

# centrepage

## **Hello everyone.** **Welcome to Winter** **edition of Centrepage.**

As 2010 draws to a close with the announcement of significant reductions in public sector funding the need for our profession has never been greater. So it seems somehow ironic that 2010 also represents the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Institute and that it was celebrated in Manchester Town Hall on 8th December. It is however, very appropriate that CIPFA has just launched its new five year development strategy and is consulting on major changes to its Education and Training scheme, designed to reflect what the modern employer needs and what the current economic climate requires.

Reflecting on the past year, the Midlands has played a huge part in the commemoration of the 125th year, notably by hosting the annual Conference for the Regions at the Hippodrome Theatre in Birmingham, when delegates had their chance to debate the development strategy and make their views known directly to the Institute Council and Executive. The Conference was considered to be a huge success and showed again just how well-regarded our region is nationally. It was especially pleasing to see our retired members volunteering to help with the arrangements during the Conference and so clearly relishing the chance to contribute.

It's also very encouraging to see the progress made by the Region's Student Society, who seem to be going from strength to strength and making their mark at national, as well as regional level.

The future of the Institute looks to be in good hands, and although we must all acknowledge how difficult it will be to recruit trainees in the future, we must also recognise that the Institute has no future without that new blood.

I would especially like to thank all of those volunteers who have worked so tirelessly, at a time when the pressure at work has never been greater, to ensure that the region offers service to its members. And for those of you who have made the effort to attend our events, thank you and I hope that they have provided worthwhile CPD for you.

Who knows what challenges the future will bring? One thing is clear, though – if you take part in regional activities it will give you career opportunities and the chance to put something back into the qualification that you should be rightly proud of. If you want your Institute to be here in 125 years' time, you can do something to help make sure that happens. It's up to you.

Even though it will be far from comfortable, I hope that 2011 is rewarding and productive for you – and that you do something, however small, to contribute to the future of our profession.

**Steve Wellings**  
CM President



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[www.cipfamidlands.org.uk](http://www.cipfamidlands.org.uk)

# CIPFA Midlands

## Professional Development Event and AGM 2011

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**This years Cipfa Midlands "Innovation Award Winning" Professional Development event and AGM will be held on 10 March 2011 at Coventry's Ricoh Arena. This will be the third year when Cipfa Midlands region have hosted a free development event for all its members and students on the same day as its AGM.**

Following lunch and tour of the Arena, the AGM will welcome its new Regional President, Vice President and council members and thank Steve Wellings for his superb efforts as Regional President over the last 2 years.

The AGM will detail the achievements in the year with the presentation of a development plan which achieved all objectives and excelled in the delivery of award winning and prestigious events.

This was a year when the region hosted the Conference for the Regions in Birmingham's Hippodrome Theatre, hosted a series of award winning sixth form management games and an entertaining and informative regional seminar. F

Following the AGM, CIM will be delighted to welcome Jon Moon who will impress the audience with his views on Clarity and impact. In his own words.....

*Imagine doing documents that people praise and envy. Ones that have clarity and impact and that get results. That win impress and*

*influence the Board. Imagine the impact on the rest of your working life. Imagine no more.*

See how to transform all your work with "WiT", Jon's alternative to bullet points that has three times the impact of bullets. Dramatically improve all your documents and slides, from brief notes to lengthy reports, from regular information and KPI packs to bespoke investment proposals and sales pitches and slides. So, in just one hour, learn how to documents and slides that others praise and envy – and see the rest of your working life become so much more rewarding.

Jon's a leading authority on document clarity. He's delivered in-house courses at Unilever, Tesco, TalkTalk, BT, Home Office, BBC, Nationwide, PA Consulting, ICAEW and many more.

Following this and the address by the National President will be the presentation of certificates to newly-qualified members. The afternoon will be rounded off with time for drinks and networking.

For more details on the event please see the CIM website at [http://www.cipfa.org.uk/regions/mid/events\\_details.cfm?events\\_id=5859](http://www.cipfa.org.uk/regions/mid/events_details.cfm?events_id=5859) or contact Lisa Commane at [lisa.commane@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.commane@coventry.gov.uk) or Sue Smith at [CIM@cipfa.org.uk](mailto:CIM@cipfa.org.uk) or Steph Simcox at [simcoxs@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:simcoxs@walsall.gov.uk)

# Conference for the Regions 2010

## Responding to the Development Strategy – Regional Response

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CIPFA Midlands hosted the annual Conference for the Regions at the Hippodrome Theatre in Birmingham on 23/24 September 2010. The conference was a welcome opportunity for the CIPFA executive to share their goals and vision for 2011 and beyond and how they would work together with regions to implement it.

