



MENSA
INTERNATIONAL

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MENSA WORLD JOURNAL

1,000 free Mensa admission tests - see p02



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from the editor...



Hello, All,

What a fantastic 2018 initiative Malaysian Mensa is continuing - 1,000 free Mensa tests at a very comprehensive fair - well done to you!!

Please have a look at the positions vacant on p03 - this is your chance to further Mensa on an international scale. Also, the 2018 abbreviated financial reports are on pp09-12; if you have any queries, please contact our Treasurer, Jacek Cywinski at treasurer-mil@mensa.org.

Czech Republic Mensa's 12th Logical Olympics finals are rounded up on p05, while news of the 2020 EMAG, also in the Czech Republic, is on p07.

An interesting article, Smart Phones, Silly People is on p04 - food for thought here - and on p08, Susan Jensen brings us a Member Profile.

Enjoy!
Kate

mwjeditor@mensa.org

1,000 free Mensa admission

Malaysian Mensa, in partnership with myStarjob.com of Malaysia, organized 1,000 free Mensa tests for visitors to the annual myStarjob.com Fair, 2019. Malaysian Mensa was among one of the approximately 50 organizations and companies who were participating in the exhibition. These included Standard Chartered bank, Keppel Offshore and Shell Malaysia. The event was largely attended by job-seekers, freelancers and college students seeking further opportunities.

Many visitors were curious about the exhibition which Malaysian Mensa had set up. With four puzzle stations, it attracted a large sustained crowd throughout the day. The booth was also a great opportunity for visitors to further understand the goals and mission of Mensa. Volunteers relentlessly encouraged puzzle-solvers to sign up for the IQ test. Two Mensans were also speakers at the fair. They included Lum Ying Mei, principal of MWKA Technologies, and an award-winning wellness activist, Kevin Zahri.

On-site, the volunteers worked round the clock. Despite lower foot traffic compared to previous years, volunteers went around the exhibition hall to call attraction to Malaysian Mensa's booth. The application form was made easy to distribute via QR scanning and multiple devices at the booth as registration stations. During the tests, it was all as usual - sit down for the test, jot down all

answers on a sheet of paper and a race to complete the questions.

Many volunteers who had initially opted to volunteer for one day had said that they would like to volunteer again for the next day, because they had enjoyed being part of this event.



During the event, I observed multiple volunteers who identified themselves as introverts willingly pushing their limits, conversing with strangers throughout the day. I, too, learnt to listen with an open mind while interacting with people from all walks of life. As a new Mensan, hearing some visitors' skepticism towards IQ tests has piqued my interest to discover more of what I now represent. This event was my first-time meeting a majority of the volunteers, but within hours, it was as if I had known them for years. Friendship is a rare commodity in my life, and I can confidently claim that I have found a few valuable friendships that may last a lifetime.

Chong Chui Yue Erika

Join our international volunteer team!

If you are interested in volunteering for Mensa International, now is your opportunity to apply! Take the chance to become part of a great international team!

The following international positions and committees are due to be appointed in 2020:

Officers & Coordinators

Editor Mensa World Journal
International Communications Officer
International Events Coordinator
*International Ombudsman***
International SIGs Coordinator(s)
International SIGHT Coordinator(s)
*International Supervisory Psychologist***
International Archivist

Committees

Gifted Youth Committee
Governance Papers Advisory Committee
*International Volunteers Network Committee****
Name, Logo, and Licensing Committee



Term: 2020 - 2022 *

What to do?

Job descriptions for each role and the application form are available on www.mensa.org/news (you must be logged on to view the page).

All terms are two years unless otherwise stated, with the term commencing after the IBD meeting in October 2020.

Who can apply?

These positions are open to all members worldwide. Members currently serving in a position or on a committee are requested to reapply if they wish to continue to serve in that role.

Any questions? I will be happy to answer them!

