Editorial

My father-in-law, trying to fill the time on a train journey north, had counted the number of cable gantries that passed his window in one minute. Needing to know the distance between the gantries, he thought of asking a ticket collector. "Well sir, it's between two and two-and-a-quarter chains" was the surprising (wrong) answer. Chains! British Rail is still working in chains! My father-in-law and I could both still recite the imperial measurements for length: 12 inches to the foot, 3 feet to the yard, 22 yards to the chain, 10 chains to the furlong, 8 furlongs to the mile. Apart from BR, surely only cricketers preserve the chain, as the length of the wicket, and we are told that under a TCCB directive to be enforced from the beginning of next month, this distance is to be metricated to 20m. In the week before the decimalisation of our currency in 1973 the *TES* carried a cartoon of a worried looking maths teacher in front of a board which carried a calculation in pounds shillings and pence. "Twenty four hours to go", said the caption "and they *still* don't understand it". What aspects of our present teaching will our descendants be mocking in 2014?

In 1996 I take over the running of a boarding house at Winchester, so the 1994 editions of the *Gazette* will be my last as editor. I shall express my thanks to readers and authors, and especially to the editorial team more fully in the November edition. It is important that all material for publication should now be sent to the new editor Mr. S. Abbott at 91 High Road West, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 9AB.