



## THE FINGERPRINT SOCIETY QUESTIONNAIRE 'DEFINING OUR IDENTITY'

### Scope of Questionnaire

- To try and establish where we are as a Society and how none-members view us.
- Looking at the changes in Forensic identification and the implication of the changing role of Fingerprint officers to towards Personal Identification Officers.
- To look at falling membership, how to attract new members and if we wish to attracted other disciplines, who they should be.

### The Questionnaire was advertised through:

Our own website, Newsletter sent to members, advertised through the [www.clpex.com](http://www.clpex.com).

### A. ABOUT YOU

#### 1. Are you presently a member of the Fingerprint Society?

If 'Yes' please provide your membership number (**optional**)

A total of **109** took part in the survey

54 - Members

55 - Non-members.

This showed the message was getting communicated.

#### 2. + 3 Are you a member of any other forensic based organisation?

Members of other organisations 58                      No other organisations 51

34 members of FS are also members of another organisation

24 non-members of the FS are members of another organisation

Top other organisations:

Members of IAI                      Total 37

Members of FSS                      Total 17

Members of two or more other societies Total 20

The IAI dominated as the organisation members also belonged to.

**Suggestion:** Should we look to some sort of discount arrangements with either or both of these organisation to encourage joint memberships. 10% of annual fees (rounded up to the nearest pound).

#### 3. See above

**4. Please indicate the Fingerprint Society post-nominal's that you use.**

Out of the 54 members completing the survey 26 did not use.

The question is why not. Some of the comments we have had in the survey asked us to provide better professional credentials. Is this why the take up is not so high.

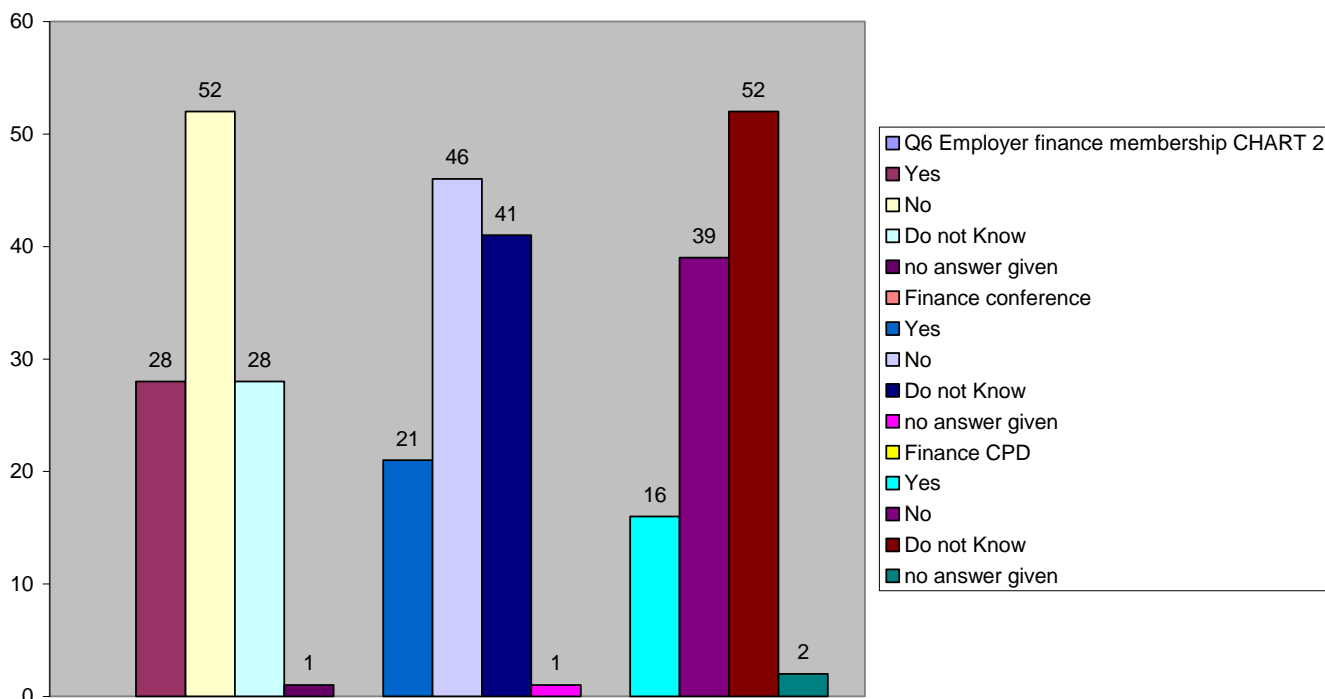
**5. Have you visited the Fingerprint Society Website previously?**

