

ACT CLUB NEWS SHEET

October 1996

THE LATEST CLUB NEWS

PLENARY MEETING

A successful plenary meeting was held on 3rd October 1996 at Unilever Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre, Port Sunlight. David Gregg set the scene with a most interesting and provocative presentation outlining the requirements of companies such as his for new technologies to meet the market demand. Mike Grimble gave his usual report on Club activities and asked that Club members provide him with feedback as to their requirements which could be included in the work programme. Mel Hague, Chairman of the Steering Group presented a very positive picture of the benefits of club membership. I apologise for getting his e-mail address wrong in the newsletter and the correct one is given below. Dr Stephen Forrest, ISC's

Marketing and Sales Director, was asked to give a short presentation on the company's products and services and their business modelling, planning and scheduling system SiMPLE++ generated a great deal of interest.

Professor Santarek, Warsaw University who was visiting Strathclyde University gave a interesting discourse on production improvement programmes in Poland. This was followed by Dr Peter Ball from Strathclyde University who gave a presentation on the use of SiMPLE++ in control and production projects. During a very pleasant lunch the Club's software packages developed internally or supplied by Club members were demonstrated, After lunch Dr Stephan Graebe, who worked with Professor Graham Goodwin in

Australia gave a very interesting presentation on the UNACS system which the club now has available for case studies. The final presentation was by Dr Diane Rossiter who explained how control structures can be selected for chemical processes. The meeting was concluded with a round table discussion.

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THE REVIEW OF MODERN TECHNOLOGIES

The following day, 4 October 1996, a number of speakers gave presentations on relevant areas of technology. Mike Grimble gave a quick presentation on adaptive control followed by an extremely professional demonstration by Dave Sandoz on t

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the Neural Networks package incorporated into his CONNOISSEUR software. Professor John Norton discussed the problems in signal identification and Professor Peter Roberts provided details of his optimisation package which was being used in an offshore pipeline system in South West Australia. The afternoon session covered predictive control by Andrej Ordys and a very interesting overview, by Campbell Booth, Strathclyde University on how to extract useful knowledge from databases. The meeting ended with Mr W Daley, Unilever telling us about an object orientated approach to design and project management.

The two days finished on a high note with Dr Adrian Johnson, British Steel winning the prize for those who had attended both days. His prize of a bottle of malt whisky will be presented at the next Steering Group meeting which will be held at British Steel, Teeside Labs on 13th November 1996. We are wondering whether Adrian will keep his bottle intact until Christmas and New Year or indulge himself before that.

CLUB REPORTS

Attached to this news sheet is a list of Club reports which are now available. As you are aware we normally send these out without asking whether you want them. I am sure that you either put them to good use or pass them on to other interested colleagues. However, to avoid unnecessary correspondence cluttering up your in-tray, the expense of postage and primarily to get feedback on your interests the attached list has a tick off box for each report.

The Club management would really appreciate indications as to whether you wish to receive these reports. When we are discussing the work programme with the Steering Group we can take your requirements into account.

So please tick off the boxes and send back the slip to Helen Whyte and if you wish the reports then we shall try and send them to you along with your Christmas card.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Normally the Club management sends Christmas greetings to all club members in the form of a Christmas card. Don't worry, this will still happen but due to the generosity of Mike Grimble we are sending you a early Christmas present in the form of two books one on Parallel Processing in Digital Control and the other on Parallel Processing for Jet Engine Control.

These are part of the Springer-Verleg monograph series and as you know Mike Grimble is editor. These have been supplied free of charge by Springer-Verleg and we hope that club members will either keep them or pass them on to interested colleagues.

Members of the Marine Special Interest Group have already been issued with the first two reports listed on the sheet for discussion at the next Marine Special Interest Group Meeting to be held at Lloyd's on 28th November 1996