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At a recent conference a comical yet perfectly relevant question was put forward to the speaker: "There are a lot of grey and bald heads in the audience, what is the age profile of this organisation and what is the plan?" It left the speaker lost for words whilst scratching his head. Conference delegates only needed a glance at the rest of the audience to confirm the legitimacy of the question.

This got me thinking and recollecting the imbalanced age profile of delegates at recent IRSE events I have attended. The IRSE would certainly benefit from more Younger Members. Whilst this may be an obvious statement for the institution, I would also welcome more participation from young engineers, as well as Younger Members, in the IRSE NEWS.

As an experiment I would ask members to distribute this magazine to young engineers, especially to those budding signalling engineers that are not IRSE members. If they maintain a disinterested spirit, then please write to us, as we would therefore have failed in appealing to a key audience sector.

Younger engineers will have often heard from senior engineers that there are not enough young people in the industry. As a younger engineer you should see more than just older people moaning, you should see that these people will retire much before you, and the prestigious exciting jobs they hold will be vacant. The opportunity is there and it should whet the appetite of even those lacklustre in ambition.

We welcome your thoughts and comments on this important issue.

Priyank Patel

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