

Perspective – March 2010

The Newsletter of the IBM Hursley Retirees' Club



EX CATHEDRA

The Perspective editorial team are bringing a new and exciting project into existence.

Whether we need to be dragged “kicking and screaming” into this age of electronic communications or whether we welcome its challenges with enthusiasm, Perspective aims to be the journal of choice for every Hursley retiree.

This first issue already demonstrates that the creativity which made Hursley a byword internationally will continue to thrive.

There's no doubt Perspective will evolve with feedback from its readers. So please join us and help guide the journal's mission as we seek to inform, entertain and support Hursley Retirees.

May I on behalf of us all wish Perspective a long and useful life.

Martin Hughes – Chairman

Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of *Perspective*. The intent is to publish a newsletter at least 3 times a year, and it will be distributed as a PDF file to any member of the IBM Retirees Club (Hursley Branch) who expresses an interest. In order to save the planet's resources, and not increase our expenses, this newsletter will only be available electronically.

In addition to providing information on forthcoming trips and theatre visits, the newsletter will cover a range of topics including: feedback on previous trips, the opportunity for members to advertise events planned for their community, information on retiree benefits, IBM Hursley Club information, and may include articles written by members on topics close to their heart, e.g. a charity that they support and wish to publicise.

Merv Quick - Editor

The AGM and new Committee

Over 180 retirees attended the AGM held at Hursley on 9 March 2010.

Lab Presentation

The proceedings commenced with a presentation by Derek Treagus, Hursley Location and Laboratory Manager. Derek opened with pictures of the snow which presented significant problems for the site. The single tractor owned by IBM making a valiant effort to keep the roads and car parks usable.

Many will have noticed the scaffolding on Hursley House. As Hursley House is a Grade II* building, making any repairs was a challenge, but hopefully the work would be starting this spring.





Remember the DP machine room, and the miles of copper wiring that ran underneath the floor? Well someone has had a challenge, as the whole floor has been replaced. Also, the cooling plant has been upgraded. Such work shows IBM's continued support for the Hursley site. There are also lots of initiatives in place to work towards a Greener Hursley, including – as an incentive – a free breakfast for those that cycle to work!

Hursley is continuing its close relationship with the universities, and has various activities to encourage the young people to consider the importance of mainframes to the corporate community when considering their future careers. 22 graduates were hired in 2009, and Derek said that the Lab was intending to recruit even more graduates in 2010.

Hursley is also involved in many community programmes, and Derek reminded the audience that they, too, can volunteer to assist others in the community through the On Demand Community, and grants are available for projects that meet the specified criteria. If you are interested in finding out more either send an email to hurseve@uk.ibm.com or visit <http://www-05.ibm.com/uk/ondemandcommunity/>

Derek closed his presentation by reminding everyone that 2009 was CICS 40th anniversary; must be getting old, I can remember the 10th!

Chairman's Report

Martin Hughes gave his chairman's report, including noting the loss of those members who had died in the previous 12 months; details can be found on the retiree website.

As expected, the minutes of the meeting were approved, which is not surprising given the average age of the attendees – the question was who could remember whether they attended the AGM last year 😊

Treasurer's Report

Roger Clark, Treasurer, opened his review with thanks to John Dennis for his audit of the accounts. The income, made up from company subsidy and members contributions when attending trips, amounted to ~£46k, and expenses at ~£45k. While the majority of the expenses were to cover trip expenses, there was a small amount spent on admin and hampers. Hampers are sent at Christmas to those who would have liked the opportunity to attend the retiree trips but are too frail or ill to do so. If you know of anyone who fits this category, please do inform the secretary, Harry Helyar, so that they may be considered.

The number of people attending trips increased by 12% in 2009, Stratford being the most attended, Calais the least. The highest subsidy was spent on the London Theatre trip, while the lowest was for the Oxford trip.

The accounts were approved.

Roger Clark is standing down as Treasurer, but will still remain as a committee member.

Pension Update

Presentation by David Newman, Pensions Trust Manager.

In reviewing the performance of the Pension Fund, David made the following points:

IBM Corporate results for 2009 again showed record profits of in excess of \$10 per share against a share price of \$120+/- currently. Turnover was \$96B, down 8% on 2008, with the hardware side declining relative to the software and services parts of the business. Total Corporate profits of \$13B after tax were 9% up on last year, assisted by cost and expense reductions.

