

ACT EVENTFUL TIMES

As I write this I am just back from attending our joint venture conference in Brighton. An immense amount of work goes into organising these events but the reward comes in seeing excellent attendance, valuable presentations from senior ACT members and keynote speeches from two members of the ACT's advisory board, Mary Keegan and John Plender. Feedback on the Brighton event has been very encouraging, particularly as we formulate our new plans for next year (see more below).

The ACT's conference and training programme is an integral part of what we do both for members and for non-members. By putting together relevant and attractive programmes we can provide real value for those who attend and in the process generate a financial contribution to underwrite other activities that are not 'commercial' in approach but which are vital to the overall life of the ACT.

During the past 12 months we have organised a number of very well received conferences, including programmes on pensions, ratings and of course the flagship *Introduction to Treasury*, to which so many members have over the years contributed their experience for the benefit of those new to the profession. By the time you read this article, we will have held the *Living with IAS 39* conference, focusing on the impact of the changes in derivative accounting standards. In this, as with all our conferences, I am very keen that we focus substantially on the treasury practitioner, on the basis that this is central to what the ACT stands for.

NEW ANNUAL CONFERENCE. Next year will see a significant change in our conference programme as it will include a major 'annual conference' that we will be putting on as our own event rather than working through a joint venture. I am confident that all involved, whether as delegates, sponsors or exhibitors, will appreciate the benefits this will bring. We will draw on the depth of professional and industry knowledge our members can contribute to the detailed development of the programme.

Our events team will bring their experience of organising similar events (and the Annual Dinner, which is one of the largest such events held in London) to the delivery of this conference. We will announce the date and location very soon.

In the meantime, do please plan on attending and let me – or our events manager, Jane Wicks (jwicks@treasurers.co.uk) – have your views on your preferred format and content for the annual conference. We are also preparing a direct email approach to a number of members to poll their attitude to the conference and commissioning some independent research.

ANNUAL DINNER. We have already announced that Baron Alexandre Lamfalussy will be the speaker at this year's annual dinner (on 12

November). Baron Lamfalussy is a figure of great stature in European financial circles and in the EU. His career in commercial banking includes being an Executive Director of Banque Bruxelles Lambert; in the international financial community he was General Manager of the Bank for International Settlements; and in international central banking he was President of the European Monetary Institute in Frankfurt, effectively Europe's first central banking chief.

We are immensely pleased that Baron Lamfalussy accepted our invitation and are confident that in his own way he will make as memorable a contribution to the dinner as Sir Edward George did last year. Bookings are coming in rapidly – at the time of writing more than two-thirds of the available places have been taken – and we are committed to holding the numbers down a little on last year to ensure that all are comfortably seated.

WEBSITE REDEVELOPMENT. Finally, I would like to put in a plug for the revamped website at www.treasurers.org. We have been working internally for some time to improve the site. We wanted to make the structure align as closely as possible with the expectations of the typical member or non-member user, and have critiqued vigorously any aspect that looked as though it might be driven more by internal views of what we do than by what site users actually expect of us. Thanks are due to the web advisory panel established by the Member Services Committee and to Charles Cresswell, our IT manager, as well as to a number of other staff who contributed to the redevelopment programme. **RICHARD RAEBURN**

ON THE MOVE

■ **Lee A Meyers FCT**, formerly Treasury Manager at West Bromwich Building Society, has been appointed Controller, Treasury Services at National Counties Building Society.

■ **Peter Culver FCA AMCT**, formerly Head of Tax at Coca-Cola HBC, has moved to Nestlé UK Ltd where he is Director of Group Taxation.

■ **Julian Lamont AMCT**, previously Finance Director at Stortext Group Ltd, has moved to The Buccleuch Estates Ltd, as Director of Finance.

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