



UKMA news

The newsletter of the UK Metric Association
For a **single** *rational* system of measurement

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Editor of UKMA News

UKMA News has not had a regular editor since the untimely death of Martin Clutterbuck.

If you think you might be able to take on the role, then please contact the Secretary, secretary@metric.org.uk

Rudimentary desktop publishing skills and a few spare hours every three months are all that you will need.

AGM and Conference 2019

The AGM of UKMA will take place on Saturday 5th October at 10:00 at Canada Water Library, 21 Surrey Quays Road, London, SE16 7AR. The agenda for the meeting will be e-mailed to members around 22 September.

The library is beside Canada Water Station on the Jubilee line, normally just 5 minutes from London Bridge Station, and also on the Overground line from Highbury to West Croydon.

The Annual Conference will begin immediately after the AGM. The programme for the Conference will be available in September. The Conference will conclude around 16:00.

Brexit will feature on the Conference programme, inevitably and for the fourth year in succession. If there is any other issue you would like to be considered please e-mail secretary@metric.org.uk

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Association News

UKMA Committee for 2019-2020

The current members of the Committee have agreed to serve for a further year, there were no other nominations and therefore no election. The Committee members for 2019-2020 are:

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Treasurer | Tony Wilson |
| Secretary | Derek Pollard |
| Other members | Ronnie Cohen, John-Frewen Lord, Raphael Sofair and Martin Ward |

Chair(man) for 2019-2020

The post of Chair(man) of UKMA remains vacant, there being no nomination this year. If you might consider standing next year and would like to know what is involved, please contact the Secretary or any member of the Committee.

Subscription rates for 2019-2020

These will be determined at the AGM. The rates for 2018-2019 are unlikely to change. They were:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Member annual | £15.00 |
| Member annual by standing order | £10.00 |
| Member (concession) annual | £5.00 |
| Member life | £150.00 |

General Data Protection and Regulation (GDPR)

Members of UKMA and former members receive this newsletter automatically. Supporters who have not been members will now need to opt-in to receive UKMA News.

If you are a supporter, and are not or have not been a member of UKMA, and you would like to continue to receive UKMA News please e-mail the Secretary: secretary@metric.org.uk

Facebook page turns a thousand

UKMA's Facebook page reached 1000 'likes' early in August. The page was set up in January 2012, and the number of likes has grown steadily since, reaching 300 at the end of 2015. You can find the page at <https://www.facebook.com/UKMetric/>. You do not have to be a member of UKMA to contribute, and all contributions are monitored.

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UK News Stories

Good signage (and bad)

Ronnie Cohen, a regular contributor to our blog, Metric Views, has sent us a photo and comments as follows:



“Here is a notice at a theatre I visited recently that gives maximum weight in kilograms and maximum and minimum height in metres. It is encouraging to see an organisation resisting peer pressure to use supplementary information in stones and pounds for body weight and feet and inches for personal height. They are complying with the law and appear confident that customers will understand this information despite the strong tradition and custom to use imperial units for body weight and height.”

Ronnie has also sent us several photos of muddled pedestrian and road traffic signage, which we are reluctant to publish for fear of reawakening the sign vandals, quiescent of late but active in the early years of this decade.

Why shedding a kilo is good for science

There were two posts on our blog, Metric Views, about the redefinition of four of the seven base units of the International System of Measurement (SI), in particular the kilogram. For those of you who missed this story when it was first reported, this article provides an excellent summary:

https://uk.news.yahoo.com/why-shedding-kilo-good-science-123232214.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHRocHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLnNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAFmL8XiY6Cr9JasV2w_wkgCtaVTtadojmWbYMDTHCb48lZdtsNxl6X9QYg98uCUeL6_uMVqx8VQSUXKhSyTgd3oSUozhTrDT4z1Vo_R9FfEuynOSiG-bGpVxZS-NVKT_uCcpHpCZkaAiHogumQ-oJKFQxXqb7BZZJUBVEYAoVvou

About UKMA News

UKMA News is published by the UK Metric Association, the object of which is to promote the full adoption of the International System of Units (SI), commonly known as ‘the metric system’, as the legal and default system of weights and measures throughout society in the United Kingdom.

Your feedback and comments on UKMA News or on the UK’s stalled metric upgrade are welcome. To submit, or if you no longer wish to receive UKMA News, please e-mail secretary@metric.org.uk

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UKMA report entitled “Still a mess”

In 2013, UKMA commissioned YouGov to carry out a survey of public understanding of the use of metric and imperial units and of public support for completing the metric changeover. A follow-up survey also examined the salience of metrication as a political issue.

