



THE INSTITUTION OF FIRE ENGINEERS  
FOUNDED 1918 • INCORPORATED 1924

## LOOKING FORWARD FORWARD LOOKING

### Introduction

In our discussions about how the Institution should celebrate its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Board of Directors felt that the Institution should not only look back on its history, but also to look forward to the centenary in 2018, assessing what the needs of the profession and the society that it serves might be and to consider how best the Institution can work towards supporting the development of the profession over the next ten years.

It has been said that history is the witness that testifies to the passing of time; it illumines reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life and brings us tidings of antiquity. (*Cicero, Pro Publico Sestio- Roman author, orator, & politician - 106 BC - 43 BC*)

A history of the Institution was set down in 1978 to celebrate our Diamond Jubilee. Dennis Ramsey MBE, the General Secretary, working from records and minute books, selected developments which seemed to him to represent the various facets of the Institution's work. The result is a fascinating document that charts, year by year, the progress of the Institution. In 1993, to celebrate the Institution's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the history was edited and brought up to date, by the inclusion of the years 1978 to 1992 added to by Chris Mackwood and Mr T J Banks, supported by Mr D Williams. The published booklet also contained the congratulations of senior figures in fire engineering and the personal reflections of T A Varley and the impact the Institution had on his long and distinguished career in the UK and New Zealand.

Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it. (*George Santayana US [Spanish-born] philosopher (1863 - 1952)* Re reading the history of the Institution has been a fascinating exercise, and one which can help shape the future. Ambitions for the organisation and developments for the profession appear through the years, with progress and the occasional temporary setback. Throughout it all however is the theme of progress towards a professional body that is increasingly international, more representative of a wider range of fire professionals working in the discipline of fire engineering, where competence and professional judgement play a greater part in the safety of our societies. The founding fathers of our Institution had a vision for fire engineering and a desire that the Institution should play an important part in achieving that vision. Our history shows we have achieved

much; the developments in the world and in our profession demand that we continue to promote and further the science and practice of fire engineering.

Recognising that many members will not have a copy of the two publications that describe our history, I have reproduced below, the original text of the years 1918 - 1977 by Dennis Ramsey and the additional years of 1978 -1992 supplied by Chris Mackwood. Some of the terms and titles used have changed, but I have left in the original text. I have also included a number of foot notes with the present position in relation to some matters included by the authors.

History will be kind to me for I intend to write it. (*Sir Winston Churchill, British politician and Prime Minister 1874 – 1965*)

I have added the years 1993 – 2008, by using the published annual reports, the Journal and other official sources. I have tried to be objective and not to follow Sir Winston's "approach". The Annual reports presented at the Institution's Annual General Meeting and are intended to refer to the events of the preceding year although often contain current updates. As far as possible, the events described in the years 1993 -2008 have been identified in the relevant calendar year, although inevitably there will be some matters that extended over more than one year.

I hope that those that read this history find it illuminating and it inspires us to shape the future of our profession with as much insight and energy as our predecessors.

**John Judd QFSM BA FIFireE (Life)  
Chairman of the Board of Directors**

## 1918

THE 1914-18 war was drawing to a close when the suggestion to form a professional association of fire engineers was first brought forward. On the 31st October, 1918, ten Chief Officers attended a meeting held at the Fire Brigade Headquarters in Leicester for the purpose of setting up such an organisation. It was purely coincidental that this first meeting should have been held in Leicester and that to-day the office of the Institution should be in the same city<sup>1</sup>. Many years were to pass after the inaugural meeting before the Institution returned to Leicester.

The minutes of the first meeting survive to this day and are worthy of reproduction exactly as they were produced at the time.

At a meeting of Fire Brigade Officers assembled at the Headquarters of the Fire Brigade, Leicester, on the 31st day of October 1918, the following Chief Officers being present:

J. T. Burns, Birkenhead Fire Brigade, President of the PFBO Assocn. in the Chair.

A. Pordage, Edinburgh, Vice-President PFBOA

Lt. Col. Fox, London Salvage Corps

J. W. Dane, Croydon Fire Brigade

H. Neal, Leicester Fire Brigade

W. Pett, Exeter Fire Brigade

A. Tozer, Birmingham Fire Brigade

J. Farmery, Ilford Fire Brigade

H. Burrows, Newcastle-on-Tyne Fire Brigade

J. Weir, Dundee Fire Brigade

Chief Officer Neal, Leicester, submitted a proposal to form an Institute of Fire Engineers and the draft of a proposed constitution:

“Gentlemen,

I respectfully beg to submit for your consideration a proposal that an endeavor should be made to place the Fire Services generally on a higher level than has hitherto been accorded it, and by doing so, compel the recognition it really deserves from local and national authorities.

I believe the scheme submitted will help in some measure to bring about this end, an end which is desired, not only by those who have the honour to serve in a Professional Fire Brigade, but by all sections of public service and by those members of the general public who are intimate with the services rendered to the community by the various Fire Brigades of the country.

First of all may I point out that practically all other Service Departments and Professions have obtained their present status and recognition through some form of Institution of which they are members.

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<sup>1</sup> The Institution relocated to Moreton in the Marsh, the site of the UK Fire Service College in October 2004.

This status has been achieved by their being accepted as members of an Institution directly connected with the profession in which they are engaged. Before they become Members it is stipulated that they have received a certain qualified training and that they are able to prove to Members of their own profession that they have received sufficient practical experience to fit them for Membership.

My first suggestion is that we establish an Institute to be known as "The Institution of Fire Engineers" on similar lines to the 'Institute of Civil Engineers' or 'Electrical Engineers' and other kindred bodies, and arrange a constitution, rules and regulations accordingly. At the same time we should endeavor to make the Membership of the Institution possible for all Officers and men in the Professional Service in one or other of three grades, namely Members, Associate Members, Graduates, with Honorary Members and Associates if the Service so resolve.

The title as suggested, viz: — 'Fire Engineers' would in my opinion much more adequately describe the aims and accomplishments of the Fire Service than any previous or existing Association. I realise many of our Members will strongly criticise my suggestion to substitute the title 'Officer' by that of 'Engineer' but the former means anything whereas the latter has a definite and specific meaning viz: — 'The art or science of utilising or controlling natural forces and materials, or to manage by ingenuity and tact' and I cannot think of anything more applicable to the Professional Fire Service.

Incidentally the proposed substitution would give a standard recognised title to the head of every Fire Brigade which has often been suggested and considered. Should my proposals be approved and acted upon, it would be necessary to register the Institution under the 'Companies Act' and make it clearly and publicly understood that the objects of the Institution would be:

- (a) To promote the science and practice of Fire Engineering work and all branches connected thereto, and to give an impulse to ideas likely to be useful to the members of the Institute and to the community at large.
- (b) To enable members to meet and to correspond and to facilitate the interchange of ideas respecting improvement in the various branches of the science, and the publication and communication of information on such subjects.
- (c) To perform all other things incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects or any of them.

These objects or Articles of Association alone would, in my opinion, lift the status of our organisation, and help very largely to obtain a higher standard of recognition, and that within a very short time.

For the present I do not propose to go into all details respecting the Constitution and Regulations, but may I point out that all present Chief Officers must of necessity be elected 'Members'. Second Officers entitled to qualify for 'Associate Member' and other ranks 'Graduates', and anyone not eligible for a full 'Member' or 'Associate Member' to qualify for that distinction. 'Associates' shall be persons not engaged in a Fire Brigade but having interests allied to it.

The abbreviated distinctive titles for indicating the connection with the Institution to be as follows:

- Hon.M.I.FireE.           Honorary Life Members
- M.I.FireE.                Members
- A.M.I.FireE.            Associate Members
- G.I.FireE.               Graduates
- A.I.FireE.               Associates

Following the registration of the Institution it would be essential to obtain some highly distinguished personage, say, H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, to become the first Honorary Life Member (Hon.M.I.FireE.)”

It was proposed by Lt. Col. Fox and seconded by CO. I. Farmery and agreed: that the Officers present form themselves into a Board of Fire Engineers for the purpose of establishing an Institute of Fire Engineers.

Firemaster Portage, Edinburgh proposed that a Guarantee Fund be established and that fifty Chief and Second Officers of the British Fire Service should be invited to subscribe and to become Founders of the Fire Engineers Institute. Carried unanimously.

It was unanimously agreed that the Inaugural Subscription should be one guinea.

Chief Officer H. Neal, Leicester, proposed and Chief Officer Burrows seconded that a Committee of five members be appointed to carry out the preliminary arrangements.

The following Officers were appointed to the Committee:

- Chief Officer Neal
- Lt. Col. Fox
- Chief Officer Burns
- Chief Officer Tozer
- Chief Officer Farmery
- Firemaster Pordage – Secretary”

## 1919

The next meeting took place on the 2nd January, 1919, in London, when it was announced that 40 Chief Officers had agreed to become members. This number included three from overseas—Shanghai, Port Elizabeth and Rangoon. Chief Officer Neal was elected Chairman and Firemaster Pordage became Hon. Secretary/Treasurer. Further meetings were held during 1919 when the first Memorandum, Articles of Association and By-Laws were drawn up and approved. The membership fees were fixed at:

Members £1.1.0d	Entrance Fee £2.2.0d
Associate members 15/-	Entrance fee £1.1.6d
Graduates 10/6	Entrance Fee NIL
Associates £2.2.0d	Entrance Fee £2.2.0d <sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> £1 refers to the current £1 in UK currency, the second digit refers to shillings; there were 20 shillings to the pound; a shilling converts to 5p in current UK currency. The final figure refers to pennies with 12 pennies equal to a shilling. The conversion of the Membership entrance fee of £2.2.0d is therefore, equal to £2.10p.

Steps were taken to engage the services of a solicitor with a view to lodging an application with the Board of Trade for a license of Incorporation.

A General Meeting was held in London on the 27th June, 1919, when 27 members attended. Chief Officer Neal now became the President.

The application for Incorporation proceeded slowly as a result of the intervention of the Home Office who had apparently been informed by the Board of Trade of the application. The Home Office advice was "that the Committee would be well advised in the interests of the Institution to delay further progress". The reason for this advice was that the Home Secretary proposed to set up a Royal Commission to enquire into and report on the whole administration of the Fire Service and its personnel.

### **1920**

The General Meeting was held in Bradford on the 7th July and concern was expressed at the delays in dealing with the application for Incorporation. Membership had risen to 51 and the original officers were re-elected.

### **1921**

The General Meeting was held in Leicester on 1st July 1921 when, with reference to Incorporation "much dissatisfaction was expressed by members present at the continued delay on the part of the Home Office Authorities."

During the year the President and Hon. Secretary gave evidence to the Royal Commission on Fire Brigades.

### **1922/23**

During this period the Institution seems to have been marking time awaiting the Royal Commission report. There is some acrimonious correspondence with the Officials of the Commission but eventually in October 1923 the Commission reported "We have no hesitation in recommending, as requested by the representatives of the Institution of Fire Engineers, who explained their position and plans, that the license applied for should be granted by the Board of Trade."

### **1924**

At last the way was now open for an application for Incorporation to be made officially with the blessing of all concerned. This was done immediately and at a meeting in London on the 12th February, 1924, authority was given to go ahead.

The first registered office was at the offices of the Solicitors in Edinburgh and this meant that the Institution was first registered in Scotland and has been ever since. In the event registration in Scotland has had its disadvantages since a registered office has had to be maintained in Scotland to this day, despite the fact that since at least 1934 all the day to day work has been carried out in England.

