

1994 A B Wood Medal

Timothy Leighton graduated with a first class BA Honours degree in Natural Sciences from Magdalene College, Cambridge University in 1985. He had decided in his final year to research into the noise of babbling brooks, and obtained top mark in the year for his experimental project *The natural oscillation of bubbles*. Then followed a SERC studentship at the Cavendish Laboratory, researching into image intensifier studies of sonoluminescence with application to the safe use of medical ultrasound leading to the award of his PhD in 1988.

Dr Leighton continued to study bubble excitation, by investigating acoustic techniques for bubble detection in the ocean. He was able to bring together the similarities he observed between bubble related phenomena in medical ultrasonics and ocean acoustics when he began work on his book 'The Acoustic Bubble', which was completed in 1992 and published in 1994. The acclaim with which the book was received demonstrated that the author had achieved his objective of writing a comprehensive volume which both informs the expert and educates the novice.

As the book was approaching completion, Dr Leighton transferred from Cambridge to ISVR to take up a lectureship in underwater acoustics. Since then he has continued to work in both ocean acoustics and medical ultrasonics, being an active member of Acoustical Society of America Committees and currently tasked with organising the conference Sea Surface Sound 1997.

His research has resulted in the publication of numerous technical papers and throughout his busy career he has also managed to find the time to pursue his keen interest in music, having become an accomplished oboist whilst at school.

For his outstanding contribution to underwater acoustics, the Institute of Acoustics is pleased to award the A B Wood Medal to Dr Timothy Leighton.



Dr Leighton receiving the 1994 A B Wood Medal from the President

Group & Branch News

North-west Branch AGM and Meeting

The North-west Branch of the Institute of Acoustics held its Annual General Meeting for 1995 on 27 September 1995 in the Manchester office of Building Design Partnership (BDP). The AGM covered the usual scenario of last year's Committee standing down and being re-elected (where individuals were willing). All last year's members were willing to stand again with the exception of Mike Ankers who has served the branch well over the past years as Chairman. The position of Chairman was taken by Peter Sacre, with the positions of Secretary and Treasurer being filled again by Nicola Alexander and Martin Lester, respectively. Paul Freeman and Paul Michel were both welcomed as new members of the Committee.

The main attraction of the meeting and, most likely, the reason for such a good attendance, was a presentation by Bernard Berry of the National Physical Laboratory on the proposed changes to BS 4142:1990. Bernard is Chairman of Committee EH/1/3 which covers the revision of this standard. Bernard is also the President Elect of the Institute of Acoustics and Chairman of Internoise 96 which is to be held in Liverpool during this Summer.

The meeting, which was well attended by 38 members was given an introduction to Committee EH/1/3 whose members are from such diverse backgrounds as NPL, BRE, educational establishments, an acoustic consultancy and a representative of Environmental Health Officers.

Bernard talked through the proposed changes to the standard to give the audience an overview of what might be expected when the revision is released in 1996. Minor changes are proposed to nearly all areas of the standard, with an emphasis on clarifying terminology bringing measurement techniques in line with

the capabilities of integrating sound measuring equipment, and enhancing the clarity of the measurement and assessment methods by the expansion of explanations and the inclusions of diagrams within the main body of the standard. The worked example is to be completely revised and will be more clear in guiding the reader through the assessment methodology of the standard.

Following the talk by Bernard Berry there was time for questions and answers before the meeting was closed and a number of members continued discussions whilst partaking of liquid refreshment in a nearby hostelry.

Martin Lester MIOA