



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

16 May 2007

Summary

SCL has once again enjoyed a very active and successful year. The Society has been involved in many areas, but in the past 12 months I chose to focus the Society's efforts on three main areas, namely: International, Education and the Junior Committee.

Our international links continue to grow. Our first international conference was organised and hosted in Singapore by the Singapore Society of Construction Law. The event was a tremendous success, demonstrating the strengths of our sister organisations in other parts of the world. The next International SCL Conference will be held in London in early October 2008.

The international side of SCL continues to expand. Further Societies outside of the UK are being planned in Malaysia, India, Australia, China, Brazil, Oman, USA, South Africa, and Iran.

A tremendous effort has now yielded a greater link with many universities throughout the UK and the awarding of university grants. The Junior Committee continues to grow in strength and participated in a very successful collaborative project with g4c. g4c is the Generation for Collaboration, which is an umbrella body supporting junior organisations that exist in many of the professional associations and institutions in the construction industry.

Finances

The Society's financial situation is strong and continues to improve. Income in 2006 increased by comparison to 2005. As a result of this position, the Society's subscriptions have not increased for a number of years. Further details are available in the annual financial report of the Society.

Membership

Currently, the Society has 1765 members from many sectors of the construction industry. Of the total number of members 270 are overseas members (representing 50 countries). Membership has therefore continued to increase this year once again.

International SCL Conference, Singapore

The Singapore Society of Construction Law hosted the first ever Society of Construction Law's International Conference in Singapore. It took place between 15 and 17 October, and was sponsored by the Societies of Construction Law from Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, New Zealand, UAE and the UK.

The conference was a huge success. Around 165 people attended with delegates from over 17 countries. 25 papers were presented over the 2 day period.

We are hoping to hold an international SCL conference every two years. The next one will take place in London in the early autumn 2008.

Professor Ian Duncan Wallace QC

It is with deep regret that Professor Ian Duncan Wallace QC passed away in 2006. Professor Wallace was an Honorary Member of the Society and was awarded the Society's President's Medal in 2002 for his outstanding services to construction. He will be sadly missed.

Dennis Wiles, Regional Co-ordinator for Newcastle.

Dennis Wiles also sadly passed away recently. Dennis gave the region a much needed kick start. He had been the original Co-ordinator from Newcastle for almost two years, and had assisted the Society greatly in the Newcastle area. He will also be sadly missed.

Peter Horne

Unfortunately Council member Peter Horne died in April. He will also be sadly missed. The funeral service took place on Wednesday 18 April at 11am at Loose Baptist Church, Loose, Maidstone. Some of you may know Peter's son, Robert Horne of Trowers and Hamblins. My thoughts are also with Robert and his family.

ESCL Meeting

The ESCL Annual Conference and meeting was held in Stockholm in August 2006. Anthony Lavers gave a paper which presented the results of a comparative study analysing responses

from 8 SCLs on ethics in construction law in their respective jurisdictions (England & Wales, France, Germany, Greece, Austria, Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden).

The SCL of the Czech Republic is hosting the next ESCL Conference in Prague in September 2007 and is undertaking comparative studies on building control inspections/approvals and on contractor qualification, to which SCL will contribute responses.

Meetings

A large number of meetings were held throughout the UK and the Republic of Ireland. A permanent list of past events is archived on the website at <http://www.scl.org.uk>.

Many thanks must, of course, go to the dedication of the speakers, the Chairmen and the organisers to whom the Society is indebted.

Administration

Jackie Morris has for many years administered the Society. It would be very difficult to run the Society without her.

Given the enormous workload, Frances Whitehead has now recently joined Jackie, and between them they deal with all administrative matters. A special thank you must be given to both of them.

IT and Website

The web site goes from strength to strength. Edward Peters, our webmaster, and Simon Hogg, who deals with mass emailing to members, must be congratulated for their ongoing hard work and dedication.

Attached is a copy of a 2 page report, prepared by Edward, setting out some of the key SCL website statistics.

Universities: Grants and other Donations

We have somewhat disappointedly struggled in previous years to award grants to universities. However, the position is now changed. A major drive in this area has meant that we have made much closer contact with a number of universities throughout the country. Universities have been visited by Anthony Lavers, Hamish Lal and Peter Phillippo.

As a result of this drive, the grants during the past 12 months total £17,694.00, and further grants are planned.

The awarding of grant money for universities is fundamental to the Society. One of the key aspects of our constitution is the support of further and better education in the area of construction law.

