

TVSCA Members Support Group

In all previous recessions both the Institute and its local societies, particularly TVSCA, have done all they can to help those members trying to get back into work. This recession, apart from being the worst since 1930, is no different in the need for the funding of “job club” type support for out of work members.

At the start of the year, with the recession deepening and the employment climate deteriorating, TVSCA held a meeting for those Thames Valley members currently not working. Around 30 attended, some had been made redundant (even whilst on maternity leave), others were seeking to return to work following a career break, whilst one or two had taken a sabbatical only to find the credit crunch! Out of this meeting came a Members Support Group (MSG) with its own dedicated website www.tvscasociety.co.uk which enables prospective employers to view the profiles, experience and work aspirations of the many highly experienced members, together with their availability.

The Group has supported its members over the past five months and has had some success with some members finding new employment. However its members have recognised the need for far greater support to hone their skills in an increasingly competitive job market, a need that can only increase once the Government's cut backs hit members working in the Civil Service or in those companies supplying the Government with goods or services.



MSG, which meets every Tuesday at the Woodclyffe Hostel, Wargrave, Berkshire, aims to meet this need by giving its members the opportunities to enhance their own prospects of new employment. To achieve this, a combination of mutual self-help and guest speakers is used, with some of the technical presentations qualifying for CPD. The self-help sessions to date have included CV writing, interview techniques (together with practice!), and the use of LinkedIn. Guest speaker's topics have covered making online applications and how to stand out when doing so; interim management; a recruitment agent explaining how to deal with agencies; a technical update on the Companies Act 2006 and changes to Director's Duties and Responsibilities; and technical updates on the two 2010 Budgets. MSG plans many more activities and events to help its members for the rest of this year.

As mentioned above the MSG website www.tvscasociety.co.uk gives details of its many highly experienced members (often Big 4 trained) from former Finance Directors to Financial Analysts showing their aspirations and availability, together with details of how to contact MSG and its members. If you are an employer looking for an experienced and immediately available Chartered Accountant “to hit the ground running”, then please look at the website to see if an MSG member meets your criteria.

If you are a Chartered Accountant and would like to join us further details are on the website or, alternatively, please contact Sue Pye Email:sue.pye@icaew.com or Tel: 01483 901824.

Timothy Lloyd
TVSCA MSG