IBM UK figures will be available in the autumn.

Regarding the status of the Pension Fund, especially for C & N Plan members, David said that following a very poor year in 2008, 2009 was one of recovery for the Fund. The 50% of the portfolio in equities in UK and abroad rose by 15% to 20%, with emerging markets in the Far East and South America showing growth, in some situations, of up to 60% to 80%. The 45% in Gilts and Bonds generated 6% to 8%. The remaining 5% in property produced its anticipated rental income stream. Overall, 2009 brought a 15% - 20% increase in the value of the Fund.

At year end 2008, the Fund was £800M in deficit. This is being and will be addressed and the Fund brought into balance over the coming years.

David also confirmed that C and N Plan Members will get a pension increase, from next month, of 2.3% in relation to their pre 1997 service.

In answer to a question regarding the potential legal case involving IBM and the Trustee, David explained that the Trustee continues to be very active in pursuing matters, but that he was unable to say more at this time.

Members present thanked David for his summary of the current position of the Fund and for attending the meeting.

At this point, David assumed chairmanship of the Meeting and conducted the appointment of Officers and Committee.

The Annual Corporate Report is available on the web.

(Pensions update report written by M J Hughes - Chairman)

Election of Officers

John Jones was elected as the new Treasurer. Richard Walker was elected as a new member of the committee.

The full committee is:

Chairman	Martin Hughes	01962 868900	Secretary	Harry Helyar	01962 881392
Treasurer	John Jones	02380 265316	eBusiness	Merv Quick	01794 390678
Webmaster	Ron Wilks	02380 766213	Newsletter	news@hurrec.org.uk	
	Roger Clark	02380 253600	Tony Compton	02380 265432	
Committee	John Faller	02380 462822	Harry Keeling	01962 712914	
	Jenny Nichols	02380 254244	Richard Walker	02380 267239	
	Jim Woodland	02380 323204			

2010 Plans

Martin Hughes reviewed the trip plans for 2010, see later in this document. He also addressed changes to the constitution.

A new Constitution for the Retiree's Club.

Following lengthy discussions with the Human Resources department, all IBM Retiree Clubs throughout the UK are moving towards a standard Constitution.

There are two aspects to this change:

There is a new definition of Membership categories for all Clubs. The method of calculation and distribution of the IBM Grant is confirmed. The amount for each Member will go to the Club with which that Member is registered.

The effects on each Club can best be summarised as "Any Club, Any Event, Any Member". Over time the Hursley Retiree Club will, as far as possible, make our events open to members of other IBM Clubs and the events of other IBM Clubs will be open to Hursley Retiree Club Members. It will be the responsibility of Clubs to resolve any imbalance between membership and participation in their events.

HR have asked each Club Committee to operate the new categories and the wider event availability as we go through the current year.

The new Constitution will be formally placed before the 2011 Annual General Meeting.

Your Committee is determined to retain the very special character associated with the events run for our unique IBM community here at Hursley. It is my belief that the changes which IBM is keen to introduce will occur gradually.

I encourage Club members to take a look at the proposed new Constitution which is being posted on the Club website.

(The above section supplied by Martin Hughes – Chairman)

Hursley Retiree Club Website

Ron Wilks, webmaster to give him his grand title, encouraged people to use the website to find out details of club activities and other information relevant to members. See www.hurrec.org.uk

eCommunications/Newsletter

Merv Quick gave a short presentation on trying to move the club into the electronic age with communications being conducted over the internet. The club will be producing a newsletter three or more times a year. This will only be distributed electronically. The Trip information will also be sent electronically to those that have registered. He asked everyone to encourage all retirees that they knew to sign-up and to stop receiving the letters in the post. Currently over 1000 envelopes, each containing several sheets of paper, have to be posted twice a year. It takes nearly one man-week (sorry person-week) to stuff the envelopes.

2010 Trips

April

20th April sees the first trip of the year visiting the Imperial War Museum Duxford. First used by the Royal Flying Corps in 1917, Duxford Airfield saw distinction in 1940



as the home of Spitfire squadrons, and to where one of the heroes of the Second World War was posted, Douglas Bader.

