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## Members Information

All of The Academy's information is available for Members from the Member Resources page of the website.

This includes:

- Guidance
- Publications
- Reports
- Member's Handbook
- Model Terms of Engagement

This and past editions of 'update' are available from:  
[www.academyofexperts.org](http://www.academyofexperts.org)

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# 'update'

## From the Chairman



### Chairman's Report 2013-14

Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana. Is it really a year since I took office? I'm not sure that, "time flies when you are having fun" is quite the correct description, or indeed a good thing to do while having fun, but it has certainly been an interesting year (as in the Chinese proverb, "may you live in interesting times"). I will try to avoid such syntactic ambiguity in the rest of this report and rely instead on my usual assortment of mixed metaphors.

I became our Chairman at the AGM in October 2013, slightly earlier in the year than previous Chairmen, due to the departure of my predecessor. The change at the helm left some ripples in the organisation, but I am pleased to report that things have gotten back on track and the great ship that is TAE continues to sail on through sometimes choppy waters.

Like any large ship, TAE can develop a momentum of its own and it can become difficult to alter course. However during the last year I can report that we have seen ourselves changing from an inward looking organisation, perhaps too concerned with how we operate internally, to one that is increasingly looking

outwards to forge links with other organisations involved in Dispute Resolution and with the users of experts, mediators and determiners, so that we can increase the influence that we have in these areas and so that we can help to generate real opportunities for our members. I had hoped to be able to announce some significant partnerships at this stage – but watch this space as they are coming soon.

### Marketing

On the opportunity generation front, we have done considerable work this year on increasing the value of our website both to users and to our members.

- The revamped internet register is now, in my opinion, the most comprehensive resource available on the internet for identifying accredited experts and is generating real opportunities for those who appear in it.
- We have also carried out a mailshot to over 5,000 users of experts so as to remind them about TAE and to guide them to use our website and the services provided by our members.

*continued inside...*



## From the Chairman continued

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I would encourage all members who have yet to subscribe to the internet register to consider doing so. I think you will find that, considering its low cost, it is a very efficient use of your marketing budget. We plan to improve the website further in the coming year.

### Membership

Membership remains a worry for TAE. Our average age is increasing and, as some of us inevitably retire (or worse!) membership numbers are bound to decline unless we do something about it. I have a simple message in this regard. If every member encouraged just one of his colleagues or expert acquaintances to join TAE, we would double in size. I would encourage every member to ask themselves who they might persuade to join us and to contact them immediately. It would only take a few moments of your time.

### Finance

TAE's finances remain healthy. As with most membership organisation, we do not make large profits and could always do with additional funds to help fund additional activities, but we cut our coat according to our cloth and continue to offer great value to our members. I will however leave it to our Treasurer to give more detail in his report.

As well as being a year into my Chairmanship, we are also a year on from the Jackson Reforms.

While many predicted an end to civilisation as we know it, the reality for experts appears to be that, for those of us who did our jobs as experts in a professional and business-like manner before, the reforms have brought little to be afraid of (apart perhaps from the dreaded hot-tub!). Those long hours spent in Academy training courses have

certainly paid off and one wonders if those experts caught out by the recent Panorama programme (none of whom were TAE members) would have gotten themselves into such a mess had they been trained and followed the three I's of Independence, Impartiality and Integrity that we are taught to value so precious. It was welcoming to hear a senior member of the judiciary at a recent TAE evening meeting saying that he thought that, particularly post-Jackson, training for experts is absolutely essential.

When combined with our model for expert reports and our model terms of engagement, I think TAE members can be proud to lead the world in the provision of professional expert services. This is becoming increasingly apparent to users of experts who are now beginning to ask for accredited experts who can work knowledgeably within the confines of the procedure rules rather than looking for hired-guns. Unfortunately, particularly in publicly funded cases, they seem to want to pay less for this better service!

### Events & Meetings

The year has seen some exceptional TAE meetings and events, covering many aspects of our work, in times when experts appear to be coming under increasing scrutiny and pressure from the judiciary, the press and the public.

While sometimes we might wonder why we do it, and why some others do it the way they do (and seem to get away with it!), I am sure that most have shared that warm feeling of a job well done that comes when you sign a well-written report, reach a settlement in a mediation or emerge from the witness box or hot-tub relatively unscathed.

We should also remember the TAE's social events such as the Chairman's Lunch and

## TAE Events Calendar

Do you check the online Events Calendar?

Details of all TAE events, training dates and external events that TAE supports are published online with full booking information:

[www.academyofexperts.org](http://www.academyofexperts.org)

the President's Dinner, which give a great opportunity to let our collective hair down and share experiences and war-stories with likeminded professionals over a good meal and a few drinks.

### Looking Ahead

My aim in the coming year, should you choose to re-elect me as your Chairman for another term, is to continue to concentrate on looking outwards, building links with other organisations and increasing the value that we provide to our members by taking frequent but small steps rather than by instituting any massive and disruptive changes.

I would like to wholeheartedly thank our Council and Executive for their help in achieving these aims and to especially thank our staff at Gray's Inn for the hard work and dedication that they show on our behalf. Without all of these people giving so tirelessly, TAE simply could not operate. Consequently, I would also urge all members to consider how they might become more involved in the work of the Academy. Believe me, it's both interesting and fun.

