THE FUTURE IS HERE! THE FUTURE IS NOW!

October 2025

From the Office of the President

As the nights are drawing in and the weather is becoming colder, hopefully we are all becoming busier after what seems to be the longest summer vacation ever. It seems like the lawyers are trying to make their vacation time longer than schools.

It is now over a month since we held our AGM in York. It was a pleasure to meet all those who were able to attend, some for the first time. I think we all had an enjoyable and informative AGM, and I somehow managed not to stumble over my first President's speech on the Sunday. We had a full programme, starting on the Saturday with sessions on troubleshooting, covering both Case Catalyst and Eclipse, the speed competitions at Intersteno, and then in the afternoon a very interesting and useful talk on relaxation by physiotherapist Cate Hollett, a very useful session by Anissa Nierenberger on cleaning up your dictionary, and followed, as ever, by Melanie Ball's quiz. Then Sunday brought the QRR examinations, followed by the AGM itself, and closing with focused sessions on Eclipse by Keith Vincent, and Case Catalyst by Pam Szczecinski.

On Saturday morning, just before the first session, we began with a surprise for one member, who was not able to attend in person. Louise Pepper was named as this year's recipient of the Betty Willett Award, and a very well deserved one too, having been nominated by Georgina Ford and seconded by Sheryll Holley, who mentioned her "going above and beyond and, indeed, representing the profession to those outside the profession, the barristers and judges we work with on a daily basis and the public at large."

Louise being presented the trophy by our dear Secretary, Mary Sorene. As you may have noticed from the logo at the top of this letter, 2025 is the 160th anniversary of our Institute since it was established in 1865 and was finally reconstituted in 1887. So see you all in 28 years for another celebration! Don't worry, we intend to mark this event with a celebration in the somewhat nearer future. Since we all have busy lives, both work and otherwise, we are planning this to be a Zoom event, a la Covid times. Look out for further details.

Intersteno 2026

As confirmed at the AGM, BIVR and the UK won, against stiff competition from Lisbon, the right to host the 2026 Intersteno Conference, which will be held in Liverpool, from Saturday 25 to Thursday 30 July next year. If you visit the Intersteno website, you can see more details: https://www.intersteno2026.org/ Our Vice President, Ian Roberts, has been instrumental in achieving this successful outcome for us to be hosts, following a number of visits to the city and meetings with Intersteno staff members.
We look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to what will, I am sure, be an extremely interesting event, and a fantastic opportunity to meet people from around the world who work with the written word in similar ways to us.

I hope you all have a profitable autumn and look forward to that online drinkie with you!

Alan Bell
President

AGM Webinars

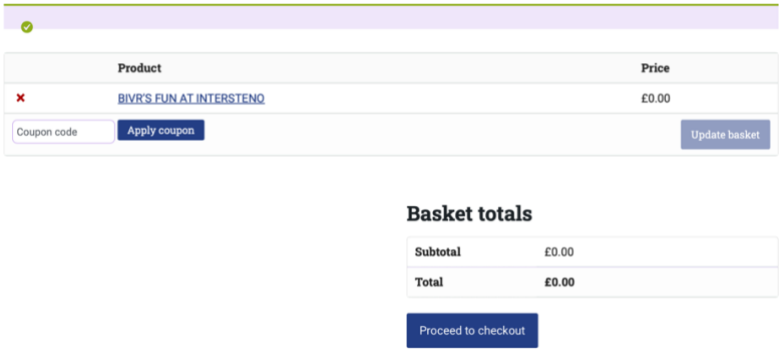
These have now been uploaded on to the BIVR website and may be viewed, by those who paid to attend in person or via Zoom for free – please apply to the Secretary for the coupon code - or, for a small fee as indicated in the AGM Rate Card, by anyone else who wishes to see them.