Suggestions have been made from time to time to remedy this situation, but because such a change would mean winding up the Institution as a Scottish registered limited

company and starting again as an English registered limited company it has been felt that the resulting financial expenditure would not be justified. At this time the first steps were taken to set up an examination scheme and whilst no copy of the first syllabus can be found, it does appear that the subjects on which the Graduate examination was first held were:

- Mechanical engineering
- Building construction
- Storage of inflammable liquids
- Fire protection
- Electrical equipment

The Institution was now in business and the 1st Annual General Meeting was held in London on the 23rd October, 1924. Thirteen new Members, 24 new Associate Members and two Associates were elected.

Proposing the election of Chief Officer Neal as President, and Firemaster Pordage as Hon. Secretary/Treasurer, Chief Officer Eddington of Tottenham said:

“This meeting owes to Chief Officer Neal and Firemaster Pordage a very deep and lasting debt of gratitude. They have launched here an Institution which I regard as the Charter of Emancipation of the Fire Service and I hope we shall be most careful concerning the type of man we admit into the Institution and particularly to high office, so that in time to come, this Association (sic) will be an authority on fire protection and prevention which will be accepted by the Government, King’s judges and responsible bodies.”

## 1925

The first Graduateship examination was held with 30 candidates. 23 were successful, nine passing with distinction.

The 2nd Annual General Meeting was held in Edinburgh on the 9th July, 1925, when Chief Officer Neal stepped down from the Presidency and Firemaster Pordage became President. Third Officer Newington (Edinburgh) became Hon. Secretary / Treasurer.

For the first time technical papers were presented, the subjects being:

- Chemistry in relation to the fire service.
- Static electricity
- Aids to quick get-aways
- Petrol installations on ships

The Balance Sheet for the first full year showed an excess of expenditure over income of £91.9.51d.

On the social side there was a luncheon given by the “Fire Insurance Companies”; a reception by the Lord Provost and an Institution Luncheon for which tickets were 7/6d. A tour round the city cost 2/9d; to North Berwick 5/-; to Abbotsford and the Lowlands 7/6d; and to the Trossachs 12/6d, including lunch. All these tours were by “14-seater pneumatic tyre coaches”!

The deficit referred to above caused some consternation and at one time a levy on all

members was contemplated. Members were critical of the sum of £25 for salaries but when it was explained that this covered three girl clerks working in their own spare time in the evenings and on Sundays the criticism was withdrawn.

### **1926**

The fears expressed concerning the financial situation proved unfounded since, thanks to increased membership, the deficit of the previous year was converted into a profit of £9.8.7d.

The arrangements for the 3rd Annual General Meeting held in London on the 17th and 18th June, 1926, was disrupted by the General Strike, but nevertheless the meeting was able to go on as arranged. Firemaster Pordage was re-elected as President.

In September 1926 the Hon. Secretary/Treasurer, 3rd Officer Newington, resigned on obtaining a position as Firemaster, Anglo-Persian Oil Co., Abadan, Persia. As a result Firemaster Pordage undertook the dual role of President and Hon. Secretary / Treasurer.

The first examinations for Associate Membership were held when there were 10 candidates.

### **1927**

At the 4th Annual General Meeting held in Liverpool, Chief Officer G. A. Oakes (Liverpool) was elected President and Firemaster Pordage reverted to the single role of Hon. Secretary/Treasurer.

The examinations were conducted on behalf of the Institution by the International Correspondence Schools.

At the Conference an Emergency Resolution was adopted supporting the London County Council in its opposition to a Port of London Authority wish to permit ocean going tankers to proceed up the River Thames to within 14 miles of London Bridge as opposed to the then present safety limit of 34 miles.

### **1928**

Examination fees were fixed at 5/- for Graduates and 10/- for Associate Members.

The 5th Annual General Meeting was held in Bristol when Chief Officer F. Code (Bristol) was elected President.

A Council meeting was held in Turin (!) where members were attending a conference organised by the Italian Fire Federation.

Protests were made by a number of members at the election of Members without examination - a subject which was to recur on a number of occasions in the years to come.

## 1929

In the examinations, 24 sat for the Associate Membership examination and 19 passed, and 99 sat for the Graduate examination and 86 passed.

The 6th Annual General Meeting in Manchester, when Chief Officer A. R. Corlett (Manchester) became President, passed a resolution in the following terms:

“The Institution of Fire Engineers realises that the provision of adequate means of escape in case of fire from hotels is a matter of supreme importance and, in view of the unsatisfactory conditions at present prevailing in many cases decided to support the United Commercial Travellers’ Association in their endeavor to ensure that adequate means of escape are provided.”

It was over forty years before the terms of the resolution were fully implemented.

The first steps were taken to set up overseas branches which were then known as “Colonial Councils”.

## 1930

“Colonial Councils” were approved in Victoria, Australia; New Zealand; and the Union of South Africa and Rhodesia, all of whom had been formed towards the end of 1929.

The first representation was obtained on British Engineering Standard Association (as it was then known) Committees.

An interesting comment on the conduct of the examinations in those days appears in the minutes of a Council meeting of May 1930:

“With regard to complaints from candidates at the recent examinations, Chief Officer Oakes explained that the 75% pass mark (!) was fixed before the examination papers were issued. It was then found that the questions were so abstruse that it would be unfair to the candidates to adhere to a 75% minimum and, after full and careful consideration, it was decided to reduce the final pass percentage to 55%”.

The 7th Annual General Meeting was held in Leicester when Chief Officer H. Neal (Leicester) became President.

The practice, still carried out to the present day, of presenting Past-Presidents with a miniature replica of the Presidential Badge was inaugurated.

## 1931

The 8th Annual General Meeting was held in Newcastle-upon-Tyne when Chief Officer H. Burrows (Newcastle) became President. The total membership was 499—consisting of 113 Members, 128 Associate Members, 229 Graduates and 29 Associates.

The conference remitted to the Home Secretary a resolution drawing attention to the continued danger of death and injury by fire, and panic, to which the public are subjected in licensed places of public entertainment.

The resolution went on to point out that there was legislation under the Celluloid Act 1922 and the Cinematograph Act 1923 whereby Local Authorities had power to enforce the regulations but unfortunately “inspection of premises either does not exist or, where it does exist, it is performed in a perfunctory manner.”

### 1932

The Queensland and Western Australia “Colonial Councils” were approved. Correspondence was received from native officers in India with regard to their admission to membership. It was resolved that “The Secretary write to white officers in fire brigades in India and British Protectorates asking their views on the admission of native officers to the Institution.”

The 9th Annual General Meeting held in London when Chief Officer J. W. Dane (Corydon) was elected President.

### 1933

The first publication of the Institution appeared. This was *Chemical Fires* and the original authors were Firemaster A. Pordage, Mr. A. M. Cameron and Dr. G. Burnet. In the first year some 1,250 copies were sold. *Chemical Fires* proved to be one of the most successful publications of the Institution. In the years to come it went through a number of editions and revisions before being withdrawn in the early 1970's.

The 10th Annual General Meeting was held in Blackpool when Mr. A. Andrew (Luton) was elected President.

### 1934

The office was moved to London at a rent of £90 per annum inclusive, though the Registered Office remained in Edinburgh.

The 11th Annual General Meeting was held in London when Mr. B. A. Westbrook (Calcutta) was elected President. It appears that Mr. Westbrook did not travel to England to preside at meetings during his Presidential year and the Immediate Past President acted on his behalf—this was no doubt a relief to the Finance Committee of the day.

Membership was growing having reached 599. Examination candidates totalled: Graduate 124 and Associate Membership 48.

### 1935

Subsistence rates for Council members attending meetings were fixed at 18 / - per 24 hours or 7/6d. for 12 hours. Conference delegates were to be “asked” to pay a registration fee of one guinea.

The Institution was invited to give evidence to the Departmental Committee on Fire Brigade Services which had been set up under Lord Riverdale. The evidence which was submitted was

- (a) That the country be divided into fire brigade areas;
- (b) That the administration of the brigades be under a joint committee of the local authorities within each area;
- (c) That the fire brigade administration be supplemented by a government grant towards the cost;
- (d) That the fire service be a separate organisation independent of any other departmental service;
- (e) That executive area and other officers be competent and experienced fire brigade officers; and
- (f) That this be the accepted principle of the Council of the Institution of Fire Engineers.

The 12th Annual General Meeting was held in Sheffield when Mr. T. Breaks (Sheffield) was elected President.

Membership: 703.

### **1936**

At the Annual Conference, Chief Officer G. W. Underdown of the Carrow Works Fire Brigade, Norwich, submitted two notices of motion instructing the Council to permit members of his brigade to sit for the examinations. The President ruled the notices of motion "out of order" on the grounds that under the By-Laws the Council had the sole right to admit or disqualify intending candidates.

This item is not perhaps of very great moment but it is worthy of comment because in 1978 Mr. G. W. Underdown is himself a member of the Council.

The 13th Annual General Meeting was held in Llandudno when Mr. A. Girdwood (Paisley) was elected President. (Unfortunately Mr. A. Girdwood died during his year of office.)

Membership: 737.

### **1937**

The 1937 Conference was the first held jointly by the Institution, The Professional Fire Brigades Association and the National Fire Brigades Association.

The formation of an Overseas Branch (the name "Colonial Council" having been discontinued) in South Australia, was approved.

The 14th Annual General Meeting was held in Cheltenham when Mr. T. H. Mather (East Ham) was elected President.

Membership: 779.

## 1938

During the year a “Joint Council of the British Fire Service” was set up between the Institution, The Professional Fire Brigades Association and the National Fire Brigades Association. The annual subscription was £50 and the objects were:

- (a) To promote greater uniformity throughout the British fire services.
- (b) To constitute a representative body for general purposes connected with the said service, and in particular to help the Government in connection with technical service, information and advice.
- (c) To encourage an efficient, comprehensive and united policy for the protection of the country against fire.
- (d) To promote good feeling and smooth working between the various branches of the said service.
- (e) To represent the interests of the various sections of the service on matters in which the parties hereto are jointly concerned.
- (f) To co-operate with scientific or technical boards or panels to assist in dealing with all questions of fire prevention or extinction.
- (g) To assist in establishing (either in conjunction with an association representing a local authority or otherwise) a National Fire Council comprising representatives of the local authorities nominated by their respective organisations for the purpose of investigating any problems with respect to fire brigades administration.
- (h) To improve the status and condition of service of members of the said service generally.

The 15th Annual General Meeting was held in Brighton when Mr. F. P. Mills (Durham & Northumberland Collieries Fire & Rescue Brigades) was elected President.

The impending shadow of the 1939 war was evident in many of the technical papers presented during the Conference—including one entitled “How Germany is Militarising her Fire Service”.

Membership: 915.

## 1939

For the first time since the original foundation 21 years previously, the Articles of Association and By-Laws underwent major amendments. One of the most significant additions was the creation of a “Student” grade of membership.

At the Conference Mr. A. Pordage, who had been Hon. Secretary/Treasurer since formation, presented a paper entitled “Coming of Age of the IFE, a survey of twenty-years’ inspiring work”. Looking to the future he said:

“Much has been accomplished at home and overseas but much still remains to be achieved. To whom must the Institution turn in order to bring to full fruition the seeds

laid so deeply twenty-one years ago at Leicester? The answer is to the younger members. They must reap where the Founders have sown. They must carry on the work of the older men. The future belongs to them.

Year by year the men who established the IFE are, in the nature of things growing older. They have done their bit and have done it well. Several of the original Founders have already crossed the vale. Others are still with us and will be with us it is hoped for many years to come. Nevertheless it is to the younger men that the next twenty-one years belong. The election of one of the most energetic and progressive of these younger men to the high office of President in 1939 is a portent that is full of optimistic significance. Age has its value. So has youth. Prudence and wisdom are the characteristics of the former and enterprise and daring are the special qualities of the latter. The ideal is a combination of all. It is up, therefore to the younger men to make of the Institution what the Founders envisaged when they formed it twenty-one years ago. It will be their task to continue the good work of (1) raising the status of the fire service so that it will continue to hold its rightful rank as one of the great public services and (2) promoting the science of fire engineering in all its ramifications."

