



## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting The Society of Construction Law**

**Held on Wednesday 1 May 2024 at 6.00pm**

**Humber Room, Plaisterer's Hall,  
London, EC2Y 5JU**

### **Present:**

Chairman – Hamish Lal  
Vice Chair – Karen Gough  
Treasurer – Paul Battrick  
Secretary – Jessica Tresham

The Chairman welcomed other Members of Council and SCL Members to the 2024 AGM.

### **1. Minutes**

The Minutes of the AGM held on 3 May 2023 were approved by the Members: Proposed by Julian Bailey and Seconded by David Falkenstern.

### **2. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman summarised his 2024 Report. Hamish Lal, in short, explained:

- The Regions, under the leadership of Jess Neuberger are now flourishing – there are 'new and expanded Teams' in Ireland, Northern Ireland, Leeds, Scotland, and Wales. Inaugural Lunches in Belfast, Birmingham, and Cambridge; an array of educational and networking events; collaboration with others such as CI Arb, CIOB, ICE, which provides compelling evidence of what has been achieved by the Team and of the renewed energy and enthusiasm in the Regional Teams.
- Over the last two years Council has worked hard to become open, transparent and embrace collective responsibility. Council needs please to continue to exercise modern thinking about governance best practices and about the governance structures and rules adopted by comparable bodies. Hamish thanked Rebecca Shorter, Jess Tresham and Andrea Stauber who have embraced this vital initiative.

- As the Treasurer's Report sets out, SCL is in excellent financial health. However, we have not been able to develop a strategy looking at 'monies-in'; 'monies-out'; scope for investment; financial risk management; short-medium-long term forecasts and so on. Council has socialised the idea a finance sub-committee which is apprehended to embrace the need for a clear and transparent strategy.

Hamish Lal invited questions from the Meeting and encouraged all to read the Report and revert with queries at any point. No questions were raised.

### **3. Presentation of Accounts (Year/Ending 31 December) for Approval**

The Treasurer spoke about the positive position of the SCL accounts. He confirmed the audit had proceeded with no adverse comments on the accounts. The finances are in good shape and are continuing to improve.

The accounts were formally accepted by the Members: proposed by Jonathan Cope and seconded by Mike O'Shea.

### **4. Appointment of Auditors and Re-appointment of Bookkeepers and Accounts**

McKenzies and RSM UK were formally proposed and accepted as bookkeepers and accountants for the current financial year. Continuation of RSM as Auditors: Proposed by Jessica Neuberger and seconded by David Falkenstern. Continuation of MacKenzies as Accountants: Proposed by Jessica Neuberger and seconded by David Falkenstern

### **5. Election of Ordinary and Astra Members**

The Chairman explained that there were 8 vacancies: 6 vacancies on Council for Ordinary members and 2 vacancies on Council for Astra members. 21 members had put themselves forward for election. Some of the candidates who were present gave a short speech. Hamish Lal read the Election Statements of all those who were unable to attend the AGM. It was explained that the option to vote online will close at 8.00pm. The election results were announced by the Chairman during the Annual Dinner. Hamish Lal thanked all the candidates.

[Post Meeting Note: Candidates whose names are bold and underlined were successful.

#### *ORDINARY MEMBERS*

**Murray Armes**

**Amy Armitage**

Bill Bordill

**Katherine Butler**

Sue Callaghan

Taner Dedezade

**Arran Dowling-Hussey**

Martin Hicks

**Sue Kim**

Chris Rudland

Elise Salerno  
**Chris Sunderland**  
Chris Symeonides  
Khaleda Wheeler

*ASTRA MEMBERS*

**Lizzie Barry**  
James Frampton  
Aziz Karama  
James McGee  
Rebecca Munday  
**Lucy Pearson**  
Matthew Watson]

**6. AOB**

Jonathan Cope queried the decline in the number of published papers during 2023. Hamish Lal suggested that the decline was caused by Speakers using PowerPoint (rather than giving a Paper) and the increase in the use of Panels (where there is no talk / lecture but a selection of opinions). Hamish Lal also confirmed that during 2024 new essay competitions and an SCL Conference in London would most likely increase the number of Papers. Hamish thanked Jonathan for his question.

There being no other business the AGM 2024 closed at 6.33pm