

Presidents Report on Management and Operations of the Institute – 10th June 2026

When I took over as president I committed to continuing the great work of those that had gone before me and to:

- Increase Membership
- Uphold Fundamental Objectives of the IRE
- Increase Technical Training and Networking opportunities for our members

Current Status of the Institute of Refractories Engineers

Membership is growing steadily as can be seen in the membership figures for the last few years:

2023 186

2024 209

2025 222

2026 195 (Currently)

- The corporate package initiative continues to be a success, with 26 current holders (see website)
- Events are well attended and easily cover their running costs
- Publishing revenues have continued to be high, particularly since FTJ took over producing the journal.

The Council

The council currently comprises of 16 members.

New Council Members: Devdutt Shukla

I would like to thank and congratulate Matthias Tiede on his acceptance and appointment as IRE Treasurer

As is customary following a full term as President, Mike Lamkin has been made a Fellow of the IRE

There have been no appointments of Honorary Members in the last period, suggestions for suitable candidates are welcomed and would be reviewed by council.

Australia Branch

Australia continues to be a forward thinking and growing branch

Their Conference and training days continue to generate large attendance and a significant contribution to the IRE.

Specifically, they encouraged young people to join the institute by sponsoring membership of 10 young people into the institute last year

We are fortunate enough to have three of their members on council, who continue to play an active part in shaping our Institute.

Reciprocal visits to each others' events continue to strengthen the relationships between the two branches.

Fundamental Objectives of the IRE

Raising standards and training in our field of science and technology.

In November 2025 we held another well attended conference and training day.

As an evolution of our annual technical evenings, in April this year we held an extended event – The Spring Technical Day. with approx. 40 attendees in total

We will continue to run both the April and November events over the coming 12 months.

This year's conference is currently in planning and will feature some collaboration with Ceramics UK and a new section; 'Best Paper' competition for young people coming into the industry.

Promoting and maintaining the character, status and interest of our members.

We have met with the equivalent institute in Spain and Portugal (ANFRE) and hope to establish stronger ties with other European equivalent institutes.

We have started a dialogue with Ceramics UK, who are interested using our established training events to send their own members to.

We have started to work with the BSI RPI/1 committee (Refractory products and materials) and offered them space in our journal to update on latest news and share information. Furthermore Dave Bell, of the IRE Council has been accepted onto this committee

Sharing insights, news and interesting ideas.

We are entering into our 5th Year of partnership with Foundry Trade Journal in the publishing of our own journal.

Over this period feedback on the journal has been overwhelmingly positive and we have been receiving increased revenues from the Publishing Licence Service for articles taken from our journal and used in industry.

As a member you can access all past journals and news on the website.

Encouraging members to exchange information to benefit our industry and each other.

Through an enhanced annual member offering we are further encouraging, the exchange of information within our industry

-Spring Technical Day

-IRE Golf Day

-Conference & Training Day

-The IRE Journal

-The IRE Website – upgraded booking feature

We are always open to new suggestions on how to exchange information to benefit each other and ultimately the industry.

2026-2027

2026/2027 the council is focusing on

Increasing Membership and Advertising Revenue

Building and improving the events package

Improving the website and members area (get conference and training presentations on there)

Collaborating with related Institutes