The 16th Annual General Meeting was held in Manchester when Mr. A. Johnstone (Enfield) was elected President.

Membership: 1,019.

## 1940

The outbreak of war brought problems to the Institution but the work continued despite the obvious difficulties that were caused.

The examinations were held as usual with 123 candidates taking the Graduate examination (41 passes) and 33 the Associate Membership examination (8 passes).

The 17th Annual General Meeting was held in London. The existing officers continued in office with the exception of Mr. A. Pordage who had been Hon. Secretary/Treasurer since 1918 with the exception of the period when he was President. His successor was Mr. D. Macdougald who combined his duties as Secretary of the Air Raid Protection Institute with his new appointment. The office was transferred to the offices of the ARPI, in London. His salary was £229.3.4d.

Membership: 1,037.

## 1941

The first copies of the Quarterly Journal appeared. The examinations had been growing in strength and the syllabus was published as a booklet.

### **Graduate**

#### Part I

General Education

English: dictation and essay

Mathematics: fractions, square roots, percentages etc.

Part II           Hydraulics  
Pressure gauges, contents of pipes and hoses, discharge loss of head.

Part III           Technical  
Hose; hydrants: pumps; appliances; coal gas; smoke; chemical extinguishers; alarms; electricity; metals; chemistry; general practical knowledge.

**Associate Member**

Part I            General Education  
English: composition, essays and reports.  
Mathematics: fractions, algebra, geometry, areas volumes, capacities.

Part II           Hydraulics  
Pressures, velocity, nozzles, pumps, water supplies, sprinklers.

Part III          Technical  
Heat: metals; chemistry; extinguishers; electricity; dangerous trades, building construction; general practical knowledge.

The 18th Annual General Meeting held in Birmingham, when Mr. F. W. Delve (Deputy Inspector-in-Chief, National Fire Service) was elected President.

Membership: 1,264.

**1942**

Regional Branches had been established in the United Kingdom based on the Civil Defense Regions. By the end of the year there were 12 such Branches—Northern; North Eastern; North Midlands, Eastern; London; Southern; South Western; Wales; Midlands; North Western; Scotland and South Eastern.

There now appeared on the scene the first Education Advisor. He was Mr. Wallace B. Whitehouse of the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. Over the next decade Mr. Whitehouse was to have a profound influence on the examinations generally. An Examinations Board had been established as a committee of the Council and Mr. Whitehouse was co-opted to that Board.

The 19th Annual General Meeting was held in London when Mr. T. A. Varley (Chief Regional Fire Officer, Wales Region) was elected President.  
Membership: 1,687.

**1943**

Silver Jubilee Year.

1943 proved to be an eventful year. Firstly, the Articles of Association underwent a major overhaul. The new Articles established five grades of membership—Member (M); Associate Member (AM) Graduate (Grad); Licentiate (L) replacing the old Associate grade; and Students. The grade remained intact until 1973. Secondly, the examination syllabus was also amended. It established a single

syllabus for both examinations and the only difference between the Graduate and the Associate Member examination was that in the latter case it was “of a more advanced character and particular emphasis will be laid on accepted fire ground practice.”

Briefly the new syllabus consisted of:

- Calculations
- Graphical Work
- Water Supplies
- General Technical Matters:
- Combustion; fire protection; fire alarms; first stage fire extinction; firefighting appliances; fires involving special risks; fire ground operations
- Administration.

Thirdly, the 20th Annual General Meeting was held in London (Mr. T. A. Varley was re-elected President) and was combined with the celebration of the Silver Jubilee.

The meeting was to have been addressed by the Home Secretary and Minister of Home Security the Rt. Hon. Herbert Morrison, but at the last moment he was called away to an important meeting and Miss Ellen Wilkinson, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry deputised.

Mr. Morrison was however able to attend the Silver Jubilee Luncheon. Because of the restrictions then in force it was only possible to hold a luncheon for Council members and their ladies and a small number of specially invited guests.

Membership: 2,033.

## 1944

As from 1st October Mr. D. Macdougald became full time General Secretary.

The Council considered the possibility of permitting firemen who were prisoners of war to take the examinations.

“The Council was, of course, anxious to make arrangements for this if possible, but it was found that the necessary text books could not be dispatched to prospective candidates in enemy occupied countries for security reasons, and the suggestion could not therefore be proceeded with”.

The 21st Annual General Meeting was held in London when Mr. T. A. Varley was elected President for a third term of office.

Membership: 2,453.

## 1945

The war in Europe having ended—though that against Japan continued; the 22nd Annual General Meeting was held in Blackpool when Mr. A. B. Craig (Principal Fire Staff Officer, Scotland) was elected President.

There was much speculation on the future of the first service and in his Presidential

address Mr. A. B. Craig emphasized the all-important opportunity in an expanded post-war fire service for the IFE Diploma and practical knowledge to be combined “in the fireman of tomorrow.”

Membership: 2,813.

### 1946

Mr. D. Macdougald resigned his appointment of General Secretary at the end of November.

Membership was growing rapidly and now totalled 3,204, made up of 2 Hon. Life Members; 14 Hon. Members; 141 Members; 300 Associate Members; 789 Graduates; 81 Licentiates and 1,877 Students. The examination too were growing in popularity with 195 entries for the Graduate (75 passes) and 57 entries for the Associate Members grade (25 passes).

The first grant to the Institution by the Fire Service Research and Training Trust was made for “educational purposes”.

The 23rd Annual General Meeting was held in Brighton when Mr. A. P. L. Sullivan (Deputy Chief of Fire Staff) was elected President.

### 1947

The new General Secretary, appointed in February, was Mr. H. R. Hull.

A notable speaker at the Conference was Dr. J. Bronowski who presented a paper on “Atomic Bombardment and its effect in relation to Fire Engineering”. Dr. Bronowski had been a member of the British Mission to Japan when visiting the sites of the atomic bomb explosion at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

An important amendment was made to the election of Licentiates which had the effect of barring that grade of membership to serving members of Fire Brigade.

The 24th Annual Meeting was held in Scarborough when Mr. E. McKinnell (No. 5 Fire Force) was elected President.

Membership: 3,655.

### 1948

The Council produced a ‘Statement of Policy’ and as a result submitted proposals to the Annual Conference which, in the main, sought to do four things-

- (a) Widen the membership of the Council
- (b) Admit “Subscribers”
- (c) Admit part-time and other brigade personnel
- (d) Raise the rate of subscriptions

'The Extraordinary General Meeting which considered these matters agreed to their introduction, though not before amendments to refer three of them (b, c and d) back, had been defeated.

The most controversial proposal was the one to admit to all grades of membership, part-time and other brigade personnel. The Chairman of the Membership Committee (Mr. A. H. Johnstone) proposing the motion said— "The effect of this Motion will be to bring into the orbit of the Institution all those who are concerned in fire fighting and fire protection as distinct from the existing position in which the Institution is virtually a closed-shop to any but the professional fireman".

Opposition to the proposal was mainly on the grounds that the position of the "full time member ought to be safeguarded". One delegate observed:

"It could mean that a member of a rural fire party, with a wheel barrow pump or a two-man manual, could become an Associate Member of the Institution, having the same rights and privileges as the Chief Officer of a county fire brigade". He wondered also what might be thought if a Diploma of the IFE was ever found hanging up amongst the packets of cigarettes and fly-blown papers in a village shop.

The office moved to 94, Southwark Bridge Road, London.

The 25th AGM was held in Eastbourne when Mr. J. E. Farrell (West Riding of Yorkshire) was elected President.

Membership: 3,609.

## 1949

The necessary amendments to the Articles of Association and By-Laws to give effect to the policy decisions agreed in 1948 were presented to the Annual Conference. Against the wishes of the Council these were referred back by a narrow majority on the grounds that there had not been sufficient consultations with the branches.

The 26th Annual General Meeting was held in Edinburgh when Mr. A. H. Nisbet (Lanarkshire) was elected President.

Membership: 3,686.

## 1950

The consultations with branches referred to in the entry for 1949 having taken place, the Council again brought forward their proposals for amendments to the Articles of Association and this time they were successful.

Mr. H. R. Hull resigned as General Secretary and Mr. A. S. Pratten, a Council member, took up the duties of Hon. Secretary/Treasurer "until such time as the Council is able to appoint a full-time official".

The 27th Annual General Meeting was held in Bournemouth when Mr. E. S. Calvert (City of Gloucester) was elected President. The Conference this year was the first to be held jointly with the Chief Fire Officers Association.

Membership: 3,272.

The three year struggle to introduce the principles of the 1948 policy statement finally came to an end with the acceptance of the revisions to the Articles of Association.

Mr. T. A. Varley (who had been President in the years 1942/44) was appointed “the first Chief Fire Officer of New Zealand in which capacity he will be responsible for the co-ordination and consolidation of the fire brigades of the Dominion, the inauguration of an emergency Fire Service scheme and the introduction of technical training for the personnel of the Service.”

Following a visit to India by Mr. A. P. L. Sullivan, four branches were set up in the sub-continent: Northern, Eastern, Southern and Western. The Northern and Western India branches still exist, but the other two fell by the wayside during subsequent years<sup>3</sup>.

The 28th Annual General Meeting was held in Margate when Mr. W. E. Greenhalgh (Coventry) was elected President.

Membership: 2,658.

## 1952

A proposal by the Council to amend the composition of the Council by adding 12 members to be elected by branches in the United Kingdom (on a regional basis) was approved. The new Council membership of a President, Immediate Past President, three Vice Presidents, six elected Members (now Fellows), three elected Associate Members (now Members) and 12 Regional Representatives has stood the test of time for it still exists to-day.<sup>4</sup>

The 29th Annual General Meeting was held in Blackpool when Mr. H. W. Coleman (Birmingham) was elected President.

Membership: 2,700.

## 1953

Mr. A. S. Pratten retired as Hon. Secretary/Treasurer and he was succeeded by Mr. A. P. L. Sullivan.

Both the Editorial and Technical Committees were particularly active and the *Dictionary of Fire Technology* was published together with *Hazardous Industries*. These publications went into a number of editions over the years and the former is now being completely revised and updated to form a new publication. *Facts and Figures* was another popular book and this too, is now being completely re-written. *Chemical Fires* had a long life but was eventually discontinued along with *Hazardous Industries*.

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<sup>3</sup> In 1998 the South Western India Branch was inaugurated by Peter Holland and in 2008 the Eastern and Southern India Branches were re-established by the combined efforts of Board Chairman John Judd, and International President's Charles Chu and Paul Richardson, with the support of Life Fellow Mr GB Menon.

<sup>4</sup> The arrangements for Regional representatives were further refined in 1997 when International Regional Representatives were established. In 2003 the International General Assembly was established along with a Board of Directors.

The 30th Annual General Meeting was held at Llandudno when Mr. E. T. Hayward (Southampton) was elected President.

Membership: 2,373.

#### **1954**

The year saw the death, at 92 years of age, of a man who perhaps more than anyone else was responsible for the foundation of the Institution, Arthur Pordage. In his obituary published in the Quarterly Journal it was said "No words can express the full debt the Service owes to him for what he achieved himself and for what he inspired others to achieve. Many serving officers have good reason to be grateful to such men as Arthur Pordage who, seeing the need for technical development and theoretical training, set about the task of forming the Institution of Fire Engineers."

The death of Mr. A. Pordage was followed a few months later during the same year by the passing of another stalwart amongst the founders—Mr. H. Neal of Leicester.