The conference also provided an opportunity for students and members to share their concerns and resolve barriers to the attainment of CIPFA's objectives.

Jaki Meekings-Davis (CIPFA President) opened the event by warmly welcoming delegates, many of whom had given of their time and energy to assist with the delivery of the conference or had taken annual leave to attend the event, and showed her appreciation for their dedication and commitment.

The tone of the event was one of optimism and Steve Freer (CIPFA Chief Executive) delivered a presentation entitled "Having a Great Crisis", setting out the aims for 2011 and beyond. Kevin Lavery (Chief Executive, Cornwall Council) followed with an inspirational presentation on how a 'failing' District and County Council structure could be transformed into a successful unitary authority in spite of a multitude of barriers and how a "can do, will do" approach could work in the public services.

A series of four strategic themed workshops followed in the afternoon, breaking down barriers between students and members and provided an opportunity for all to contribute to the realisation of the strategy. The coverage included how CIPFA could best support members and public service leaders through challenging times; supporting and implementing high standards in public financial management; becoming a leading influential voice and commentator on public financial management and how to increase CIPFA's impact and influence through a growing membership. The Deputy Lord Mayor of Birmingham

welcomed delegates to the Black Tie dinner, which was held in a conference room spectacularly transformed to a Phantom of the Opera theme with all the trimmings. Entertainment was also provided in the form of an awe inspiring performance of modern street dance. The consensus of opinion following the entertainment was that CIPFA Midlands had raised the bar yet another notch and CIPFA Wales would have a tough act to follow.

The second day commenced with a presentation by Helen Bates (Director of Finance and Resources, Hippodrome) who demonstrated the value of her CIPFA training in the unique funding model adopted by the Hippodrome, making it self-funded and self-sufficient. Helen also demonstrated how effectively the Hippodrome understand their customers and use this information to drive their business plan. This allowed delegates to draw some useful parallels and lessons with our own organisations and also the Institute's approach to meeting the needs of members and students.

Following this was a presentation and workshop facilitated by Mike Owen, Adrian Pulham and Suzanne Jones on the new CIPFA training arrangements which involve the use of Kaplan and CETC to deliver training nationally.

The remainder of the day involved an additional four workshops addressing CIPFA's new delivery arrangements following the addition of Kaplan as an accredited provider; how CIPFA can better serve members in the current economic climate; supporting volunteers better and communicating better in a central/regional model.

The conference ended with a presentation of outcomes delivered by Steve Wellings (CIPFA Midlands President) and was closed by Neil Hunter (Chair of Board for the Regions).

Rizwan Dhanani  
Graduate Trainee, Birmingham City Council and  
Chair CIPFA Midlands Student Society

# CIM Annual Seminar and Dinner - 5 November 2010

**The annual seminar held at The Hyatt Regency in Birmingham proved a huge hit again this year with speakers from the region and further afield discussing the topic of "Total Finance".**

The Chief Executive of Wolverhampton City PCT, CIM member and Past CIM President Jon Crockett started the day with a very informative briefing on the planned changes to the NHS over the coming few years. His presentation, Equality & Excellence: Liberating the NHS gave an insight to the pending changes for the current PCTs. This will involve the abolition of PCTs, creating GP consortia and putting patients and the public first by reducing bureaucracy, generating efficiencies and improving health care outcomes. His slides can be accessed at

[http://www.cipfa.org.uk/regions/mid/download/1\\_NHS\\_White\\_Paper-presentation\\_for\\_CIPFA\\_05.11.10.ppt](http://www.cipfa.org.uk/regions/mid/download/1_NHS_White_Paper-presentation_for_CIPFA_05.11.10.ppt)

