effect on the timber industry. In March, an excellent presentation was given by Mr. Kent Johansson on the energy efficiency of housing, giving us a glimpse into the future as to how housing may progress in the U.K. This was followed in April by a talk by Michael Buckley of the American Hardwood Export Council. He covered the American hardwoods available and gave an indication of the size of this industry and its forestry practices. A topical subject in the current climate of awareness of deforestation of tropical hardwoods.

This year has seen a slight increase in attendances with new faces present at meetings. The Branch must continue to strive to ensure that these new faces are not just the usual faces. This is in fact happening and is helped by the attraction of the social get togethers held after the meetings in Hickson's Sports and Social club with its very reasonable beer prices!

Neil Townend AIWSc (Chairman)

TYNE-TEES BRANCH

We are incorporating into our normal speaker programme, one evening which will be a sort of "expert panel" session. I shall be there as the TRADA Regional Officer, together with Dr. John Bull, our structural expert from Newcastle University, and Jim Ellison, who is a joynery consultant (as well as our Vice-Chairman).

We shall be available to answer questions from anyone — and we intend to invite a wide range of potential audience, not just Branch members. Another interesting proposal is that of "sponsorship", whereby we hope that a local company will pay for a hotel meeting room and encourage their staff and customers to attend, on the basis that we provide the "free" expert!

James C. Coulson AIWSc, FFB (Chairman)

MIDLAND BRANCH

The Midland Branch have run a number of highly successful weekend visits in recent years; York Minster, the Mary Rose, and Medieval Worcester. This year they will visit Hampton Court Palace on the weekend of 13/14 October. The weekend will include a visit to the 'Care of Buildings' exhibition and a talk by the resident architect about the timber aspects of the Palace and the work carried out in restoration after the recent fire. There will be a visit to Hampton Court Palace and finally a dinner and overnight accommodation at the Highclere Hotel, Sunninghill, Berks. Sunday morning is free for informal arrangements e.g. a visit to Windsor Castle could easily be undertaken.

Erle Smith AIWSc (Secretary)

LIVERPOOL BRANCH

One of the persistent headaches for local IWSc Committee members is the lack of attendance at Branch meetings. We will go to almost any lengths to encourage attendence, but should we really have to?

We have the quality of presentation, we have the knowledge that we have contacted each one of our members, but we still fail to attract the sort of member that we would like.

We would certainly not discount apathy as one of the major contributors; so the challenge must be to overcome that apathy. One of the well attended meetings this year was organised in collaboration with Dr. Banks of Bangor University. The success of the event owed a lot to the calibre of speaker (Dr. John Brazier), and to the location, i.e. on the Welsh Borders; however the good attendance must surely be put down to the student representation from Bangor University itself.

But what of our own IWSc students? Where are they when it comes to Branch meetings? They seem quite happy to gain their qualifications and the associated kudos in the trade. However, many are unwilling to put anything back thus ensuring the ongoing respectability of both the IWSc and the qualifications that they have striven so hard to achieve.

Is it time to force attendance at Branch meetings as a requirement of qualification or should we be totally reviewing the services that we offer our membership.

Without involvement and contributions from these younger people then there will in a very short time be no IWSc at all.

Dr. P.M. Beale, AIWSc

SCOTTISH BRANCH

The fifth meeting of the new series was held in June following the AGM, when Mr. T. Bell gave an enlightening lecture on Timber Engineering, with many interesting slides and diagrams, covering a wide range of structures, with comparisons to other commonly used construction engineering materials. There were a number of thought provoking questions from the audience.

The management committee have produced a programme for the next series of Branch meetings commencing in September with a talk by the Branch Chairman, Professor King, on the Biotechnology of wood decay. Presentations for other meetings include the joinery industry, the buyer's view of the market, wood finishes and technology combined with a visit to see test samples and a cultural view of wood.

We have been able to take advantage of new accommodation with facilities for meetings at Sterling Enterprise Park and the continued success of Branch activities will depend on the support of the Branch membership. We shall be pleased to welcome members who have not been able to attend so far, as well as other interested guests, to our overall benefit.

Eric Wylle (Secretary)

THE IWSc WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW APPLICANTS WHO HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED DURING THE PAST YEAR IN THE GRADES AS FOLLOWS

Fellows
Dr Janice Carey, Aylesbury, Bucks.
W.A. Dost, Richmond, Calif. U.S.A.
Dr. E.R. Miller, Sauderton, Bucks.
Dr. J.W. Palfreyman, Dundee, Scotland.

