

ECMWF PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION



September 2025

Dear fellow Pensioners,

Here is an update on items of interest including some dates for your diaries and some information on UK tax for new pensioners.

Results of committee election & roles

As notified by email there were only four candidates standing in the recent committee elections. Therefore, the present committee is re-elected and we have agreed that we will keep the same roles:

Chair – Sylvia Baylis

Vice Chair – Tony Bakker

Secretary – Madeleine Cotter

Treasurer – Stuart Mitchell

AAPOCAD election results

AAPOCAD is the Association of Pensioned Staff of the Co-ordinated Organisations and it defends the interests of pensioners of ECMWF and the other Co-ordinated Organisations. The AAPOCAD website ([Aapocad | The Association of Pensioned Staff of the Co-ordinated Organisations and of their Dependants](#)) will give you information on its role and function.

In the recent AAPOCAD elections Tony Bakker was elected as a representative for ECMWF. He joins Alain Bataille, our other ECMWF representative, on the AAPOCAD Board. As Chair of the ECMWF Pensioners' Association I am also invited to attend Board meetings.

The Committee would like to thank Jochen, who has now retired from his position as ECMWF Pensioners' Association representative at AAPOCAD, for the many years he has worked on our behalf. We wish him well for the future.

AAPOCAD General Assembly – Friday 7th November 2025

This year the AAPOCAD General Assembly (GA) will take place in Budapest at the European Youth Centre in Budapest (EYCB) on Friday, 7th November 2025 from 10.00 a.m.

until 1.00 p.m. and from 2.30 p.m. until 5.00 p.m. All AAPOCAD members are invited to attend – either in person or via Zoom. You should have received an email and registration form by email from John Parsons. The closing date for registration for the GA is 5th September 2025.

PA AGM – 13th November 2025

As usual the AGM will take place in the Council Chamber at ECMWF for those who are able to attend in person, and online for those who wish to join remotely. The meeting will start at 09:30 and we aim to finish by 12 noon. Afterwards we plan to have lunch in the ECMWF restaurant and Madeleine will be contacting you to find out whether you plan to attend the AGM and whether you will stay for lunch afterwards.

Cigna health insurance

If you experience any problems with Cigna, please contact Jens Alfs directly; best via email using the pensions@ecmwf.int mailbox. We know that there are still problems with getting quotes from some hospitals in Reading. If you experience this please contact Jens.

ECMWF 50th anniversary events

You should have all received invitations to the various ECMWF 50th anniversary events that are open to pensioners:

Bologna, it will be on Wednesday 17th September from 17.00 at the Tecnopolo, Stalingrad Bld (exact time TBC)

Reading, it will be on Wednesday 3rd December, from 16.00 at the offices on Shinfield Road (exact time TBC)

It is still possible to register for the event in Reading by emailing events@ecmwf.int by 5th September.

Social events

Tuesday 23rd September @ 17:00 BST– Drop in online event via Teams – link in Email.

Sunday 28th September @ 15:30-16:30 BST – Public Event - online or in-person at the National Museum of Computing, Bletchley Park, MK3 6GX

Seymour Cray at 100, The Man, The Machines, the Super Computing

Here is a link with details of the event:

[Seymour Cray at 100 – the man, the machines, the supercomputing legacy. — The National Museum of Computing](#)

If you are interested, please book a ticket and get in touch if you would like to share lifts to the venue.

Thursday 9th October in-person – Pub lunch with optional walk – venue will be selected when numbers known.

Information available on the ISRP portal

When you became a pensioner you were given access to the ECMWF ISRP portal – this is not the same as the IPSI Kiosk where you get your pensions statements. The portal has useful information about the pension schemes, pension payment dates etc. It also has, in the Legal section in the bottom left hand corner of the screen, a link to “National regulations on pensions in International Organisations”. This gives references for information for some countries on interactions between the co-ordinated organisations’ pension schemes and the national pension schemes. Some of you may find this useful.

In case you need them, here are the login details for the ISRP portal:

Username is isrp-ecmwf

Password is WebECMWF98245

You should also login to the IPSI Kiosk and check your pension statement regularly. Those of you who have received your annual statement of taxable benefits should sign the form (online) once you have submitted your tax form to your tax authority. If you have forgotten your Kiosk password please email pensions@ecmwf.int and ask for it to be reset.

Information on tax for new pensioners in the UK

You need to register for “self assessment” with the UK tax authority (HMRC) – for this you will need a UTR (Unique Taxpayer Reference). Then you will have to fill in a form once a year to declare your income, including your ECMWF pension. To find out how to get a UTR use this link <https://www.gov.uk/register-for-self-assessment> The process is different depending on whether you have a UK National Insurance number or not. If you do not have a UK NI number you will have to ‘phone HMRC. When you fill in the self-assessment tax form your ECMWF pension should go in the box “Pensions (other than State Pension)”.

HMRC calculates how much your current year’s tax is likely to be based on your previous year’s income. They then claim this as ‘Payments on account’ which are payments towards your next tax bill. They help spread the cost of your tax by making payments in two instalments. Each payment is usually half of the tax you owed last year. These payments are due by midnight on 31 January and 31 July.

But, for the first year of your retirement HMRC cannot do this. The result is that during the first 18-24 months of retirement it feels like you're not paying tax, but then the “on account” payments kick in and the tax bill(s) catch up with you – so the first tax bill after retirement is likely to be larger than you expect because it will include a “balancing payment” to make up for HMRC not having received payments on account.

There's a definition of the payments on account here: <https://share.google/wEJh5MgCfJeBBv3if>

It might be helpful to put aside the tax portion of your monthly pension payments from when you retire in anticipation of the first tax bill.

Employment after leaving ECMWF

One of our pensioners highlighted the following as a potential issue: if you intend to take up employment after you retire from/leave ECMWF, it is advisable to check the impact on your tax situation, your national pension (if any) and the national social security or health system contribution rules in the country where you will work. You may need to take professional advice about your specific situation.

Contact with HR

Just a reminder, if you have any queries to raise with HR the best way to contact them is to email pensions@ecmwf.int. It is helpful if you use the subject line to indicate the nature of your enquiry so that HR staff can route the email to the person who is most likely to be able to deal with it.

The Centre staff are now able to answer direct telephone calls remotely. If you are unable to email you may call Helen on 0118 949 9671 during normal working hours; this is her direct line. You can leave a voicemail message for Helen and she will receive a notification that there is a message waiting. Alternatively, or if there is no reply, please 'phone the switchboard 01189499000 and ask to be put through to the pensions team. Please give the switchboard operator your name and 'phone number for them to email the pensions team in case there is no answer from their 'phone.

If you have any items of general interest to your fellow pensioners please send them to the Secretary for possible inclusion in the next newsletter.

Best wishes to you all

Sylvia Baylis
Chair, Pensioners' Association