



THE TREASURERS' CONFERENCE AN EVENT TOO GOOD TO MISS

The ACT events team is now in the countdown of preparations for The Treasurers' Conference, which takes place at The Celtic Manor not long after this edition is published. You are not too late to decide to join us from 22-24 March for what I know will be an outstanding conference.

If you are there, you will be attending what must be the largest such treasury conference ever held in the UK. We have already enrolled our target numbers and there is still a steady stream of people signing up. Numbers are of course not everything but our continuing analysis of delegate patterns confirms that we are also achieving our objectives in terms of the mix of those attending.

This means that there will be strong corporate representation across all levels of seniority, which is particularly important as a significant part of the conference is based around panel and roundtable discussions – reflecting what our research has confirmed to be high value for attendees – alongside challenging and topical plenary speakers.

We are already working on our plans for The Treasurers' Conference in 2005. We will build on reactions to this year's event and reinforce that with further research as we develop the plans. I am particularly conscious that the needs of members and others for an event like The Treasurers' Conference do change. We will certainly not fall into the trap of working with a rigid model for delivering a treasury conference without recognising that views on form, content, timing and indeed location are evolving.

However, I do believe that it is fundamentally right for the ACT to be the provider of the most respected treasury event in the UK. We are best placed to understand what is of most concern to those involved in treasury, risk and corporate finance. In a real sense we are the treasury network and should drive the creation of the networking opportunities associated with a conference.

Amongst all that is to be covered during the conference it is perhaps particularly worth highlighting that corporate governance has not been forgotten. Peter Wyman is speaking on 'corporate governance in the post Enron world'; when I saw him the other day he wryly noted that the title for his session was set before any of us had read about Parmalat, a European name that for the foreseeable future will be intertwined with any

discussions on governance on this side of the Atlantic.

IAS 39. Another major topic to occupy us at the conference will be IAS 39 and the international accounting standards initiative generally – there will be a panel discussion highlighting practitioner issues and then Mary Keegan of the ASB and Wayne Upton of the IASB will share a plenary session.

As I write, we have been through a further round of meetings with the ASB and the IASB to debate the concerns we have consistently identified with the drafting of IAS 39. In this month's magazine the technical team will be updating readers with what we have achieved (see page 29).

I would simply like to say at this stage that I believe it has been wholly to the ACT's credit that we have been seen by the wider community here in the UK to hold views that should be listened to and that require to be addressed.

Predictions are dangerous, but I suspect that by the time this edition is published, and certainly by the time of our conference, there will be considerably more in the public domain about the future of IAS 39 and indeed of international accounting standards (which the ACT wholeheartedly support) in the face of the politicisation and polarisation we are seeing within the EU, as the 2005 implementation deadline approaches.

DAVID CREED. At the end of 2003, my predecessor, David Creed, stepped down from his role as Honorary Secretary of the International Group of Treasury Associations, IGTA. Those who know David will be well aware that his opinions are always strong and delivered with intellectual robustness. He brought this approach to the united nations of treasury associations and it is to his immense credit that he was instrumental in seeing real progress on key initiatives such as education and the big arenas of IAS 39, the conduct of the rating agencies and Basel II.

His involvement was greatly appreciated by the IGTA members and the good news is that he is not lost entirely, as he remains active in the organisation for a further year. Inactivity is not something that sits easily with David so we wait to see what next! **RICHARD RAEBURN**

ON THE MOVE

■ **Jill Goldsmith AMCT** has joined Wolfson Microelectronics plc as Corporate Compliance Manager. Previously she worked for KPMG LLP.

■ **Anthony Goldstein MCT** has been appointed Vice President at Bank of America. Previously he was Treasury Consultant at KPMG.

■ **Adrian Heft MCT**, previously a Managing Consultant at SunGard Treasury Systems, has been appointed Treasurer, Property at Henderson Global Investors.

■ **Mark Noble AMCT**, formerly Interim Manager at Noble Resources Ltd, has been appointed Business Manager at Thames Valley Police.

■ **Frances Webster AMCT**, previously the UK Financial Controller at American Express Bank Ltd, has been appointed to head up the Client Accounts team at Zenith Trust Company Ltd in Jersey.

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