From the President's Desk:

Dear Fellow Members,

Right off the bat there are two things I must say before getting into the meat of this update for “From the President’s Desk.” First, I would like to say a personal thank you to each and every one of you who voted for me to stand as your President for a second year. It truly is an honour and I was touched that you felt I was deserving of a second year. Rest assured I will strive to continue last year’s efforts into the coming year and leave some kind of legacy for those following in the role. Secondly, I offer my sincere apologies for a bit of a lengthy delay in this edition of the newsletter coming out. It is nobody’s fault but mine as I have been busy with BIVR business, as will become apparent.

The AGM had a fantastic attendance from not only our full members but also our student members, which is always refreshing to see. We on Council
know we must be doing something right when we have such a great turnout at our yearly gathering. I hope those of you who attended enjoyed yourselves, learnt a thing or two, and perhaps also made some new friends and contacts. We all know how this profession can feel isolating at times, if not a little lonely, so I think the AGM always provides a wonderful opportunity to connect or reconnect with fellow reporters, swap some so-called war stories, and perhaps provide or learn a few tips here and there.

Something which I was delighted with at the AGM was that, okay, we had some potentially contentious topics up for discussion and we, as a group, were able to respect each other’s opinions, allow people to have their say, and whether we agreed with what was said or not, we managed, I think, to come to some kind of positive resolution. On the back of the discussions at the AGM, Council have recently met and we have newly worded documents which will be disseminated with the subscription renewal newsletter next month. More details on everything will be in that actual newsletter.

So what has been happening? This will be a little bit of a different letter from me this time as I thought it would be nice to add in some pictorials!

INTERSTENO

As mentioned in my President’s Report at the AGM, Mary and I were leaving for Zagreb, Croatia, in early October to attend the Intersteno and IPRS meetings. Mary has done a little write-up about our time spent there, but I will add that we did have a lovely time and it was great to meet new people, make some new contacts for BIVR, as well as garner some interest in our BIVR Awareness Weekend.
On the first day of the meeting, Mary and I were introduced and, rather unexpectedly I must say, I was asked by Fausto Ramondelli, President of Intersteno, to say a short introduction about BIVR. I gave a very brief outline of what BIVR is and then I talked about our BAW, both this year’s and next. Straight after that, it was ratified that BIVR becomes the National Group member of Intersteno.

We believe that members of BIVR are now able to have their details listed on the Intersteno website, much like on our Find a Reporter page. If you think this is something you would be interested in, please do let Mary know. When it comes to Intersteno, we are still in the process of learning. For example, two BIVR members can attend the Council Meetings but only one of them has voting rights; so we are finding our feet as we go. We did actually do a little bit of voting in October, actually!

Also, Intersteno is world renowned for holding speed contests, not just in stenography but any method which is used to turn speech into text. The next competitions will be held at the 51st Congress in Berlin in the summer, so do let us know if you would like to go along and represent your country at what is considered to be the Steno Olympics!
I was home in Essex for a week after Croatia and then I left for an eight-day Washington trip. As President of BIVR, I was invited to be Guest of Honour at a freelance reporting event. It was called the Empowerment Conference and it was a great little 1.5-day conference. This was where my President hat was on and I fielded questions from a number of reporters, including the one about needing a visa to be able to legally work here. Not only was this a great opportunity to meet reporters, make friends, and all that goes with attending a reporting conference, but, more importantly, it was an avenue for us to spread the BIVR word and also reinforce the fact that we have competent and experienced members here who cover all aspects of reporting assignments.

As a token gesture, I bought some British trinkets (pens, keyrings, fridge magnets, bottle openers) to take, and I wrote a little poem to go with them. The idea was to wrap them all up in the colours of red, white, and blue but I became rather poorly, the energy was running out fast and I decided against wrapping over 100 trinkets, so I popped them all into a box (from a duty-free perfume purchase en route) and swiped the plastic stand from my hotel room to display the poem in (and, yes, I returned it!).