'Imperial War Museum Duxford has to be the best museum ever.' Dan Snow, Heritage Magazine

See <http://duxford.iwm.org.uk/> for more information and to plan your visit.

The trip leaves at 8:00am.

May

11th May, and an opportunity to travel to our closest island, the Isle of Wight. Departing at 8:00am, the first stop is Shanklin for some free time and the opportunity to visit a coffee shop and to have some lunch before boarding the coach for an afternoon visit to Osborne House. (This is an English Heritage property, so if you are a member of English Heritage please remember to bring your membership card.)



Click here for more information <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server.php?show=nav.14479>

Coaches depart at 8:00am.

June

June and it's show time. 17th June we travel to the NEC for the BBC Food, Gardeners World, and Home show. A favourite for many, this show provides interest for all. Make sure that you wear comfortable shoes!

The coaches depart at 8:00am.

July

6th July, and time for a trip back to the middle ages on a visit to the beautiful Warwick Castle. Billed as Britain's ultimate castle, Warwick provides plenty of interest for all. For more detail see www.warwick-castle.co.uk

A leisurely day out, with a 9:30am start from Hursley.

August

Time for the annual seaside trip. This year, by popular request, we will be re-visiting Weymouth. Coaches leave at 9:30am on 10th August.

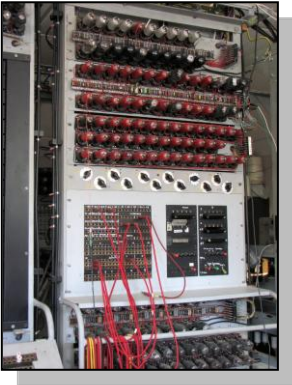
September

Two dates to choose from this month, for the same trip. On the 14th and 21st September, coaches will be leaving for a London Walks outing in Kensington and a visit to the new gallery at the V&A museum. A maximum of two coaches each day, one coach party will take a guided walk in the morning and the other in the afternoon. For those of you that went to Richmond last year, we are hoping to have the services of the same excellent guide that so interestingly gave us all the history of that location.

Coaches will leave at 8:00am.



October



What better museum could a party of IBM development staff visit than the home of modern computing, Bletchley Park. Due to limits on the guided tours, this trip will be restricted to 3 coaches. Setting off at 8:00am on 19th October we travel to Bletchley for morning coffee, and the first part of the tour of the site. Lunch is provided, cottage pie or vegetarian lasagne, and in the afternoon we have a tour of the remainder of the facility. Following afternoon tea we embark for Hursley.

November

Two separate trips are planned for November.

On 23rd November, in a departure from the normal day outings, there is the opportunity to travel to France for 3 days/2 nights to visit the Christmas Market in Lille. We will leave Hursley at 8:00am and travel, via the channel tunnel, to Mouscron which is a short distance from Lille. Here we will stay in the Best Western Hotel – Alize, which is located in the centre of the town close to bars, shops, and restaurants. The following day the coach will take us to Lille for a visit to the Christmas Market and the opportunity to explore the historic town. Following breakfast on the third day we head for CitiEurope to stock up on those essential Christmas supplies before heading to the channel tunnel and home. The trip cost covers all travel and the hotel on a bed & breakfast basis. Evening meal is at your own expense.

This is a limited number trip and a deposit is required by 24th May so that rooms may be reserved. Full payment is required by 26th August. Regrettably, no refund of deposit, or final payment after 1st September, can be given unless a substitute can be found. Naturally, everyone is encouraged to have full travel insurance to cater for the unexpected.

For those of you who do not wish to travel to foreign climes, on 30th November we shall be travelling to Bristol. There are two options for those taking this trip: a visit to the city centre or a visit to the Cribbs Causeway shopping mall. Coaches leave at 9:30am.

Sign-up

To register for any of the above trips, it is necessary to use the sign-up sheets which will/have been distributed separately.

Websites of Interest

IBM Retiree Club (Hursley Branch)

Visit <http://www.hurrec.org.uk/> for the latest information on retiree trips, links to various relevant websites, IBM Hursley Club news, and notification of Deaths as advised by IBM Pensions Services. If you can't remember the URL, or forgot to bookmark it, just Google 'Hursley retiree' and it pops up as the first website – it's that simple☺.

Employee Discount Programme

For discounts and/or cash back with a large number of companies visit <https://ibm.rewardgateway.co.uk/> The benefits are available to IBM employees and IBM retirees.