There is one difference this year and that is the Fun at Intersteno webinar. We wish for as many people as possible to join in this Congress, so watch this and find the answers to many of the questions you'll have. Therefore, this one is free to view but also handily available on the front page of our website:

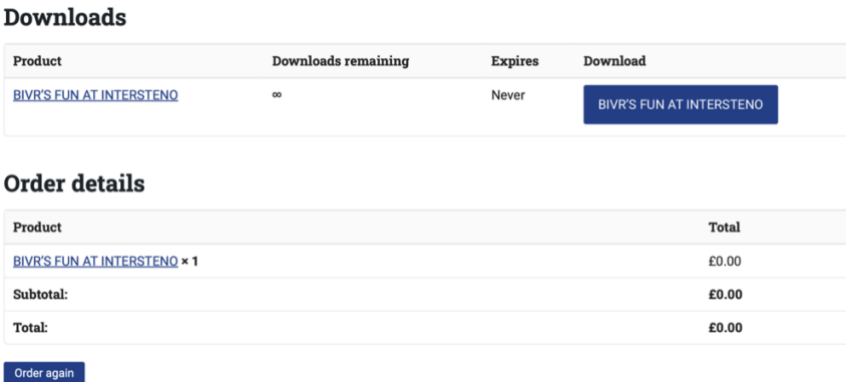
Just click on

and you'll be taken to:

Click on "Apply" to be taken to the next screen:



No need to use a coupon code – it's free! Just go straight to "Proceed to checkout".



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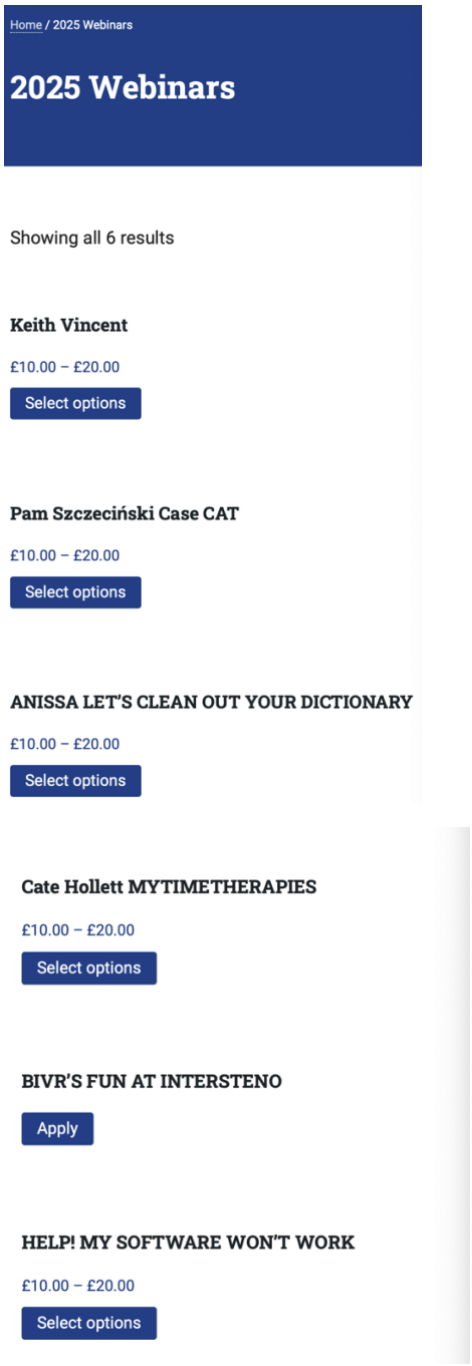

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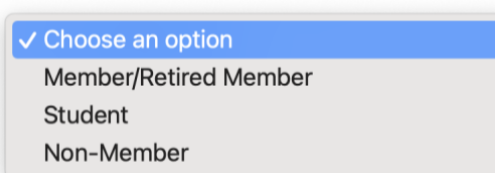
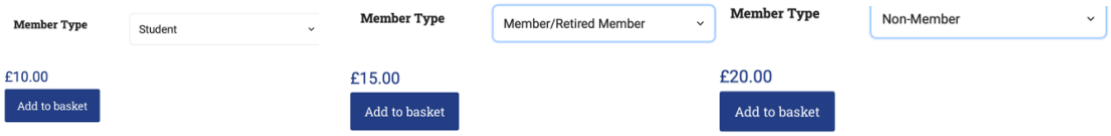
Depending upon member type, 

you’ll see the different prices:



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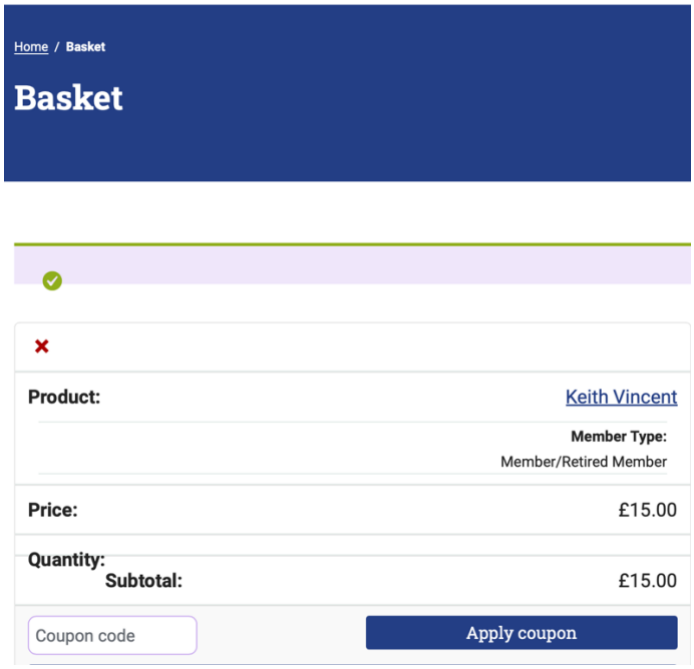
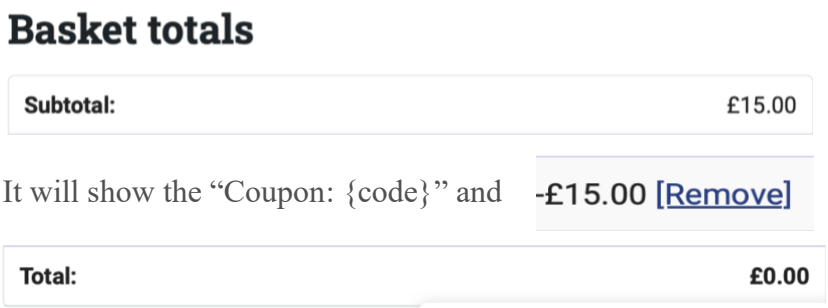


This is where you add the coupon code if I have sent it to you.



It will show the “Coupon: {code}” and

If you wish to purchase/view more, just repeat the process until you have them all in your “basket” and then:

Sec.

However, there is another freebie and that is from Cate Hollett of MYTIMETHERAPIES who sent me an extra audio for you to listen to.

Double click on the speaker.

[NOTE: *In the pdf version, the speaker may not work. Please email me for the audio* Sec.bivr@gmail.com]

During Cate's session Alan referred to his "24 hour chair" and put the link in the Chat:

https://boulies.co.uk/products/ep460?variant=45224412872947&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=21419895550&gbraid=0AAAACsB6PQx9XMUoK5ebwQgnppikJ_Hp&gclid=Cj0KCQjwwsrFBhD6ARIsAPnUFD1yAE-VYRSKhuxtfXptb8sEBYD2l9psO_uiSw71OoYuOJMCXDiyPmoaAlM5EALw_wcB

On Sunday morning we held our QRRs and Leah has posted the results on Facebook:

C is clearly for Champion! 🏆

The results are in and this round of BIVR's Qualified Realtime Reporter exams was all about the letter C!

BIVR's QRR is a 5-minute literary dictation, with speeds increasing and decreasing throughout. To pass, candidates must achieve an exceptional 98% accuracy rate.

👏 QRR3: Claire Hill (with distinction)
👏 QRR3: Cate Kollhof
👏 QRR2: Chanelle Malliff (with distinction)
👏 QRR2: Cecilia Sweetman

Levels are as follows:

QRR1 = 160/170/180 wpm
QRR2 = 180/190/200 wpm
QRR3 = 200/210/220 wpm
QRR4 = 220/230/240 wpm

Distinction awarded for 99.5% or higher.

Our

was held in the afternoon and the transcript has now been uploaded to our website.

There was some fairly lively discussion about the Intersteno Congress in Liverpool in 2026 and some comments were put in the Chat which I have extracted here:

> "There's excursions, too, no?
> Yes, there are excursions and we'll also be recommending interesting and fun places people can visit independently..
> My husband has to go to Liverpool for work quite a bit now and he loves Liverpool. He wants to do a ferry across the Mersey and I'd love to do that too
> In Katowice they had a mime artist. Are we planning a guest artist? I wondered about getting a Male Voice Choir to do a few things and also do we need to get anyone inline to do the Intersteno Anthem?
> The anthem is covered.
> The Anglican Cathedral and Radio City Tower in Liverpool do tours up to the top - the views are incredible (on a clear day)
> Is there a working group for this maybe? Or might it be worth one? We could have a couple of meetings to discuss all the options for BIVR/Intersteno?
> There is Gravity Max in Liverpool One shopping ctr, bowling, crazy golf etc
> Gravity Max is a good possibility.
> With Intersteno, are there events every day. Five and Six days
> Is it only participants to competitions to attend?
> Open to all and the general public.
> Yes something everyday. If you look at intersteno.org you can visit the past Congresses and see what the past schedules are
> On Intersteno do we know the format, do you need to attend all days?
> No."

