

WE KNOW WH

Some members asked why there was no 'members map' in any of last year's issues. For those who have joined MSS in the past year, it was basically a map of the UK showing where MSS members are located by the county or area that they live in.

It is a mammoth task to take nearly 500 membership renewal sheets and laboriously feed all of the information into a computer. And then collate it. And analyse it. And write it all up. Some months ago at an MSS editorial meeting I volunteered myself for this task.

I put my hands up and admit my idiocy. It has been a task that I never thought would end. Having said that, I was keen to be assigned the job because it is interesting to know who the editorial team are actually writing for. Plus it gives us a chance to answer the questions that many of you put on your renewal forms.

Onto the number crunching. The information given throughout this is based on the 460 membership forms that I was given by MSS's excellent membership secretary, Jan Sanders. Therefore, the information given throughout relates only to full members of MSS, not household members.

The membership is split between 409 males and 51 females - in other words, about 11 percent of our members are women. This is encouraging, as it perhaps reflects that the magazine is not typical of many others that seem to be all about boozing and telling filthy jokes. (Steve Smith and I save all that for the editorial meetings).

A total of 24 members joined via the website, six of these were from overseas addresses. Of the 460 full membership forms, 66 did not

by Shaun Keogh

indicate any profession and 72 did not give their age. Now I'm not sure why people are precious about telling us their age or what they do for a living. Please be assured that the information you give on your forms is for the eyes of Jan Sanders, who receives it from you, and half a dozen of us on the editorial committee who take note of your comments and preferences. We do not sell or pass on any details to third parties.

Therefore PLEASE fill in your ages and occupations on the membership form this year, as well as your profession. If I haven't got everybody's information, it is impossible to give you all an accurate picture of who the typical MSSer is.

Anyway, of the 388 people who did give their age, the average age of those members is 32. Of course, with the time it has taken to produce this report, we are all a year older...

It is when it comes to people's professions that the diversity of our membership really shows its teeth. It's an advertiser's heaven, because there are an enormous amount of people whose professions suggest that they are on big salaries. For contrast, there is virtually every other trade or profession going. If every MSS member were unexpectedly beamed up to be the only inhabitants of a parallel universe, we have every skill conceivable among us. Oh, all right, we don't have a butcher, baker or candlestick maker, but the huge amount of teachers on our parallel planet could help us all to learn some of these skills. Look at the table on the right, how's that for sheer diversity?

So, what do you, the members think of the mag? One hundred and fourteen members wrote down their comments, and I can honestly tell you that all of them were complimentary. Well, except one that just said 'rubbish' but as this was from Andy Smith it can perhaps be interpreted as a touch of satire.

For the editorial team, it is important that we know the mag is well received. Obviously, you cannot please everybody, and you can't be right all of the time. Unless, of course, your name is Paul Readman. However, when going through the membership forms, I wondered if the people filling in the forms are the ones receiving the mag?

For instance, one member asked if we ever thought of starting a 'where are they now?' section, where we could interview former Boro players. Now there's an opportunity that has clearly passed us by. Bugger. Another asked what happened to the MSS website!

We all know that self praise is no praise, but it means a great deal to all of us who put the mag together that of the 114 who expressed their opinion on their membership forms, 70 included one or more of the following words:

Excellent, splendid, superb, magnificent, brilliant, outstanding, fantastic. Several thought it a 'good read', 'professional journalism to be proud of' (member 138), or simply 'the dogs bollocks' (member 102).

Many of you said that the match reports are old news by the time the mag comes out, and of course you are right. This is a subject that has been the subject of debate at many editorial meetings. A change of format is likely.

Quite a few members also asked

Where MSS members live...

11 Avon	4 Leicestershire	2 Shropshire	1 Bermuda
10 Beds	2 Lincolnshire	3 Scotland	3 BFPO
15 Berkshire	3 Liverpool/ Merseyside	2 Staffordshire	Addresses (British Forces Posted Overseas)
1 Birmingham	100 London	4 Suffolk	2 France
11 Buckinghamshire	2 Manchester	20 Surrey	1 Germany
9 Cambridgeshire	9 Middlesbrough/ Teesside area	18 Sussex	1 Guemsey
2 Cheshire	23 Middlesex	1 Tyneside	2 Holland
2 Cumbria	4 Midlands	2 Warwickshire	1 Japan
2 Derbyshire	5 Norfolk	2 West Midlands	1 Jersey
2 Dorset	13 Northamptonshire	6 Wiltshire	1 New Zealand
3 Durham	1 Northern Ireland	2 Worcestershire	1 Norway
19 Essex	4 Northumberland	23 Yorkshire	1 Singapore
6 Wales	6 Nottinghamshire	MSS has an impressive 27 overseas members:	1 South Africa
22 Hampshire	8 Oxfordshire	3 Australia	2 Spain
31 Hertfordshire		1 Belgium	2 UAE
14 Kent			3 USA
4 Lancashire			

HO YOU ARE...

for more interviews with current players and management. The problem with this is one of content. The players are all coached in what they can and cannot say, so all you would get is a sterile article full of the kind of thing that Bryan Robson puts in his programme notes, 'You know, the usual stuff about 'rolling our sleeves up' and 'one game at a time' and 'the lads are confident'. I don't blame Bryan or the players for this; it's the way things are, so you can't change them. But good reading it does not make. After all, we don't want MSS to start looking like an official MFC publication, do we?