56 said they had 49 No and 4 did not answer. Of that only 19 non-members had visited previously.

**We need to promote the website?**

**6. Would your Force/Employer:**

**Question 6 Finance**



Again does this come down to marketing ourselves in the right areas. Should we be selling the Continued Professional Development hours that reading the journal brings and also the seminars.

**Suggestion:** Should we introduce a follow up journal questionnaire on-line, for members to complete and we give them a certificate stating their completion.

**B. ABOUT THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY (Indicate as many choices as you wish)**

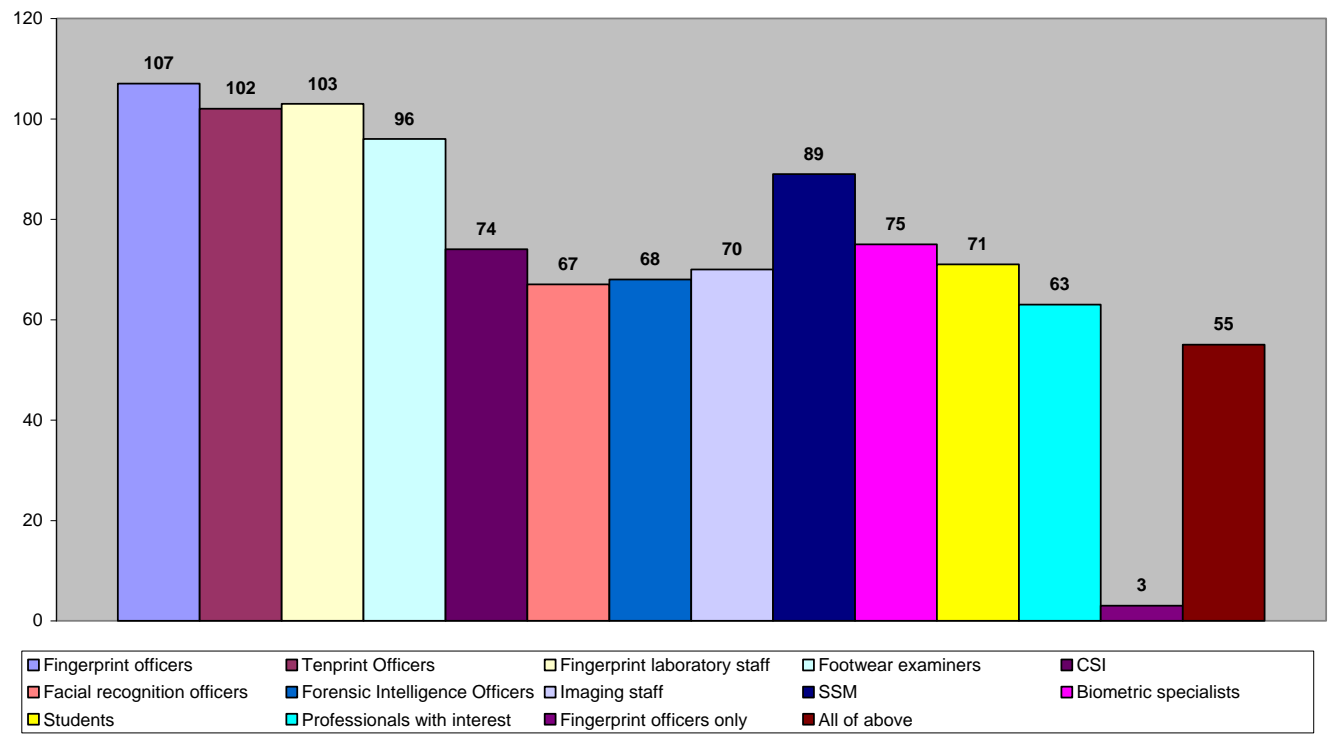
**1. Which option(s) should be available to pay membership subscription fees?**