Isabella Holz
 Director of Administration
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**Closing date for applications:
 June 20, 2020**

* Exceptions:

** 3 year term

*** 1 year term

Smart Phones, Silly People?

by Chris Macdonald

Smartphones can damage the brain and lower your IQ - among other things...

Some creations can become so ingrained into our daily lives that we can easily forget that there was once another way. There was once a time when we functioned without money, when consumer culture didn't exist, and when organic food was just called... food.

The smartphone has quickly become part of 'normal' life. The days of spontaneously knocking on a friend's door seems almost mediaeval. Likewise sending a handwritten letter can feel as outdated as smoke signals. In reality, of course, these are still living memories, as relatively speaking, smartphones are a recent invention.

Like the ancient goddess Athena, smartphones seemed to appear out of nowhere, fully-armed and ready to go, but how did they evolve? And more importantly, how have they changed us?

In 1973, the first mobile phone call was made. The 'portable' device was unveiled as a futuristic contraption, a large grey plastic block in the hands of Martin Cooper, a senior engineer at Motorola. In the 1980s, Motorola's devices were made available to the public. No letters were

included on the buttons as messaging technology had yet to be developed.

Over the next decade, mobile phones would become more user-friendly, feature-rich, affordable, and perhaps even more significantly, they were increasingly marketed towards children. Accordingly, sales began to soar. In 1998, more mobile phones were sold worldwide than cars and PCs combined.

In 2001, 250 billion text messages were sent. In 2004, 500 billion. And by 2007, nearly 2 trillion. While we may gasp at certain milestones, it is often not until the technology has become firmly ingrained into society before we begin to discover the consequences. At Nottingham Trent University, researchers asked participants to estimate the amount of time they spend on their phones. They then compared these self-reports to actual usage. The study revealed that the average participant checked their device 85 times a day, well beyond what they realized.

Another report found that nearly half of smartphone users couldn't imagine life without their phones. And according to Professor Steve Joordens, it is now the most widespread addiction in modern society. The addictiveness is facilitated by the ever-increasing array of purposefully, highly addictive applications.

Sean Parker, the ex-president of Facebook, recently went on record and confirmed that addiction is indeed the intention. He stated the thought process that went into building Facebook was all about: "How do we consume as much of your time and conscious attention as possible?" He admitted that he and other application developers are consciously "exploiting a vulnerability in human psychology." He adds, "God only knows what it's doing to our children's brains."

In addition to addictions, smartphones are also frequently linked to poor posture, eye damage, insomnia, depression, isolation, anger, anxiety, and even a decrease in cognitive performance.

At the University of Waterloo, researchers found "associations between heavy smartphone use and lowered intelligence." Researchers from the University of Copenhagen noted how increased use of technology can be "damaging the brain ... and lowering your IQ." And recently, the University of Chicago revealed that the mere presence of a smartphone can significantly impede cognitive capacity.

Mobile devices also create a discrete conduit for personal attacks. i-SAFE states that over 25% of adolescents and teenagers have

continued on p05

Log into the International website at

www.mensa.org

for the calendar of national events

czech republic mensa logical olympics

The Logical Olympics final round for the twelfth time...
and the record has been broken again!

In 2019, 71,208 children from 3,249 schools in the Czech Republic registered in our Logical Olympics! As is the tradition, the final took place in the ballroom of Prague Castle; this year on November 25, 196 competitors took part in the final round.

There were qualifying rounds and regional rounds before the big final. 2,143 young competitors passed to the regional semi-final round and then 65 of them from each category took part in the final round. As usual, there was a written test, a projected test on a screen and a set of modules that differs every year. This year the challenge was to connect fragments

of a domino, to find the right angle of view of a 3D cube on 2D paper, to balance scales, and to test the memory in an easy picture test.

As in the previous years, the event was moderated by the Vice-Chairman of Mensa Czech Republic, Tomáš Blumenstein, who presented the tasks to the competitors. Among the finalists we could see well-known faces of young people who had taken part almost every previous year. None of the winners was new to us.