The survey showed that, although younger people were more supportive of completing the metric changeover than older people, 36% of the 18 to 24 age group were opposed. And, although there was a definite association between age and acceptance of metric units, there was a large minority, or perhaps even a majority, of young people who habitually use imperial rather than metric units for everyday functions.

The report, subtitled “The continuing failure of UK Measurement policy”, includes the full results of the opinion survey, and is now available on UKMA’s main web site: <https://ukma.org.uk/still-a-mess/>

“A very British mess”

The predecessor of “Still a mess” is a 62-page report published by UKMA in 2004, which described the UK’s measurement muddle, outlined its consequences, and pointed a way out of the mess. It included a foreword by the late Lord Howe of Aberavon, and appendices detailing the experiences of other countries that had recently made the metric changeover.

A contribution of £2 towards p&p will secure you a hard copy. Contact the Secretary, secretary@metric.org.uk. The report is also available for download on UKMA’s main web site: <https://ukmetric.files.wordpress.com/2017/07/vbm.pdf>

Recent articles posted on Metric Views

Here is a summary of the articles posted on Metric Views, www.metricviews.org.uk, since the last edition of this newsletter:

“How British metallurgists helped to make the first international kilogram.” Posted on 8 December 2018. 1 comment.

“Hybrids, old and new.” Posted on 12 March 2019. 9 comments.

“The new kilogram weight.” Posted on 3 May 2019. No comment.

“Major shake-up of the SI.” Posted on 14 May 2019. 2 comments.

“Measuring tapes. Choice for some.” Posted on 4 June 2019. 12 comments.

“Metric reminders for your holiday.” Posted on 22 July 2019. 6 comments.

“300 million gallons and other dam(n) measurement units.” Posted on 4 August 2019. 5 comments.

“Leading us to the 18th century.” Posted 8 August 2019. 2 comments so far.

Draft articles for Metric Views are welcome and should be e-mailed to: secretary@metric.org.uk

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Can you help?

The Committee is looking for volunteers who may be able to help in the following areas:

- Responding to technical consultations by ISO and BSI.
- Preparing web-friendly versions of UKMA News for PCs, i-pads, i-phones and android devices such as tablets and mobile phones.
- Responding to calls to appear on broadcast media, for example local radio.
- Reviewing printed media for stories to link to our Twitter and Facebook pages.
- Assisting with the production of material for uploading to YouTube.
- Editing this newsletter.

If you think you may be able to help, please contact secretary@metric.org.uk

Where to find UKMA on the internet

UKMA began as an internet forum, and the internet is our principal vehicle for carrying our message to the public. We now have:

The main UKMA web site, www.ukma.org.uk

A factual web site, www.thinkmetric.org.uk

A blog, www.metricviews.org.uk

A Twitter page, <http://twitter.com/UKMetric>

A YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/user/UKMetric

These are available to all, not just members.

There is also a Facebook page, as noted on page 2, and a Facebook group.

Membership of UKMA – a note for readers who are not members

An application form for membership of UKMA appears on the final page of this edition of UKMA News. The Annual subscription is currently £15 or £10 paid by standing order, concessions £5. The subscription year runs from July until the following June.

Benefits of membership include:

- Participation in a Google Group, open only to members.
- Participation in the annual election of the Committee.
- Participation in the AGM and annual Conference.
- Eligibility for election to the Committee.

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UKMA membership application form

Thank you for your interest in joining the UK Metric Association (UKMA).

Please fill in your details below:

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Name | |
| Home postal address | |
| | |
| Town | |
| County/Country | |
| Postcode | |
| Daytime telephone | |
| Evening telephone | |
| Mobile telephone | |
| e-mail address | |

(Please delete below as applicable.)

I wish to support the UK Metric Association through membership.

I understand the objectives of the UK Metric Association (UKMA) and agree with them. I have received the Constitution of UKMA.

I agree that my participation in UKMA activities will be legal, ethical and consistent with its objectives.

I am willing to be contacted by e-mail at the e-mail address above

I enclose a cheque (payable to 'UK Metric Association') to cover:

Individual subscription of £15 (annual)

Concessionary subscription of £5 (annual)

I enclose a completed standing order form in favour of UKMA for £10.00 per year.

I have made a payment through Paypal using the UKMA web site, www.ukma.org.uk

Signed

Date

Please return to Secretary, UKMA, 34 Wroxham Gardens, London, N11 2BA, or to secretary@metric.org.uk, from whom a standing order form may be obtained.