

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE SOCIETY OF CONSTRUCTION LAW
HELD ON 15 MAY 2002 AT MIDDLE TEMPLE HALL**

Present:	Chairman	Victoria Russell
	Vice Chairman	Richard Bayfield
	Secretary	Helen Garthwaite

Approximately 100 Members

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the AGM held on 23 May 2001 were approved by the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

2. Elections

The Chairman, before introducing the elections, gave special thanks to the contribution of the three retiring members of Council, Paul Darling QC, John Burgess and Ken Hughes. The Chairman also noted that for the first time we have been able to hold and have held a postal ballot although those who had not yet done so could still vote in person at the AGM.

In the Council election this year there were eleven candidates standing for seven places. It was a great tribute to the Society that so many well qualified candidates were willing to put themselves forward. The four existing members of Council standing for re-election were returned: Helen Garthwaite, Peter Higgins, Nigel Jones QC and Fenella Mason. The three other successful candidates were: Julie Forsyth, Nerys Jefford and Dr Derek Ross. The Chairman of SCL, Victoria Russell, was automatically re-elected to Council.

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman briefly drew attention to some of the key items in her written report, these included the following points:

1. We have a growing membership.
2. We are an active Society.
3. The quality of Papers under the editorial wing of Frances Paterson is absolutely excellent.
4. There has been extensive consultation in both the legal profession and the construction industry regarding the proposed SCL Delay and Disruption Protocol.
5. SCL has a growing relationship with the other European Societies and the European SCL conference will be held at Kings College in July.
6. The use of the web site and email has helped improve communications with the membership as well as inform non-members of the work of the Society.

The Chairman thanked the retiring members of Council, Paul Darling QC for giving talks from one end of the country to the other, Ken Hughes for his many years as Treasurer and John Burgess for the invaluable contribution he has made, not just as a past Chairman but through the encouragement and enthusiasm which he has transmitted to all other Council members. The Chairman thanked Peter Fenn who was retiring from Council after many years as a co-opted member; Peter will remain the regional co-ordinator for Manchester.

Thanks were recorded to all officers, members of Council and the regional co-ordinators who are involved with organising meetings and events around the Country. The Chairman also thanked the Society's President, Lord Justice Otton, for his continued and enthusiastic support of the Society. Final thanks went the Society's Administrator, Jackie Morris without whom the Society would simply not be able to function.

4. Finances

The Accounts for the Year ended 31st December 2001 were then presented to the meeting. It was noted that expenditure in 2001 had risen above income; this was largely a consequence of the Society becoming more active during the last year (i.e. publishing more papers and developing the web site etc). It was noted that Council would be monitoring the situation carefully. The meeting agreed that Baker Tilly be re-appointed as Auditors to the Society.

5. AOB

Richard Bayfield concluded the meeting by giving thanks on behalf of both Council and the members for the hard work, empathy and sense of humour, which summed up the leadership given by our Chairman, Victoria Russell.

Richard Bayfield (Vice Chairman)