The 31st Annual General Meeting was held in Torquay, when Mr. A. S. Pratten (London Salvage Corps) was elected President.

Membership: 2,182.

#### **1955**

Mr. A. S. Pratten in the address as retiring President referred to the future of the Institution and the hoped for recognition of our diplomas. He said:

"I was hopeful that by the time this Conference came to be held it would have been possible to refer to an impetus to the work of the Institution by the formal recognition of our diplomas, in a manner befitting a professional institution, by all who are responsible for the public fire services in this country - a matter very close to my heart, as many of you know - but unfortunately this cannot be done. The Institution is grateful for the interest which local authorities have shown in its affairs but does not understand why they and government departments at home accept the qualifications and generally encourage the activities of the institutions of which their other engineering staffs are members while they are reluctant collectively to do the same for their fire brigades. Pride of service, which flows to a great extent from professional standing and prestige, is of the utmost importance in our calling and should be fostered. I feel it should be made perfectly clear to the members of the service, and especially to the younger men who will be the officers of the future, that the qualifications of their Institution and continuous active interest in the technical developments in their work through the medium of the Institution are as important and appropriate to them as to the civil, mechanical, electrical, gas and water engineers who also serve the public under the local authorities. It is sincerely hoped that the authorities will very soon indicate their wholehearted support for the representations which have been made to them in this connection."

The hopes expressed were to be repeated on many occasions in the years to come and were to some extent realised when in 1961 the "reciprocal" arrangements were approved and introduced.

The 32nd Annual General Meeting was held in Folkestone, when Mr. R. L. Leach (Dorset) was elected President.

Membership: 2,409.

### **1956**

The Council sought to introduce certain amendments to the By-Laws of which the most controversial was the right of the Council to elect as Members (now Fellows) persons having certain qualifications but who had not qualified for membership by examination.

The resolution was strenuously opposed. Mr. E. R. Ashill described it as a 'resolution absolutely full of danger and difficulties' and Mr. G. V. Blackstone warned the Council and membership that there was a great deal of feeling against the proposal especially in relation to the giving of corporate membership to people in this country who had not passed the examination, whatever their position in the Service.

Despite these objections the resolution was passed by a small majority.

The implementation of the By-Law in later years was to cause, as Mr. Ashill had predicted, "difficulties". Whilst the By-Law as such—though slightly subsequently amended—still exists, it is seldom acted upon by the present day Council.

The 33rd Annual General Meeting was held in Hastings, when Mr. L. Garside (York) was elected President.

Membership: 2,518.

### **1957**

In an announcement concerning hotel accommodation at the Annual Conference the rates are quoted as being 44s/6d. for full board; though there is a footnote to say that this does not include afternoon tea! Happy days!

The 34th Annual General Meeting was held in Southport, when Mr. K. W. Hoare (Manchester) was elected President.

Membership: 2,815.

### **1958**

A new overseas branch in British Columbia was inaugurated.

As will be seen from the yearly membership figures which have been quoted, the overall membership of the Institution had not shown any progress over the previous 10 years. Indeed, as compared with 1948 there had been a decrease of some 600. Mr. K. N. Hoare in a conference paper commented on this situation saying that he blamed the lack of official recognition of the IFE qualifications as one of the main causes for this lack of progress. He said "It is the Council's view and it remains the current policy of this Institution, that it would be more suitable for the Graduate diploma to be made an alternative to the Station Officers' Examination and that

corporate membership of the Institution be regarded by employers as a voluntary additional qualification desirable for the higher ranks within the Service.” That recognition was still some three years away.

The 35th Annual General Meeting was held in Torquay, when Mr. W. B. Muir (Northumberland) was elected President.

Membership: 3,014.

### **1959**

Mr. A. P. L. Sullivan resigned as Honorary General Secretary and Mr. H. L. Oates (who had recently retired from the position of Senior Executive Officer at the Home Office) was appointed part-time General Secretary.

With the appointment of a paid General Secretary it was felt necessary to recommend an increase in the subscriptions. These were doubled in the case of Members to £44.0, and in the grades of Associate Members, Graduates and Students raised by 50% to £3.3.0d, £2.2.0d, and £1.1.0d, respectively.

The 36th Annual General Meeting was held in Brighton when Mr. R. R. Lloyd (Croydon) was elected President.

Membership: 3,295.

### **1960**

A new overseas branch in Hong Kong was inaugurated bringing the total of such branches to 17.

The Council introduced towards the end of 1959 a form of amnesty whereby Members, Associate Members and Graduates who had allowed, for one reason or another, their membership to lapse before 1st April 1956 could rejoin without the necessity of paying the usual arrears. As a result, 68 home members and 9 overseas members rejoined. It was an experiment which has never been repeated.<sup>5</sup>

The 37th Annual General Meeting was held in Bournemouth, when Mr. A. J. Frame (Leicestershire) was elected President.

Membership: 3,744.

### **1961**

The negotiations with the Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council were, at last, brought to a conclusion. The resulting agreement provided that there would be a reciprocal recognition between the Statutory Station Officers' examination and the Graduateship examination of the Institution and this arrangement would take effect from the examinations to be held in 1962.

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<sup>5</sup> A further amnesty was introduced in 1992 and then subsequently the arrangements for lapsed membership underwent change on several occasions.

When the appropriate amendments to the By-Laws were proposed at the Annual General Meeting there was some opposition but the resolution was passed by a comfortable majority.

So ended one of the most contentious periods in our history. Looking back there can be little doubt that the new agreement was advantageous to the Institution from a membership point of view, and those advantages were reflected in the growth in membership during the ensuing years.<sup>6</sup>

The 38th Annual General Meeting was held in Edinburgh when Mr. J. Garside (Bradford) was elected President.

Membership: 4,026.

## 1962

A new overseas branch in New South Wales was inaugurated.

The Council had been considering for some time the interpretation of the term "fire engineer". Up to this date only persons serving in fire brigades had been allowed to sit the examinations. The view was taken that the term "fire engineer" ought to embrace the very large number of persons who were professionally engaged in fire engineering, e.g. architects, surveyors, fire loss adjustors etc, and who were known to be anxious to take the examinations.

Following protracted negotiations which Mr. R. R. Lloyd conducted, the Institution received the Letters Patent for the Grant of Arms from Lord Lyon, King of Arms in Edinburgh. The Letters Patent was framed and hangs today in the General Secretary's Office and is handed over to each successive President at the Annual General Meeting.

The 39th Annual General Meeting was held in Folkestone, when Mr. J. A. Broadbent (Wiltshire) was elected President.

Membership: 4,109.

## 1963

The widening of eligibility for the examinations envisaged in 1962 became an accomplished fact.

The Federation of British Fire Organisations was founded with the Institution as one of the seven Founder Members.

The first steps were taken towards the creation of a Preliminary Certificate Examination. A meeting was held with the British Fire Services Association and the Industrial Fire Protection Association to this end. At the meeting the Institution agreed

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<sup>6</sup> In fact the arrangement survived until the demise of the UK Fire Services Examination Board examinations in 2005. In 2008 the Institution began providing fire and Rescue Services, with examinations to test the knowledge and understanding of staff, as part of the Integrated Personal Development System.

to consider the possibility of setting up some form of Preliminary Certificate examination which would be intended for the industrial fireman.

The Council was considering the re-organisation of Home Branches, of which there were 18 at the time, and their grouping on a regional basis for Council representation purposes. Meanwhile a 19th branch was created in Northern Ireland. Overseas a branch was set up in the United States of America through the International Society of Fire Instructors.

Two years after his retirement as Chairman of the Examinations Board, Professor E. Whitehouse died at the age of 71. He had been associated with the Institution for 20 years and many tributes were paid to his influence in helping to establish the examinations. He was succeeded (in 1961) as Education Adviser by Mr. T. P. Gutteridge.

The 40th Annual General Meeting was held in Hastings, when Mr. E. R. Ashill (Hampshire) was elected President.

Membership: 4,663.

## **1964**

Mr. H. L. Oates retired as part-time General Secretary and Mr. A. W. Beevers was appointed as the full-time General Secretary.

At the suggestion of the Technical Committee the first one day conference was held. Organised by the North Eastern Branch (as it was then called, now the East Midlands Branch) at Leicester, the conference was attended by 220 delegates and was voted a great success. This conference was the forerunner of what was to become a regular annual programme of one-day conferences which continue to this day.

The problems of home branches and Council representation were unresolved and agreement with the branches could not be achieved. The Council, therefore, set up a special committee to examine the problem and report.

For many years the examinations had been held in February but this was now altered to the second week in March to avoid a clash with 'the Statutory Station Officers' Examination.

The 41st Annual General Meeting was held in Eastbourne when Mr. H. F. Chisnall (Middlesex) was elected President.

Membership: 5,500.

## **1965**

For some time the Council had been conscious of the need to obtain better accommodation for the Head Office and on 1st September 1965 the office moved to 148 New Walk, Leicester. The purchase of the new office placed a considerable strain on the financial resources of the Institution but with the help of a bank loan and special loans from members the purchase price of some £11,000 was raised. Such was the success of the new venture that the loans were all paid off within the next 5/6

years. At the time it was truly said that the Institution had returned home, since it was in Leicester in 1918 that the first steps to establish the Institution had been taken.

The 42nd Annual General Meeting was held in Manchester, when Mr. F. Rushbrook (South East Scotland), was elected President.

Membership: 5,449.

## 1966

New overseas branches were established in Trinidad and Nova Scotia.

Following a loss of over £2,000 in the previous financial year the Council brought forward proposals to increase subscriptions, which had last been increased with effect from 1st April 1960. The proposals caused considerable comment at the Annual General Meeting, particularly in respect of a proposed increase of 100% in the subscriptions of Students (from £1.1.Od to £2.2.Od) whereas the proposed subscriptions for other grades were 'increased by 33%. An attempt to move an amendment to exempt Students from the increase was ruled out of order by the President on the grounds that the notice of motion put forward by the Council had to be accepted or rejected—it could not be amended as proper notice of the intention to move such an amendment had not been given.

In the event, when the vote was taken the increases were carried.

The Council also brought forward a notice of motion designed to resolve the appointment of regional representatives on the Council (see 1964). The proposal, which was accepted, established the right of regions, which could consist of one or more branches, to elect a representative to serve on the Council for a three year period, with a maximum of two three year periods. This rule survived the local authority re-organisation of 1973 and exists to-day.<sup>7</sup>

The 43rd Annual General Meeting was held in Southport when Mr. D. Blacktop (Staffordshire), was elected President.

Membership: 4,986.

## 1967

The first Preliminary Certificate Examination was held in October.

The examination syllabus was divided into four papers, all of which were taken in one day:

Morning:       1. English and arithmetic.  
                  2. Hydraulics and physics.

Afternoon:     3. Chemistry and combustion, fire equipment.

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<sup>7</sup> See reference 4 – Mr Ramsey in the original text appears to incorrectly refer to 1964, when in fact it appears he should to be referring to 1952.

#### 4. Legislation, fire prevention equipment.

The first sitting attracted 203 entries from home candidates and 69 from overseas.

It can perhaps be mentioned here that in the years which were to follow the number of candidates declined considerably and there were occasions when the Examinations Committee was considering abandoning the examination. However in the mid 1970's there was a considerable revival in interest, particularly overseas, and the abandonment of a written examination in favour of a largely "objective testing" examination contributed to its survival and to-day it is firmly established.

A speaker at the 1967 Conference was Mr. 'Red' Adair of Texas, USA who spoke on "Experiences in fighting oil and gas well fires throughout the world". Ten years later 'Red' Adair was to return to this country to help fight the blow out in the North Sea Oil Rig disaster.