I asked for feedback and, boy, did I get it! Here it is:

> I only attended the AGM, which was very productive. BIVR seems to be doing a lot of work with our counterparts across the pond and it seems a lot of ideas are flowing as a result.
> As always a lot of work for the Committee, for which I thank you all.

> I particularly enjoyed Anissa and Pam's seminars, as well as Sheryll's. All round, a great weekend.
> Many thanks,

> I did all sessions including attending from 9 til 10 meet and greet, except I didn't do Sheryll and Alan's when software goes wrong or the Intersteno one. I will listen to those on video.
>
> I loved the wellbeing session. Would love to see more sessions like that.
>
> Anissa is lovely but I didn't feel like I learnt loads. But I loved her enthusiasm. Her jumpstart theory is meant to be amazing so will be looking into that.
>
> Keith was amazing. Loved his really helpful handout too. Everything he talked about was useful.

It was quite hard to hear questions from people in the room but Sheryll did a great job of repeating things by texting in the chat box on zoom.

it was all very well organised. Could hear you and Alan really well.
That's it from me.

Hope you are taking a rest after a busy weekend. Thanks so much for all your hard work.

I thought the AGM agenda was very balanced and mixed training along with well-being and information sessions.

I particularly enjoyed Cate Hollett's session and was left feeling very relaxed.

I wonder if the cost of the AGM puts some people off of attending in person or online. Given that there is a surplus in the bank maybe some of the sessions could be free or subsidised. *

My only criticism with the AGM is that there should have been an effort in the room to include the online participants. For people speaking that weren't on the top table, there should have been a microphone available for them, or they could have been asked to come up to the top table so that everybody could hear - it felt quite discourteous.

Anissa and Keith were two excellent choices. Given the amount of material KV had to cover, and the fact he had said about not taking questions in the time before the training began, I felt it was totally inappropriate for Sheryll to curtail his presentation by 15 minutes for questions. He should have been left to deliver his training for the full 90 minutes and people advised to submit questions by email.

Thank you for all the hard work you do with BIVR (and AVSTTR), it is very much appreciated by me.

I enjoyed the weekend. Glad I took the exam and will try it again.

I didn't find the software seminar as useful as the others just because I'm not in a real-time situation and I am not likely to have a complete fail of my steno machine and laptop and audio backup at one time and if the worst comes to the absolute worst I will grab a pen and notebook (it has happened once!)

Intersteno - I found really interesting and I hadn't realised there were so many different competitions. Look forward to attending

Relaxation - really useful and I will implement box breathing and those stretching exercises immediately!

Anissa - very useful

Quiz - great fun

Pam - quite difficult to follow but I was tired by then. Will read through the notes again!

Hotel - very nice sorry I didn't have time to use the spa etc!

I hope you got back safely and nice to see you again.

Thank you for organising an informative weekend. I am glad that I have started to join in these events. It is a good way of networking with others. I do find it surprising when I meet new faces!

The location was great. My husband and I were able to take in all the sites of York!
The subject matters were all really interesting and useful and I will take them forward.

Sheryll Holley is a wealth of information on Steno and Eclipse!

The venue was very nice and so were the lunches and refreshments.

It must take a lot of time to put together an event and well done!

The Malmaison was close to where we stayed so it was not too much of a drag bringing my equipment back and forth.

I like that there are natural breaks after each topic.

I would like more opportunities to take a QRR in the year but appreciate that there needs to be more writers willing and able.

I also use and like your dictation material on the website. I hope to attend your Monday evening sessions at some point and to attend Intersteno next year!
Take care.

Only comment is I think the report of the AGM should be limited to AGM business and a separate document produced re all the side topics such as Intersteno, which although important, will be irrelevant for discussion at next year's AGM, also discussion about the QRR etc.

I was generally very happy with the weekend which I enjoyed.

My personal feedback is that the quiz would have been more enjoyable if we had played in teams, although I appreciate this could be hard to combine with the Zoom call, with variety of eg a music round and picture round.