On line	88	81% (of 109)
Credit/debit card	89	82%
DD	64	59%
Invoice	55	50%
Cheque	65	60%

Some participants filled in more than one option but feel we should leave all these in place, **but we must monitor and produce figures to see how fees are paid in the future. Also with cheques now becoming obsolete this service will probably die a natural death.**

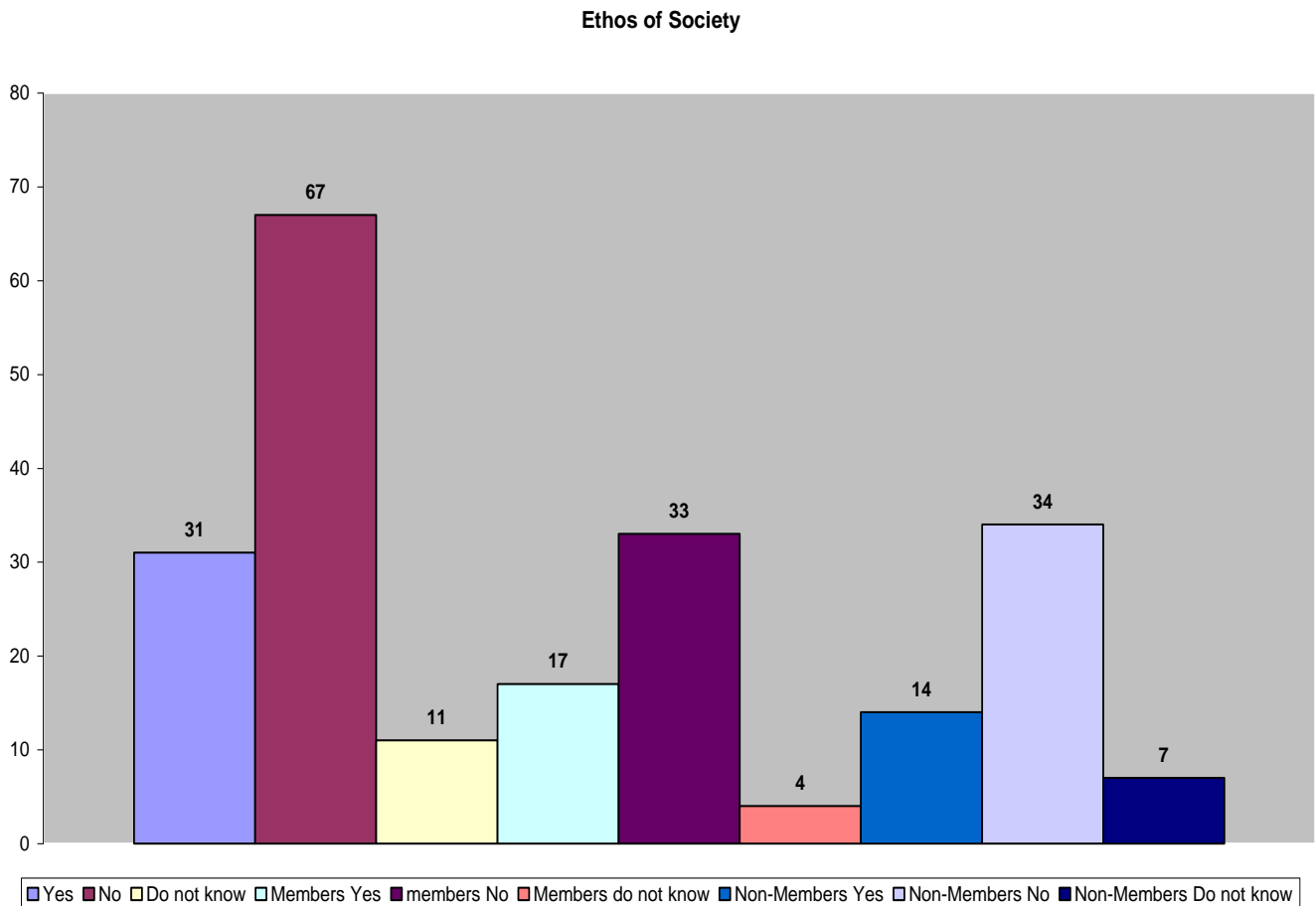
