



Institute  
and Faculty  
of Actuaries

## Volunteers' experiences

“Whatever your style, getting involved is definitely better than just complaining!”

## A view from a volunteer: Michael Tripp



**Michael Tripp is Chair of the GI Board and has volunteered for the IFoA for more than 30 years.**

### The experience of a volunteer in General Insurance (GI)

“I believe there are two ways in life - forward, or backward; without doubt going forward is the only choice! My first experience of volunteering for the profession followed GIRO in 1982! Then it was about tutoring; over the years this has broadened into working parties, sessional papers, research, dining clubs and more recently as Deputy Chair and now, since summer 2015, as Chair of the GI Board. I'd do the same again - it is a fantastic way of meeting people, sharing experiences and helping our profession to grow and develop. The corny phrase about making a difference comes to mind!

Meeting people with different personalities and from different backgrounds enriches you. Sometimes it's challenging; sometimes affirming. Both help you learn and develop and volunteering for the IFoA will provide you with great opportunities to develop in this way. It will also allow you to expand your network at the same time.

Life is not about sitting on the side-line but going on the pitch and taking part. Gaining knowledge is one thing, 'Doing' adds a practical dimension that can only really be assimilated through action. Learning and developing by doing and taking feedback is second to none. I don't know why, but since the age of 12 it's always seemed to me better to put your feet where your mouth is. You don't have to do everything yourself, it is possible to get things done by listening and facilitating others - establishing consensus and moving forward together. Whatever your style, getting involved is definitely better than just complaining! Perhaps saying yes too often can be a problem, but the challenge and the stretch keep the brain young and lively. Give a job to a busy person.

Whatever your interest, the encouragement is to get involved and I'm sure you'll find it fun and rewarding.”