I also felt that Keith's session would have been more useful if it had been more led by those present, maybe submitting questions beforehand? There are a lot of webinars available online where Keith talks about Boost and a more interactive session would have been more pertinent for me.

I liked Sheryll and Alan's session, and the therapist was a useful counterpoint. I have worked with Anissa in the past and her advice is very good.

I thought the hotel was excellent, I had a lovely room, breakfast was busy although manageable, I liked the snacks outside the meeting room and a salad/hot style lunch is much preferred by me than a sandwiches and crisps platter. The location was great as well, being near the station but also near other amenities in the town.
Best wishes

I hope you enjoyed your visit to York! Thank you so much for all the effort and hard work you and the Council put into the weekend, it is very much appreciated.

I attended:

Fun at Intersteno. It was interesting to hear from Sheryll and Alan about Intersteno and about Liverpool next year. Great session!

Cate Hollett: I enjoyed the session as it gave us a chance to do some deep relaxation and learn about some good stretching which is so important for us.

Anissa Nierenberger: She gave some useful links in this session although I found it was slightly basic, more for a steno student than professionals.

Quiz: I like the idea of a quiz in theory, although thought this could have been broken down into subject areas. It was also quite hard! ☺ I can always drum up a quiz if you need help in the future with that.
Thanks Mary!

* On the question of cost, I should point out that the whole weekend was, in fact, heavily subsidised by BIVR. Sec.

Mispronounced words – can you help again this year?

Bella Bissett of Deliberate PR will send a link in due course for us to cast our votes.

Meanwhile, if you have any unusual or new words this year, please send them to me so that I may share them with her. Sec.

NCRA Legacy Achievement Recognition

It was a very pleasant surprise to receive this email on Thursday 9 October:

“Dear Mary,

It is with great pleasure that we share with you the attached legacy achievement recognition in honor of your many years of service and commitment as a court reporter. Your career stands as a remarkable example of professionalism and dedication, and we are proud to celebrate your contributions to the profession.

On behalf of NCRA, thank you for your many years of service and for the lasting impact you have made.

Warm regards,

Cindy L. Isaacsen, RPR
NCRA President, 2025-2026”

Legacy Achievement Recognition

Honoring

Mary Sorene, CRI

October 2025

Since 1971, Mary Sorene has exemplified professionalism, dedication, and excellence in the field of court reporting. Mary has faithfully served the legal community capturing the spoken word with accuracy and integrity while upholding the highest standards of the profession.

Mary's career has been marked not only by her longevity but also by her unwavering commitment to justice and the essential role that court reporters play in preserving the record. Through countless proceedings, she has demonstrated skill, precision, and a deep respect for the importance of her work. Her contributions have strengthened the foundation of the judicial system and set a lasting example for generations of court reporters to follow.

We extend our deepest admiration and gratitude to Mary Sorene for her remarkable service to the profession since 1971. Her legacy stands as a testament to dedication, perseverance, and the vital importance of the court reporting profession.

Congratulations, Mary, on your extraordinary achievement. Your career is truly an inspiration.

Warm regards,

Cindy Isaacsen

Cindy L. Isaacsen, RPR
NCRA President, 2025-2026

It is with much sadness that I report the passing of long-time Fellow Michael Thear of Marten Walsh Cherer. I will have an obit for the next Bugle but meanwhile, details of the funeral arrangements are shown below.

In loving memory of

Michael Mounsey-Thear

(01 November 1948 - 15 September 2025)

Family and friends are warmly invited to attend the funeral service to honour and celebrate Michael's life:

10am, Wednesday, 22 October 2025
Our Lady of Lourdes,
373 Bowes Road, London N11 1AA

Following the service, everyone is invited to join the family at:

The Arnos Arms, 338 Bowes Rd, London N11 1AN

Both venues are within a short walk of Arnos Grove underground station, with some parking available at the church.

We are very grateful for the kind offers we have received to send flowers. The close family is arranging the flowers for the service, but we would invite and warmly welcome any contributions towards the British Heart Foundation in Michael's name at:
www.justgiving.com/page/michaelmounsey-thear

If you would like to attend, we would be grateful if you would let us know either via Diane, Helen or Christopher, or by emailing chrismthear@hotmail.com

We completely understand if you are unable to attend. If would like to view the service online, please visit: www.ourladynewsouthgate.org.uk

With much love,
The Mounsey-Thear family

Sec.

BIVR DETAILS

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