**2. Membership should be open to**

Who should be allowed to join



The single categories have had the **'ALL'** figure added to them.  
 Only 3 participants said that it should be Fingerprint Officers only.  
 Half the participants wanted all groups to be involved.

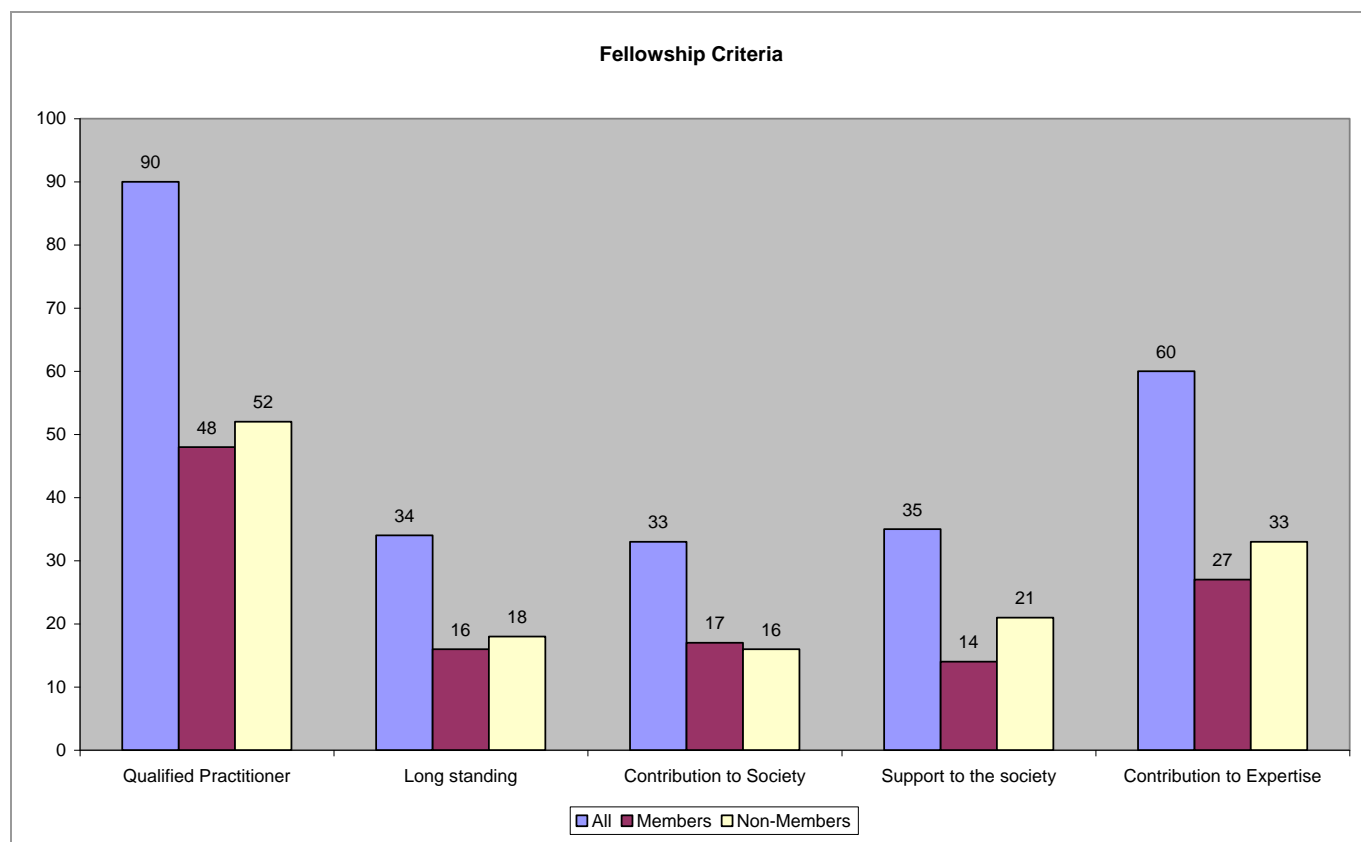
**3. In your opinion if membership criteria were expanded do you think it would diminish the society's ethos?**



