

NO 174

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## "WELCOME TO THE UK BRANCH OF IPENZ"

A warm welcome to the lead-up to the party season, especially to those of you receiving this newsletter for the first time.

The vote, at the IPENZ UK Association AGM in June, was in favour of changes to the Association rules to align them further with the standardised IPENZ Branch rules. These rule changes will improve the delivery of IPENZ services to members of IPENZ who are resident in the UK.

The most immediate effect of the change is to widen the membership to all IPENZ members in the UK, so here's a brief introduction to the Branch.

The IPENZ UK Association is now known as the UK Branch of IPENZ and, where possible, provides members of IPENZ resident in or visiting the UK, and other interested individuals, the services provided by IPENZ to its members, including acting as a vehicle for members to contact and meet each other.

A number of events are organised each year including social gatherings, technical meetings and visits to sites of engineering interest. Forthcoming events are listed below. Competence Assessments can also be arranged to be held in the UK on behalf of IPENZ National Office, Wellington.

There is an email mailing list to get news to UK members and this newsletter is published approximately quarterly. Further detail is always available on our website at: <http://www.ipenz.org.uk>

Cheers,

Kelvin Smith (Ed.)

## RECENT EVENTS HOSTED BY IPENZ

### Annual General Meeting

The AGM in June was once again held in the dizzy heights of the Penthouse at New Zealand House.

This year we had the privilege of the presence of Andrew Cleland, CEO of IPENZ, Virginia Burton, Director – Learning and Assessment, Basil Wakelin, Chair of the Standards and Accreditation Board, John Webster, a previous President of IPENZ at the AGM. The discussion was lively and it was great to have first hand input from the heart of the organisation.

Jonathan Gammon has taken over the reigns as Chairman from Ian Kirker and we are very thankful that Selwyn Aickin, Andrew Delugar and Jock Stewart continue their roles as Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Auditor respectively.

After the formalities of the AGM everyone was able to enjoy the socialising, refreshments and those great views over London. As usual the bar was a very busy place.

### Annual BBQ and Family Fun-day

Another successfully smoky and sunny day was held by the riverside at the Henley Rowing Club in August, despite bad weather all around. About 20 members and family turned up to enjoy the food and watch the activity on the river. Thanks to the team for organising another great day out. We look forward to seeing many new faces there next year.

## MEET THE MEMBERS

A brief insight into the lives of New Zealand Engineers living and working in the UK will appear in future issues. Your face may soon appear here, so members can get to know who else is out there.

## IPENZ UK NEWS

### IPENZ UK Association becomes UK Branch of IPENZ

In June the AGM vote was in favour of changes to the Association rules to align them further with the standardised Branch structure. The changes take effect from October 1<sup>st</sup> 2004 and the principal changes are:

- a) the membership will comprise all those financial members of IPENZ who are resident in the UK rather than just those who opt to become members of the Association (provision is made for some non-members of IPENZ to become Special Members of the Association, see below).
- b) the principal source of funding will be an annual grant from IPENZ National Office that is based on the number of IPENZ members resident in the UK.

The effect of this for existing members of the Association would be:

- a) no longer paying a local subscription to the Association but instead paying a branch levy as part of their annual fees to IPENZ (in practice, this will be seen as a reduction in the overseas member fees rebate received by members resident in the UK with the net financial effect likely to be close to zero, depending on the exchange rate between the pound and NZ dollar)
- b) a larger number of members which will provide greater diversity and richness of engineering experience within the Association and a larger pool of people to participate in our technical and social activities.

There are two principal deviations from the branch model:

- a) the Association will continue to maintain its own finances and bank account due to the impracticality of National Office dealing with small amounts of money in a different currency on the other side of the world
- b) the Association will continue to maintain its own Public Liability Insurance policy, as cover for our activities in the UK can not be provided by the policy held by IPENZ National Office.