Hudson Prize

Once again, high quality entries were submitted from a number of our members. The results were:

First prize:	Julian Bailey;
Second prize;	Ronan Champion;
Highly Commended:	Scott Adams; and
Commended:	Anders Axelson.

I must of course thank the Hudson Prize Panel for their careful judging of all of the submissions, and of course Anthony Lavers who has continued to Chair the panel for many years.

International

With regard to International Societies of Construction Law outside of Europe, both the Hong Kong and Singapore Societies have now been established for some time. Over the past two years the UAE and New Zealand Societies have established themselves with a constitution and regular meetings. During the past year we have been in communication with individuals in Malaysia, India, Australia, China, Brazil, Oman, USA, South Africa, and now Iran who are all now actively looking to establish a society in their country.

As the Society has developed we have, during the last year, set out a draft policy document concerning the relationship between the UK Society of Construction Law and similar societies in other countries. The hope is that over the next year there will be an agreed policy which will bring closer working relationships and more co-ordination between the various societies around the world.

Brewery Lunch

The Annual Brewery Lunch was held at the Brewery on Chiswell Street in February. 600 tickets were sold, and the venue was full to capacity. This is our most successful Brewery Lunch and despite the enormous increase in size, is still over subscribed.

The after dinner talk was provided by Alan Chambers MBE, the Polar Explorer.

Junior Committee

The Junior Committee continues to thrive. Site visits have taken place and the Introduction to the Basics of Construction Law course that is run one afternoon in September, attracted around 120 delegates.

Advocacy Course

His Honour Humphrey LLOYD QC has once again supported the advocacy course. We were also very fortunate this year as His Honour Judge David Wilcox QC also participated in the course. The London course was yet again a success.

In addition, a separate advocacy course was held earlier in the year in Birmingham. We hope to run that course again, demand depending.

Officers

I think that I have been very fortunate this year as I have this year been surrounded by very able, active and encouraging members of Council. I am indebted to them for their efforts and careful counsel. Without them, the Society would be unable to function.

Council Retirement 2007

According to our Constitution a certain number of Council Members need to retire for election. This meant that Jonathan Hosie, Anthony Lavers, Jocelyn Taylor, Keith Kirkwood and Lindy Patterson retired. They all, except Jonathan, stood for re-election.

Jonathan Hosie has decided that he will not stand for re-election. He has for many years tirelessly organised the London programme of speaking events. He has carefully planned these events many, many months in advance in order to ensure that we have a high quality

and on going programme of events in London. My thanks go to him for all of his hard work for the Society.

No other Society members volunteered for election, and so as a result of an uncontested election Anthony, Jocelyn, Keith and Lindy have been re-elected to Council.

President's Medal

The President, Sir Anthony May QC, awarded the President's Medal to John Tackaberry QC for his work for the Society and his publication. Honorary memberships were awarded to Peter Fenn for his work in the regions and to Richard Bayfield for his many years of dedication to the Society, including the website, and his work in respect of the Society's Delay and Disruption Protocol.

