

Acting Branch Organisation Secretary

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INTRODUCTORY NEWSLETTER

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Hello,

Welcome to Doncaster and the first Members' Weekend of the 21st Century.

As you should by now be aware I have agreed to take over Steve Hodge's role on the Management Committee as Branch Organisation Secretary. Recent correspondence from Steve (last newsletter), and from Rodney Lissenden, should have made the reasons for this change clearly evident.

Whilst the change became effective on 1st November, it will of course need to be duly ratified at the 2001 AGM in Exeter where it is anticipated the title of this role will be changed to "Branch Liaison Officer".

However, with the Members' Weekend and Officers Conference here at Doncaster, now seems an appropriate time to produce my first missive.

As volunteers we all have different levels of commitment, whether in our personal lives or dealing with administration within organisations such as ours. The task facing me has to be looked upon as a "challenge", one that I wouldn't have agreed to take on board if I felt I could not devote the level of time and effort required to develop it and make it successful. At the same time I have the support of my Branch at Ipswich where John Bloomfield will be taking over as Secretary whilst I will remain on the Committee as his assistant.

We are all aware of the problems that previously existed, now must be the time to learn from these difficulties, as we strive to look to the future rather than be critical of the past. To carry out the job I will obviously need help, that help will come from yourselves, as Society Officers and Branch Administrators.

Whilst the Management Committee can evaluate what we would like you to know, it could be that certain points are being missed. Perhaps there are times when we need to know what you, the Branches, would like us to tell you. The word is "communication". It has to be a two-way effort from both sides of the fence so to speak. I have some ideas as to how I will approach the issue. Let me have your thoughts.

During the next few days I will be sifting through the files that are being passed to me this weekend by Steve. It will be from these files that I will get a better picture of what goes on and which issues need to be addressed more urgently than others are. I am under no illusion about the task ahead, please be patient during the early exchanges, after which I hope that you will all be satisfied with my performance.

To start with I hope to produce a *Branch Directory*, as well as MC information, it will be designed to give as much information about each Branch, it's Officers, Activities, Meeting Venues and any other information deemed useful. The objective will be for each Branch to hold a copy that can be updated and amended as required. Hopefully this will keep essential data in one volume rather than spread around various RO's. To this end I will be requiring information from Branch Secretaries at some stage, but only once I have gleaned as much as I can from existing documents. I will be in touch.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, either by Email or post, if you have any questions to ask or constructive advice to give. If you need a postal reply remember to enclose a SAE.

Have an enjoyable weekend here in Doncaster.