



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE SOCIETY OF CONSTRUCTION LAW
HELD ON 11th MAY 2005 AT MIDDLE TEMPLE HALL**

Present:	Chairman	Anthony Lavers
	Acting Vice Chairman	Richard Bayfield
	Secretary	Nicholas Gould
	Treasurer	Corrina King

Approximately 70 Members

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday, 12th May 2004 were approved by the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

2. Elections

In the Council election this year there were seven candidates standing for five places, comprising two members of Council, Peter Higgins and Barry Milton, and five new candidates Peter Horne, Adrian Hughes, Roger Knowles and Colin Reese QC. Peter Higgins and Barry Milton were returned and the other successful candidates were Peter Horne, Adrian Hughes and Colin Reese QC.

3. Chairman's Report

The key items referred to in his written report were as follows:

1. Membership of the Society continued to increase, with numbers rising above 1700 for the first time. The net increase in membership was reported to be approximately 50 per year.

2. On the initiative of the International Sub-committee, and with the technical help of webmaster Edward Peters, a new overseas e-membership category had been introduced, whereby those living overseas could chose to pay a greatly reduced annual fee in exchange for accepting all communications exclusively by email.
3. To strengthen overseas links, the International Sub-committee had set up a system of National Representatives. France, Greece, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia now had SCL members acting as National Representatives.
4. There had been an increase in the number of organised lecture – a total of 13 in London and 27 in the Regions. A new Southern region had been started by Marian Harris-Deans and, in addition to his Manchester region, Dr Peter Fenn had started a Liverpool region. Alison Short had taken on and re-launched the Cardiff region.
5. A corresponding increase in papers was reported and the invaluable assistance from publications editor, Frances Paterson was noted.
6. An SCL group led by Peter Higgins had begun a major undertaking in the study of ethics in construction. Other members of the group were John Uff CBE QC, His Honour Judge Anthony Thornton QC and Neil Stansbury of Transparency International.
7. Junior SCL events had been organised by Nicholas Gould and the events had been well supported. This was seen as an important area for further development.
8. The Advocacy programme continued to provide training for SCL solicitors, and thanks were given to the organisers Nerys Jefford and Nicholas Gould. Particular thanks were given to His Honour Humphrey LLoyd QC who it was noted generously gave his services to the programme every year.
9. A very successful SCL 21st Birthday Party and President's Reception had been held at Ironmonger Hall in October 2004, with all tickets sold. His Honour Humphrey LLoyd QC was awarded the President's Medal for his contribution to construction law; and Honorary Memberships of the Society had been conferred on Professor Phillip Capper and former SCL Chairman, Victoria Russell.
10. The Chairman gave thanks to the members of Council who were standing down at the election, and special thanks were given to Richard Bayfield for standing in as Vice-Chairman after Julie Forsyth's move to France.

4. Finances

The Accounts for the Year ended 31st December 2004 were then presented to the meeting, copies of which were given to everyone attending. The Treasurer reported that SCL's financial position continued to be 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 the garden for drinks and convivial conversation before the Annual Dinner at 7pm.