

# HEADING FOR ILAM

A message from the leaders of the amalgamating bodies

## ARM . . .

### A Question of Priorities

The work of the various sub-groups working towards amalgamation seemed to produce little except brick walls.

There is no doubt that if we had continued to discuss conferences, journals examinations et al amalgamation would have occurred in 1988!

The most important decision was to ignore these problem areas and to focus on the philosophy of amalgamation. To achieve this, all that was required was the 'will' and this was evidently shown by all members of the Steering Committee.

We, as an association, are delighted that Dennis Woodman emerged as the catalyst to enable the 4 bodies to find common ground.

Only someone who runs a caravan club could have produced such a superb document as the Scheme of Amalgamation! This managed to overcome the very real fears of our membership and its sister bodies and helped to establish the priorities which really counted! We are nearly there now; it is up to us to make it work!

Over the next 6 months, the Shadow Council has an enormous task to bring together a new Institute of which we can be proud. They deserve our total support.

W. BREEZE,

*Chairman, Association of Recreation Managers*

## IRM . . .

I greet the news of amalgamation with great pleasure. It is a concept that I.R.M. has sought to pursue for many years and when after one or two false starts, the breakthrough initiated by Dennis Woodman came about we pledged our full support to the discussions that ensued. We work in a growing, yet often maligned, industry. The community needs us and by working together we will, I am sure, serve the community well.

It is a matter for regret that I.B.R.M. were not actively involved in the recent processes, but it has to be said that a stage had been reached where positive progress was vital. Nevertheless it is to be hoped that, given the will, a formula can be found for incorporating this body of expertise at an early date.

Now the representatives of the participating organisations must exercise their wisdom, leadership, and patience in producing an Institute that will, on the one hand, inspire the membership with confidence and a true sense of belonging and at the same time provide for the industry and the community a skilled and dedicated body of practitioners.

There are already many examples of our Institutes and Associations working together at Branch level. If, as is often said, a body is as strong as its branches, this intercommunication must continue and expand. The Council will surely need the help and support of all its members and to receive their ideas, suggestions and views. Local discussions can help to overcome the misgivings that have been expressed from time to time during the past three years.

Amalgamation is not about them and us, but us and us. Its success depends on our moving forward together and growing together. The future looks bright!

L. W. DAVIES

*Chairman, Institute of Recreation Management*

## IME . . .

I am extremely pleased to have this opportunity to place a few words in A.R.M. News as I was a member of the original Sports Centre Managers' Group, from which A.R.M. sprang in its earliest days, and I recall that there were only twenty or so persons on the list—this being a total representation of Indoor Sports Centre Managers in the United Kingdom. Most of you will know the current number which indicates the expansion of leisure services and indoor sport in particular during this time.

As well as the expansion in facilities there have been changes in programming which has eroded the separateness of various disciplines within the leisure services field, and this must be a good thing in terms of service to the public, ease of administration and committee arrangements. However, it would not be a good thing if standards in any discipline were allowed to fall and it is encouraging to know that the new Institute of Leisure and Amenity Management is affording equal numbers from constituent disciplines in its formation of the national council.

I look forward to working with colleagues from other disciplines in establishing the new Institute which will further professional interest of all kinds and at the same time ensure that there is adequate discussion and interest maintained for every kind of discipline as well as the added benefit of enabling all members to gain insight and knowledge on the work and problems of their fellow members.

PETER H. PHELPS

*President, Institute of Municipal Entertainment*

## IPRA . . .

Those members of the four institutes elected to serve on the new Council will face a very onerous task over the next seven months in bringing the new Institute into being. The success of this venture will, however, not solely rest with the new Council but with all members and it is now more important than ever that the co-operation which sprang up at branch level before the vote for amalgamation should continue to flourish and, hopefully, result in more and more joint meetings during the intervening months. In fact, to ensure success, by the end of 1982, the branches will need to have formulated steering committees so that branch activity can proceed immediately the new Institute is born.

I am convinced that this is the most effective way of ensuring that the new body will be capable of fulfilling all its objectives.

H. P. BODDINGTON

*President, Institute of Park & Recreation Administration*

### Resolution of IPRA Council

That the Council of the Institute wishes to convey to the Chairman of each amalgamating body, satisfaction at the decision to amalgamate, and with the assurance that amalgamation will be implemented in the sole interests of the profession at large.