Nicholas Gould
16 May 2007

Enc - IT Report



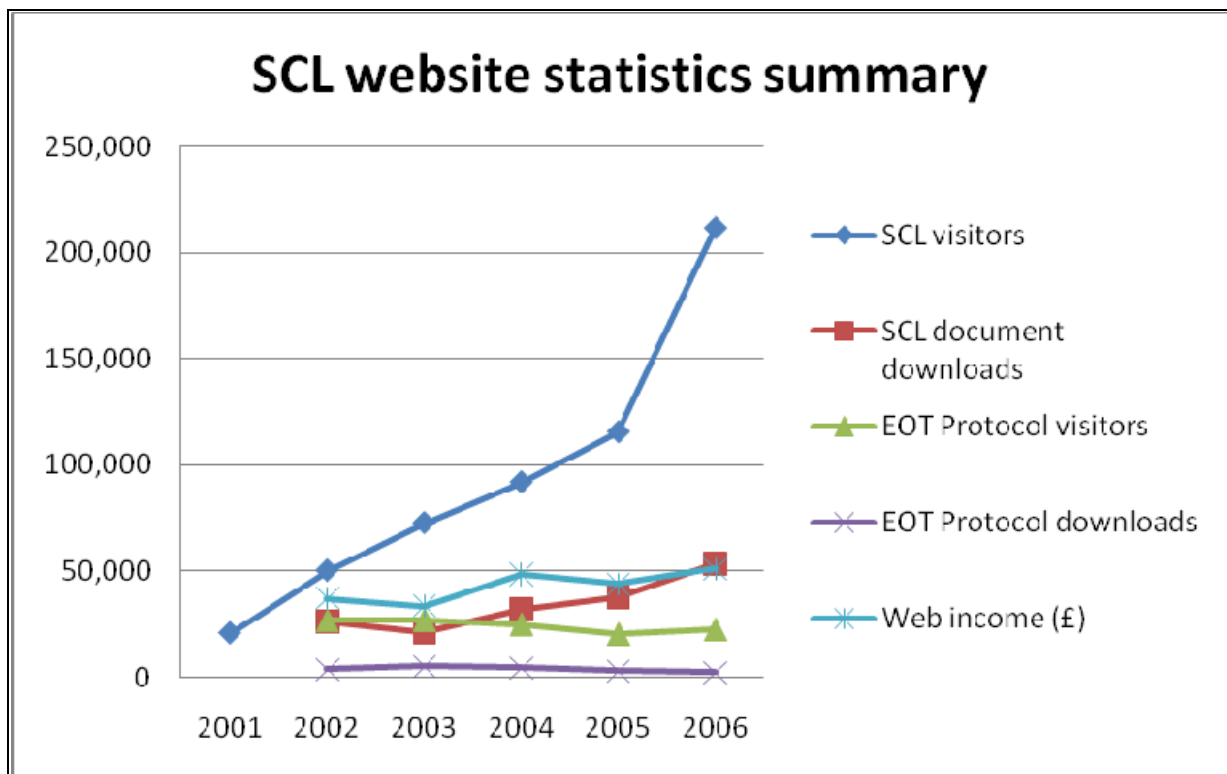
Society of Construction Law

Website statistics, April 2007

A. Summary

This chart summarises five main sets of statistics:

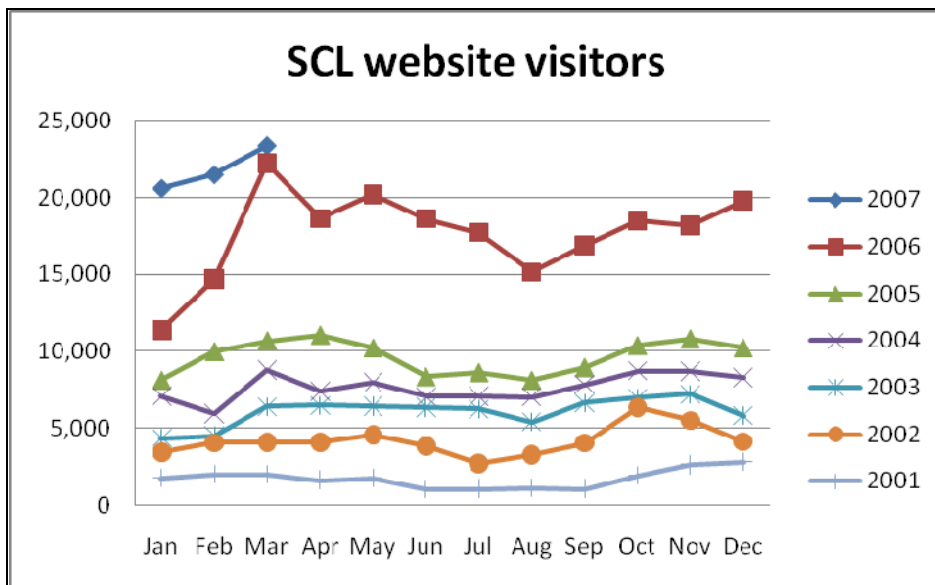
1. Visitors to the SCL website
2. Number of downloads of papers and other documents from the SCL website
3. Visitors to the EOT Protocol website (www.eotprotocol.com)
4. Number of downloads of the EOT Protocol
5. Total income from online payments via the SCL website 'shop'



B. SCL website visitors

In January 2001, approximately 1,770 people visited the SCL website. Last year, 2006, the monthly average was about ten times this level.

This chart shows the visitors each month for each of the past six years, and the first three of 2007.



The next chart shows the percentage of visitors from each of the main five countries/regions which have significant numbers visiting. This shows a dramatic change in the balance between UK visitors (50% in 2003, 12.5% so far this year) and the EU which has risen from 2% in 2003 to 57% so far this year. No other countries reach 1% of our total visitors.

