Report for IEEE R8 Committee Meeting from Tony Davies

I have been very involved in a variety of IEEE-related activities, but COVID’19 effect has naturally prevented much normal activity and kept me at home in a ‘locked down’ status for most of the time. The following is just an overview of activities:

1. Participating in Zoom meetings of UK&I LMAG committee
2. Provisionally appointed ‘Section Historian’ because of the inability of Peter Hill to continue in this role
3. Appointed to the new Editorial Board of IEEE CAS Magazine, particularly to provide advice and coverage about “Circuit Theory and Filter Design” Pioneers.
4. Webinar on Career development for students and YPs for IEEE Industry Applications Society (modified from a previous presentation to add material related to COVID).
5. Appointed Virtual Round Table Moderator for IEEE Industry Applications Society – I had to ‘moderate’ (~ Chair) a group comprising one speaker each from China, USA, India, Colombia and Argentina. 10 minutes per person followed by 30 minutes Q&A. Seemed to go well, Costas Stasopoulos probably watched it all, and may be able to tell you his impressions.
6. Suggestions made (with no response at all so far) that the full HISTELCON 2019 papers (now all in IEEE Xplore) should be made free to access for all (since many people interested do not have access via employer or libraries)
7. Ongoing advice to organisers of HISTELCON 2021 (to be in Moscow)
8. Ongoing discussions about many possibilities for future History Milestones – limited by inability to make site visits). One is a joint Milestone involving the UK&I Section and Region 1 in USA.
9. Presented invited keynote paper at Applied Electronics 2020 – a virtual conference so the presentation (about WW2 V3 ‘supergun’) was done sitting in my home !
10. Some pending invitations for other history-related talks, likely to all be ‘on-line’.
11. Arranging for some of the Oral Histories of past R8 Directors (mostly done by me with Roland Saam) to be made more directly available to R8 members (rather than buried deeply in ETHW website where they are mixed up with many other oral histories). Moreover, only the text transcripts are there, the actual sound recordings are available only to people who visit the IEEE History Center and get permission to hear them. There seems no reason why with modern technology, those sound recordings could not be put on-line at the R8 website, so that they could be listened to by visitors to the website.

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