

# **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF CONSTRUCTION LAW HELD ON 19 MAY 1999 AT MIDDLE TEMPLE HALL**

**Present:** Chairman      John Burgess  
                 Vice Chairman Victoria Russell  
                 Secretary      Richard Bayfield  
                 Treasurer      Chris Miers  
                 Approximately 100 members

## **1. Minutes**

The Minutes of the AGM held on 6 May 1998 were read, approved by the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

## **2. Elections**

There was a brief summary given to the meeting as to the rules concerning the election. The relevant clause (8.I.b.) of the constitution regarding elections being: *'One third or other nearer number of the elected Members of the Council to retire shall consist of those who have been longest in office'*. The 'one third' rule thus necessitated 5 of the 16 elected members offering themselves for re-election. In addition Frances Paterson subsequently announced her intention to retire thereby creating a total of 6 vacancies. There were 8 candidates for the 6 vacancies. Those elected being Fenella Mason, Paul Darling QC, Peter Higgins and Nigel Jones QC. Helen Garthwaite and Vicky Russell were both re-elected. Special thanks and recognition go to Alanna Murphy and Huw Baker who in this instance were unsuccessful but whom it is hoped will play a full part in the Society's future activities.

## **3. Chairman's Thanks**

The Chairman first thanked the Society's President, Lord Justice Otton for his continued and active support of the Society. He then mentioned the hard work and proficient manner of our Administrator, Jackie Morris whose 'behind the scenes' efforts result in presenting the Society in such a professional way.

The Chairman thanked the officers of the Society, Vicky Russell, Chris Miers and Richard Bayfield noting they are a 'friendly group' to work with.

The Chairman thanked the retiring members of Council namely Julie Forsythe, Adrian Hughes and Anthony Speaight QC for all their hard work and support.

Thanks were recorded to all other members of Council, Jonathan Hosie was mentioned for his work in maintaining the high standard of the London Programme, Jim Pragnell for his work on SCL grants including sending letters to 70 different Universities and Anthony Lavers for his work, again organising the Hudson Prize.

John Lydon was acknowledged for the contribution he had made in helping to start the many activities in Ireland.

Finally special thanks and a presentation was made to Frances Paterson who retired after 15 years on Council including 3 years as Chairman. The Chairman and all present at the meeting acknowledged the significant contribution to the Society made by Frances during this period.

#### **4. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman then summarised his written report. The report covered membership, organization, meetings, the Hudson Prize, Social Functions and Europe. The theme of the report is of an expanding and successful Society which is, however, unwilling to become complacent or 'institutionalised'. The report recognised the need for improvement in certain areas of the Society's activities such as the increasing of regional activities and in the reporting of meetings to members. Indeed within this context the final sentence of the report is worth repeating: **'Members comments will always be welcomed'**.

#### **5. Finances**

The Treasurer then presented the Accounts for the Year ended 31st December 1998. There was general agreement as to the healthy financial state of the Society. Ian Menzies enquired as to the amount of £1088 against 'professional fees'. The Treasurer advised this was the Accountant's fee. The Treasurer also noted that Fraser and Russell had recently been appointed Accountants to the Society.

#### **6. AOB**

There was no other business.

*Richard Bayfield (Secretary)*