IBM Hursley Club

The IBM club at Hursley has a website at the following address: <http://www.ibmhursleyclub.org.uk/>

Events

25, 26, & 27 March 2010	Methodist Church Hall, Winchester Road, Chandler's Ford	Chandler's Ford Methodist Players production - Lord Arthur Savile's Crime. Tickets are £6.00 each available from the Church Coffee Room or the Box Office on 023 8025 3922.
4 April 2010 (Easter Sunday)	Longstock Water Gardens Stockbridge SO20 6EH	Rotary Club of Chandlers Ford & Itchen Valley have obtained the kind permission of the John Lewis Partnership to manage the entrance from 2 pm until 5 pm with all proceeds going to the "Home Start" charity in Eastleigh. Tickets £5 Adult, £1 Child
21 April 2010	National IBM Golf Championship	21 April is the closing date for entries to the National IBM Golf Club Championship. Qualifiers held in May, final at St Anne's Old Links, 21 June 2010. Contact ibmclubgolf@hotmail.co.uk , Terry Wall 01962-863027
23 April 2010 7:30pm	St Andrews Centre, Dibden Purlieu	Waterside Musical Society presents a series of concerts featuring music from the 1940s and 50s. Tickets cost £6.50 (concessions £5.50) and are available in advance by calling 023 8084 9708 or, on the door. More information available from rwatton@aol.com
24 April 2010 7:30pm	Colbury Village Hall, Colbury	Waterside Musical Society concert, as above
30 April & 1 May 2010, 7:30pm	Hanger Farm Arts Centre, Totton	Waterside Musical Society concert, as above
14 May 2010	Wedgnock Adventure Sports, Warwick	IBM National Clay Pigeon Shooting Tournament. For more information contact either Richard Mack – 07967 275 815, mobx 275815, mackr@uk.ibm.com or David Harkness - harknessdr@googlemail.com
16-17 July 2010	Coventry Area	IBM National Course Fishing Tournament. For more information contact Gordon Benn, gordon.benn@ntlworld.com
11 September 2010	Landford, Wilts	The bi-annual Autumn Fest. A typical country produce show, general fete, and scarecrow competition. In 2006 there were in excess of 150 scarecrows of all shapes and sizes on display with visitors travelling miles to see the exhibits. The scarecrows will be on display for the fortnight preceding the show.

Feedback

In order to improve the format of this newsletter, and ensure that it please send any feedback on current content, or future topics that you would like to see covered to news@hurrec.org.uk Such feedback is vital if we are to meet the needs of IBM Hursley Retirees.