The first 3 columns are the total results; next 3 are members and the last non-members. In the members vote it is almost double that the Society will not lose its ethos.

**These figures and the results of the last question Indicate we should expand membership.**

#### 4. To qualify as a fellow of the Society which criteria should be employed?



Most of the participants picked more than one criteria, which would suggest that they would like to see at least 2 or more criterion to apply.

#### Recommendation from figures above that the person has to be

1. A member of the Society
2. Qualified in their field
3. Meet one other element of the criteria above.

#### 5. If opening membership to other areas of personal identification do we need to consider a name change?

50 said yes of that 22 were members  
41 said no of that 25 were members

It would suggest that a name change is not something we should look at right now. It should be something depending on the future demographics of the Society and consider later.

#### 6. If your response to question 5 was 'yes', what would you suggest as a name for the Society.

The 2 suggestions that came out were

- Forensic Identification Society
- Forensic Society

The best suggestion was 'United Network of Crime-fighting Latent Examiners' just so the member could say that he is the man from UNCLE. At least there is still good humour out there.

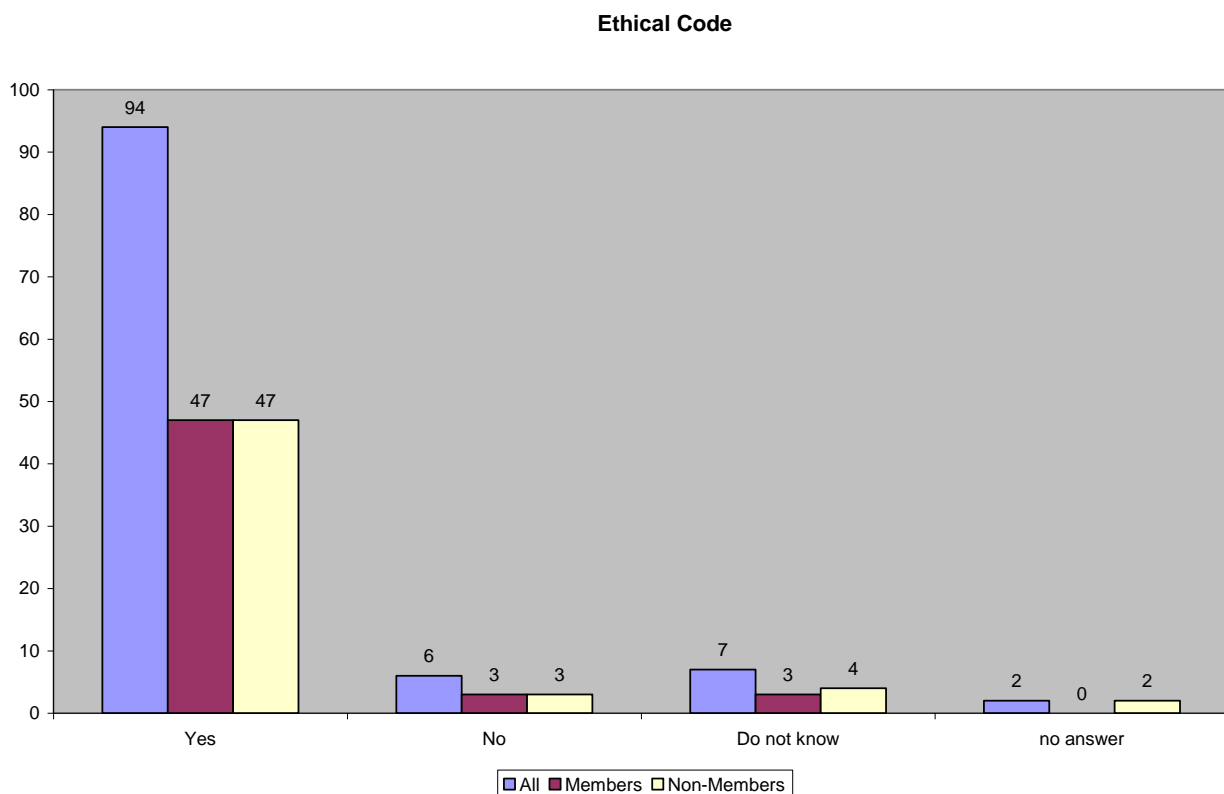
**7. Name one thing that the Society could do which would encourage you to stay a member, become a member or support others to be members.**

