The fourth phase of the HEA MSOR Network Day Break one-day courses took place across the country in 2006. It was preceded with an extensive email-based enquiry to try to determine just what the market required. We asked a large number of individuals representing the HE sector at large:

- What you want to know about – for its own sake, for professional development or to aid your teaching?
- Where you want the course to be held?
- How many of your colleagues might also sign up for your suggested courses?

The response was relatively poor, but we followed up to seek individual contacts to identify a few courses which should be welcomed and supported. In the event, we finished up with three one-day courses held over the months January to June 2006; two were held at the RSS offices in London and one at Bristol University. Again, sadly, we did not identify courses in Mathematics or Operational Research which could be offered. All the courses were on statistical topics.

The programme, speaker identification and enrolment were again largely carried out by Vic Barnett, with Brad Payne handling the promotion and administration for the three courses. Further web-based promotional support was provided by Robert Surowiec of the HEA Maths, Stats & OR Network.

Attendance levels were not dissimilar to those achieved in previous years; around 10 or so, but with a lot of promotional effort. It is clear that participants found the courses very valuable to them, as is evidenced in the warm and encouraging feedback sheets they filled in and from personal discussions. The first two courses were on:

- Organising University Examples Classes and Practicals in Statistics
- Wavelets in Statistical Methods

It was interesting that the latest course, in June, on Environmental Sampling and Monitoring, attracted a number of Government research scientists and statisticians.

It is clear that there are still many other statistical teaching and methodological themes on which we can present Day Break courses in subsequent years and we would seek to capitalise on the apparent interest among government and industrial-based staff.

The successful series of Day Break courses run by the HEA Maths, Stats and OR Network will continue into a fifth year. We are now starting to identify the themes, locations and individuals for this years programme.

In 2007, we will be offering an assortment of courses tailored to the interests and needs of participants or specialised groups.

The course topics under consideration are:

- Clinical Trials
- Computational Statistics
- Data Mining
- Environmental Sampling
- Meta-analysis
- Multilevel Models
- Questionnaire Design
- Statistical Process Control
- Toxicology
- Wildlife Population Studies

Do any of these topics interest you, your group or your colleagues?

If so, please get in contact as soon as possible

All replies are welcome. Please let us know which of the topics interest you or your group. Venues can be chosen to suit participants’ needs – we anticipate at least one course in London with others in the Midlands, North West or North East. All Courses will be run by a topic expert and each course will typically last a day from 10.00am to 4.00pm, with four sessions and ample opportunity for discussion. (A minimum of 10 participants are required for a course to take place). A one day course cost is likely to be from £70 to £120. If you are interested, please contact Brad Payne by email on bradley.payne@ntu.ac.uk or by phone on 0115 8488410

More details of the aims and emphases of the Day Break programme are to be found on the website http://mathstore.ac.uk/daybreak/

Vic Barnett and Bradley Payne
RSS Centre for Statistical Education, Nottingham Trent University
vic.barnett@ntu.ac.uk
bradley.payne@ntu.ac.uk