The 44th Annual General Meeting was held in Eastbourne when Mr. N. F. Richards (Bedfordshire) was elected President.

Membership: 5,342.

#### **1968**

The General Secretary, Mr. A. W. Beevers died in January and the Council appointed Mr. W. G. St. S. Brogan to the vacant position in July.

The Council had, some two years previously, set up an Education and Training Committee, which now set about studying the possibility of establishing research scholarships. This study was to lead in the years that followed to two scholarship schemes.

First in the field were the Commonwealth Fire Engineering Scholarships for overseas students, for which the funds were provided by the Commonwealth Foundation. Secondly came the United Kingdom Fire Engineering Scholarships from funds provided by the Fire Service Research and Training Trust.

To both these organisations the Institution owes a debt of gratitude for their generosity and co-operation.

The 45th Annual General Meeting was held in Torquay when Mr. A. H. Warren (Cheshire) was elected President.

Membership: 5,414.

#### **1969**

The Golden Jubilee was celebrated by a Luncheon held in the Mansion House, London on the 12th March when the Guest of Honour was the Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor of London, Sir Charles Trinder.

As well as presiding at the Golden Jubilee Luncheon, The President (Mr. A. H. Warren) undertook an extensive overseas tour visiting Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand and South and East Africa.

Having been in existence for 50 years it was thought appropriate that this was a good time “for taking stock and trying to assess the current state of the Institution and to plan for the years ahead.” To that end the Council set up a “Future of the Institution” sub-committee and its deliberations were to extend over the next few years before being concluded as will be reported in due course.

The 46th Annual General Meeting was held in Harrogate when Mr. K. L. Holland (West Riding of Yorkshire) was elected President.

Membership: 5,545.

## 1970

Mr. W. G. St. S. Brogan resigned as General Secretary in April and Mr. D. S. Ramsey was appointed in July.

The examinations have always played an important part in the work of the Institution. Rightly so, because in the vast majority of cases membership depends upon the ability to pass the appropriate examination. Consequently the various examination syllabuses were continually under review and from time to time minor adjustments made. In 1970 however, there was a major change in the syllabus for the Associate Member Examination by the introduction of a fourth paper on “Management and administration” and this was introduced with effect from 1972.

The Holroyd Report on the Fire Service was published in June. The Report was the first inquiry into the Fire Service for over 30 years. The Institution, which had submitted evidence, was commented upon favourably. Among the recommendations made was that the standard of the Associate Membership Examination should be raised so that it might become a recognised professional qualification. The addition to the syllabus for that examination was a step in that direction, though there may have been those who already felt that the Associate Membership Examination was “a recognised professional qualification.”

The 47th Annual General Meeting was held in Folkestone, when Mr. J. J. Unsworth (Halifax) was elected President.

Membership: 5,568.

## 1971

After 10 years Mr. T. Gutteridge retired as Education Adviser (in recognition of his services he was elected an Honorary Member) and Mr. P. A. D. Sheen took his place.

Following the publication of the Holroyd Report the special Sub-Committee considering the “Future of the Institution” resumed its work.

The Quarterly Journal was also under review and a new format and title was under consideration.

Metrication was being examined by the Examinations Board. The Board had also been faced with a problem concerning the Preliminary Certificate Examination. This had not proved successful under its original pattern and the decision was therefore

taken to hold future examinations at the same time as the other two examinations and to introduce a wider spread of questions by using the objective testing technique.

The 48th Annual General Meeting was held in Harrogate, when Mr. W. M. Ward (Buckinghamshire) was elected President.

Membership: 5,750.

## 1972

A new overseas branch in the Republic of Ireland was established.

The Council considered and agreed to a re-structuring of its committees. These committees were established as being: Finance and General Purposes; Publications; Education and Training; Membership and Branches; Examinations and Technical. Further, the Examinations and Education and Training Committees, and the Publications and Technical Committees were to meet jointly.

The overall membership showed a decrease of some 300 members and appeared to mark the end of a period of steady growth. This was not, however, a true picture because previously By-Law 16 (Cessation of membership) had been incorrectly interpreted. The Council having agreed that this practice must stop instructed that the By-Law should be implemented properly and this led to rather more unpaid members being "struck off" than normally. The upward trend of membership was to be resumed in future years.

The 49th Annual General Meeting was held in Eastbourne, when Mr. I. W. Stonehouse (Lincoln) was elected President.

Membership: 5,452.

## 1973

The "Future of the Institution" Committee having reported to the Council the result of their studies, it was agreed to present at the 1973 Annual General Meeting a number of resolutions designed to amend the grades of membership. In 50 years these had virtually been unchanged but the Council now felt that the time had come when there must be a degree of alteration to bring the Institution in line with other professional bodies. It was also felt that these changes were essential if the Institution was to stand any chance of achieving "chartered" status.

The resulting resolutions to amend the Articles of Association and the Bylaws were all carried unanimously and in summary provided:

- (a) Members became Fellows  
Associate Members became Members  
Subscribers became Affiliates  
Licentiates were discontinued  
Graduates and Students were unchanged.
- (b) A redrafted By-Law 1(a) was introduced governing the transfer of Members to Fellows.

- (c) A new By-Law was introduced to provide for the payment of a lump sum (then £20) for those over the age of 60 which would entitle them to remain members during their lifetime without payment of any further subscriptions.
- (d) The previous right of Associate Members to propose themselves for transfer to the grade of Member was discontinued.
- (e) There were also a number of other minor amendments which were of a “tidying up” nature rather than policy matters.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting was held in Harrogate, when Mr. T. D. Jones (Cornwall) was elected President.

A new Overseas Branch in Tasmania was formed. There was also an addition to the list of home branches when the Cumbria (formerly a Group) Branch was established.

Membership: 6,012.

### **1974**

After 9 years it was necessary to seek a rise in subscriptions. Following a deficit in the Income and Expenditure Account of over £6,000 it was obvious that the inflationary trends of recent years had made an increase in subscriptions necessary, indeed overdue.

When the new rates were accepted at the Annual General Meeting it was pointed out that, in accordance with the undertaking given at the 1966 Conference, the subscriptions for Students had not been increased; in fact they were slightly reduced.

The inflationary trends referred to above were to cause difficulties during the following years and action had to be taken to increase income by increasing subscriptions and curb expenditure by cutting back wherever possible.

The 51st Annual General Meeting was held in Eastbourne, when Mr. E. H. Whitaker (East Sussex) was elected President.

Membership: 6,635.

### **1975**

A new overseas branch was inaugurated in Singapore.

Once again it was activity on the examinations scene which should be highlighted. The Examinations Committee recognised the importance of maintaining a continuous review of the three examination syllabuses by establishing the Syllabus Revision Sub-Committee. Their first task was to review the syllabus of the Membership Examination since a need was felt for a new format which would “commend itself to those members of the fire engineering profession outside the local government fire services who are constantly reminding us that there is more to being a fire engineer than in being able to fight fires”. This was a sentiment that was accepted and over the next two or three years the Sub-Committee produced not only a new syllabus but also a completely new format consisting of two compulsory subjects (Fire engineering science and fire safety) and four optional subjects

(Fixed installations, building construction, management and administration and fire service operations) of which two must be taken.

This radical change has been accepted by the Council in 1978 and will be brought into operation in 1981.

The 52nd Annual General Meeting was held in Scarborough when Mr. A. R. Brannon (Cheshire) was elected President.

Membership: 7,280.

## 1976

Matters of finance and membership occupied the thoughts of the Council. The Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee commented on the financial situation in his Annual Report saying:

“As with most similar organisations, the costs of running the Institution have increased to a far greater degree than the increase in income and this is almost entirely due to the unprecedented level of inflation during the year in question. It cannot be seen as financially satisfactory to have to record an excess of expenditure over income of £5,868 which has reduced our accumulated fund from £24,243 to £18,374 and clearly the Institution cannot continue to draw on its small capital reserves”.

To remedy the situation subscriptions had to be increased and every item of expenditure had to be examined in order to be justified.

On a happier note the membership rose to over 8,000 for the first time and it was noted that over the last four years the total membership had increased by more than 2,500.

The 53rd Annual General Meeting was held in Harrogate when Mr. K. Horan (West Yorkshire) was elected President.

Membership: 8,009.

## 1977

A new overseas branch in Canberra, known as the ACT (Australian Capital Territory) Branch was founded.

This history is almost up-to-date and perhaps a fitting way in which to conclude the story is contained in the following quotation from the Inaugural Address of the present President (Mr. P. Watters) who said:

“No one can doubt the value of technical knowledge in the ever constant battle against fire and the effects of fire. As industrial technology develops and embraces new materials, the problems facing the fire services intensify and the need for technical expertise in the Fire Service becomes of greater importance. It is worth asking the question: ‘Would the present tremendous depth of technical knowledge and practical skills possessed by Britain’s fire engineers today be at that level if there

had not existed an Institution aimed at developing knowledge and stretching the frontiers of scientific skill?’

“I would venture to suggest the answer is no, and Britain and the countries encompassed by the IFE owe a very great debt to the pioneers of the IFE; those men with vision to recognise the problems and provide suggestions to solve the problems. They, our founders, were the early trend setters in the evolution of fire safety, fire prevention training and developing the skills of the engineer.

“I believe that people who are involved in the practice and science of fire extinction and advising on fire prevention become expert at developing their ingenuity and tact in order to “engineer” success and the founder members surely recognised this when launching the new Institution.

What has the IFE achieved? We have given stimulus to study, motivated individuals and groups to extend their knowledge to levels they believed themselves incapable of achieving, created forums throughout Britain and many parts of the world for a free exchange of technical views, organised examinations, published a technical journal and produced a number of excellent books on a wide range of technical subjects, many of which are still in demand at the present time.”

The 54th Annual General Meeting was held in Brighton, when Mr. P. Watters (Tyne & Wear) was elected President.

Membership: 8,376.

## 1978

A new, and the youngest, overseas branch was formed in Zambia.

And so the story is complete and after 60 years the Institution can look back on a period of progress and ever increasing influence.

What of the future? The next milestone is the 75th anniversary and then on to the 100th birthday. Some of you reading this account will be able to participate in those celebrations. One of the most important ways in which changes are likely to come about is the necessity for an increasing involvement in fire engineering developments at home and overseas, perhaps particularly in Europe. Developments in fire technology have made the methods used 60 years ago seem curiously out-dated. Will those who administer the affairs of the Institution in the year 2118<sup>8</sup> regard the methods of 1978 in a similar light? One thing is certain—the action taken by our founders in 1918 will be an everlasting testament to their forward thinking and depth of vision.

Long may their memory remain.

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<sup>8</sup> It may be that the Dennis Ramsey, the author intended this date to be 2018, the first century of the Institution, or he may have been really stretching the imagination by looking forward to the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! In any event, I am sure he would not have anticipated that the 90 years of IFE history, including his own contribution would be available to everyone with a computer, via the world wide web. Although, the facing page of the booklet carries an advertisement for “Ferranti Computer Systems” who were responsible for installing the first computer aided mobilising system in a fire and rescue service, in Greater Manchester, UK in 1978.

From this point until 1994, the history has been updated by the General Secretary of the time, Mrs. C E Mackwood.

### **1978**

A new, and the youngest, overseas branch was formed in Zambia.

There was a slight decline in UK membership which may have been due to the Fire Service strike. There was also a slight decline in the entries for the examinations. Peter Lush — Editor of the Journal for 20 years — resigned to become Editor of the Dorset Evening Echo and the new Editor was Mrs. Valerie Hargreaves with whom the Institution has had a long and continuing relationship both for publishing and conferencing related work.

The 56th Annual General Meeting was held in Brighton, when Mr. H. Porter (Home Office) became President.