The interviews with former players (mostly conducted lately by Paul Thompson and myself) are far more revealing than anything you would get from a current Premier League player or manager. For example, Arthur Horsfield's excellent story in a recent MSS interview about John Hickton's naked punch-up at Chester, and Bobby Murdoch's revelation that he came to Boro on a free transfer because he would never have passed a medical.

We do try to speak to more recent players, and have had several scoops, such as interviewing Craig Hignett on the day he left Boro and an Italian chap who's name slips my mind appears on the following pages. We try to give something for everybody in each issue as the membership age ranges from 17 up to a 75 year old lady in Essex. Harry Pearson clearly pushes the right buttons, as his excellent contributions were praised by many of you. Some members asked for a classified contacts/noticeboard, and this was introduced in **mss** 128 so please use it, it's free for MSSers.

A few members want back

issues. These can be obtained by sending a cheque to me payable to MSS for £1.25 per copy, including postage. Send to:

Shaun Keogh, The Two Brewers, Mill End, Herts. SG9 0RW.

Please state the issue number(s) that you require.

It is particularly pleasing that the

MSS diary was so well received. Thanks are due to Andy Smith for conceiving the idea and designing it and David Keen for raising funds through advertising. We can all make a contribution to this by taking out messages or adverts (see the pull out form in the middle of this mag). Some people suggested ways to

improve it, for instance by adding a few pages at the back for phone numbers and other ideas. If you have any other ideas for your diary please let us know.

Finally, if anybody knows exactly what being a 'Bathroom Specialist' and a 'Case Support Officer' actually entails...shaunkeogh@aol.com

...and what jobs you do

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| 12 Accountants | 1 Credit Controller | 4 Lecturers | 2 Researchers |
| 1 Actor | 1 Customs Officer | 3 Librarians | 1 Retail Worker |
| 1 Actress | 1 Dentist | 1 Machine Operator | 6 Royal Navy Personnel |
| 1 Actuary | 2 Deputy Headteachers | 1 Mailroom Worker | 9 Sales Reps |
| 7 Administrators | 7 Designers | 55 Managers in nearly every conceivable industry | 1 Scientist |
| 2 Advertising Executives | 1 Despatcher | 3 Marketing executives | 1 Secret Agent |
| 7 Analysts | 12 Directors | 1 Merchant Seaman | (Neil Emmerson, you are a prat - but you're good at it) |
| 1 Archeologist | 3 Doctors | 2 Meteorologists | 1 Secretary |
| 1 Air Traffic Controller | 1 Doorman | 1 Member Of Parliament | 1 Sheet Metal Worker |
| 1 Auditor | 2 Drivers | 1 Multimedia | 2 Social Workers |
| 3 Bank Managers | 1 Dry Liner | 1 Musician | 2 Soldiers |
| 9 Bankers | 1 Economist | 1 Nanny | 4 Solicitors |
| 1 Barrister | 1 Editor | 3 Nurses | 1 Sports Therapist |
| 1 Bathroom Specialist (!) | 1 Environmental Health Officer | 1 Optometrist | 1 Stockbroker |
| 1 Biologist | 1 Electrician | 1 PA | 10 Students |
| 1 Boat Builder | 22 Engineers (various industries) | 1 Pharmaceutical Industry | 2 Supervisors |
| 1 Bookseller | 2 Estate Agents | 3 Pharmacists | 1 Surgeon |
| 1 Builder | 1 Farmer | 1 Photographer | 2 Surveyors |
| 1 Buyer | 1 Film Technician | 2 Planners | 2 Taxi Drivers |
| 1 Carpenter | 1 Financier | 4 Police Officers | 21 Teachers |
| 1 Case Support Officer (!!) | 1 Fire Fighter | 3 Postmen | 2 Technicians |
| 1 Chaplain | 2 Fitters | 4 PR/Press Officers | 1 Training Instructor |
| 1 Chef | 1 Flight Systems Operator | 1 Priest | 1 Travel Agent |
| 1 Chemical Industry Executive | 1 General Foreman | 1 Prison Officer | 1 TV Producer |
| 2 Chemists | 1 Hairdresser | 1 Process Operator | 1 Typesetter |
| 1 Civil Engineer | 1 Head Teacher | 2 Production Co-Ordinators | 1 Union Official |
| 18 Civil Servants | 1 Hotelier | 1 Promoter | 1 Youth Worker |
| 1 Clerk | 2 Housewives | 2 Business Proprietors | In addition, there are the following equally valuable members: |
| 1 Clinical Psychologist | 1 Information Officer | 1 Psychiatric Nurse | 3 Schoolboys |
| 1 Composer | 5 Insurance Industry | 1 Publican | 15 Retired persons |
| 1 Conservator | 10 IT Consultants | 1 Quantity Surveyor | 1 Unemployed |
| 10 Consultants in various industries (excluding IT - see below) | 2 Journalists | 1 Radiographer | |
| | 1 Lawyer | 2 RAF Personnel | |
| | | 1 Record Label Owner | |