



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE SOCIETY OF CONSTRUCTION LAW
HELD ON 12 MAY 2004 AT MIDDLE TEMPLE HALL**

Present:	Chairman	Richard Bayfield
	Vice Chairman	Anthony Lavers
	Secretary	Julie Forsyth
	Treasurer	Corrina King

Approximately 60 Members

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the AGM held on 16 May 2003 were approved by the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

2. Elections

In the Council election this year there were eight candidates standing for five places, comprising one member of Council, Nicholas Gould, and seven new candidates David Anderson, Christopher Dering, Shona Frame, Brian Gayton, Keith Kirkwood, Lindy Patterson and Sarah Shemmings. It was a great tribute to the Society that so many well qualified candidates were willing to put themselves forward. Nicholas Gould was returned and the other successful candidates were Christopher Dering, Brian Gayton, Keith Kirkwood and Lindy Patterson.

3. Chairman's Report

The key items referred to in his written report were:

1. It was announced that Sir Philip Otton was to retire as President of the Society after eight very successful years. The Chairman noted that the Society had grown very significantly during the eight years and he gave personal thanks to Sir Philip for his leadership and support. The Right Honourable Lord Justice Anthony May has agreed to become the new President of the Society. Lord Justice May has had a long and distinguished career in Construction Law and the Society was honoured that he had accepted the post.
2. Lord Justice May and Sir Patrick Garland had been made Honorary Members of the Society.
3. Membership of the Society had risen to more than 1,600 members and the Society has enjoyed another very active year. Many meetings, including several joint seminars with other construction related organisations, had taken place and the Chairman gave thanks to the speakers, chairmen and organisers. He was aware, however, that there was room for improvement in some of the less active regions.
4. The Construction Minister had invited responses from the Society on what they regarded as the issues vital to making Britain a world leader in construction. Credit was given to Vicky Russell for coordinating the responses and for producing a summary in the short timescale available.
5. The Ethics Group comprised almost 50 members. Under the Chairmanship of Peter Higgins, the Group had met several times to consider the need for action and what SCL's involvement should be, if any. A paper was currently being drafted for presentation to Council.
6. The Society continued to encourage universities and other educational establishments to seek funding but, despite encouragement, there had been a drop in the number of requests for grants. The Society is actively trying to rectify the situation and to this end four academics had been invited to a brainstorming meeting which had been held before the AGM.
7. It was reported that Philip Britton had won the SCL Hudson Prize for the second year running, and commendations had been awarded to three others. Thanks were given to Anthony Lavers for his work in chairing the judging panel.
8. The Society continued to forge strong links with Societies of Construction Law overseas. SCL Hong Kong and SCL Singapore were now established and the formation of SCL Latin America was becoming ever closer.
9. The ESCL conference had been held in Barcelona in October 2003 and information on the proceedings could be found on the ESCL website www.escl.org It was reported that the next conference would be held in Switzerland in October 2004.

10. The annual lunch at the Brewery had, once again, been a successful event with almost 400 people attending. Thanks were given to Helen Garthwaite and her team for organising it.
11. Junior SCL had been established. Its first event had taken place in September 2003 and it had attracted over 130 attendees.
12. Thanks were given to those retiring from Council: To founder member Alan Shilston, to Nigel Jones QC, Fenella Mason, Dr Derek Ross, David Risbridger and ex-chairman Vicky Russell.
13. Thanks were given to the Officers and Council and to the Regional Coordinators. Thanks were also given to those involved in the day to day running of the Society: Edward Peters, who continues to improve the invaluable website; SCL's Postman Simon Hogg who sends out the emails to members; Jackie Morris who continues to field the admin desk, and to Frances Paterson for her work in editing the papers for publication.

4. Finances

The Accounts for the Year ended 31st December 2003 were then presented to the meeting. The Treasurer reported that income had risen by 10% and that the financial position was healthy. The meeting agreed that Baker Tilly be re-appointed as Auditors to the Society.

5. AOB

There were no further matters raised and members retired to enjoy a drink and conversation before the Annual Dinner.