Membership rose to 8,516.

### **1979**

The theme of the 1978 President was taken up by the London Branch who held a Conference on 'Fire Technology and the European Commitment'.

A One Day Course on 'Emergency Procedures for Hospital Fires', organised by the Republic of Ireland Branch, was so popular it had to be repeated.

Changes to the Members and Graduate Examinations, and Syllabus, were completed, to come into effect in 1981.

The Technical Committee worked on the publication 'Fire Technology — Basic Mathematics', previously known as 'Mathematics for Firemen'. The Chairman of the Committee announced 'The traumatic change from imperial to metric measure has taken place since this book was last revised and, therefore, the current revision was proving to be a bigger job than was first anticipated....'

The General Secretary, Mr. Dennis Ramsey, was awarded the MBE in 1979. Council announced the appointment of a Mrs. C. E. Mackwood as Deputy General Secretary in readiness to take over the full duties of General Secretary at the end of the year, when Mr. Ramsey retired.

### **1980**

The 57th Annual General Meeting was held at Harrogate. Mr. R. A. Haley (Bedfordshire County Fire and Rescue Service) became President.

'Dictionary of Fire Technology' was completely revised and published. After considerable consultation the Institution was accorded Charitable Status which benefited the Institution financially.

The Examination procedure for the Preliminary Certificate Examination changed to take account of the fact that it was increasingly used as a Junior Officer qualification in overseas countries. The new Examination came into effect in 1982.

The Publications Committee thanked Mr. A. S. Minton for his continued financial support of the Essay Competition which had been more successful than in previous years.

An in-depth review commenced to consider whether the objectives of the Institution were being properly met.

Australia held its first National Conference in Canberra.

Mr. Leung Shin-kay, GM, MIFireE, Hong Kong Fire Services Department was in charge of a BA crew entering a pressurised tunnel when he got into difficulties and died. He was posthumously awarded a Fellowship of the Institution in 1981.

Membership: 8,657.

## 1981

The 58th Annual General Meeting was held in Southampton. Mr. A. B. C. Hogg (Norfolk Fire Brigade) became President.

The Hong Kong Branch made moves to forge links with China by visiting and exploring the possibility of holding an IFE Seminar at the Kwantung Provincial Academy of Sciences, China.

In the examinations one candidate wrote across the paper 'I am not pleased with this paper'. Neither were the Markers!

The Institution was faced with a severe financial crisis. Subscriptions had not kept pace with inflation and realistic increases were sought together with increases in Examination Fees to ensure that losses were not incurred. Publication of two books was cancelled as were various Committee Meetings in an effort to control the budget. The President thanked all Committee Members and staff for the way in which they steered the IFE through the difficult times of runaway inflation.

On the closure of the Fire Service College, Dorking, a landscape painting was presented to the IFE to be hung at Headquarters.

In an after dinner toast to the Institution the HM Chief Inspector, Sir Peter Darby, praised the Institution's contribution to the work of the British Standards Institute. 1981 saw the death of Mr. A. P. L. Sullivan 'A man who came to the IFE's rescue'. Mr. Sullivan joined the Service in 1919 and became President of the Institution in 1946. In 1953 he became the Honorary General Secretary (unpaid) during a previous period of financial crisis, when resources were so stretched that the IFE Head Office in Millbank, London, had to be disposed of and all IFE business was conducted from Southwark Fire Station. He continued his unpaid career until 1959.

Membership: 8,700.

## 1982

The 59th Annual General Meeting was held at Harrogate. Mr. K. Hayton (Clwyd Fire Brigade) became President.

The IFE Mid Western Branch proved that it was looking to the future when it organised a very successful Conference entitled 'Communications — The 90's Technology'.

Special Diplomas were printed and prepared for those members gaining the newly introduced Endorsements to the Membership Examination.

'The President's Desk' appeared for the first time in the opening pages of the Journal.

A remark found on one candidate's paper during the Examination's Marking read 'I will study more and try harder next year'.

The first of the meetings of Regional Representatives took place to ensure that 'grass roots' views were considered in relation to new policies. IFE Headquarters met the new age of technology with the introduction of micro processors.

The President indicated that since there were a number of IFE members in Nigeria it would be incumbent on a future President to try to form a Branch there. Unfortunately, due to the continuing and worsening economic situation this was difficult to achieve, although efforts continue to inaugurate a stable Branch.

The Chairman of the Publications Committee commented on the apparent apathy at Group and Branch levels in failing to supply suitable information and material for the Journal. News from home and abroad was very scarce. He stated there must be a wealth of interesting information from Groups and Branches following meetings.

A motion enabling individuals to be elected to the Grade of Member in very special circumstances, without sitting the examination, was overwhelmingly defeated.

Membership: 8,952.

## 1983

The 60th Annual General Meeting was held in Blackpool. Mr. D. F. Robins (Wiltshire Fire Brigade) became President.

The President, Mr. Robins, in his inaugural address aired the subject of Chartered Status and Examinations. He also believed that Council could lose credibility when a well discussed Resolution was brought to an AGM (as had happened with the membership issue in 1980), only to be defeated.

Notwithstanding the fact that there was greater support 'for' than 'against' at Branch discussions throughout the UK. He wondered if it could be that some senior officers, who had not attended the Branch discussions, and who were therefore unaware of the Branch decisions, made up their own minds and voted accordingly! He finished his speech by saying 'Let no one be in any doubt that our Institution is envied by other public bodies and, in particular, by the other Emergency Services... It took many years to accomplish this let's not lose or diminish it'.

In a debate on the present state of the Institution Mr. B. L. Fuller said 'The IFE's duty as I see it must be to teach, to examine and to qualify, so that the man who is a Member of this Institution has a professional expertise and ability that is to be trusted'.

The Essay Competition was re-introduced, sponsored by Fire Check Consultants. Following the Falklands War in 1982, great interest was shown in a three way presentation at Conference on 'Fire Prevention, Damage Control and Firefighting Procedures on HM Warships'. It was one of the occasions when there was 'standing room only' at a Conference Session.

A new Branch was formed in Northern Territory, Australia.

Journals and papers held at 1FF Headquarters were catalogued.

Membership: 8,935.

## 1984

The 61st Annual General Meeting was held at Scarborough. Mr. T. McCarthy (London Salvage Corps) became President.

A complete architectural survey of IFE Headquarters was undertaken which resulted in major alterations and refurbishment.

A part-time Technical Advisor was appointed.

A Working Party was set up, under the Chairmanship of Mr. P. Watters, with the reference of identifying the areas needing change or amendment for a further revision of the Articles of Association.

The History of the first 25 years of the Institution was written by Mr. Michael Buckley. The book gave background history on the early days of Fire Brigades, together with an interesting account of how the Institution developed. Expenditure was approved for the manuscript to be typed and kept for reference at IFE Headquarters.

It was reported that there were now seven Branches in Australia, two in Canada, two in India and one each in Hong Kong, New Zealand, Eire, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Singapore, Zambia, and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as Examination Centres in Saudi Arabia, The Gulf States, Kenya, Nigeria and Papua New Guinea. Many members from these countries participated in the Conference 'Fire International '84' which was opened by HRH Princess Anne at the NEC, Birmingham, described as 'Quite simply The Fire Protection Exhibition and Conference of the Decade'. Because of this the IFE held its AGM together with a short Conference Programme at Scarborough.

The President visited the 'Third Australian Conference' held in Surfers Paradise, 40 miles south of Brisbane.

'Principles of Fire Investigation' by R.A. Cooke and R. H. Ide was published by the Institution. This has remained a best seller from its introduction to the present time.

Membership: 8,897.

## 1985

The 62nd Annual General Meeting was held at Eastbourne. Mr. G. B. Scotford (Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service) became President.

Membership showed a slight decrease due mainly to a drop in Student membership overseas. It was well known that a number of overseas Branches had great difficulty in paying subscriptions due to restrictions in foreign exchange and efforts were made to assist in this respect by discussing the possibility of sponsoring a certain number of members in Third World Countries.

Wide discussion in both Home and Overseas Branches had taken place which finally culminated in the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on the 13 June, 1985, when the revised Articles of Association were accepted by a large majority.

Mr. Norman Anderson was appointed to the post of Editor of the Journal following the resignation of Mr. Malcolm Brown.

IFE Headquarter's staff were under considerable pressure dealing with the increased number of examination entries which had risen to 1,845. The involvement of many more members of the Institution in the question setting and marking process was welcomed to assist with the additional work load.

The J. H. Thomas Trust was formed following the generosity of a member of the Mid Western Branch. The Trust was formed for the benefit of the more junior members of the Institution. The first Scholarship from this Trust was awarded in 1992.

A meeting took place to see if a closer relationship between the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (UK Chapter) and the Institution would be fruitful. In subsequent years the SFPE (UK Chapter) would join with the Society of Fire Engineers to form the Institute of Fire Safety. Every effort has been made to maintain a close liaison.

The 'Past President's Board' was unveiled at the IFE Headquarters listing all Presidents since 1918. Each year the name of the President is added.

A National Coordinating Committee was set up in Australia to integrate the activities of its Branches and to enable an 'Australian View' to be forwarded to Council.

Mr. D. Thomas, West Midlands Branch, Mr. C. I. Smith, Yorkshire and Humberside Branch, Dr. Corteze Lawrence, West Germany and Mr. Robert Jonkman, Assistant Chief Fire Officer of Amsterdam, were elected as the first Associate members of the Institution under the new Articles of Association.

Four Life Fellows were also appointed Sir Frederick Delve, Mr. H.F. Chisnall, Mr. A. S. Pratten, and Mr. T. A. Varley, New Zealand.

With the initiative of a former Commonwealth Scholarship Winner, Mr. Dillon Somauroo, coupled with recognition by the Mauritius Government Fire Service, an inaugural meeting of the Mauritius Branch was held. The Meeting was attended by the IFE President, Mauritius Government Ministers and representatives from the British High Commission.

Membership: 8,829.

## 1986

The 63rd Annual General Meeting was held in Glasgow. Mr. A. C. Parnell (Fire Consultant) was elected President. He was the first President not to have a Fire Service background, being an Architect by profession.

Mr. R.G. Cox of Western Australia was appointed a Life Fellow.

Mr. Ben Jones was appointed as the Examinations Officer with the intention of relieving some of the pressure on the existing staff.

The Membership and Branches Committee was formed and took over responsibility for all membership matters, coordinating the activities of, and communicating with Regional Representatives.

The Fire Services Research and Training Trust continued to show their support for the Institution by again making grants towards educational courses, the Fire Engineers Journal, the IFE Reference Library and individual Technical publications.

A new integrated administration and word processing computer system was introduced at IFE Headquarters to assist the service to members at a time of expansion, both in terms of membership and locations.

The Scottish branch celebrated its Golden Jubilee in September.

A special Course was set up locally in Brunei to prepare students for the Preliminary Certificate Examination. Two Instructors (both IFE Fellows) went from the UK to conduct the four week course.

Mr. Arthur Lim of Singapore was elected a Fellow on the Council of the Institution.

The Rules and Syllabus for the Preliminary Certificate Examination were completely redesigned and made ready for introduction in the 1987 Examinations. The main change was in making it an objective question format lasting one half day and not one whole day as before.

Appropriate professional qualifications issued by other organisations began to be considered and validated following representation by various Home and Overseas Branches, e.g. Diploma of Fire Engineering Management, Western Australia.

Membership: 9,186.

## 1987

The 64th Annual General Meeting was held at Bristol. Mr. G. Karran (West Yorkshire Fire Brigade) became President.

The new Articles of Association were printed and circulated.

