ICCM Corporate
Following the result of the ballot of the membership work is progressing with the CBA to form ICCM Corporate. Elections will take place during this summer for the formation of the Professional and Corporate Committees following which the new Board will be formed from four members of each committee. The new Board will come into being at this year’s AGM. Nomination forms will be distributed in due course following which the elections will take place.

Mercury Abatement
Following the issue of the additional guidance by DEFRA it is now clear that authorities and companies have until 31st December 2005 to decide on how they will achieve compliance and to officially inform their relevant local authority regulator.

The options are:
- Operators may either upgrade their existing crematoria or trade or a combination of both to achieve 50% reduction of mercury emissions.
- A single crematorium can abate 50% of its cremations and not trade.
- Private sector companies can trade internally provided they can provide evidence of achieving 50% reduction in mercury emissions.
- Local authorities with 2 or more crematoria can trade internally provided they can provide evidence of achieving 50% reduction in mercury emissions.
- Two or more operators could form their own trading arrangement provided they can provide evidence of achieving 50% reduction in mercury emissions.
- Some authorities have already indicated that they intend to achieve 100% reduction.

Authorities and companies are now seriously considering the above options in relation to space available, number of cremators currently installed, improved efficiency in use of equipment, corporate environmental policy and views of elected members.

Should you require information or assistance do not hesitate to contact ICCM officers who will be pleased to assist.

COTS – National Training Awards Scheme
COTS is to be entered in the prestigious National Training Awards Scheme and as such the Berkshire College is now preparing the application. Whilst we have hundreds of feedback forms from course candidates indicating the benefits and advantages to them of COTS training the judges also require some input from employers and senior managers that have sent staff for training.

If you have sent staff on any COTS course your feedback in terms of benefits to the workplace, health and safety culture within your organisation, customer care benefits and team building qualities would be appreciated if you feel that this is appropriate.

Please forward any comments to the National Office at the address below.