

ACT

WELCOMING THE NEW PRESIDENT

The Association works with a financial year that starts at the beginning of May, so I have a well-founded excuse for not focusing this column in January on new beginnings, new resolutions. In one respect, however, there is an important change to note: Anthony Stern reached the end of his stint as President and from the first of January Philip Gillett has taken over.

Anthony served as President for two years, the last to do so under the old governance structure. Since the changes agreed during 2001 the Association has a simpler and, I believe, more cohesive leadership team, in which a Vice President, Deputy President and President form the core. Once appointed Vice President the annual progression will normally be automatic, so by the third year an incoming President will have held the more junior roles for two years and be fully involved with the strategic direction and issues of the Association.

We are all very grateful to Anthony for his commitment and leadership whilst President. Without this there would have been no governance changes and I am certain the Association would then have been less well-positioned to deal with the difficult environment we faced for much of 2002 and expect will continue well into 2003. I have known Anthony for a long time and the good news is we will not lose his direct involvement immediately: he moves on to chair the Appointments, Remuneration and Audit Committee (ARAC) and stays on Council for this year as the Immediate Past President.

The end of 2002 also marked Philippa Foster Back's stepping down from Council as Immediate Past President and as chair of the ARAC. Philippa has done an immense amount for the Association since its very earliest days and we will all miss her involvement. We will however still see her on the Education Trust.

The team at the ACT looks forward to working with Philip Gillett, who brings the benefit of a strong background in tax as well as his activity in other organisations such as the CBI. The new leadership team on Council is therefore Philip, Chris Jones (Deputy President) and Stephen Crompton, who has been appointed Vice President.

GETTING INVOLVED. One of the areas I am keen to develop during 2003 is our ability to make members feel involved in the Association and to ensure they feel that membership is worthwhile – value for money. Inevitably the two are interlinked: I make no bones about the reality I see, which is that value for money depends in large measure on how much our members are able to put back into the organisation. Why is this the case? Put simply, we could not provide the range of services that we do without volunteer input. We depend not quite on “the kindness of strangers”, like Blanche Dubois in *A Streetcar Named*

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Desire, but on members – and many non-members too – who drive the operation of committees and working groups.

The turn of the year is an appropriate time to record that during 2002 a number of people stood down from committee membership; whilst all have given valuable service to the Association for which Council and the team in Ocean House are very grateful, some names in particular stand out. I hope those that are not named here will forgive me if I concentrate on the latter.

In editorial and publications Andrew Grant Duff played a tremendous part on the committee to ensure the *Handbook* and *The Treasurer* maintained their quality and consistency. Richard Hodgkinson was also involved for a long time and will be missed. On programme committee Mike Bryant has been invaluable and his presence is missed in more ways than one; fortunately we still have him involved through Council. Ulrica Marshall has been a great supporter also. Christopher Duffett, Jeremy Fairbrother and Gurdip Dhimi were key members of technical committee, and from our member services committee we were sorry to lose Howard Dodd.

The education committee saw three stalwarts leave, in Stephen East, Philip Rand and Adrian Marsh. Between them they shared many years of experience of development of our world-leading qualifications (and in the case particularly of Philip Rand, the introduction of CPD material). Stephen remains a trustee of the Education Trust and through that will be closely involved in our plans to invest in education. Finally, Irvine Caplan had been the organiser of the City regional group and like all our organisers dedicated a considerable amount of time in a role that can I suspect have its frustrations.

Whilst we lose committee members whose experience has been so important to the development of the Association, we focus a good deal of time trying to spot potential new members. Participation is not restricted to members of the Association and I, or any of the committee chairs (names are in each edition of *The Treasurer*), welcome ‘cold calls’ to express interest. **RICHARD RAEBURN**