There was good deal of interest in our BIVR Awareness Weekend, especially amongst those who will be attending Intersteno. All in all, this was another successful trip for BIVR. After the conference, I spent 2.5 days in my hotel bed trying to recuperate. I even flew home voiceless (yes, I know, I know, Leah without a voice - whatever is the world coming to!!)
We are proud to announce that we have now become an Associated Reporting Unit with the National Court Reporters Association in the US. We join other international associations from, for example, the Bahamas, Canada, France and Jamaica, in being affiliated with the NCRA, a leading professional organisation in our field. The NCRA will be making a formal announcement on social media as well as in their periodical, the JCR (Journal of Court Reporting) and their email correspondence, JCR Weekly. Both BIVR and the NCRA have a lot of things in common and we look forward to strengthening our bond with the US, while always promoting and protecting our profession here on this side of the pond.

The NCRA Convention will be held in Las Vegas next year (see Reporting Fever section of this newsletter). There is already a growing contingent of members who are interested in attending in 2017, so in the months leading up to the event we will be asking who is actually interested. On the final evening there is a presidential dinner held and, as suggested by a council member, we could have a BIVR table at the dinner.

I have had phone calls and even the opportunity to meet with the NCRA in Washington while I was there. They are very excited about this affiliation and having us included in their events.
At the AGM we had a great show of hands of people who were interested in being mentors for some of our students, or perhaps even experienced reporters who might need a helping hand to transfer into another sphere of the profession. If you are still interested in mentoring, please do let Mary or me know.

Congratulations to Deirdre O’Malley who sat her Membership exam at the AGM. This is not an easy task by any stretch of the imagination, with some of us, myself included (tut-tut), doing exactly what we ask our clients not to do – talk at a reasonable pace, audibly, and one at a time. On that note, I am sure everybody joins with me in welcoming Deirdre to the membership of BIVR.

Also, congratulations go to Andrew Howell who passed the QRR++ as well as the 250wpm IPS speed test (with Distinction). I think I can hear the bells of Intersteno speed contests there for you, Andrew! Congratulations, and well done.

BIVR’s Member of the Moment for this newsletter is Miriam Weisinger. Thanks, Miriam, for taking part!

As you can see, it’s been a busy time of year recently and I think BIVR is doing a great job of promoting ourselves and getting our organisation known on the reporting world map. Social media has played, and will continue to play, a major role in not only raising awareness of BIVR and its members, but also just keeping up with the times and staying current in the 21st century.

Finally from me, it’s been a truly wonderful year for BIVR and it is clear that the only way is forward. I, for one, am looking toward exciting things for us in the year ahead and I hope you will come along and join us on the ride!

I hope everyone has had a great year in 2016 toiling away, whether you’re typing or tapping, and have enjoyed every minute of
this wonderful profession. From my home to yours, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a bright and prosperous New Year. 2017, here we come!!

Stenographers World

Stenographers World is a great website. Join up and you can have access to a huge number of webinars, speedbuilding, or improve your realtime skills. Not only that, there are some past interviews with reporters from all corners of the globe archived there. **They have a Cyber Sunday special today only - if you open this and read it in time**

**Promo Code: Cyber Sunday 2016**

In late September, our President was interviewed in her personal capacity but she also used the interview as a platform to promote BIVR and also officially announce our BIVR Awareness Weekend. (Please excuse the wrong date given as August instead of July….this has been corrected!) There’s also a slight pause of shock when Leah compares the US reporting industry numbers to those here in the UK!

To hear Leah’s interview, click on the link below. Use the “Filter by Category” drop-down box, choose “Radio Shows” and then scroll down to her interview. Click on “Watch – no CEUs” and enter your email address. It’s free to listen to!

http://www.stenographersworld.com/Webinars.aspx
The Incorporated Phonograph Society

The IPS has been in existence for at least as long as the Institute and offers a one hour speed practising slot on Thursday evenings 7 - 8 p.m. from the comfort of your own home. The Chair of the IPS (your Secretary, Mary Sorene) reads dictation at the speed you want, so please check out their website:

http://the-ips.org.uk

A very modest £5 for the one hour dictation, with the award of 1 hour Structured CPD.