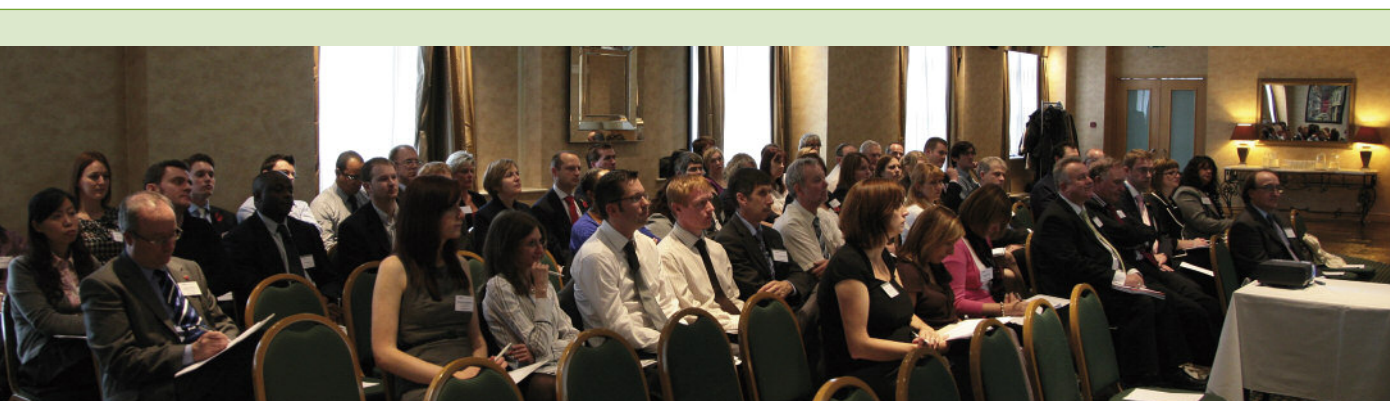
Stephen Hughes, Chief Executive of Birmingham City Council was a hard act to follow after his thought provoking presentation on what Birmingham has started in response to the total place agenda with their Business Transformation Programme. Their programme includes improvements to adult social care preventative strategies, early intervention programmes for

children's services and asset managements and efficiencies within back office functions, performance management and office accommodation and data storage. This programme is due to save £100m+ per year from 2012/13 but Stephen commented that this was only a third of what they needed to save. His slides can be accessed at

[http://www.cipfa.org.uk/regions/mid/download/2\\_Stephen\\_Hughes\\_CipfaMidlandsAnnualSeminar5.11.10.ppt](http://www.cipfa.org.uk/regions/mid/download/2_Stephen_Hughes_CipfaMidlandsAnnualSeminar5.11.10.ppt)

Brian Roberts, Director of Corporate Resources at Leicester County Council followed coffee and cakes with this canter through what Leicester County had done to get the most out of their capital and assets. This involved creating a joint approach to asset management, planning local development based on local need and procuring and delivering solutions together through total local collaboration. The benefits of this include one single view of public sector and its asset base, transparent solution to investment, rationalisation of assets and ensuring services are relocated to where they are needed and ultimately delivering what the public want. His slides can be accessed at

[http://www.cipfa.org.uk/regions/mid/download/3\\_Pathfinder\\_Nov\\_2010.ppt](http://www.cipfa.org.uk/regions/mid/download/3_Pathfinder_Nov_2010.ppt)



After lunch Nick Hope a senior researcher with the New Local Government Network (NLGN) explained what the big society meant for them and us as public sector finance professionals. He linked finance and wealth with the abilities and untapped potential within the third sector. Some startling facts and figures and the content of his slides can be found at

[http://www.cipfa.org.uk/regions/mid/download/4\\_Nick\\_Hope\\_NLGN\\_Big\\_Society\\_Presentation\\_CIPFA.ppt](http://www.cipfa.org.uk/regions/mid/download/4_Nick_Hope_NLGN_Big_Society_Presentation_CIPFA.ppt)

Last but not least PriceWaterhouseCoopers explained the impact of their survey, a place at the top table. This publication continues PricewaterhouseCoopers' research into the role of Finance in the public sector, examining the trends, issues and the changing environment faced by finance directors across the sector.

