



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
THE SOCIETY OF CONSTRUCTION LAW  
HELD ON 16 MAY 2007 AT MIDDLE TEMPLE HALL**

**Present:** Chairman, Nicholas Gould  
Vice Chairman, Nerys Jefford  
Secretary, Colin Reese QC  
Treasurer, Ronan Champion

Approximately 60 members

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2006 were approved by the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

**Elections**

Four Retiring Members of Council, namely Anthony Lavers, Jocelyn Taylor, Keith Kirkwood and Lindy Patterson, offered themselves for re-election. As they were the only persons nominated for election to Council each of them was re-elected.

**Chairman's Report**

The Chairman presented his written report to the meeting. The key items to which he referred were:

1. Membership had continued to increase. The Society had 1765 members from many sectors of the construction industry. Of the total number of members 270 were overseas members (representing 50 countries). The lecture programme, publications of papers, the SCL Hudson prize and the Society's social activities continued to thrive. A large number of meetings had been held throughout the UK and the Republic of Ireland. A permanent list of past events was archived on the website at <http://www.scl.org.uk>.
2. One of the key aspects of the SCL constitution is the support of further and better education in the area of construction law. A number of universities had been visited by Anthony Lavers, Hamish Lal and Peter Phillippo. Grants totaling £17,694.00 had been made over the past 12 months.
3. During the past year the SCL had been in communication with individuals in Malaysia, India, Australia, China, Brazil, Oman, USA, South Africa and Iran who were actively looking to establish a society in their country. During the last year, the SCL had produced a draft policy document concerning the relationship between the UK SCL and similar societies in other countries. It was hoped there would be an agreed policy to bring closer working relationships and more co-ordination between the various societies around the world.

4. The Junior Committee continued to thrive. Site visits had taken place and the introduction to the Basics of Construction Law course that was run one afternoon in September 2006 had attracted around 120 delegates.

5. The Singapore SCL had hosted the first ever SCL International Conference in October 2006. The Conference had been sponsored by the SCLs of Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, New Zealand, UAE and UK. It had been a huge success. Around 165 people attended the delegates from over 17 countries. 25 papers were presented over the 2 day period. The next International Conference would take place in London in October 2008.

6. The ESCL Annual Conference and meeting had been held in Stockholm in August 2006. Anthony Lavers had presented a paper. The SCL of the Czech Republic was hosting the next ESCL Conference in Prague in September 2007.

7. 600 tickets had been sold for the Annual Lunch at the Brewery in February 2007. The venue was full to capacity. Thanks were given to the Social Events sub-committee for their efforts in ensuring that the Lunch continued to be a most successful annual event organized by the Society.

8. The Chairman thanked Jackie Morris and Frances Whitehead who between them dealt with all administrative matters. Jackie had for many years administered the Society; indeed it would be difficult to run the Society without her. Given the enormous workload, Frances had recently joined Jackie. Additionally the SCL website had gone from strength to strength. Edward Peters and Simon Hogg were thanked for their ongoing hard work. And, finally, the Chairman thanked all the Officers and Members of Council for their support during his year of office.

9. Personal matters: (a) The President's medal had been awarded to John Tackaberry QC for his work for the Society and his publication. Honorary memberships had been awarded to Peter Fenn (for his work in the regions) and to Richard Bayfield (for his many years of dedication to the Society).

(b) With sadness, the Chairman reported the deaths during the year of Professor Ian Duncan Wallace QC, an Honorary Member of the Society who had been awarded the Society's President's Medal in 2002 for his outstanding contribution to construction law; Dennis Wiles, the Regional Co-Ordinator for Newcastle; and Peter Horne, one of the members of the Council.

### **Finances**

The Accounts for the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006 were presented to the meeting, copies of which were given to everyone attending. The Society's financial position continued to be healthy. The meeting agreed that Baker Tilly be re-appointed as Auditors to the Society.

### **AOB**

No further matters were raised and members retired for drinks and conversation before the Annual Dinner at 7pm.