
**SOCIETY OF CONSTRUCTION LAW
CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE
FOR AGM 16 MAY 2012**

1. **Membership:** Current members – 2,117 representing 73 countries worldwide (1,716 full members and 403 overseas members). Some 30 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 2,500. This would give a worldwide membership of approaching 5,000.
2. **Papers:** Since last year's AGM we have published 19 papers covering topics such as "The Regulation of Construction Experts after Jones and Caney" and "When the Adjudicator gets it horribly wrong".
3. **London:** In the past year there has been a full complement (12 in no.) of first rate talks by speakers including Mr Justice Ramsey, Her Honour Frances Kirkham CBE, Sir Anthony May and His Honour Judge Thornton.
4. **Regions:** A year in which many new co-ordinators have been finding their feet. New regions have been established in both East Anglia and Kent, and we have a new proactive team in Bristol. No less than 48 talks have been held throughout the country in the various regions during the year.
5. **Europe:** An excellent conference was held in Frankfurt in October attended by delegates from over 17 European countries. There is a new direction and enthusiasm within the individual SCL's, with a growth in SCL numbers around

Europe. The ESCL team has started work on a European book looking at the differences in construction law across Europe.

6. **International:** The Society of Construction Law's International Conference was held in Melbourne last week, and was attended by over 260 delegates representing 22 countries around the globe. Over the last year we have worked closely with our sister societies around the world including those in Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand, the Gulf and Mauritius, and have strengthened our relationships. The Latin American and Caribbean societies are now up and running and took part in the International Conference. China, India, South Africa and Egypt are all making good progress. We have also strengthened our association with both the American College of Construction Litigators (ACCL) and the Canadian College of Construction Litigators (CCCL).
7. The **Junior SCL** continues to grow, and we hosted our usual range of events including a site visit, Christmas lecture and the very successful Joint Organisations Junior Boat Trip on the Thames in July, attended this year by 150 people. We held two successful Junior SCL debates in Bristol which were each attended by over 40 delegates.
8. **Social:** This has been a bumper year for SCL social events. We had the largest turnout ever for the Brewery Lunch, 650. Other events included the Brewery Dinner, 315; the Scottish Lunch, 140; the Leeds Lunch, 267; the Dublin Lunch, 157 and the Bristol Lunch, 122.
9. **Ethics:** Following the coming into force of the Bribery Act 2010 and the publishing of government guidance on protective procedures commercial

organisations can put in place to address and manage the risks, the Ethics Subcommittee arranged for top criminal counsel Louise Delahunty, who also gave evidence to the Parliamentary Select Committee on the new legislation, to address SCL in London on 6 September 2011.

10. ***Advocacy Training:*** This year saw the successful re-launch of the Advocacy Course as a one-day, weekend exercise with guest speakers and workshops, with a heavy focus on adjudication advocacy, both written and oral. The course went well and there are tentative plans to run it again in the autumn.
11. ***Hudson Prize:*** The Judging Panel of the SCL Hudson Prize awarded a Second Prize for a paper entitled “The application of the EU procurement regime to section 106 agreements providing for Affordable Housing” by Antonio Rotolo, solicitor, Kent County Council. The paper was presented in London yesterday evening. The success of the Hudson prize is now being replicated around the globe, with a new “ESCL Prize”, a Malaysian “Vincent Powell Smith Prize”, as well as a Prize in Australia being launched this year along the same lines as the Hudson Prize.
12. ***University Grants:*** In the last financial year the University grants team has continued to distribute funds to assist the universities in the advancement of education in construction law. We have also donated funds to Bailli which provides invaluable information to many of our members. In addition, we have over the last year worked closely with the University of Plymouth in assisting in the designing of a module for teaching engineering students an appreciation of the practice of construction law throughout the life of a live construction project.

13. ***Review of Expert Evidence Best Practice:*** Over the last year the Society has formed a committee of members to look into Expert Evidence best practice. We have devised a set of 65 questions covering all aspects of expert evidence, and will be consulting as widely as possible across the industry on the use of experts in the resolution of construction disputes. We will publish a report in 2013 which Her Honour Frances Kirkham CBE has kindly agreed to draft on our behalf.

14. ***International Conference:*** SCL Council is working alongside TECBAR, TeCSA and the TCC to organise an international conference in London on 23rd and 24th September 2012 to commemorate the opening of the new Rolls Building. Details of this event titled “Unlocking Disputes: Challenges in Construction Litigation and Arbitration” can be found on our website and in our newsletter.

15. ***Amendments to the Constitution:*** Council has reviewed and updated the wording of the constitution and we shall shortly be voting on the acceptance of this revised wording.

16. ***Finances*** – The one big change that we have made this year is the registering of the Society for VAT. This was a necessary move due to the level of our turnover. Richard will give full details of our finances in his report.

Statistics

MEMBERSHIP

Current members: 2117 (1716 full members and 403 overseas members)

Paid online: 1576

Paid by cheque/DD/BACS: 547

New members this year: 156

Members from UK: 1619

Members from overseas: 500, from the following countries:

Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Barbados, Bermuda, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominica, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Georgia, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Nepal, Netherlands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, St Vincent, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United States, Vietnam,

WEBSITE

1568 members have agreed for their contact details to be available to other members

1468 members have requested to receive the newsletter by email only, while 656 want it by both post and email, and 3 by post only

1468 members have requested to receive new papers by email only, while 656 want it by both post and email, and 3 by post only

527 academics are registered on the site for free paper downloads, of which 459 are students and 68 are staff

REGIONS

The numbers of members from each region are as follows:

Birmingham: 158	Leeds: 119
Bristol: 133	London: 1032
Cardiff: 55	Manchester: 157
East Anglia: 7	Milton Keynes: 38
Edinburgh: 84	Newcastle: 54
Eire: 92	Oxford-Reading: 117
Glasgow: 87	Sheff-Derby-Notts: 58
Kent: 2	Southern: 203

PROFESSIONS

The numbers of members from each profession are as follows:

Academic: 21	Lawyer: 1	Subcontractor: 8
Accountant: 4	Lecturer: 2	Surveyor: 293
Adjudicator: 36	Manager: 3	
Arbitrator: 25	Mediator: 11	
Architect: 48	Not Selected: 46	
Barrister: 230	Other: 195	
Chartered Surveyor: 3	Other construction consultant: 153	
Civil Engineer: 7	Other lawyer: 94	
Claims consultant: 362	Other construction consultant: 153	
Construction client: 36	Planner: 5	
Consultant: 4	Project manager: 73	
Contractor: 100	QC: 1	
Director: 1	Quantity Surveyor: 15	
Engineer: 150	Solicitor: 1091	
Judge: 1	Student: 8	