The findings show that Finance is still struggling to get the balance right. Too much time is still being spent on compliance and control and not enough on insight; shared services need to be implemented aggressively; and there is no great appetite to learn from others either in the public or private sectors. Strong leadership will be crucial now as Finance seeks to focus on the higher value activities needed to help organisations cope with the onset of the public sector's own recession. The time for Finance to take action is now. Further details can be found at A place at the top table - PwC UK

Later that evening CIM' President Steve Wellings was honoured to welcome the National Vice President, Chris Bilisland, to the annual dinner in the year when CIPFA celebrated their 125th anniversary. Chris entertained the small but perfectly formed audience with his views and tales from long ago which illustrated the life and

times of CIPFA members over the past 125 years. He took the opportunity to discuss where we are going over the future 125 years and the legacy we will give to future students and members. This followed a superb meal where colleagues and distinguished guests were given the opportunity to network with friends and friends not yet made.

The speeches were followed by the arrival of Take That, sorry Fake That. Two hours of fantastic music, dancing and singing followed. This demonstrated wholeheartedly that accountants are not boring people in suits with calculators, more like excitable individuals in black tie and gowns who know how to work hard and party hard!

Who needs Guy Fawkes and bonfires when we had explosive dancing, sparkling conversation and warm friends to share the evening with. Remember remember the 5th of November, the Hyatt Regency, Fake That and Fun!

The CIM events team has already started to design the programme for the 2011 seminar and anyone wishing to get involved should contact Sue Smith, Honorary Secretary at [CIM@cipfa.org.uk](mailto:CIM@cipfa.org.uk)

### **CIPFA Midlands Council Nominations**

Nominations are being invited from CIPFA Members for vacancies on the Regional Council.

The vacancies will be available from Thursday 10 March 2010, the date of the CM AGM. The closing date for all nominations is **Friday 7 January 2011**.

Please follow this link on the CM website, for further information  
[http://www.cipfa.org.uk/regions/mid/news\\_details.cfm?news\\_id=61217](http://www.cipfa.org.uk/regions/mid/news_details.cfm?news_id=61217)



# December Club Pays Homage to Heroes

**This years December Club summer outing was a visit to the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas, Staffordshire.**

Covering 150 acres, the Arboretum was the brainchild of Commander David Childs CBE, who wished to establish a national focus for remembrance.

Following an appeal for funds in 1994, with additional funding by the Millennium Commission, it was officially opened to the public in 2001.

Firstly, we entered the Millennium Chapel of Peace and Forgiveness for the daily service of dedication. From its inception, it was felt that the Chapel should be the one place in the U.K. where the two minutes silence was observed every day of the year.

A recording of the Last Post and Reveille by the Band of the Royal Marines is played and an introduction to the 'Silence' is narrated by a BBC Newsreader.

At 11 o'clock every day a light shines on the alter from the bearing and elevation of the sun on 11th November, Armistice Day. This is a poignant moment to stop in silence and recall all those who have died in conflict.

After the service we had a guided tour of the grounds; some had a walking tour whilst the less mobile (or energetic) went by 'land train'.



The centerpiece of the Arboretum is the Armed Forces Memorial. It is a stunning piece of architecture. It consists of a large 6 metre high earth mound, 100 metres wide at the base reducing to just 50 metres wide at the top. At the top of the mound stands a 43 metre stone structure, comprising of two curved walls and two straight walls. Access to the top is by a spiraling walkway, up grassy, tree planted slopes.

The Memorial records the names of all those who have died in conflicts where U.K. Armed Forces have served since the Second World War. The lists of names are regularly updated.

Surrounding the Memorial are individual Memorial Gardens, dedicated to the various sections and regiments of the military.

However, the focus is not totally military. A large area is devoted to members of the Police, Fire and Ambulance services who have lost their lives on duty. National Charities that represent those who have died in particular circumstances, including children, and people killed in road accidents are also in the Arboretum grounds.

Ten years since its opening, the site now hosts an abundance of wild plants, woodland areas, grassland, a reed bed and a wetland. This has led to a variety of wildlife inhabiting the Arboretum. A wildlife watch group has been formed.

After a busy morning's activities, we were very appreciative of an excellent lunch provided in the Restaurant. In the afternoon, some of us chose

to take a leisurely stroll around the grounds before leaving.

We are grateful to Stuart Aldridge and Ken Rose for arranging a very interesting and informative outing.

The next event is the Annual Luncheon on 15th December at the Clarendon Suite in Birmingham. New members are welcome to attend this and future events. Further details may be obtained from Stuart on [0121 707 2584](tel:01217072584).