The IFE became involved with the UK National Council for Vocational Qualifications which ensured that the current levels of Examinations were reassessed.

The first ever Omnibus Edition of the Graduate/Member Examinations Supplement 1980—1986 was published.

Prizes of £125 and £75 were generously provided by Fire Check Consultants to be awarded for the best technical papers related to Fire Engineering.

In addition to the handling of a wide range of technical queries which came from all parts of the world, the Technical Committee were involved in responding on behalf of the Institution to the UK Home Office on two matters of crucial importance, namely amendments to the Building Regulations and legislative changes to be incorporated in a revised Fire Precautions Act.

The Balance Sheets showed healthy assets, good investments and a continuing rise in income together with a healthy Conference Balance following losses in the past.

The upper floor of IFE Headquarters, previously let to a private occupier, was converted into a Conference Room which would also house the many interesting artifacts acquired and bequeathed to the Institution over the years.

Membership: 9,637.

## **1988**

The 65th Annual General Meeting was held in Brighton. Mr. D.T. Davis (Cheshire Fire Brigade) became President.

Following advertisements in the Journal a Professional Register was compiled. The Register enables the Institution to provide enquirers from anywhere in the world with the names of professionals capable of giving expert fire engineering advice, often on a local basis.

A new Graduate Syllabus was printed and circulated throughout the world in readiness for the 1989 Examinations.

A sum was set aside to allow the General Secretary to give discretionary grants to assist candidates from under-developed countries to take the Institution's Examinations.

Mr Parnell reported that he and his colleague Mr Butcher who had funded the Technical Paper Competition for the last seven years considered it would be more beneficial to use the money to provide additional funds to assist fire engineering education in schools and universities, through the IFE.

The Fire Research and training Trust continued to support many IFE activities and generously discussed funding a consultant to progress the Proposed Educational Network Centres on an IFE Sponsored Degree.

Whilst attending the SEAPAC IV Conference in Singapore the president, Mr D T Davis, met Mr B E J Buckeridge, an elderly member, who had passed the Graduate Examination in 1924.

By kind permission of the Commandant of the Fire Service College, the Examinations Marking Panel again assembled at the College, an arrangement commenced in 1981 and continuing to date.

The official inauguration of the Sri Lanka Branch took place, attended by the General Secretary who deputized for the President.

Membership: 9,845.

### **1989**

The 66<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting took place in Birmingham. Mr N Wallington (Devon Fire and rescue Service) became President.

The long awaited 'Handbook for Fire Engineers' was published after more than five years of hard work by its two editors and other IFE members.

It undoubtedly filled a long felt need on the Institution's booklist.

The Commonwealth Fire Engineering Scholarships continued to be awarded to successful applicants. In 1989 Scholarships went to members from Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Zimbabwe and Trinidad. The aim of the Scholarships is not only to increase the knowledge of the individual but also to be of benefit to their home countries. Without the generous support of the Commonwealth Foundation these Scholarships would not be possible.

Useful discussions took place with a European Member of Parliament relating to harmonization of standards throughout Europe in readiness for the single European Market.

Efforts were commenced to establish a Branch of the IFE in the Middle East. Despite tremendous efforts by members of the Executive Committee to date this has not come to fruition, although very close links remain with individual members in Middle Eastern Countries. Examination centres are well established in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, The United Arab Emirates and Oman.

Membership: 9,401.

### **1990**

The 67<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting took place in Manchester. Mr J R Pearson (Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service) became President.

It was agreed that 1,000 translations of the publicity leaflet would be printed in French and German to be distributed within appropriate organisations in Europe.

The IFE continued to be engaged in the development of European standards and it was agreed that financial support would be given to IFE Representatives so engaged.

Lengthy discussion took place during 1990 on national and international fire conference arrangements, as a result of which a private UK Company, Fire (FOBFO) Limited, was established with representatives from the main conferencing organisations — IFE, Fire Protection Association and the Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers Association. FOBFO, of which the IFE remains a full member is now free to concentrate on representing British fire interests in Europe and on the International scene.

It was reported that a commercially strong, and broad based IFE Booklist remained important and turnover for the financial year was up by 133%. A meeting was held with representatives of the Council for National Academic Awards (CNAA) to discuss Chartered status for the IFE. The representatives took the view that there should first be a titled First Degree in Fire Engineering.

Consultants were commissioned to carry out a study, funded by the Fire Services Research and Training Trust and the IFE, whose final report concluded with an agreement in principle on a structure for future education for the Fire Community centered on a Degree in Fire Engineering.

The IFE Council were delighted to receive nominations for Mr. G. Hyde, Australia, and Mr. G. J. Wrigley, New Zealand, for election to Council, and equally so when, at the 1990 AGM, Mr. Hyde was elected to Council in the Member grade and Mr. Wrigley in the Fellow category.

Membership: 9,202.

## 1991

The 68th Annual General Meeting took place at Torquay. Mr. P. A. D. Sheen (Consultant Forensic Engineer) became President.

Moves were commenced for the IFE to validate the quality and marking standards of courses which might lead to accreditation and subsequent reciprocity with certain of the Membership Examination Papers.

The IFE became the Lead Body in drafting a Core Curriculum on Fire Safety in response to the UK Government's Bickerdike Allen Report.

The first European Fire Engineering Scholarships were awarded by the IFE, sponsored by the Fire Services Research and Training Trust.

Lancashire Polytechnic commenced a BSc. B.Eng Distance Learning Degree Course in Fire Engineering. This four year Course with MIFireE entry allows students, after year three of the main Degree, to elect to work in year four to obtain B.Eng(Hons) Fire Engineering or BSc(Hons) Fire Engineering Management.

With the name plates on the original Presidential Chain being full, a new Chain was commissioned with 14 blank discs and using the original IFE Jewel. The original chain is to be placed on display at Headquarters.

The Executive Committee determined that the IFE was ready for change and believed it would be best served by establishing 'in-house' controlled editorial arrangements for the Journal, supported by an appropriate publishing contract. Mr. N. Wallington was appointed Editor and Charlesworth Group were appointed as publishers. This brought to an end a Journal Contract which had given a long and happy association with Mr. John Clarke and all staff at FMJ Publications Ltd.

An upgrade of the whole Computer System at IFE Headquarters took place to increase the speed and efficiency of administrative functions.

A Consultant was employed to produce a new Corporate Image to include the IFE

Logo and new letter heading. A Corporate Image Booklet, for use by IFE members and Branches, has since been published.

Following Solicitor's advice the titles 'Fire Engineers Journal', 'Institution of Fire Engineers' and the IFE 'logo' were registered as Trade Marks in the UK to ensure that they were not copied by other organisations. Following the completion of this exercise similar registration would be considered overseas.

Latest addition to the IFE bookshelf — 'Airports and Aircraft Fire Protection, Firefighting and Rescue Techniques' by R. W. Docherty, a long serving member of Council, was published.

A new Branch was formed in Iceland.

Membership: 10,960. (This was the first time membership had passed the 10,000 mark).

## 1992

The 69th Annual General Meeting took place at Eastbourne. Mr. D. J. Williams (Mid Glamorgan Fire Service) became President.

The Swedish Branch was inaugurated in May. Strong moves were made to form a new Branch in Ontario, Canada, led by a former member of the Hong Kong Branch.

Sadly, Ben Jones, the Institution's Part-time Examinations Officer, died in June. Ben was the 'behind the scenes' organiser and will always be remembered for his help, assistance and overall contribution to the Examinations. He assisted in the preliminary stages of the computerisation of the Examinations.

A separate Trading Company 'IFE (Publications) Limited' was formed to deal with all areas of work which could be liable for VAT.

A Draft Business Plan was circulated setting out an overall future strategy in which all members could participate.

A Recruitment Package was presented in draft form to the Membership and Branches Committee by Mr. Appleby, a member of the UK Northern Branch. This Package was eventually circulated to all Branch Secretaries.

The IFE agreed to maintain its thrust in improving Fire Engineering Education and Training by meeting a proportion of the cost of appointing a Professor in Fire Engineering at Lancashire Polytechnic. Mr. Georgy Makhviladze, Professor of Combustion at the Russian Academy of Science, was appointed.

Mrs. C.E. Mackwood retired as General Secretary after 12 years.

The Council is indebted to her and Mr. T.J. Banks who, along with the President, were the principal compilers of this History of the Institution.

The Institution continued to build its links with other interested parties within the fire sector and a formal understanding on technical matters was established with CACFOA. Liaison was also maintained with the Institute of Fire Safety.

Following worldwide discussions led by the Working Party considering the future of the Institution, Resolutions which would have far reaching effects on the structure of the Institution were put before the AGM and accepted. The Revised Articles of Association and By-Laws would be placed before the 1993 AGM for formal ratification.

Membership: 10,970.

## 1993

And so we enter our 75th year.

The efforts of the Council and members of the Institution will ensure that the Institution of Fire Engineers continues to remain at the forefront of Fire Engineering and provides a strong base from which to go forward towards the Institution's Centenary.

To those of you who are members of the Institution we hope you have felt an enormous pride as you have read of its growth over the past 75 years.

To those non-members who may happen upon this publication we hope we have given you an insight into an Institution which cares very deeply about continually improving the worldwide knowledge and understanding of its members in all aspects of fire engineering. An Institution which was begun 75 years ago for the benefit of firefighters, but which now embraces all those who would call themselves Fire Engineers.

David Williams launched an appeal to raise funds for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary fund. The fund was established to provide assistance to fire engineers by means of bursaries or other financial support. David installed Graham Wrigley as the International President, a title with real meaning, as Graham became the first member from outside of the UK since Mr BA Westbrook OBE (Calcutta) in 1934, to hold this office.

The Institution prepared and presented a submission to become the awarding body for the Emergency Fire Service Lead Body that was to devise and award the National Vocational Qualifications in the UK. In the event our very credible submission was not successful and the Fire Services Examinations Board and the Local Government Management Board became the awarding body. A new branch was inaugurated in Ontario, Canada and work was underway to open a new branch in the Gulf States.

The Institution marked its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with the unveiling of a plaque at our registered office in Edinburgh, and acknowledged the support of the Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service. The first of many annual meetings of branch officials was hosted by the Membership and Branches Committee with the aim of supporting and involving branch officials in the development of the Institution. This forum was in many ways, the forerunner of the General Assembly. The University of Central Lancashire began delivering fire engineering degree level courses in partnership with the Hong Kong City University, supported by the Hong Kong Branch.

Membership: 10,283.

## 1994

Ken Lloyd became International President in what was to become a two year term, as the Institution investigated the potential benefits of greater continuity that a longer term of office might provide.

The Annual General Meeting and conference was held at the Fire Service College at Moreton in Marsh, England, and for the first time was independent of the UK Fire and Rescue Service main conference week. The event was a great success, providing activities and debate of interest to our members.

The number of examination candidates taking examinations increased and the first travelling school was undertaken by Bob Woods of the UK Northern Branch Sri Lanka.

A number of appointments of new staff included Pat Baglin, a qualified engineer to take on the role of publications manager, Bill Cox as Educational Officer and Peter Robinson Technical Officer.

The concept of Special Interest Groups was introduced by the Membership and Branches Committee and technical referees were appointed for articles for the Fire Engineers Journal.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Institute of Fire Safety (IFS), concluding a series of meetings that resulted in closer collaboration. This development was to be instrumental in moving towards becoming an Engineering Council Licensed Body.

Membership: 9,511.

## 1995

With Ken Lloyd in his second year of office as International President, the UK Fire Service College at Moreton in Marsh was again the venue for the second independent annual general meeting and conference. Speakers included Paula Beever, David Charters, Dr Rosemarie Everton and Kevin Arbuthnott.

The liaison with the IFS continued and began developing the arrangements for the Institution to establish the Engineering Council Division.

