Surveys and Research
Recently, the Institute was alerted to a telephone survey being carried out with the caller stating that the research was being conducted on behalf of the Institute. Members should note that the Institute does not engage third parties to carry out any research and that all Institute research and surveys are carried out via membership mailings and/or the ICCM website.

Membership Discounts
The Board was informed that a discount has been offered to authorities that are in membership of the Institute. Whilst the Institute welcomes discounts and competition it does not endorse or recommend any products or services. Members are reminded to ensure compliance with financial regulations in respect of seeking competitive quotations for goods and services.

COTS
Congratulations to Martin Clark, COTS instructor at the Berkshire College on becoming a qualified NPTC Assessor. Favourable comments were made on COTS in a recent OFSTED report and our thanks go to Peter Thorn (Principle), Quentin Bowser (Team Leader) and Board of Governors of the Berkshire College for raising the quality and standards of our training scheme.

Income Tax Relief – Membership Subscriptions
In addition to the decision made by the Board NOT to increase subscriptions in 2006 the National Treasurer sought the following clarification from HM Revenue and Customs. This is of particular importance to those that pay their own subs:

“I confirm that approval under Section 16 of the Finance Act 1958 [now Section 344 of the Income Tax (Earnings & Pensions) Act 2003] granted in 1959, will continue on the basis that there have been no other changes having a bearing on this legislation”.

“The new title (ICCM) will be incorporated into the next revision of the Revenue’s published list of approved bodies known as ‘list 3’. Until then member’s should be advised to quote both the old (IBCA) and the new (ICCM) titles for the benefit of their local Inspectors when making a claim to tax relief in respect of their annual subscriptions”.

NEW Memorial Management Guidance
The ICCM guidance has recently been reviewed and updated. Both detailed and summary versions are available from the Institute’s website.

Conference 06
Arrangements are currently being made for conference 2006 with planned improvements made in line with feedback received from delegates and exhibitors. A larger venue is being sought so keep an eye on the website for further news.