For more information on the National Memorial Arboretum please visit [www.thenma.org.uk](http://www.thenma.org.uk)

Ron Badham



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## Norman Rozzell

Norman died on 14th October, after a long illness, aged 75 years.

He began his career in local government at Cheshire CC., aged 17. Subsequently, he served at Staffordshire CC., where he qualified for IMTA membership in 1962. After qualifying, he served Treasurer at Shrewsbury BC., prior to moving to Oakengates UDC., where he became Treasurer. In this capacity, on reorganisation, he was responsible for consolidating the accounts of five constituent authorities.

He also became Treasurer of Shropshire Finance Officers' Association.

In 1985, after retiring from local government, he established his own accountancy practice, with 300 clients. In 1997, he sold the practice, but continued to work in semi-retirement, with 40 clients.

As a Rotarian, he was heavily involved with charitable causes. He was founder of Telford & Wrekin Community Trust, a mentor for the Prince's Trust and a director of Telford Citizens Advice Bureau.

He regularly attended church and had been church warden, member of the parochial church council, sides man and chalice bearer. He was also Treasurer of Shrewsbury and Lilleshall churches.

Prior to illness, he was Secretary of the December Club, (the midlands region section of CIPFA retired members). Here, he demonstrated his characteristic enthusiasm and dedication in organising social events.

Even with all these commitments, he found time to pursue recreational interests. He enjoyed music, (he was patron of Newport Music Club), walking, swimming, indoor bowls and gardening.

As a person, Norman was a perfect gentleman; quiet spoken, humble, kind and had a wry sense of humour. He endeared himself to everyone and will be greatly missed.

He is survived by his wife, Jean, two sons and three grandchildren. We send our deepest sympathy to them.

Ron Badham.

# CIPFA Midland Student Society Annual General Meeting

**CIPFA Midland Student Society (CMSS) marked its one year anniversary by holding its 1st ever annual general meeting (AGM) on Tuesday 17th August. The AGM was held at the offices of Deloitte at Brindley Place, Birmingham.**

At the AGM Carl Ford stepped down as Chair of CMSS after serving one-year in office, Rizwan Dhanani, the previous Vice-Chair, stepped into the role as Chair with Caroline Slaney becoming the Vice-Chair and Chris Forrester becoming CMSS Honorary Secretary. Of his 12 month's as Chair, Carl commented "It has been a great honour to have been the Chair of the Midlands Student Society over the past year, a lot of hard work but it's been an excellent opportunity to acquire and develop new skills, plus it's given me the chance to work on items for my IPDS, such as managing a long-term project. I look forward to the next 12 months in the role as Past-Chair supporting Riz and the rest of the student council. I would also urge all midland students to get involved whenever possible with the student society, it creates a network of contacts, develops skills and adds so much value to the CIPFA student experience.". After stepping down as Chair of CMSS, Carl has now become the Vice-Chair of CIPFAs National Student Forum.

After the AGM the CMSS held a student development session which had 3 speakers. Mark Lawrie of Deloitte's kick-off the proceedings with a 45 minute talk on how students can use their qualification in the work place, with practical examples from Mark's past.

Next there was a case study presentation from Rachel Musson from Birmingham City Council on the practical implementation of IFRS, giving examples of how Birmingham, the largest Council

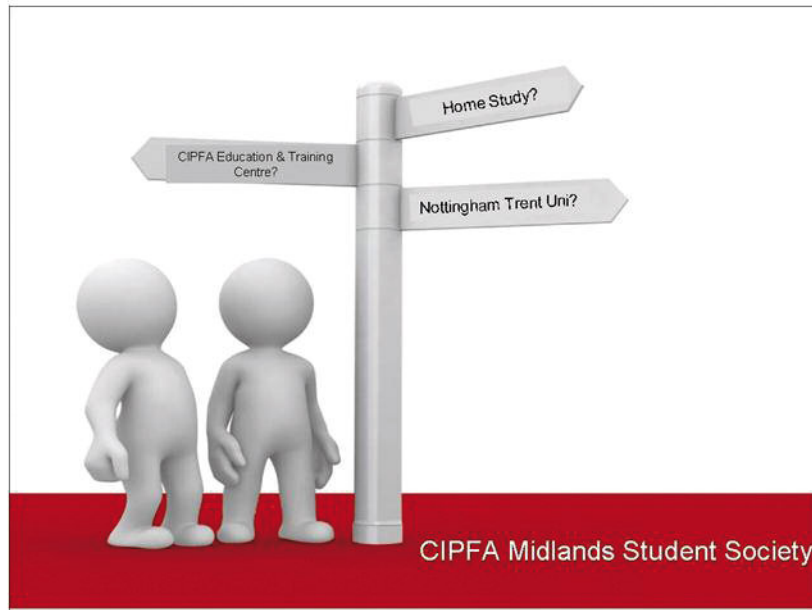
in the UK, has met the challenges of IFRS implementation.

