

NEWSLETTER

girep

Groupe international de recherche sur l'enseignement de la physique
International Group for the Advancement of Physics Teaching
Internationaler Arbeitskreis zur Förderung des Physikunterrichts

No. 6 - May 1978

GIREP-IUPAP SEMINAR IN OXFORD, JULY 1978

There has been an overwhelming interest in the GIREP-IUPAP meeting at Oxford, England, in July this year. The Executive Committee has nevertheless, agreed that all members of GIREP had a right to take part in the meeting. Therefore all GIREP members who applied in time have been accepted: approximately 40 GIREP members from 17 countries will attend. The total number of participants will be limited to 120, from 47 different countries.

Meeting of the Commission of Representatives

According to Article 10 of the Statutes of GIREP a meeting of the Commission of Representatives must take place during the Oxford Seminar. The Agenda for this meeting is as follows:

- 1) Election of Chairman.
- 2) The President's Report.
- 3) The Treasurer's Report.
- 4) The Editors' Report.
- 5) Plans for coming Seminars.
- 6) Discussions of received proposals for future activities.
- 7) Any other business.

Article 11 of the Statutes states that members of the Committee shall be elected for a period of approximately 4 years, the actual period being determined at the time of an appropriate GIREP meeting. The present committee members were elected at the Montpellier seminar in 1976; therefore all those members will remain in the Committee until the next GIREP meeting.

Call for proposals for future activities

Proposals for Agenda Item 6 (above) should reach the GIREP office in Copenhagen by July 1st.

Plans for coming Seminars

Article 2 of the statutes of GIREP states that "it is a principal aim of GIREP to collaborate as closely as possible with any international organization whose field of activity is connected with that of the group".

It was in accordance with the aim stated in Article 2 that, at the beginning of 1977, the GIREP Committee agreed to arrange the meeting in Oxford in collaboration with IUPAP's International Commission on Physics Education.

In July 1977 the Committee was also considering arrangements for a GIREP Seminar to be held at the Weizmann Institute, Israel, in 1978. Preliminary planning had already been discussed with Dr. H. Goldring of the Weizmann Institute, but, to avoid a close of dates with the Oxford meeting, the Committee postponed the Israel meeting for one year. A national planning Committee has now been formed to prepare a conference in April 1979.

"Oscillations and Waves" has been proposed as a main topic for that conference, and it has been suggested that the teaching of radiation, coherence, signal and noise be included. Other suggestions may be discussed under Item 5 of the Agenda, above. Plans for a GIREP seminar in 1981 will also be discussed under Agenda Item 5, so far the Committee has received an offer from Professor George Marx to arrange a meeting in Hungary.

Announcement of the Treasurer

In capacity of treasurer of GIREP I would like to put forward again a general appeal to all members that the membership fee is paid early in the year, as this will ease matters in many respects. For that purpose a.o. the membership cards were introduced last year (cf. Newsletter No. 5), the intention being, of course, that they should indicate the payment for the current year (at least). In short, the membership card is meant as a proof to the owner that the fee for the current year has been paid by him and registered in the treasurers files. Hence issue or yearly renewal of any membership card must await the payment

for the current year. The cards are mailed to members at the first given opportunity (i.e. mailed together with f.inst. general GIREP material, Newsletters etc.). Needless to add that this scheme will work only, if the membership fee is paid early in the current year.

In case you have paid for (at least) 1978 please find your card enclosed; otherwise you are requested to pay the fee as soon as possible.

Another important matter concerning payment of fees in the future is that GIREP members in Italy are supposed to pay their fees to;

Professor Arturo Loria
Via Tiraboschi, 63
41100 Modena.

Professor Loria has kindly taken on the administration of membership fees for Italy.

For other members of GIREP there will be no change; fees should be paid as usual to GIREP's Swiss bank connection, the Credit Suisse at Lausanne. Enclosed please find the usual form giving all necessary information.

It is most essential that this procedure is strictly followed.

Please note especially that the cheque should NOT be issued to GIREP, but to Credit Suisse in favour of GIREP's account No. 0425-376089-91.

Please note too that a cheque should NOT be issued to GIREP and then mailed to the treasurer!!!

It would further be of great help, both to the Credit Suisse and (later) to the treasurer, if you fill in the lower part of the form, and then mail it to the Credit Suisse together with your cheque. Please write name and address in block letters, not omitting the country.

GIREP members residing in the same country as the treasurer (at present Denmark) may, if they prefer, pay their membership fee directly to the treasurer, in Danish currency.

Enclosed please find too the treasurers financial report. For practical reasons, in order not to waste time, the editors approbation will appear later, together with professor Loria's report on GIREP's cash in Italian currency.

Finally you may take an interest to learn that the number of GIREP members are now approaching 240, representing 36 countries.

Publication of the Proceedings of the Montpellier Seminar

The publication of the proceedings of the Montpellier Seminar is progressing very well. The editor, Professor Goery Delacote reports that the printing of the book will start in May this year.

GIREP Investigation of the Education of Physics Teachers

GIREP's investigations of the education of physics teachers in different countries is progressing very well. GIREP members have responded willingly to requests for reports on physics-teacher education, and we now have some thirty accounts from different countries. Acting on behalf of GIREP, Mr. Brian Davies of Goldsmiths' College, London, has signed a contract with UNESCO, agreeing to prepare, edit, and publish a comparative study on the education and professional training of secondary school teachers of physics in a variety of countries throughout the world. UNESCO will assist GIREP greatly in this work by facilitating contacts in certain countries which have no members in GIREP - especially the developing countries. It is hoped that the manuscript will be with the publishers by the autumn of 1979. It is not too late for GIREP people to send in their promised reports: please send them to Goldsmiths' College, University of London, New Cross, London SE14 6NW, GB.

Reports on the Teaching of Physics in GIREP Countries

We have received a report prepared by Dr. Rosenberg of Finland, dealing with physics teaching in his country. We are very grateful for such reports as it is an aim of GIREP, under Article 2, to stimulate the exchange of information between its members. We are therefore highly interested in receiving reports like that of Dr. Rosenberg, especially when significant changes are taking place.

Who is Who in GIREP

The first Edition of "Who is Who in GIREP" has been prepared and a copy is enclosed with this Newsletter. A form to be filled in for the next edition of "Who is Who" is also enclosed. Completed forms should be sent to the GIREP office in Copenhagen. People already listed in GIREP's "Who is Who" need not reply unless they want to alter information already given.