Chairman’s Report 2019

As Chairman of The Member’s Benevolent Trust (MBT) it is a pleasure to introduce my fifth report having been re-elected Chairman at the Annual General Meeting held on 20th June 2018.

The Member’s 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 (IOM3).

The objectives of the MBT include relief for 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 additional cases requiring assistance have been identified and assistance has been given in the form of support and advice which includes the Almoner role, as well as financial help. All cases are assessed equally in terms of criteria for assistance and procedures. 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 past and current members.

The MBT Board
A risk register, based upon Charity Commission guidelines, has been instigated and the Trustees have scored and prioritised each individual risk. The highest priority risks are currently data protection, Trustee/visitor/applicant safety and succession planning. Existing mitigating actions in each of these risk areas are discussed at Board meetings, and ideas for additional actions noted.

- Work has been undertaken as to the effect of the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) as regards our use of data of claimants and other organisations. This is ongoing which includes case anonymity, both in correspondence and finance, improving security for stored data and adding a privacy notice to the application form.
- A Safeguarding Policy has been introduced, which sets out the MBT’s commitment to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. The Charity Commission advises that safeguarding is a priority for all charities, not only those working with groups traditionally considered at risk. Safeguarding in this context means recognizing that the needs, well-being and safety of our beneficiaries and volunteers are considered at all times.
- Succession planning, and in particular new Board Trustees and visitors to claimants. With the assistance of IOM3 staff a flyer has been designed and printed, the purpose of which is to publicise the MBT and outline its aims and how members can participate in its activities. Additional articles and advertising have been published in Materials World.

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 Institutes and others who attend cases in their regions. All are
supportive and active. I particularly thank Peter Waugh, Honorary Secretary, for the tremendous amount of work carried out implementing changes and the administrative work associated with the GDPR and other charity changes which effect the MBT. Also, Steve Dawe, Honorary Treasurer for his continued efforts, in what has been a continued difficult time, to ensure that finances and payments to recipients have been successfully managed. Not least the ongoing changes associated with the managed funds, which are near completion. I thank them both for their dedication and substantial efforts in carrying out their respective offices.

Two of the current Trustees, Norman Riley and Gavin Bowyer, have decided not to seek re-election at the upcoming AGM. Norman was Chairman of the Benevolent Fund of the Institute of Mining Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (IMEME) and continued as chairman when the IMEME merged with the Institute of Mining Engineers (IMinE) in 1995. He then became Treasurer of the Benevolent Fund at the merger with Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (IMM) in 1998. He was involved with the merger with IOM3 in 2003 and has been a Trustee to the present-day. Gavin has served the MBT over the last 10 years both as a Trustee and as a long serving Honorary Secretary. I take this opportunity to thank Norman and Gavin for the tremendous amount of work and commitment they have given over the years and I wish them an enjoyable future.

The following Board members retire by rotation at the AGM on the 26th June 2018, Chris Corti, Eric Dempster and Peter Waugh. All are 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 come 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 how the funds have been distributed and highlight the strong position of the funds and reserves. 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 when adopted at the AGM on the 26th June 2019 will be made available via our web site 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 Communications and Membership departments and the IT staff of the Institute; this relationship is important to our effectiveness.

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

Charles Rhodes  FIMMM
Chairman, The Member’s Benevolent Trust