Jana Unruhová
jana.unruhova@mensa.cz



The winner: Václav Trpišovský,
Photographer Jiří Brázda

from p04

been repeatedly bullied via technology, and well over half of them do not inform their parents. Bullying and a general sense of isolation didn't originate from smartphones, but they can greatly facilitate it. Jean Twenge explains:

"Today's teens may go to fewer parties and spend less time together in person, but when they do congregate, they document their hangouts relentlessly - on Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook. Those not invited to come along are keenly aware of it." It seems our children can now grow up on a 24-hour reality TV

show. And through the amount of views, shares, and likes, they receive a running update of their popularity score.

Smartphones are becoming universal tools we use to acquire news, to navigate, to study, to entertain ourselves, to structure our days, and to create and define our relationships. In only a handful of years, this new technology has had a profound impact.

I am not out to vilify smartphones. This is not a call for slamming on the brakes nor pressing the not-so-fast button. I am certainly not

suggesting we cease technological developments. This would be a huge discredit to, among other things, the fantastic advances within the medical and sustainable energy sectors.

I am proposing that we regularly assess our 'progress' and the corresponding consequences to the environment, our health, and social behaviour, as, in some cases, it may be wise to buck the trend.

Chris Macdonald

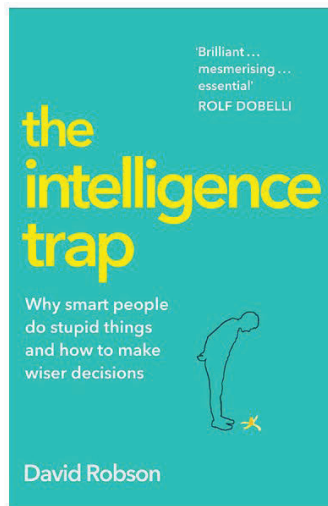
Chris Macdonald is a British Mensan, scientist, and author. His book *Operation Sustainable Human* is available now. To get in touch with Chris, you can visit his Instagram page: [@ChrisMacdonaldOfficial](https://www.instagram.com/ChrisMacdonaldOfficial)

Book Review

David Robson *The Intelligence Trap: Why smart people do stupid things and how to make wiser decisions*

This book presents a challenge to any person of proven high intelligence. As the author says in his introduction, “Smart people may be even more

vulnerable to certain kinds of foolish thinking.” High intelligence inappropriately applied can be like a high performance car with faulty brakes. The author provides examples of foolish thinking by some famously smart people such as Arthur Conan Doyle, Thomas Edison, and Albert



own knowledge.

The author introduces some useful concepts, including:

- Dysrationalia: a mismatch between intelligence and rationality;
- Earned Dogmatism: a perceived “right” to be closed-minded;
- Motivated reasoning: a tendency

Einstein. He also provides examples of smart people who avoided thinking foolishly: Socrates and Benjamin Franklin. Interestingly, the great strength of both was their preparedness to recognise the limits of their

to apply our brainpower to affirming a predetermined goal.

From time to time I have heard people suggest that Mensa should form a problem-solving “brains trust” to deal with the major challenges that humanity faces. This book presents the notion of “too much talent” in a team, and how teams of “the best and brightest” can produce disappointing results.

I recommend this book to all Mensa members. A useful summary is available here:

<https://www.nyjournalofbooks.com/book-review/intelligence-trap>

I also recommend this review:

<https://irishtechnews.ie/the-intelligence-trap-review/>

John Barrett (Australian Mensa)

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EMAG 2020 Brno



Dear Mensa members worldwide,
We would like to invite you to the European Mensa Annual Gathering in Brno, Czechia. It will take place on July 29th – Aug 2nd 2020. Enjoy a program full of interesting events, Czech hospitality, and old and new friends.

There are six universities in the Brno area, along with many technology companies and research institutions. We also have coffee houses, museums, restaurants, historic and architectural sites, and great nature nearby. There is also a good connection to the airports in Brno, Vienna and Prague. We will organize trips to pick up attendees from these three airports and take them to the EMAG site in Brno.