Special Members prior to 1 October 2004 will now need to apply for special membership under the new rules. An application form will be available on the website and will be sent out separately for that purpose. Such applications will be more closely scrutinised by the committee than in the past and some applicants will be declined and asked to join IPENZ instead.

At the insistence of IPENZ National Office, we are required to charge a higher subscription rate for those who wish to just belong to the UK Branch without being members of IPENZ. Refer to the website for price details.

## OTHER NEWS & USEFUL INFORMATION

Strike may disrupt Air New Zealand's operations - the Service and Food Workers Union (SFWU) says possible strike action by ground staff has the potential to seriously affect both international and domestic services along with reservations, finance and cargo. No date has yet been set for any action. Negotiations are continuing in an effort to reach a settlement.

Car running on milk - Fonterra is running a car partly on ethanol produced from whey left behind during the manufacture of casein. Fonterra has struck a deal with petrol company Gull Petroleum to produce E10 – a fuel containing 10 per cent ethanol. It is hoped the results of the trial would lead to the fuel becoming commercially available in NZ.

Commercial Space Flights - A three-seat rocket plane, SpaceShipOne, has completed the first leg of its attempt to win the Ansari X Prize. The US\$10M prize will go to the first team to build a spacecraft without Government help, launch three people or their weight equivalent at least 100km straight up, and then repeat the feat within two weeks. Virgin founder Richard Branson plans to license the technology behind SpaceShipOne to build a fleet of five-seat spacecraft to offer US\$190,000 rides to space tourists beginning in 2007. There is some concern among customers of other Virgin services about reliability and on-time performance!

Gift for those that have everything – A robotic vacuum cleaner is now on the market for NZ\$2400. It steers with the aid of sonar and also has bump sensors. Now you can relax and do the housework at the same time.

If anyone has any snippets of news, from NZ or the UK, which would be of interest to the members please let me know at [Editor@ipenz.org.uk](mailto:Editor@ipenz.org.uk).

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Joint IPENZ and Engineers Australia Technical Talk

This year it is the turn of the Australians to host the annual technical talk and they have some interesting topics on offer for this event.

Topic: To Be Decided – proposals so far:

- Recycled Asphalt Road Surfacing
- Amec Rail Engineers
- Post-tensioned concrete slabs
- McLaren F1

Date: Provisionally, Friday, 19 November 2004

Details: Time, Price & Venue to be advised, keep an eye on the website.

### Christmas Soirée

It is the Australian's turn this year to host the joint pre-Christmas Soirée and we look forward to another helping of their wonderful hospitality in the magnificent surroundings in Australia House.

Date: Friday, 3 December 2004

Time: 7pm

Price: To Be Advised

Venue: Australia House, The Strand, London  
Please note that smoking is not permitted inside Australia House.  
Australia House is located on the eastern corner of Aldwych and The Strand.  
The nearest tube station is Temple. There is a location map on the website.

Dress: Lounge Suit

### Other IPENZ UK Events Proposed for 2004

- Site visit to Heathrow Terminal 5 - This will almost definitely be early on a weekday evening, possibly followed by dinner at a pub
- Site visit to the M25 Expansion works

A small charge is made for most events to cover costs.

If you or your company are working on a project, about which a talk, presentation at a technical meeting, or site visit could be arranged please contact the Chairman or the Hon. Secretary. Also, please contact them if there are any sites of engineering interest you would like to visit or if you would like more details about any of the above events.

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### Events Being Hosted By Other Groups

The following events are being hosted by other groups but may be of interest to members of IPENZ UK. Please contact the organisers of these events for further information.

Event: Weekend Trip to York

Organisation: UK Division of Engineers Australia

Date: Fri 15 / Sat 16 October 2004

Details: £10 each for twin share accommodation and tour of Humber Bridge – own travel arrangements

Contact: RSVP: Ben Ringrose, [ben@jsaconsult.co.uk](mailto:ben@jsaconsult.co.uk) by October 4<sup>th</sup>. [Check their website for details](#)