A meeting of the International Council was hosted by the Republic of Ireland Branch of the Institution, the first such meeting outside of the UK.

The Institution launched its policy on continuing professional development (CPD) and produced guidance and the processes for accrediting CPD activities. The provision of pump priming funding for CPD events in UK Branches was also introduced.

The Institution was providing the secretariat facilities for the organisation within the UK of a network of college's and universities and users of fire education courses. The Institution and the University of Central Lancashire collaborated in the organisation of a fire safety symposium in Nimes in France.

It was decided, in the light of the experience that a two year term as International President was too demanding for the individual and the Institution returned to the policy of appointing a new International President each year.

Membership: 9,895.

## **1996**

George Almond became the International President at the AGM and Conference held in Sunderland, England.

This event was organised in conjunction with the UK Northern Branch, and was the first of the current model of branch supported events that have improved the accessibility and diversity of the event for the membership.

George Almond also represented the Institution at the International Fire Conference held in Manchester England, in September 1996.

The USA Branch was inaugurated at the first UK/USA Fire Service Symposium, held in Florida, USA.

The Fire Control Special Interest Group, the first SIG to be established, held its first meeting led by Lynda Lloyd.

New publications on Marie Studies, Trauma Care by Fire Fighters and Risk Management were published. The Journal increased the frequency of publication from quarterly to bi-monthly.

The new intermediate examination was trialled in the republic of Ireland.

The Institution made its submission to the UK Engineering Council for conditional nominated body status and began working with the Institute of Energy and the Institute of Mining Engineers in bilateral arrangements designed to establish the Institutions experience of the registration processes.

Membership: 10,654.

## **1997**

Peter Holland became International President, at the AGM & Conference held in Hertfordshire, England, organised by the UK Eastern Branch.

The Special Resolution required establishing the Engineering Council Division received overwhelming support.

The number of members exceeded 11,000 for the first time.

Travelling schools visited Malawi and Pakistan.

New branches were inaugurated in Malaysia, Germany, South West India and Belgium, where the Institution co-organised Eurofire '97 conference with the founding committee of the Belgium Branch. This international fire engineering conference was

attended by 130 delegates from 22 countries and celebrated the inauguration of the first continental European branch.

The Institution supported the establishment of the Chair in Fire Law at the University of Central Lancashire, based at Preston, England.

Membership: 10,942.

## **1998**

Paul Young became International President and the AGM & Conference was held at Herriot Watt University in Edinburgh, Scotland.

The IFE website went “live” and investment in the Head Office IT system was made.

The Institution became a licensed body of the Engineering Council and Professor Rosemarie Ann Everton was appointed to the Chair of Fire Law.

Proposals for revisions to the grades of membership were developed and membership exceeded 11,500.

The Institution published “Airports & Aircraft Fire Protection”, by Dr Bob Docherty and “Disasters and Emergencies” by Mr W R (Bill) Tucker.

The Fire Engineers Journal (which had colour front pages since 1985, began to include colour in the articles and advertisements.

The International Council began discussions on how the organisation needed to change, to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Membership: 11,108.

## **1999**

Dr Bob Docherty became International President and the first to be elected to the position by the International Council<sup>9</sup>.

The AGM & Conference was held in Torquay UK and the special resolution that made changes to the membership rules and titles, was overwhelmingly supported.

The IFS closed its membership list, in preparation to the merger with the Institution.

Initial discussions about the recognition of fire engineering as a discipline were held with the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, led by the Hong Kong Branch.

The International Council published a consultation document “2000 Plus”, which set out views and proposals for organisational developments and changes to governance.

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<sup>9</sup> This was a new development introduced in 1999. Previously, nominations for the role of President were made by the International Council. In 2003 the present arrangements were introduced where the International President is nominated and elected by the General Assembly and the Board of Directors.

Eurofire '99 was arranged by the Belgium Branch of the Institution at Affligem (Essene) Belgium.

The Engineering Council Division organised their first Weekend Conference.

In June a fire at adjoining premises burnt through the telephone cables serving the IFE office in Leicester, resulting in the world being isolated from the Institution for a day!

Professor RA Everton presented her inaugural lecture on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1999. Entitled "Stalking the Tiger", this lecture marked the establishment of the Chair in Fire Law that was supported by the Institution.

Membership: 11,549.

## **2000**

John Herrick was elected as the International President and the AGM & Conference was held in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

The Examinations Committee completed a fundamental review of the examinations syllabus.

The possibility of publishing the Journal on a monthly basis, in partnership with the UK Fire Protection Association was investigated.

A travelling school visited Uganda and discussions were about new branches in Nigeria, Spain and Canada began.

A Fire Investigation Special Interest Group was established and supported developments to the fire investigation examinations.

The Engineering Council Division Board became established, with David Smith as its first Chairman.

Further work was carried out to develop ideas from the "2000 Plus" consultation document.

Membership: 11,202.

## **2001**

Paul Woods became International President and the AGM & Conference was held in Nottingham, England.

A major consultation programme was undertaken to obtain the views of the membership to the proposals developed by the International Council.

The ECD held a "weekend" conference and the Institution was a major contributor to the development of the British Standard 7974: 2001. Application of fire safety engineering principles to the design of buildings. Code of Practice and Published Documents

The 'Senior Route' in Industry became available for members of the UK Fire and Rescue Service with the appropriate qualifications and experience to become registered as Engineering Technicians.

Investigations into the feasibility of a membership subscription scheme that would take account of the international variations in economies were conducted, but failed to find a solution that maintained the viability of the Institution's finances, with its heavy dependence on membership subscriptions.

A travelling school visited Columbia.

A trial version of the combined publication, Fire Protection and fire Engineering was published in September 2001.

This history would not be complete without recognising the loss of good friends to the Institution in the terrible events of 11<sup>th</sup> September 2001 in New York. Pete Ganci and Andrew Fredericks both lost their lives along with 341 of their colleagues.

Membership: 10,720.

## **2002**

David Smith became International President at a conference in Ostend, Belgium.

The Fire Engineering Journal became the monthly Fire Engineering and Fire Prevention Journal, with the commitment to find a shorter title to reflect the readership<sup>10</sup>.

The special resolutions necessary to change the governance of the Institution were developed and approved to be implemented in 2003.

The International Council members became members of either the Shadow Board or the Shadow General Assembly.

David Evans, the General Secretary since 1993, retired and Ellen Jessett was appointed as the first Chief Executive Officer of the Institution.

Membership: 10,678.

## **2003**

John Judd became International President at the Annual General Meeting and Conference in Manchester, England.

The first meetings of the Board and the General Assembly in the new governance arrangements were held in Manchester.

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<sup>10</sup> See 2008.

The Institution contributed to the government review of the UK Fire and Rescue Service that resulted in a significant programme of modernisation for the service and opportunities for the Institution.

The UK Government proposed a Centre of Excellence, based at the Fire Service College and the Institution began discussions about relocating from Leicester to Moreton in Marsh.

The Canadian Branch was formed and inaugurated.

The Young Professional's Network was established and led by Andrew Brown.

The Inaugural Rasbash Lecture was presented by Professor Margaret Law.

The Fire Risk Assessors and Auditors Register was launched in July 2003.

The UK government published "Our Fire and Rescue Service" with an agenda for radical reform in June 2003. The Institution led a task force to look at the position of fire research in the UK and found it wanting.

Further changes to the membership grades provided competence based routes for Technician and Member Grades and career appraisal routes to Member for those holding Graduate membership.

Membership: 10,405.

## **2004**

William Peterson became the International President at the AGM and Conference in Dublin, Ireland.

The Institution relocated from its historic address in "New Walk" Leicester to Moreton in Marsh, Gloucestershire, England. In the process the Institution had to say goodbye to a number of long serving members of staff who could not re-locate with the Institution.

The Institution commenced a partnership to distribute and develop publications, with the International Fire Service Training Association based in Oklahoma, USA. Partnerships were also signed with the Malaysian Fire and Rescue Service and the State Fire Services Institute of St Petersburg, Russia.

A new Technical Group was established, to develop and support the Institution's technical influence and support. The General Assembly met in Dublin and in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia supporting the international conference organised by the Malaysian Branch.

Membership: 9,942.

## **2005**

Professor David Charters became International President at the AGM & Conference in Birmingham, England. The General Assembly also met in Birmingham.

Great strides were made in expanding the membership of the Engineering Council Division, through the work of Jo Ruane and the UK Defense Fire Services.

Dialog continued with UK Fire and Rescue representatives on co-operation with the Integrated Personal Development System.

The Institution's new Website was launched.

Fire Safety Technology and Management, a joint publication in association with the UK's Fire Service College, became available for Engineering Council Division members. This journal carried articles that had been peer reviewed.

Membership: 9,363.

## **2006**

Bill Cox became International President at the AGM & Conference in Cardiff, Wales. The General Assembly met in Hong Kong and again, in Wales.

Dennis Davis, the Chair of the Board of Directors, stood down at the end of his term, having served for over 30 years on the governing body of the Institution, 17 years in the role of Chairman of the Executive Committee of the former International Council and the Board of Directors.

Membership: 10,712.

## **2007**

Mr Charles Chu, Hong Kong became International President at the AGM & Conference at Cambridge, UK.

The Board of the Institution began thinking about a long term strategy for the Institution. It was decided that the approach to be adopted was to try to develop a view about how the fire profession needed to develop to meet the challenges of 2018 and then how the Institution could support those developments.

A pilot project commenced to deliver an assessment methodology of knowledge and understanding for Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service. This initiative resulted in discussions about the use of IFE examinations by Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Services, that resulted in over 383 additional candidates sitting the examinations in 2008.

Changes were made to devolve the processing of membership applications to the USA and Australian Branches and a review of the competence standards to ensure a consistent approach was being taken.

A code of Professional Conduct was introduced for fire engineers<sup>11</sup>.

Work commenced on research to develop policy positions for the Institution and eleven policy positions were established that guide the work of those responding to consultations<sup>12</sup>.

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<sup>11</sup> Available on IFE website

<sup>12</sup> These Policy positions are available on the IFE Website

An international review of government Fire Safety Policy was also started. This work aims to help set the agenda for future fire safety policy in countries around the world.

A monthly newsletter was launched to further improve communications. This newsletter is delivered by email to any member who signs up to receive it and keeps members up to date with the latest developments in the Institution and profession.

Membership: 11,141.

## **2008**

Mr Paul Richardson took over as the International President at the AGM & Conference in Blackpool.

In January “The Fire Protection and Fire Engineers Journal” was renamed “Fire Risk Management”.

The Southern and Eastern Branches in India were re-inaugurated by Paul Richardson following support and encouragement from Charles Chu, John Judd and G B Menon.

The Institution celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary by holding a one day conference in Edinburgh on the 31<sup>st</sup> October, on the subject of Fire Engineering – Past, Present and Future. The conference was supported by Buro Happold and aimed to attract fire engineering students from universities. The theme supported the Institution’s drive to develop a longer term vision for the fire engineering profession.

At the conference the Institution publicly announced that it had achieved recognition, by the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator (Ofqual), approved Awarding Body status for the development of general and vocationally related qualifications for the Fire sector at levels 1, 2 and 3 and also higher level awards at level 4. This significant milestone allowed IFE qualifications to become recognised in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Institution declared its intention to work towards extending this recognition to Scotland and beyond the UK.

Louise Craig was appointed Chief Executive Officer in November, replacing Ellen Jessett.

The Middle East Branch of the Institution located at the International College of Engineering and Management (ICEM), Muscat, Sultanate of Oman, was inaugurated in December by Paul Richardson, following discussions led by Peter Holland.

Membership numbers to be advised.