REPORTING FEVER - SAVE THE DATES!!

Saturday, 22 July to Friday, 28 July 2017 – Berlin, Germany http://www.intersteno2017.org/

BAW - Friday, 28 July to Monday, 31 July 2017 – London Exhibition on Monday, 31 July
WASHINGTON, D.C.: A friend of mine, who is now retired, was once the Chief Reporter in the House, having reported the State of the Union address for three presidents, and he had organised for me to be given a behind-the-ropes tour of the Capitol by the current Deputy Chief Reporter, Ed Johnson.

The middle picture above is in the rotunda of the Capitol and depicts Clio, who they say is one of the first ever depictions of a note being taken in a political arena. Opposite Clio (not shown) is another female statue in which it appears he/she is waving their hand in the direction of the ground so as to be laying down the law, while Clio sits calmly opposite ready to be the scribe. That was one of my favourite parts of the tour. Oh, and another bit of code history – the exact spot where Samuel Morse sent his first ever Morse Code message, “What hath God wrought?”
ZAGREB, CROATIA - Intersteno
My first Intersteno Council meeting, with our President, Leah Willersdorf, was in the afternoon of Wednesday 5 October this year.

We had flown in to Zagreb on an early morning flight to then take a taxi to our hotel. We were greeted at Reception with a lovely carrier bag complete with Zagreb heart and our agenda for our three-day stay.

At the Council meeting next day Fausto Ramondelli, President of Intersteno, introduced us as the new girls on the block. Leah also gave a short statement about BIVR.

Not long afterwards BIVR was ratified as the Intersteno’s British National Group. We may now use the logo on our website and our members will be offered work, one your email address is placed on their website.

Therefore, any BIVR member who wishes to have their details on the Intersteno National Group site should please confirm that to me, in an email, so that I may forward it to them. Only those who have agreed will have their details placed on there.

Please email sec@bivr.org.uk to the effect: Yes, please put my contact details on the Intersteno website under BIVR National Group.

For completeness’ sake, by all means email me to the opposite effect – that you definitely do not want your details on there.

The business of the Intersteno Council went on well into the afternoon, deciding on how the “speech capturing” is organised and how it is marked.

Next Year’s Intersteno Congress is in Berlin from 22 – 28 July and, as Leah has mentioned, BIVR may have seven representatives attend.

Here I should say that anyone going to Berlin to represent BIVR will need to pay their own way, just as Leah and myself did in Zagreb. If anyone is
interested by all means check out the Intersteno website and let me know that you wish to go. Perhaps you wish to participate in their speed championships?


The next day there was the IPRS (Intersteno Parliamentary and other professional Reporters’ Section) meeting which ran in parallel with the Intersteno Council meeting so Leah and I split up so we could each attend one.

It was, however, not all work and we went on various tours. One was to the Parliament building, then a walking tour of Zagreb finishing up in the evening at the offices of the Zagreb Shorthand Association’s offices where they had laid on refreshments. They are the oldest Shorthand Association in Zagreb, as shown on he plaque in their office bearing the year 1882. We were each given a book about the Association, though it was, of course, in Croatian.

On display are some very old typewriters and many trophies.
Mr Josip Hanjš, President of the Croatian Stenographic Society, with colleague

On our last evening, Friday, a gala dinner was organised at a restaurant out of town which we reached by coaches laid on. Fausto was presented with a plaque and other presentations were made.
Fausto opening the Champagne with a sword!

Fausto being presented with a plaque.

A close-up of the plaque

Leah and I left for the airport after breakfast and our plane ride home.
BIVR AWARENESS WEEKEND – Friday, 28 July to Monday, 31 July 2017

Preparations have begun for what we anticipate will be a bigger and better event than last year. We learned a few lessons from our little London Exhibition back in February, so we hope this one will be far superior.

The venue search is underway and we hope to have what we consider is a most fitting venue. If you thought the former Pitman’s College was a suitably named venue, then you’re going to love this one because we are trying to get the Law Society up on Chancery Lane. Details will follow in due course.

