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Helen's presentation was followed by the introduction of Philip Gray, Regional President of Europe, Middle East and Africa for SSA Global Technologies. Philip stated his plans for the product - how the acquisition of interBiz which once represented a small part of Computer Associates was now 50 - 60 % of SSAGT's business and how that investment will be developed in future years.



Philip Gray explaining the SSAGT vision

SSAGT traditionally has a strong manufacturing role and the current software lacked a sound financials product. In Masterpiece, they believe they have found that product. SSAGT want to market it and to take it forward by developing the product further, in line with user input.

This session was followed by a live MP/NET 1.3 demonstration by Derek and Bob Sherwood, Chair of the Product Development Committee and a user at Leicester City Council. The data was extracted from Derek's organisation, the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority, currently running on 1.1, and migrated through to 1.3, showing the ease of upgrade and application usage. The User group, in line with the renewed enthusiasm in the product by SSAGT, plan to actively re launch the product development request process and promote this area of user input and interaction - further details to follow.

After lunch, the formal business of the AGM took place followed by the full session programme offering a choice of 6 sessions per hour, which included a range of modular workshops to allow the delegates to network. Other topics included amongst others; procurement, budgeting, reporting, upgrading, modular sessions and Bizworks.



Even the work was enjoyable

A programme of 6 sessions per hour followed the next morning on Masterpiece related themes and products as per day 1. Delegates were also able to look at third party solutions from Versionone and Compello in the foyer area, and undertake one - to - one discussions with interBiz personnel and try out the latest software in the PC Clinic.

Running in parallel with this event on the first day, was the Executive Forum, where interBiz delivered their strategic overview on a Chief Executive level.

For relaxation, the delegates to partied in 70's fashion. A variety of costumes were provided for those brave enough to wear them and the evening's entertainment was provided by Abba tribute band Voulez Vous, whom some delegates may remember from our 1997 - (21st) conference. A silver décor tied in with the 25th anniversary theme and the evening was rounded off with disco dancing till 12.30.



The conference concluded with the traditional closing session, offering a prize draw and a summation of the events of the last few days as captured by our roving photographer.

Thus ended another successful conference. Look out for details of the *Voulez Vous a very popular choice* next one in future newsletters and on the website.