There were 4 main themes:

1. Content of Journal, improve, more research, more case studies, best practices.
2. Pricing, especially for retired and low paid workers.
3. Remain Fingerprint focused; lets not get to academic
4. Better web based services.

**C. ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE SOCIETY**

**1. Should the Society have an 'ethical' code of conduct?**



The answer from our members is quite unequivocal. Yes we should.

**Recommendation: We review current codes of conduct in our rules, from this revise, update and make public at the 2011 AGM.**

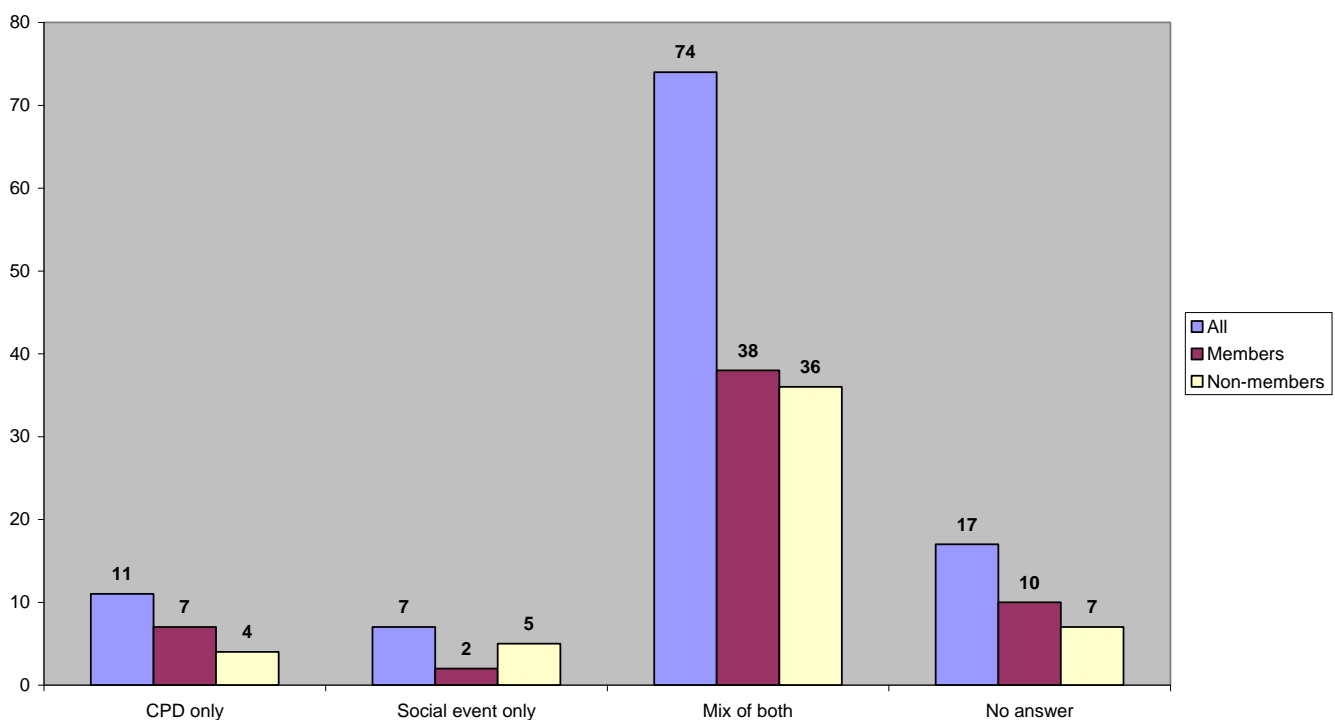
**2. Should applicants have to demonstrate credible involvement in their discipline?**