The EMAG program will consist of several program lines: excursions, local sightseeing, lectures, entertainment, and food.

Excursions will include trips to factories, plants, and research institutes. Come see how electron microscopes are designed and made, dive into the field of nanotechnology or visit the Central European Institute of Technology (CEITEC) laboratories.

We'll also visit universities, local branches of Red Hat Linux and IBM, a nuclear power plant, breweries and much more.

There are many interesting sights

in and around Brno – most notably VillaTugendhat (a UNESCO site), Lednice–Valtice Cultural Landscape (a UNESCO site), and the Brno historical underground, which consists of caverns, labyrinths, and an ossuary. Brno has several castles, churches, museums, and a Motorcycle Grand Prix circuit. Located less than an hour outside of the city are the caves of Moravian Karst, Macocha Abyss, and many vineyards.

As usual, there will be plenty of interesting lectures and workshops held by participants and invited professors. Two lecture program lines will be on Mensa-specific topics, and Gifted Children and Education topics. In addition to all these educational programming options, there will be also many Entertainment and Food events such as the Gala Dinner, dance courses, pub tour, coffee workshop, cipher game, wine cellar visits with tasting and many others.

After the EMAG is over, you can join us on a one-week trip around Czechia visiting over 10 UNESCO sites.

The main venue of the Brno EMAG will be the Hotel Continental. It is located near the city centre. We have negotiated lower rates for accommodation at the hotel. If you are interested, please book your room quickly using the EMAG registration system. There are also many

hotels and hostels in the area with different price levels.

For more details and to register, visit emag.mensa.cz.

On behalf of orga-team Tomáš Blumenstein, Petr Mazal, Jana Unruhová, Hana Kalusová, Natálie Kaňáková, Martin Sedláček

Writing for the MWJ

The Mensa World Journal is your magazine and it would be wonderful if you were to share your thoughts with the rest of the Mensa world. By and large, most of the articles are written by Mensans - for Mensans - and the opportunity is there for you to be one of these authors.

Topics can cover reports of Mensa events you've attended, your achievements, unusual hobbies and interests, or your successes.

You can also write about recent research into intelligence or any other topic that would be of general interest to our members.

Please limit your article length to 600 words and send it to the Editor, Kate Nacard: mwjeditor@mensa.org. Please also include your National Mensa and your membership number.

member profile

by Susan Jensen

What do you do if you see all inhabitants of planet earth as interconnected, yet are born behind the Iron Curtain - back when the non-communist world was seen as an evil threat?

Dimi Nikolov Krastev, a Bulgarian Mensa member since 2002, chose a path of creating fun games that drew people together: beach games, and interactive games that explored human relationships. He studied martial arts for years. Once the Iron Curtain fell, he travelled to China, where he studied Japanese massage therapy Yumeiho with its creator Masaiuki Sionji

He realized that appreciation of the infinite beauty of each soul - uniqueness, self-esteem and self-love - were the key to personal and global harmony, resulting in the publication of seven books he authored on this topic.

All these experiences - living behind the Iron Curtain, martial arts, Tao, various inventions, gaming, and writing - came together for Dimi in 1993 when he developed Duonika and later, in 2000, Chatkalina.

Duonika is a form of partner exercise that can be used as fun play, developing flexibility, balance and confidence.

Chatkalina is a dance form of peaceful artistry that uses hand clapping. Endless combinations and choreographic compositions are possible. Practising Chatkalina helps improve coordination as well as

mental concentration and creativity

The applications for these two forms of partnered movement are potentially many, including use in treatment of PTSD, depression, anxiety and brain injury. It's also helpful in improving mental clarity and a sense of peacefulness in just about everyone.

Dimi has supported himself via a successful career dubbing films into Bulgarian, giving him complete artistic freedom.

