Chairman’s report 2016

As Chairman of The Member’s Benevolent Trust (MBT) it is a pleasure to introduce my second report having being re-elected Chairman at the Annual General Meeting held on 8th July 2015.

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.

Over the last year a number of our long term recipients of the fund have passed away but I am pleased to report that one recipient from 1999 wrote thanking MBT for the substantial support that he and his family had received and indicating that he is now recovered from this serious illness, is enjoying good health with his family and therefore no longer requires assistance.

The MBT is a charity registered independently of IOM3 and although we operate independently we are very much an integral part of IOM3 being 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.

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 Mining Institutes and others who attend cases in their regions. All are supportive and active.

In this context, I must make special mention of Gavin Bowyer, Honorary Secretary of MBT, for what will be his last year as Honorary Secretary after six years. This year Gavin has not only carried out the normal business of the Trust but has also been instrumental in the extensive work undertaken in the recruitment of his successor, who subject to approval at the AGM on the 5th July 2016, will take up his duties on election.

I must also particularly thank Steve Dawe, Honorary Treasurer for his continued efforts, despite family illness, to ensure that finances and payments to recipients have been successfully managed.
I thank them both for their dedication and substantial efforts in carrying out their respective offices.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to John Northcott, who had been involved with the MBT for a considerable time. He retired from the Board due to a serious illness at the beginning of 2016, and sadly died in March. Also Jan Lewis is standing down at the AGM having served as a Trustee since 2009. Both of them have made substantial contributions over a number of years and I record our deep appreciation for their loyal service.

A number of Board members retire by rotation at the AGM: Chris Corti, Eric Dempster, and Norman Riley, who are all making themselves available for re-election.

I am fortunate to have such support and thank everyone concerned for their magnificent efforts.

**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. I thank the South West and Wales Polymer local society for a donation to the MBT of £19,628 after the dissolution of the society. I am pleased to record the donation from IOM3 as indicated at the time of the EGM on the IOM3 proposed governance changes. 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 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 2015 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.