
**SOCIETY OF CONSTRUCTION LAW
CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE
FOR AGM 2 May 2018**

1. **Membership:** Current members – around 3,000 (assuming that various lapsed members will renew shortly) representing 76 countries worldwide (around 2,400 full members and 600 overseas members). 40 new members are applying to join each month. These statistics are for the UK Society only. The other societies around the world now have a membership of over 2,000. This would give a worldwide membership of more than 5,000.

2. **Papers:** Since last year's AGM we have published 15 papers covering topics such as "Concurrent Liability: Where have things gone wrong?" and "Current Issues with FIDIC Dispute Adjudication Boards".

3. **London:** In the past year there has been a full complement (17 in no.) of first rate talks by speakers.

4. **Regions:** It had been a busy year in the regions, a year in which new co-ordinators have been finding their feet, with many talks held throughout the country in the various regions, including lunches in 6 regions as well as London.

5. **Europe:** An excellent conference was held in Fribourg in November. Delegates from over 17 European countries attended, and we were represented by our SCL Secretary, Jonathan Pawlowski. There is a new direction and enthusiasm within the individual SCLs, with a growth in SCL numbers around Europe.

6. ***International Conferences:*** I attended and presented papers at the SCL International Conference in New Delhi in November last year, and I have been invited to speak at the Mauritius SCL Conference later this month. A new SCL has been formed for North America. Its inaugural conference will be held in Chicago at the end of September this year and several members of Council (including me) will be attending and speaking.

7. ***SCL Astra*** continues to grow. Regional Astras have been set up, and new breakfast meetings have been instituted with sell-out attendances. The very successful Joint Organisations Junior Boat Trip on the Thames last year was also a sell-out, and a bigger boat has again been hired for this year in anticipation of similar demand that could not be satisfied previously. The Astra conference in Dubai in April was also fully attended and was a great success.

8. ***Social:*** This has again been a bumper year for SCL social events. Last year we had a change of venue for the annual London lunch to the Grosvenor House Hotel. The turnout this year surpassed anything we have held before, with numbers reaching 1430. Other events included the Scottish Lunch, the Leeds Lunch, the Dublin Lunch, the Bristol Lunch Southern Lunch and Manchester Lunch. It is notable that in the regions, particularly, attendance at social functions far outstrips support for talks and seminars.

9. ***Hudson Prize:*** The Judging Panel of the SCL Hudson Prize awarded First Prizes to Matthew Bell for his paper: "How is that even possible? Raising construction regulation from the ashes of Grenfell Tower", Ryan Turner - "Hanging by a slender thread: design obligations in construction contracts following MT Højgaard v E.ON", and Ralph Goodchild - "Proven by computer?"

System dynamics and disruption claims". The prize winners will give their papers at the London meeting to be held on 8th May 2018.

10. ***University Grants:*** In the last financial year the University grants team has again continued to distribute funds to assist the universities in the advancement of education in construction law.