Chairman's report 2015

As Chairman of The Member's Benevolent Trust (MBT) it is a pleasure to introduce my first report having been elected Chairman at the Annual General Meeting held on 9th July 2014.

The Members Benevolent Trust (MBT)

The Member’s Trust of the Institute of Metals was established by Trust Deed on 12 December 1961 and registered as a charity number 207184. After numerous deeds of variation over the years and the merger of other Institutions who had benevolent funds the latest deed of variation was adopted on 10th June 2003 which included a change of name to the Member's Benevolent Trust of the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining.

The objectives of the MBT include the relief of persons who are members or former members, or current or former permanent employees of more than two years standing. Including the spouses, widows, widowers, parents, children, grandchildren, or dependents of an eligible person of IOM3 or of bodies which have merged or been absorbed by IOM3.

The MBT is an independent registered charity, although we operate independently we are very much an integral part of IOM3 and form one of the benefits it offers to its members. The Trust offers support and advice which includes the Almoner role, as well as financial help. We treat all cases equally in terms of criteria for assistance and procedures.

I believe our objectives have been maintained during the current year.

The MBT Board

The Board continues to function well. My colleagues on the Board of Trustees work hard and conscientiously, as do the team of visitors who see claimants to counsel them and assess how they can best be helped. This team includes the local benevolent fund organisers of the former Institution of Mining Engineers who attend cases in their regions. All are supportive and active.

In this context, I must make especial mention of Gavin Bowyer, Honorary Secretary of MBT, and Steve Dawe, Honorary Treasurer, for their dedication and substantial efforts in carrying out their respective offices. I am fortunate to have such support and thank everyone concerned for their magnificent efforts.

Two long-standing board members David Oxley and Tony Brewis have indicated that they will retire from the board in July 2015. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them both and David Oxley in particular for his role as Chairman which he held for four years. Both have made tremendous contributions and I record our deep appreciation for their loyal service.
A number of Board members retire by rotation at the AGM: Alan Baxter, Sheila Wright, Gavin Bowyer, and Jan Lewis. All are making themselves available for re-election.

**Our Financial Resources**

Our resources to provide financial assistance to support the MBT activities comes from the income of our investments, direct donations from members and increasingly from the activities of the local Societies of IOM3. The Treasurer’s report will demonstrate briefly how the funds have been distributed and the involvement of local societies. The increased involvement of local Societies not only helps in raising funds but also the distribution of leaflets last year has increased the awareness of the MBT and acted as a conduit between members and the board.

**Concluding remarks**

The MBT as a registered charity submits to the Charity Commission; Trustees Report, Independent Examiners Report and Statement of Financial activities. These reports are to be made available via our web site [www.iom3.org/members-benevolent-trust](http://www.iom3.org/members-benevolent-trust). More detail is contained in the reports and I would like to see this stimulate more volunteers to participate in the activities of the MBT particularly as new members of the board of trustees.

I would like to acknowledge the positive support of the Council and staff of the Institute, whose members we serve, this relationship is important to our effectiveness.

Looking to the future I believe 2014 was a successful year for the Trust, however we need to be proactive in establishing the needs of those members and their dependents who may require the support of the MBT.

Charles Rhodes IEng FIMMM
Chairman, The Member’s Benevolent Trust