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This month: [AGM Report and 2008/09 Forward Planner](#)

The Annual General Meeting took place on 7<sup>th</sup> March at the RAC Rescue Headquarters at Bescot, Walsall. The facilities had been kindly sponsored by Norwich Union / RAC

[There was a buffet, followed by a very informative and enjoyable tour of the centre and a talk on how the operation is run. Some of the points gleaned will be relayed to members in future NEWSLETTERS.](#)

## The Report

The present officers were unanimously re-elected: Michael Ocock - Chair  
Bruce Widdowson - Secretary  
and NEWSLETTER Editor

The main business of the day was the announcements regarding the two additional main activities over and above the ongoing research and NEWSLETTER :-

1) The SIG's Workshop at the Leaning Zone of the 2008 IRM Risk Forum at Hatfield on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

[The subject is based on STRESS and the organising team consists of Peta Bathe, Pauline Bird, Jeremy Harrison, Andrew Mills, Michael Ocock and Bruce Widdowson. Pauline Bird volunteered to undertake a co-ordinating function leading up to the event and this offer was gratefully accepted.](#)

2) The compilation of a **Guide** on People, Communication and Behaviour in the context of Risk Management.

[It was agreed that this would be brought out before the end of the year and in its initial form would be available to IRM members only. Bruce Widdowson will co-ordinate this work alongside the NEWSLETTER production and David Canham and Shaun Delaney volunteered to be involved, which offers were gratefully accepted.](#)

**Note** - whilst the Forum team has now been fixed, contributions from **all** members towards the content on stress is welcome. Further, contributors on research towards the Guide will also be very welcome to work alongside David, Shaun and your Editor - interaction by e-mail.

## TIMESCALE

**March to September** - work on the Risk Forum Presentation alongside completion of the initial research into our subject (that had been instigated at our 2006 Inaugural Meeting) reported through the *NEWSLETTER*.

**October to December** - presentation of the Guide, based on the above, to the **IRM**

**January to March 2009** - ongoing *NEWSLETTER* and clearing up of any loose ends leading up to the 2009 AGM.

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Thought for the month:

The recent comments by Dr. Philip Hunter, the Chief Schools Adjudicator, following on from the "Brighton experiment" about mixing children in schools to create greater social equality have caused great controversy.

Perhaps not your Editor's place to comment on what is best for children, nor if the Education System has failed or not over recent years. The point for this SIG is:

"was the decision taken solely with the children in mind, or were the greater implications on society considered? In particular, the effects on congestion and pollution and even parents work time/careers by the need for still more transporting of children by buses and cars over greater distances".

Maybe they were, but if they were, this information was not made available to the media and we (the public) can only judge the situation on the facts we know. Your Editor puts the point that Decision Makers need to allow for knock on effects beyond their own sphere of activity - a matter that is very much in our current Agenda.

Our **April** issue will include a feature on Behaviour and Decision making.

But we still need **your** contributions on any subject related to our sphere of research. So please get those letters coming in.

Bruce Widdowson  
Secretary

e-mail [bruce.writer@btinternet.com](mailto:bruce.writer@btinternet.com) Tel. 0115 986 3254