Associates
M.G. Beach, Exeter, Devon.
P.A. Carney, Bolton, Gt. Manchester.
P.M. Chipunza, Mture, Zimbabwe.
R. Davies, Bangor, Gwynedd.
S.A. Davis, Bournemouth, Dorset.
G.M. Downes, Cresswick, Australia.
W.H. Fawcett, Kidman Park, Australia.
F.E. Feeney, Naas, Co. Kildare.
N.J. Firbank, Leeds, West Yorks.
J. Gittins, Blackpool, Lancs.
K.J. Harding, Holland Park, Qld, Australia.
I.D. Hartley, Blackburn, VA. U.S.A.
A.G. Joseph, St. George, Grenada.
J.M. Higson, Dunkeld, Perthshire.
N. Jiru, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
G.I. Jones, Liverpool, Merseyside.
V.M. Joshi, Dandeli, India.
S. Leju, Nairobi, Kenya.
Susan Mary Lucas, Silvan, Vic. Australia.
T.J. Mathews, Todmorden, Lancs.
I.R.F. McClure, Ayr, Scotland.
B.W. McCullagh, Kilrnan, Co. Dublin.
J.T. Molony, Limerick, Eire.
L. Mott, Wimborne, Dorset.
R.I. Northway, Ascot Vale, Australia.
S.I. Ng'Ang'A, Eldoret, Kenya.
Cheng Lee Ong, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Prof. E. Petty, Limerick, Eire.
M.Z. Rasul, Halifax, West Yorks.
C. Richardson, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.
Dr. B.V. Ridout, Stonbridge, W. Midlands.
J. Samuel, Cwmbran, Gwent.
S.R. Sewell, Nunetan, Warwicks.
Dr. J. Singh, Guildford, Surrey.
G.R. Stewart, High Wycombe, Bucks.
M.P. Swithenby, High Wycombe, Bucks.
M.J. Truran, Hazare, Zimbabwe.
S.K.A. Yeo, Singapore.

Certificated Members
G. Crilly, Maghull, Merseyside.
L. Jones, Wirral, Merseyside.

Members
R.I. Day, Helensburgh, Scotland.
G. Cholmeley, Seahaf, Lincs.
H.T. Jones, Wigan, Gt. Manchester.
T.P. Kavanagh, Castlebar, Co. Mayo.
F.H. Lewis, Old Colwyn, Clwyd.

Upgrading to Fellow
Dr. J.W. Bull, Bedlington, Northumberland.
Dr. V. Entilly, Oxford.
Dr. L.D.A. Saunders, High Wycombe, Bucks.

Students Enrolled — 48.
COLLOQUIUM ON RESEARCH IN WOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

(Report taken from the 'Wood Science Digest' of the Australian Branch, with the kind permission of the editor — J.J. Mack). The colloquium which was well attended by 60 members and others, was presented by the Australian Branch of the IWSt to the CSIRO Division of Forestry and Forest Products, Clayton, Victoria, on 24 May 1990. After a buffet meal three prominent scientists from the U.K. told of the work of their organisations and all who were there voted the meeting a great success. Limitations of space unfortunately prevent a full report of the enormous amount of information provided by the three speakers during their allotted time of 30 minutes each, so the following are very brief synopses of their talks.

Professor John Levy, Senior Research Fellow at the Imperial College, London, gave a brief introduction to the other speakers. He said that environmental problems, involving in standardisation within the EEC and re-afforestation in the U.K. are their main areas of research all involving an enormous amount of work.

Dr. Tony Bravery, Head of Timber Division, Building Research Establishment, Garston, said that BRE is a £24 million business and described their two main avenues of research — basic wood properties and utilisation and wood protection. They are heavily involved in British and European Standards for methods of test and performance for end-use of panel products, the standardisation of adhesives, adhesive performance and test methods for structural and non-structural end-uses of adhesives. Properties of home grown softwoods and the relation between growth characteristics and structural quality are being examined in order to produce a better quality of timber. Wood finishes are also being studied.

The main thrust of the work of the Preservation and Biodegradation Section is the long term performance and permanence of preservative treatments, the development of European standards and durability studies. Other research involves wood microbiology, non-wood microbiology, wood entomology leading to European standards, and effectiveness of on-site preservative implants.

SPONSORS REQUIRED

Gavin Jordan, currently a lecturer at Mid-Warwickshire College Leamington Spa will be leaving his position at the college to study for a one year MSc in production forestry. He will not receive any financial support for this course and has to pay £2200 in course fees.

Will your company consider sponsoring him for part of these fees in exchange for in-house training for some of your employees, or a marketing project? He has designed and run training courses for large timber companies and has conducted marketing projects for the New Zealand forestry authority, the University College of North Wales, and industrial market research companies.

Gavin Jordan can be contacted at Vyates Cottage, Layhams Road, Keston, Kent. BR2 6AR, or Tel: 0959 71851.

SITUATION WANTED

Mark Curtis, CMIWStC, is seeking employment within the timber industry, preferably to do with importation. He is 23 and holds a City and Guilds joinery certificate as well as being a Certified member of the IWSt. He is willing to relocate. Any firm wishing to take on a young, keen, qualified employee can contact Mark Curtis at 46 Glossop Road, Marple Bridge, Stockport, SK6 5EL.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Oct. 16-18 Floors, Building Design Centre.
18 London Branch Seminar, Imperial College.
23-26 Building 90, Earls Court.
25-27 FIDOR Conference, Dromoland Castle, Eire.
25-28 London Woodworker Show, Alexandra Palace.
28-30 DIY Trade Exhibition, Earls Court.
Nov. 6-9 Windows International, Alexandra Palace.
27-29 Warehouse 90, Alexandra Palace.
28-30 Wood Protection with Diffusible Preservatives, Doubterhead Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee, U.S.A.
Dec. 5-7 RESTOREX 90, Alexandra Palace.

1991

March 14-
April 7 Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition, Earls Court.
May 3-4 IWSt National Conference, Hilton International Hotel, Bath.