The final speaker of the day was Chris Gill from Staffordshire County Council on the CIPFA Midlands 6th Form Management Games. This highlighted to benefits to both students and CIPFA members of taking part in the games. Further information on the Management Games is available on the CIPFA Midlands website [www.cipfa.org.uk/regions/mid](http://www.cipfa.org.uk/regions/mid)

CMSS would like to express their gratitude to Sue Smith of CIPFA Midlands, Steve Wellings (CIPFA Midlands President) and Lisa Commane (CIPFA Midlands Vice-President) for all of their support. Also, a very big thank you to Deloitte's for the hospitality and support in hosting the CMSS AGM.

For more information on the CIPFA Midlands Student Society go to our website [www.cipfa.org.uk/regions/mid/students](http://www.cipfa.org.uk/regions/mid/students)





# CIPFA Midlands Student Society

The society is here to encourage and support all students to get the most from their studies by laying on events to enhance their learning as well as providing networking opportunities which will enhance career prospects and career choice. We want everyone to get involved, and to truly feel part of the society.

We urge you to take a look at the website for upcoming events:

<http://www.cipfa.org.uk/regions/mid/students.cfm>

The society is still in its infancy and ideas are extremely welcome.

Please contact us at [cmss@live.co.uk](mailto:cmss@live.co.uk) with your ideas, suggestions, feedback or ANY questions that you need answering .

# Castaway PCT

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**How ironic that the Government White Paper issued during the course of this year's sixth form management games proposed to do the very title of the game we used and castaway its PCTs!**

In the aftermath of the Emergency Budget it also didn't seem that realistic asking School Students to bid, as a PCT, for £300m of new money announced by the Secretary of State for Health!

But still the game proved a fitting challenge for those taking part and at least in the case study we also clarified that

*"In the current economic climate this is likely to be the last development money made available to the NHS for a number of years, so it must be spent wisely."*

Although it had been planned to take the game across to Wales this year, there was insufficient demand from the schools in the principality and we concentrated on 5 games within the Midlands on 4 dates in June and July. As ever, we are very grateful to those who are able to provide venues for the games, and this year our thanks go to De Montfort University, Leicester; Nottingham Trent University; West Midlands Police; the University of Worcester and Staffordshire University, who all provide excellent, generous accommodation. Access to a University venue is an added bonus for school students who briefly get to experience University life and some of the facilities available.

The response from the schools was as enthusiastic as ever this year and we are

beginning to learn that it isn't just seen as another end of school year activity. For many schools this is the only opportunity they get to experience the public sector, let alone the financial aspects, and some use it to delve a little deeper in to the subject matter. On occasions there have been requests for follow up visits to schools and colleges, which we have tried to facilitate if possible. Other schools use the game as a team building exercise or as a development tool for the students to find out about their own strengths, with a reflection time in the days after the game to look at what they have achieved and how, and what they might have done differently etc. By its very nature it also helps school students develop their softer skills – with communication, time management and teamwork all being tested during the day. For others schools it is seen as a reward for those students who work hard during the year, although many students find this a harder and more stressful day than any in school, although enjoyable and informative at the same time.

This year's winners were from Southfield School, Kettering; Kings School, Grantham; Adams Grammar School, Newport; Pershore High School and Moorlands Sixth Form College, Cheadle, although all who took part deserve congratulations for the positive, willing way in which they all approached the game. Comments made by the school teaching staff clearly show how much their students gain from the game and how useful it is to them.