Invitations will be going out in the next few days. If you have a suggestion of an organisation and/or an individual you think would be interested in attending any or all of the weekend, please do send that on to Mary and me, even if you think perhaps we may have already sent one. It takes but a press of the Send button and will be no trouble at all.

We are thinking to hold maybe a river cruise on either Saturday or Sunday, with a Meet & Greet somewhere in central London on the Friday night. We will, of course, need to outlay an initial cost for things like this, but will be reimbursed by those who attend the, let’s call them, excursions.

Due to the overlap of the last day of Intersteno and our first day of BAW2017, we think probably something at the end of the workday is appropriate for the main gathering on the Friday. From the two events I attended in October, there is a lot of interest from international reporters and agencies.

A big hope that we have, by having BAW spanning a weekend, is that it will allow our members from the regions outside of London to be able to fully participate in the event and perhaps make it a minibreak of some kind.

Finally, this is YOUR event and, as always, we want to hear from YOU. If you have any suggestions whatsoever about events we could hold, just send Mary or me an email. We can organise things such as an afternoon tea somewhere perhaps, an excursion around Parliament, that sort of thing. The Royal Courts of Justice will be closed on the weekend but we could perhaps see if we could organise a tour for the early birds who arrive on the Friday. Please do give this some thought and let us know any ideas which you may have.
“Member of the Moment”

Question 1: *When/how did you realise you wanted to be a court reporter?*

After leaving school at 16, telling my teachers I was “never going to learn nuffing again”, I was sent to college by my first employer to learn shorthand and typing. I have to be honest, it was the earning potential that attracted me in those days. £5500 as a possible salary represented untold riches to me as an Office Junior.

Question 2: *What training did you do?*

Having achieved what in those days was a minimum shorthand speed of 140 wpm I was in the right place at the right time and started my training at Cardiff Crown Court with T J & E Fitzgerald-Kuhl. It was all “on-the-job” training.

Question 3: *Tell us your progression through being a trainee court reporter to where you are now.*

In addition to Crown Court work in Cardiff and London I started covering various conferences and doing High Court work as well. Cardiff was a Tier 1 court so we had a “red judge” on a regular basis. In 1986 Harry Counsell took over the contract and I started doing more work outside the courts, covering public inquiries, depositions and various other types of private work.

Question 4: *What types of assignments do/did you cover now and which is/was your favourite?*

Expanding on the answer above, I became fully freelance in the “noughties” I suppose and covered Parliamentary Select Committees, arbitrations, more depositions (thankfully they got to the stage where they only wanted
stenographers not a pen writer), AGMs and started doing regulatory work. My favourite work was anything where people spoke clearly and intelligibly!

**Question 5:** *What’s the strangest thing you’ve ever reported?*

The Kerry Babies case in the 1980s in Dublin. A baby’s body was found on the beach in Kerry and a woman accused of infanticide; however her dead baby was found where she said on the family farm. I never actually got to Kerry and it is still on my bucket list.

**Question 6:** *Do you have any humorous stories you could share?*

Probably, but I’m at that age where you can’t always remember them when you want to!

**Question 7:** *What is your favourite thing about this profession?*

The variety of life that you come across.

**Question 8:** *What is your least favourite thing about this profession?*

Sloppy transcript production and people who don’t speak clearly.

**Question 9:** *What’s the one piece of advice you would give to (a) a student member of BIVR and (b) seasoned reporters of BIVR?*

Read your work carefully and remember who your client is

**Question 10:** *Do you have any unfulfilled reporting goals?*

Not really, just unfulfilled personal goals.
WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

A member of BIVR and not sure if you want to rejoin? Not a member of BIVR? Reading a copy of this BIVR newsletter from a member colleague perhaps?

