

ACT

CONFERENCE CALL IS A MUST

All readers of *The Treasurer* should by now have seen the flyer for the UK Treasurer's Conference, which we are again running this year in association with EuroFinance Conferences in Brighton from 29 April to 1 May. If you have received multiple copies of the flyer, my apologies; our repeated efforts to 'de-duplicate' the lists used for mailshots are, I am afraid, never going to be perfect. The initial response to the mailings has been very encouraging and the indications are that there will be an excellent attendance from a cross-section of the treasury community.

If you have not already committed to joining us in Brighton do please consider it. The conference ranks alongside the Annual Dinner as a key event in the ACT's calendar. We try to programme the conference to a level of quality that ensures attendees genuinely feel the commitment of their time – and their own or their organisation's money – has been worthwhile. That satisfaction will be driven by a combination of the interest and expertise of the speakers, the networking that such an event encourages, the value of the access to exhibitors and the overall way in which we and our partners run the event.

You can review the conference programme and register online at the dedicated website www.uktreasurers.com I am well aware that in current conditions discretionary spend on things like conferences is bound to be closely scrutinised but my hope is that for both members and non-members being able to come to our event will be seen as inherently worthwhile. As always your feedback is important, both before and after the conference. This is the third year the ACT and our partners have put on a conference in the current format and we are already actively thinking about our approach for 2004 and beyond.

CONTACT. I have to admit that in writing this column each month for *The Treasurer* I am sometimes tempted to ask "Is there anyone out there?" To restate the obvious, the ACT exists to bring benefit to its members through the advancement of their understanding, standards and expertise in treasury management. Although I have a good deal of contact with our members through the multitude of events, regional groups, committees and Council meetings and so forth that I attend – as well as though face to face meetings with individual members – I continue to be really keen to hear from more people directly.

The encouragement of feedback is particularly important in current economic and business conditions. Like almost everybody else we are having to work even harder just to stand still, and if standing still is not enough (which it should not be) moving forward requires

that much more effort. My overriding concern is to be as sure as I can that the effort is suitably focused. I believe that almost nothing should be sacred as we determine how our scarce resources should best be marshalled.

In planning the direction of the ACT I receive valuable support and guidance from Council and of course from all the committees. But I do want to hear from lay members and indeed the wider group of Treasurer readers. There is also a slightly subtle hidden agenda here: all of us involved in running the ACT are aware of the priority to engage members who have hitherto not been active in the organisation, but we need help to focus our efforts in finding these future leaders for Council and committees. One of the best ways to do this is by telling me or anyone else on Council what you think. My email address is rraeburn@treasurers.co.uk and my direct telephone line is 020 7213 0734.

ON THE MOVE

- **Charles Barlow MCT**, formerly Director of Corporate Treasury Solutions, has been appointed Group Treasurer at Coats plc.
- **Michael Bartholomeusz MCT**, formerly Managing Director of Tricity Finance, has co-founded the Jetram Partnership to provide strategic, management and risk management assistance to organisations, with a particular emphasis on business turnaround and refinancing.
- **Keith Hannah AMCT**, has joined Land Securities Group plc as Project Finance Director. Previously he worked in KPMG Corporate Finance, part of KPMG LLP.
- **Paula Hay-Plumb MCT**, previously Chief Executive at English Partnerships, has moved to Marks and Spencer plc as Director of Corporate Finance.
- **Iain Higgs AMCT**, has been appointed Assistant Director for the Birmingham office of The Royal Bank of Scotland Financial Markets. He joins the Birmingham team from The Royal Bank of Scotland International, Isle of Man, where he was Head of Sales.
- **Michael Wort AMCT**, formerly Middle Office Manager at Shell International Ltd, has been appointed Assistant Global Treasurer at Shell Chemicals LP.

Please send items for inclusion (including daytime telephone number) to Anna McGee, amcgee@treasurers.co.uk.