

Joint Meeting of the
BRITISH CLASSIFICATION SOCIETY

and the

HERTS/BEDS GROUP
ROYAL STATISTICAL SOCIETY

Statistics Department Meetings Room, IACR Rothamsted,
Harpenden, Herts.

Rothamsted is 10 minutes walk from Harpenden station (Thameslink).
Detailed travel instructions from Gavin.Ross@bbsrc.ac.uk or
Roger.Payne@bbsrc.ac.uk.

PROGRAMME

4.00pm **AGM of British Classification Society**

4.30pm **Identification Keys Reinterpreted**
Roger Payne (IACR Rothamsted)

Identification keys provide efficient ways of identifying taxa whose properties can be described by a set of discrete-valued tests. The key operates by guiding the user through a sequence of tests, which terminates when the unknown taxon has been identified. Computer algorithms and programs for constructing identification keys have been in successful use since the 1970's, but the methodology seems to have been overtaken by the newer methodology of classification trees. This talk will reinterpret identification trees in the context of classification trees, and discuss which of the key ideas may still be relevant.

6.00pm **Tea**

6.15pm **AGM of RSS Local Group**

6.30pm **R.A. Fisher and his influence today**
Video recording of BBC2 program shown in October 2000

7.00pm **The spread of Fisher's ideas**
Gavin Ross (IACR Rothamsted)

8.00pm **Exhibition of Fisher's work, manuscripts and calculator**
BCS members may see the exhibition during the RSS AGM

After showing the half-hour video programme on Fisher and his influence today, the talk will trace the spread of Fisher's ideas, especially through the early co-workers and visitors who were impressed by his methods. Fisher's interest in multivariate methods, illustrated by the Iris data, led to developments by Mahalanobis, Hotelling and others interested in problems of discrimination and classification. An exhibition of Fisher's publications, calculator and other memorabilia will be presented.