BIVR is in the throes of an eventful and action-packed year ahead, so why not be a part of that? Here’s what it means to be a member of BIVR (this list is by no means exhaustive):

- First and foremost, your Council is always striving to promote and protect the profession of stenography in all its forms.
- You will have the choice of appearing on BIVR’s Find a Reporter search. This affords you the opportunity to be offered work direct with a client; hence, not only will you have the ability to charge your fees, but you will build your reputation as well.
- You will be able to sit BIVR exams, whether that is the Qualified Realtime Reporter exams (three levels) or speed examinations.
- When you pass BIVR examinations, you will then be permitted to use the BIVR-accredited letters after your name (MBIVR, for example).
- You will be part of a community of like-minded professional reporters who cover all manner of assignments, including American depositions, arbitrations, captioning/STT, public enquiries, etc. Should you ever have a query about any of these types of jobs, there is always someone in BIVR who will be able to steer you in the right direction.
- You will be able to attend BIVR Annual General Meetings and training days at special members-only prices.
- Receive occasional members-only discounts on professional products from some of the big named organisations, such as Stenograph, Advantage Software, and Realtime Coach, Stenographers World, just to name a few.
- If you are a student, or looking to become a student, BIVR has members who are only too happy to accommodate you in your mentoring needs.
- If you so choose, you will be added to the BIVR members-only Facebook group. (We do have a public page as well)
- Keep up to date with all BIVR Awareness Weekend 2017 news.
- AND you will automatically receive this newsletter in your inbox and so won’t need to wait to get it from elsewhere!
You may have noticed that we changed to a map with geographical areas.

Please note that when you receive an offer of work that you need to "Reply" to the actual sender of the email, not just click "Reply" as that will send your reply to all those the enquirer emailed!

**Bios for the website**

Please will all members who wish to be on our Find a Reporter/Reporter Search section of the website keep me updated with your email address, plus please send through a bio telling us your skill set. People seeking a reporter do look to find out information. For instance, if you are a pen writer, you may wish to say that. Are you realtime proficient? Can you work without an audio
back-up? You will be more likely to be chosen if they can read something about you and your skills.

**Misprounced words.**

Do you have any new ones? I have already posted in our private BIVR Facebook Group, but not everyone is on Facebook, so if you have any, please send them to me as soon as possible. An example is "minute" pronounced as "my-newt" when they mean a document recording a meeting! as opposed to something very small.

Any new words for 2016?

Of course, we all now know Brexit, but what about hygge (pronounced “hoo-ga,” or “hue-ga”)? Apparently this is from Denmark. The word isn’t exactly translatable, but the closest analog might be “coziness,” or “hominess.”

Please send them through.

**Did you work at the Old Bailey?**

Anyone out there know anyone who was at the Old Bailey in the 50s and 60s? Also up to 2012 when the last reporter left. I was there from 1971-1982. If you can help this lady, please contact her direct.

Dear Mary,

Thank you very much for speaking to me on the phone last week (and apologies for taking so long to send this email to you!). It was fascinating to speak to you about the work of stenographers in courts in the UK and your own experiences.

As we discussed, I would be very grateful if you could pass on a message to your members. I’m looking to speak to any reporters who have worked at the Old Bailey, with regards to a documentary we are making about the court’s history.

The programme will be part of a new Channel 5 history series exploring the history of 6 iconic British buildings or institutions. – we’re aiming to tell the story of the buildings themselves, as well as of a selection of the important events that happened within, and of the people who have passed through them.
One of the episodes we’re planning is focused on the Old Bailey. The documentary will explore a variety of stories from the Bailey’s past, ranging from events that took place centuries ago, right up to trials in recent years. The aim is to paint a picture of the court and show how it has been – and continues to be - central to British public life.

As part of this, I am hoping to include a section of the programme about the work done by stenographers at the Old Bailey. I’d love to speak to any stenographers who worked at the Old Bailey from the 1950s up to 2012. I’d like to speak to them about their memories of working in the court during some of the famous trials that took place there, as well as just more generally about the role of the stenographer.

If anybody would be willing to speak to me, they can reach me by email on frances.beere@channel5.com or by phone on 0203 580 3646.

2016 AGM - Special Resolution passed, plus Discussion Document

At our AGM the Special Resolution for Electronic Voting was passed by the membership. Therefore, our Mems & Arts have been amended as follows:

46. On a ballot, votes may be given either personally, by postal vote, by on-line secure voting, or by proxy. Any Fellow or full Member may appoint a proxy to attend and vote on his behalf at any General Meeting.

DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

For further consideration by Membership of the BIVR This is redrafted from the discussion document included in the Notice of the AGM having taken into account the comments made by members at the AGM. It is still a discussion document. Please do not reject the whole document because there may be parts of it that you do not agree with. Please draw our attention to any parts with which you do not agree.

Please respond by using the BIVR Forum so that all members may have open and transparent discussions so that Council may see and take your remarks into consideration. We suggest using our Forum as not every member is on social media, but everyone has access to the Forum.

[If you have any difficulty in accessing either our BIVR website, or the Forum, please contact the Secretary to re-set your password/s.]

If we do not receive a response from you by 31 December 2016 we shall take it that you agree or do not dissent from the document’s proposals.
as drafted. Further, if you DO NOT agree, we ask that you reply/comment on the Forum in order to voice your opinions.

**Associateship**

It is recommended that the current clause in the Mems & Arts covering Associateship should be deleted; it is no longer pertinent to use. However, existing Associates should remain as members of BIVR, subject to those conditions prevailing as to Associates at the time of their entry.

There was considerable discussion at our AGM, for which please see the AGM transcript which has been posted on our website. The majority of members who began as Associates were re-examined and have moved on to become Fellows or full Members, with the exception of a few “standouts”. Therefore, you Fellows and Members no longer use ABIVR as your designatory letters.

Considerable criticism was made of the fact that the rules for Associates to take their full Membership examination within three years had not been adhered to so that we have a few Associates who, though requested to take full membership, have not done so. No new Associates have been admitted by examination for many years, though some have transferred in from, for example, the now defunct APSW. Council has taken this very much to heart and will be writing to our few remaining Associates to request that they remedy their situation.

For ease of reference the wording in our current Mems & Arts is as follows:

3. An “Associate” is a person who has completed a bona fide course of machine or pen shorthand and has a speed certificate of 160 wpm awarded by a recognised professional body, e.g. RSA or IPS. Associateship shall last for a period of no more than three years, after which the person must apply for and pass the full Membership examination, as described in 2 above. They must be proposed by two Fellows or full Members. Associates shall not be eligible to serve on the Council of the Institute or any of its committees, nor to vote at annual or extraordinary meetings (although they may attend annual/extraordinary meetings and participate).

For the full Mems & Arts please see the document posted on our website.

**Accreditation**

Transcribers: Those producing transcriptions from electronic recordings of tribunals or other such meetings should be encouraged to apply for BIVR accreditation. To qualify as a Transcriber (accredited by the BIVR) candidates would be required to sit an examination designed to show their
understanding of language and relevant legal phraseology and would be authorised to use the qualification ‘Margaret Smith, BIVR-accredited Transcriber’ They would be entitled to attend meetings of BIVR and receive BIVR newsletters but they would not be members of BIVR; nor would they be entitled to vote at BIVR meetings. An annual subscription would be payable, in line with that paid by Fellows and full Members.

Editors: Those working as editors to assist verbatim reporters in the production of a transcription should be encouraged to apply for BIVR accreditation. To qualify as an Editor (accredited by the BIVR) candidates would be required to sit an examination designed to show their understanding of language and relevant legal phraseology and would be authorised to use the qualification ‘Margaret Smith, BIVR-accredited Editor’) They would be entitled to attend meetings of BIVR and receive BIVR newsletters but they would not be members of BIVR; nor would they be entitled to vote at BIVR meetings. An annual subscription would be payable, in line with that paid by Fellows and full Members.

**Friends of BIVR**

This was one of the descriptions suggested at the AGM and would be a new category of membership to add at the end of our current rules relating to Fellows and full Members. It is to cover individuals who are qualified members of another organisation (or national or international bodies) whose qualifications/requirements are similar to our own. We could also admit as Friends relevant organisations representing people in our field.

It is suggested that we have an umbrella heading of Friends of BIVR, with subheadings for individuals, National and International Organisations and Commercial Partners.