*"Once again, many many thanks for this great event. It really raises the confidence of our students and we benefit from it. We appreciate the time, effort and cost which goes into this. Please pass on our thanks to the volunteers"*

**Southfield School, Kettering**

"Thank you for putting together such an excellent challenge; the students have been talking about it to other sixth formers today in school – a clear sign of how much they enjoyed it. One wanted to know when it's on again and one student who wasn't able to attend said he was "gutted" to have missed it! We'd really love to be able to take part again next year; I hope you can find a slot for us."

North Kesteven, Lincoln

"Just a quick email to give a big thank you to you and your team for organising the sixth form management game in Birmingham. The students enjoyed it greatly and I feel our students enhanced many of their teamwork, presentation and working under pressure skills. We chose students who we believed would have an opportunity to "bring themselves out" more in a business situation. They also all found out more about the role of public sector accountants. May I also say how impressive your volunteers were in making it realistic!! Our mentor (Sanjay) was extremely good with just the right amount of tips for the team but allowing them to fight their own way through it. We would love to come again next year if you organise one."

Kingsley, Redditch

The benefits of the game are not just for the schools though and most members who give up a day or two to help find themselves learning from the day. This year was no exception with a tremendous response from a cross section of volunteers, including a valuable number of retired members. The team mentoring volunteer role within the game enables a number of Student members to gain the relevant mentoring experience for inclusion as an evidenced activity within their IPDS portfolio and we were pleased to see a large number of students take up the opportunity this year. Other members spoke of what they had gained from the day and it was interesting to hear from one volunteer at the first game how being involved in the games fired her up for wanting to do more volunteering for CIPFA. Volunteers this year have also been particularly helpful in commenting on aspects of the game and hopefully this will help it develop in future

years. Our thanks are due to all our volunteers, but particularly those who managed to help at more than one game (some at short notice) and those who led the games or the marking teams. Hopefully the statistics below show how the Institute is beginning to make an impact on the understanding of Public Sector Finance within schools, but it also shows how resource intensive the games are.

### 2010

- 5 games
- 21 schools
- 24 teams
- potentially 168 school students
- 67 volunteers (37 new this year)
- 77 volunteer days

### From 2006

- 18 games
- 54 schools
- 93 teams
- potentially 651 school students
- 140 volunteers
- 254 volunteer days

If you would like to help next year then the dates we have in mind are Wednesdays 22nd and 29th June and 6th and 13th July, probably in similar locations. Please contact [chris.gill@tesco.net](mailto:chris.gill@tesco.net) to register your interest.

# Dates for your diary

Date	Event	Location
10 March	CM Professional Development Event and AGM	RICOH Arena
22/29 June	6th Form Games (tbc)	tbc
6/13 July	6th Form Games (tbc)	tbc
August	Student Society AGM	tbc
Sept - Nov	CATS Seminars	tbc
11 November	CM Annual Seminar and Dinner	Hyatt Regency, Birmingham

Please visit the website for other details [www.cipfamidlands.org.uk](http://www.cipfamidlands.org.uk)

## Exam results

This is my first opportunity to share the CETC Midlands results from the June 2010 exam sitting with members and students across the region.

Overall, the results were excellent with CETC Midlands students achieving a pass rate of 86%, which compares very well to the CIPFA wide average of 70%.

The results at Certificate level were very strong with 90% pass rates in both Financial Accounting and Management Accounting, which were substantially higher than the CIPFA averages of 57% and 74%. This strong performance continued in Financial Reporting and Financial Management Systems & Techniques, which both saw pass rates of 89%, against CIPFA averages of 72% and 58%.

At Diploma level the results were again very pleasing. The pick of the bunch being Accounting for Decision Making where 94% of CETC Midlands students were successful against a CIPFA average

of 68%. In fact, in 6 of the 7 diploma subjects the CETC Midlands average exceeded the CIPFA average. In Tax, Public Finance and Leadership & Management, the CIPFA average was exceeded by at least 13% and in Finance & Performance Reporting by a staggering 23%. Audit also saw an extremely high pass rate of 94%, with only Governance and Public Policy falling below the CIPFA average. Even so, at 86% the GPP pass rate was very good.

At Final Test level CIPFA Midlands students again performed very well. 76% passed the Finance & Management Case Study, exceeding the CIPFA wide average by 10%, and 81% passed Strategic Business Management, 5% above the CIPFA average.

Congratulations go out to all successful students for an excellent set of results, and look forward to more success in the recent set of exams.

**Chris Lees,**  
**Course Director, CETC Midlands**