He won a speaker contest on national public radio in 1989. In 1999 he founded the Creative Solutions Club - people bringing their thorny problems there and all together trying to brainstorm solutions.

Dimi has trained 85 people in Tao healing touch and more than 150 people in Duonika and Chatkalina. He has also taught Chatkalina to students from the National Academy of Theater and Film Arts.

Dimi is excited about the leadership of Bulgarian Mensa under Milena Arav, who supports the idea of bright people giving back to the



Dimi Krastev

world and helping everyone realize that they are all of equal, infinite value.

Dimi is also an enthusiastic fan of Esperanto, developed in the 19th century as a universal language, and encourages everyone to learn this language (which people seem to be fluent in after three days of learning!).

Dimi would enjoy hearing from Mensans throughout the world. His contact information is: dimitar@duonika.org

Mensa International Financial Statements 2018

On the following three pages, are the abbreviated financial statements from Mensa International. Please note that the accounts are signed electronically now, which is why there is no printed signature on page 10. Also the first page of notes is deliberately omitted, since that page simply contains information such as the statement of UK accounting practices.

MENSA INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018

	Notes	2018 £	2017 £
TURNOVER	3	427,456	397,188
Cost of sales		<u>1,087</u>	<u>302</u>
GROSS SURPLUS		426,369	396,886
Administrative expenses		<u>302,811</u>	<u>439,708</u>
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) and SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) BEFORE TAXATION		123,558	(42,822)
Tax on surplus/(deficit)		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR		<u><u>123,558</u></u>	<u><u>(42,822)</u></u>

MENSA INTERNATIONAL LIMITED (REGISTERED NUMBER: 00848100)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
31 DECEMBER 2018

	Notes	2018		2017	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Intangible assets	5		1		1
Tangible assets	6		1,661		730
Investments	7		1,378		1,125
			<u>3,040</u>		<u>1,856</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	8	106,278		106,159	
Cash at bank and in hand		475,420		426,507	
				<u>532,666</u>	
		581,698			
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	60,452		133,794	
				<u>133,794</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			521,246		398,872
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			<u>524,286</u>		<u>400,728</u>
RESERVES					
Income and expenditure account			524,286		400,728
			<u>524,286</u>		<u>400,728</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
N L Sanford - Director

MENSA INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018**

3. TURNOVER

In the year to 31 December 2018 85% (2017: 84%) of the company's turnover was derived from markets outside of the United Kingdom.

Component income is analysed geographically as follows:

	2018	2017
	£	£
USA & Canada	179,347	193,190
UK & Ireland	62,167	62,394
Europe	136,427	110,604
Asia-Pacific	28,139	16,329
South Africa	1,335	1,361
South America	1,451	1,941
	<u>408,866</u>	<u>386,359</u>

4. EMPLOYEES AND DIRECTORS

The average number of employees during the year was 2 (2017 - 2).

5. INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Patents and licences £
COST	
At 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2018	<u>10,270</u>
AMORTISATION	
At 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2018	<u>10,269</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 December 2018	<u>1</u>
At 31 December 2017	<u>1</u>

MENSA INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018**

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery etc £
COST	
At 1 January 2018	2,182
Additions	1,224
	<u>3,406</u>
At 31 December 2018	3,406
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 January 2018	1,452
Charge for year	293
	<u>1,745</u>
At 31 December 2018	1,745
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 December 2018	<u>1,661</u>
At 31 December 2017	<u>730</u>

7. ⁴ FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

The shares in group undertakings present a 100% holding of the ordinary share capital of Intermensa Limited, a dormant non trading company.

8. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2018	2017
	£	£
Trade debtors	84,437	80,340
Other debtors	21,841	25,819
	<u>106,278</u>	<u>106,159</u>

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2018	2017
	£	£
Trade creditors	35,650	105,111
Taxation and social security	4,232	5,737
Other creditors	20,570	22,946
	<u>60,452</u>	<u>133,794</u>