Verbatim Reporters who are qualified members of another organisation dedicated to the enhancement of verbatim reporting should be entitled to join BIVR with the status of a Friend of BIVR. This category would give them access to all BIVR materials, entitle them to attend any BIVR meeting or function at membership rates, receive the BIVR’s newsletters and use the BIVR’s Friend of BIVR logo. Being a Friend of BIVR does not give the individual voting rights on BIVR business or to be elected to the Council of the BIVR. An annual subscription would be payable, in line with that paid by Fellows and full Members.

Organisations representing national or international groups of the verbatim reporting profession, and whose Memorandum & Articles of Association or governing instrument are in line with those of BIVR, may also become affiliated to BIVR within the category of Friends of BIVR. This category would
give them access to all BIVR materials, entitle them to attend any BIVR meeting or function, receive the BIVR’s newsletters and use the BIVR’s Friend of BIVR logo. Being a Friend of BIVR does not give the organisation voting rights on BIVR business or to have representatives of their organisation elected to the Council of the BIVR.

Being a Friend of BIVR, if an international individual or an international organisation, does not in any way confer upon an individual or an organisation the right to seek employment opportunities within the United Kingdom. Legal procedures must be adhered to in obtaining the requisite visa/work permit.

Vacancies:

Marten Walsh Cherer have vacancies for home transcribers not only for the digital disciplinary hearings but for other professional disciplinary hearings, county court, High Court and Crown Court work. We are also looking to recruit additional stenographers (preferably realtime) for High Court work.

Please contact Jenny Chandler or Gareth Evans at info@martenwalshcherer.com mentioning the BIVR newsletter.

From our Intrepid Digital Audio Transcriber:

Q. How long do you think that your memory has faded from (sic)? How long was that period from speaking to Callum to Troy coming up that you cannot remember?
A. I don't understand what you----
Q. You say that there are certain things you do not remember.
A. Yeah.
Q. Do you know how long that period may have been?
A. No.
Q. Can you say what it is that you cannot remember?
A. Sorry?
Q. Do you know why it is that you cannot remember?
A. (No audible response).

By this time the witness was sobbing her heart out, as am I....
Paul was born in Hull. He joined the Royal Air Force at the age of 18 (and possibly earlier at 16 as an apprentice). He served as an administrator and travelled around various Stations in the course of his career. In 1979 the RAF asked for volunteers to retrain as SHW and Paul was one of the candidates who was selected to undergo the course, which lasted for 2 ½ years. On successful completion he was redeployed to the legal branch and spent the rest of his approx 24 year career in the RAF travelling around the various RAF stations at home and abroad, covering Courts Martial and other duties as required. During the early 90s, when the LCJ decided that they now wanted court cases recorded by machine writers, the RAF acceded to a request for Service SHW to retrain to machine writers. Paul, together with other SHWs (including civilian SHW) converted to machine and underwent an approximately 18 month course during which he attended non-military courts (Old Bailey, RCJ, arbitrations, and other criminal courts up and down the UK) and thus had the chance to integrate into the civilian criminal courts, and made many friends and acquaintances during this time. On leaving the RAF he continued practising in the same criminal courts in the London area. By this time the LCJ reneged on their decision to use machine writers and were satisfied with just using tape recorders and loggers. Paul capitalised on this and formed his own firm and he started taking on contracts for tape transcription. Subsequently he emigrated to the USA but still retained the running of his transcription firm which was based in Milton Keynes. Because of new software and other electronic means, it was possible for him to remain active in transcription through remote transmission of transcripts etc.

However, sadly things took a bad turn when some 3 or 4 years ago he was diagnosed with cancer. He fought a brave battle and underwent some heavy treatment, during the course of which he actually continued to work on transcription, which hopefully would have kept him engaged and able to divert his mind from the pain and associated problems.

In the end he succumbed, but did so while still fighting and taking medication to the last. He was 60 years old.

Paul was a good family man and he left behind his wife Mary (living in the US) and two boys (from previous marriage) both living in the UK.

Thanks to Paul Brincau for this. Sec.
BIVR DETAILS

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