Crossword

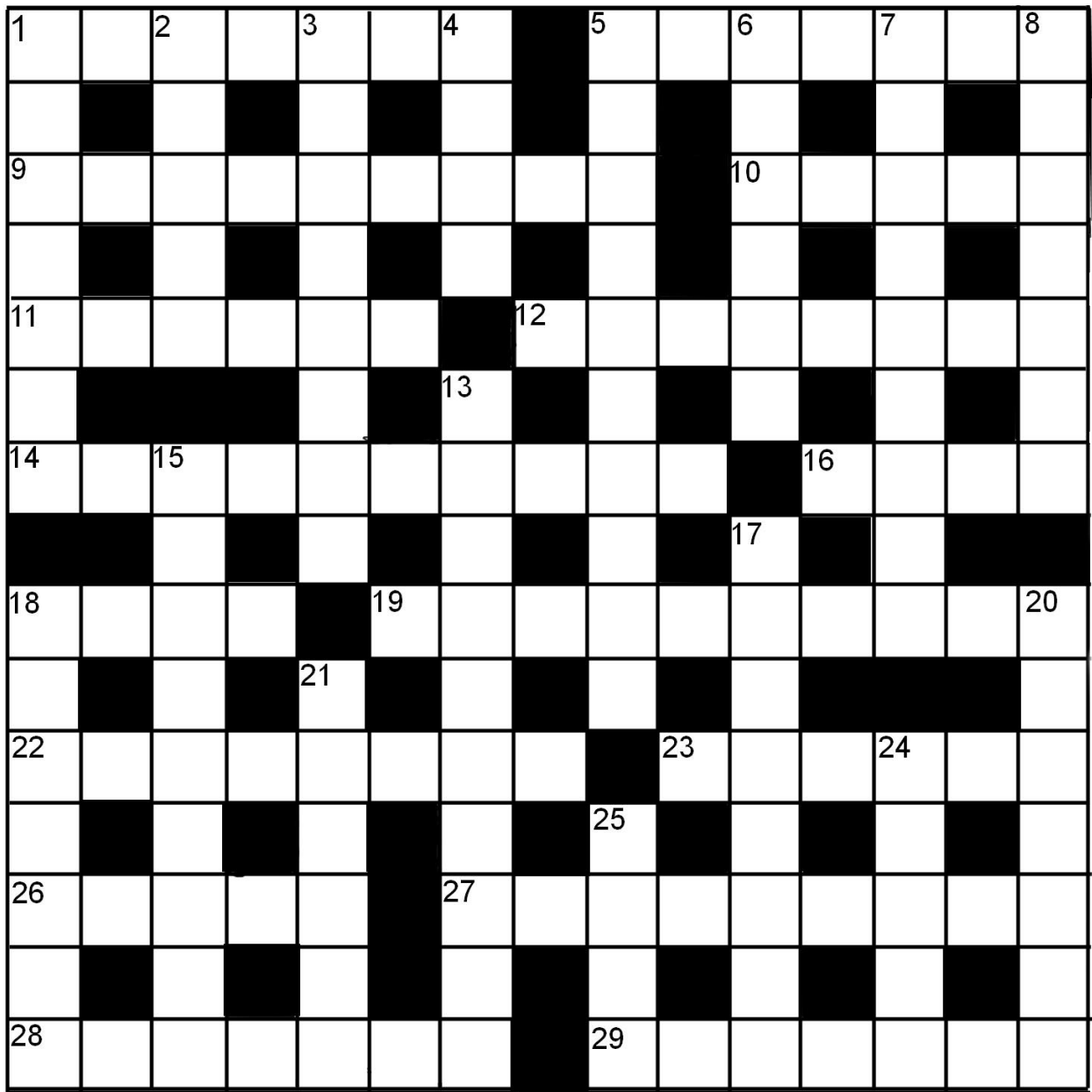
Thanks go to ANALOG for supplying this crossword. The solution will be posted on the Hursley Retiree Club website, www.hurrec.org.uk on 6 April so that you can spend all of Easter pondering the answers to some of the clues.

Clues Across:

1. A wander round the hospital? Rest your butts here! (7)
5. Leaders of Soviet Union beach association quite upset about underwater sport (7)
9. Monarch in total disarray, dressing down (7,2)
10. Five point type of gem (5)
11. For that reason, a cord is added for comfort (6)
12. Footballer with progressive ideas (4-4)
14. Trail ute involved in accident in New York State where one doesn't take sides (10)
16. Double act? It's as dead as can be (4)
18. Abandoned bore in dressing gown (4)
19. By feeling pelt, one can divide the sheep from the goats (10)
22. Water submits to trout (8)
23. Constellation with jewel in half of it (6)
26. Manage the campaign (5)
27. Blunder in the mist possibly could be seen as an act of violence (9)
28. Don Carlos in dispute with Philip the second (7)
29. It's boring to dry out debt slips (7)

Clues Down

1. Sinatra broadcast shows the man to have great skill (7)
2. Food specially prepared for Hamza, Ali and Alesha, perhaps (5)
3. Travel permit for students, bar the comic (4,4)
4. A famous bear, one who studies a system of Hindu philosophy! (4)
5. Puff a lot? maybe this big chimney is for you (10)
6. Sounds like a way around a congethion, but it's more likely to be a lovers' lane (6)
7. The Parisian hunchback is, as it were, the second party(9)
8. Lively and rather fast, complete rogue, non-u, dissolute (7)
13. When this strikes, you'll need bread (including top of the loaf), and something to drink (10)
15. Uninterested in cricket, perhaps; brutish in another way (9)
17. A drug for starfish (8)
18. With reference to the second note on the operating system screen (7)
20. Obscure statements out of order in games (7)
21. Sailor tells tales about a way to get down the cliff (6)
24. Mr Jones the architect, and his comment on entering one of his buildings (5)
25. Big animal, tailless, is dry (4)



ANALOG