

## EDITORIAL

This issue of the *Proceedings* sees a change of editor. After many years at the ‘sharp end’ Oliver Frazer has decided to retire as editor. The Society owes him an immense debt for the time and effort that he has made in producing the *Proceedings* in addition to all the other functions he fulfills in the Society. Few people realise the problems that an editor has to deal with. After one year effectively in this office, I can only wonder at the way that Oliver dealt with the difficulties in such an amiable way. Thanks and a happy retirement Oliver.

Although the editor has changed, the general policy of the journal will not. What I hope to do is build upon the foundations that Oliver has created. The main criteria for publication in the *Proceedings* will remain quality of content and readability. Certain changes have been instituted which it is hoped will ensure that these criteria are adhered to. Firstly, all papers submitted to the editor will be vetted by one or more independent (and anonymous) referees to ensure that blatant errors and unproven statements are eliminated. Where the referee(s) and/or editor feel it necessary, a manuscript will be returned to an author with suggestions for alterations and an invitation to resubmit. The final decision on publication will remain with the editor. This may appear to be an overly bureaucratic procedure but it regularises a procedure which had already been informally adopted and is a standard practice used by learned journals to retain their standards. The other, and most obvious, change is an alteration in format from A5 to metric quarto. This latter, larger size will improve the appearance of our publication and will also enable the reproduction of clearer tables and figures.

If the *Proceedings* is to survive as a serious publication, not only must the standard of production be maintained but also the content. It is important that the contents reflect the broad spectrum of interests of the members of the Society. This is clearly not true of this issue. I have to make the usual editorial plea for more papers on more varied topics.

It is important that the *Proceedings* is an annual publication and not an irregular event. Due to my own inexperience, this issue is late but in future this will be rectified. However, in order for this to happen I insist that authors submit their manuscripts to me by July 1st each year. Any received after that date will be held over until the next year. You have been warned.

Finally, I hope that you all find something to interest you in this issue. If you do not then there is a simple solution – take up your pen.

Allan Insole  
Editor