

Newsletter Editor's Report to BAIS AGM 1990

This has been a bad year for the *Newsletter* for reasons which have to do with the status of the *Newsletter* within the Association's range of activities. For the benefit of members it is perhaps best if I sketch the history of the *Newsletter* as a prologue to this report.

The first issue of the *Newsletter* appeared in Spring 1987 which was within 6 months of the Executive decision that the Association should have a *Newsletter*. This was possible because I then had access to a desk-top publishing set-up which I could use unofficially for Association activities. The Association was therefore quickly able to begin publishing a *Newsletter* without capital investment. This was appropriate to the Association's circumstances at the time.

However, as a result of taking a new job I no longer have access to the same desk-top publishing facilities and have therefore been unable to produce the Summer issue of the *Newsletter*; I am investigating ways and means of producing the Winter issue (which should be a double issue to make up for the non-appearance of the Summer issue).

The general point to be taken from these circumstances is that as the Association has grown and established itself it seems that the time is past when the production of its principle publication should be dependent on the personal circumstances of the Editor. The enforced change of production methods will entail a change in design and may result in changes in the scope of the *Newsletter*.

It seems an appropriate moment for the membership and Executive of the Association to consider the direction that the *Newsletter* should take. A number of possibilities present themselves. We could decide to restrict the scope of the *Newsletter*, making it a journal of record as is the case with the Newsletters of other Associations. We could decide to retain the present range of the *Newsletter*, or even to broaden it, in which case the Association will have to suggest ways in which this might be done. In this latter event, provision for the production of the *Newsletter* becomes a priority, and we would then also have to think about ways to keep the costs of production down in order to offset any capital investment which we have to make. It may prove possible to make the *Newsletter* self-financing in the longer-term, through advertising and/or sponsorship, but in this event there would be a need for a properly-constituted Editorial Board, comprising as a minimum the Editor and an Advertising Editor.

I would welcome discussion of these, and any other ideas the membership might have, and would suggest finally that we consider the possibility of canvassing the views of the whole membership through a postal questionnaire.

Eamonn Hughes