

## ***CENTREFOLD***

### **Michael Saunders**



Dr Michael A. Saunders was the inaugural recipient of The Mathematical Programming Society William Orchard-Hays Award in Computational Mathematical Programming. This award,

"for his innovative mathematical work which has advanced significantly the design and implementation of nonlinear programming algorithms, and for establishing the standard in versatile, reliable and available software in this field",

was presented to him by Professor G.B. Dantzig in a ceremony during the 12th International Symposium on Mathematical Programming, at M.I.T. on 5 August 1985.

This event justifies a brief and regrettably impersonal look at his career ... perhaps someone can flesh out the bones.

Born in 1944 in Christchurch (N.Z. of course), Dr Saunders graduated from the University of Canterbury 1962–65, B.Sc. with First Class Honours in mathematics. Since then, he has divided his time between the A.M.D. of the D.S.I.R. (1965–67, 1972–74, and 1977–79 as Scientific Officer and then as Scientist) and Stanford University (1967–72, gaining M.Sc. and Ph.D. in computer science, 1975–77 and 1979 on, as Research Associate and then Senior Research Associate in the Systems Optimization Laboratory at the Department of Operations Research). In addition, he had short spells in the National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, England (October 1972, as Visiting Research Fellow) and the Department of Mathematics, University of Linköping, Sweden (May–June 1981, as Guest Professor).

*G.J. Tee*