Yes	80	(M)38	(N/M)42
no	13	6	7
Do not know	14	9	5
no answer	2	0	2

There is a strong feeling about this subject with members and non-members alike, credible involvement is a must

**3. The Society's annual educational conference should be a:**

Style of Conference



Again there is agreement between members and non-members, with a look to providing some formal CPD at conferences.

**4. The aims of the Society should include? (More than one boxes can be ticked)**

CPD provision	68
Partnerships with Academia	70
Partnerships with other Societies	69
Partnerships with other Organisations	59

These figures show that some forms of partnership will help attract membership. **Suggestion** link with organisations but retain our own identity which comes across from the participants.

## 5. The Fingerprint Society Journal 'Fingerprint Whorld':

Worthwhile read	ALL	Members	Non-Members
Sometimes	25	12	13
Yes	55	38	17
No	6	3	3
Do not know	14	0	14
No answer	9	1	8

The journal does come out quite well. It would seem all of non-members do have access to Fingerprint Whorld, with 60% making a definitive answer.

Regarding the kind of articles people wanted the question was: just academic, just general or a mix of both. 87 participants said a mix. This indicates a very strong message that we must improve the educational aspect but we must also have practitioner based articles for general reading.

Summary of the main points raised in any comments:

- **Content of Journal needs to be improved. Poems, X-words are more for news letters. Increase best practice methods, case histories, scientific papers relevant to practitioners.**
- **Expand membership and stop running an 'old boys club'.**
- **Do not forget the people who are and have been your main supporters.**
- **Academia is welcome but do not let it take over.**
- **Get basics right before we move to expand.**
- **Mckie issue; executive should resign; reservations over the editor and some members of the committee.**
- **Market Society better.**
- **There has to be a difference between The Society and FSS.**
- **US seminar/conference**

**Conclusions:**

**The questionnaire has raised some interesting points but the main ones are to get the basics right and not to forget our hard core of support. We need to expand and the key areas are getting a marketing strategy and investing some money in the website. We need to respond to this and get the things right in our key skill areas and from that basis build with a properly laid out plan.**

**Bob Doak**  
**Secretary**

**Fred Preston**  
**committee member**

**Put forward for discussion committee meeting: 05/02/10**

**Action Plan from meeting:**

- 1. Investigate discounts between ourselves and other Societies for members.**
- 2. Promotion of the Website.**
- 3. Tie the Journal and website together and promote CPD, through follow up on-line questions.**
- 4. Monitor membership payment methods.**
- 5. Put a name change to the membership and look to introduce over a period.**
- 6. Review Society rules on a code of conduct.**
- 7. Invest in the website to promote greater participation of members.**