**Dr Chris McArdle QDR MAE  
Chairman**

*"If every member encouraged just one... to join TAE, we would double in size"*

**CAN'T WAIT FOR THE NEWS?**

[www.academyofexperts.org/news](http://www.academyofexperts.org/news)

## Annual General Meeting - Agenda

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting will be held at 4.30pm on Wednesday 8th October 2014 at, 3 Gray's Inn Square, Gray's Inn, London.

### Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 To approve the minutes of the AGM held on 9th October 2013 – published in 'update' Volume 21 Issue No 4
- 3 Matters arising
- 4 Chairman's Report
- 5 Treasurer's Report including adoption of accounts for the year ending February 2014
- 6 To appoint the Auditors for the year 2014-2015
- 7 Election of Officers
  - Chairman
  - Deputy Chairman
  - Vice Chairmen
  - Secretary
  - Treasurer
- 8 Election of Council Members
  - Six Vacancies
- 9 To approve 2015-2016 subscription levels
- 10 Any other Business

## Evening Meetings - Catchup Online

Members who have been attending Evening Meetings recently will know that we have started to video record the meetings. We have been doing this so that members who are not able to attend on the day still have the opportunity to benefit.

### Speaking Openly

As meetings are held under 'Chatham House Rules' we do not record the Q&A session after the initial talk to enable the speaker and members to be as open as possible.

We have been waiting until our 'library' was ready to publish and are happy to say that the first three meetings will be available to watch online in the member area of the website from the beginning of October.

The first meetings which will be available are:



**Master O'Hare**  
Costs Explained  
December 2013



**Mr Justice Dingemans**  
Experts' Liabilities  
June 2014



**Mr Justice Ramsey**  
Implementing Jackson  
September 2014

# DIARY, NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Judicial Appointments

TAE sends its congratulations to Hon Mr Justice Bean on his recent appointment to the Court of Appeal.

He has been a member of TAE's Judicial Committee for a number of years and was heavily involved in the work on the latest edition of the Model Form of Expert's Report. His appointment will take effect from 1st October.



Mr Justice Bean

## Rules Changes

The 75th update to CPR takes effect from 1st October. There is not much in the update that causes any concern for experts. Medical Experts will take note of the amendments which are being made in respect of reforms to the handling of low value personal injury claims, and the costs incurred. The amendments both provide for fixed costs in relation to medical reports obtained pursuant to, and deal with offers to settle in respect of, low value soft tissue personal injury claims (whiplash injuries) started under the Pre-Action Protocol for Low Value Personal Injury Claims in Road Traffic Accidents. The Protocol defines both "fixed cost medical report" and "soft tissue injury claim".

## TAE Events and Meetings

A very informative talk by Mr Justice Ramsey on the Jackson Reforms was received by over 60 members in September. For those that were not able to attend a video of the talk will shortly be available on the website (see note on page 3 for further details). We have two more meetings currently scheduled:

- ❑ 8th October Clive Freedman, a barrister at 3 Verulam Buildings, will be making a presentation to members about Expert Dermination. Please note that this meeting is already nearly full.
- ❑ On 12th November Bruce Barze, a partner at Balch & Bingham LLP in Birmingham, Alabama will be speaking to members about how an American Attorney uses experts and the differences (and similarities) between how the system works in the States and the UK.

## External Events

As ever TAE has been supporting and participating in a number of other organisations' events and continues to do so.

At the beginning of September the Chief Executive spoke at the N.A.G.'s *Institute of Registered Valuers Conference* in Loughborough presenting four workshops to fifty delegates over two days. In the coming months we will be working with a variety of organisations including CI Arb, ICAEW, and the Society of Construction Law in Hong Kong.

- ❑ **Thames Valley CI Arb Arbitration Seminar**  
Thursday 2nd October, Hilton Hotel, Milton Keynes
- ❑ **Lighthouse Club Conference**  
Monday 27th October, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Hong Kong
- ❑ **SCL HK Conference**  
Friday 7th November, Hong Kong Football Club, Hong Kong
- ❑ **ICAEW Conference**  
Monday 10th November, Chartered Accountants Hall, Moorgate

## President's Dinner Butchers' Hall

**Wednesday 5th November 2014**

*"Remember, remember the 5th November"*

This year we will be entertaining some 'special guests' at the President's Dinner in November. A formal announcement will be made shortly but until then we are unable to reveal any more at this stage. What we can say, though, is that this is certainly set to be a memorable event in the history of TAE.

## EARLY BIRD RATE UNTIL 26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

October		
Thursday	2	➤ Thames Valley CI Arb <b>Milton Keynes</b>
Wednesday	8	➤ Annual General Meeting
Wednesday	8	➤ Evening Meeting
Friday	10	➤ Into Court
Wednesday	15	➤ Law for Experts
Thursday	16	➤ Procedure Rules Update
Monday - Tuesday	27-28	➤ Mediation - Module 1
Monday	27	➤ Lighthouse Club Conference <b>Hong Kong</b>
Wednesday	29	➤ Mediation - Module 2
Thursday - Friday	30-31	➤ Expert Determination Training
November		
Monday - Tuesday	3-4	➤ Foundation Course (2 Days)
Wednesday	5	➤ TAE Council
Wednesday	5	➤ President's Dinner
Friday	7	➤ SCLHK Conference <b>Hong Kong</b>
Monday	10	➤ Mediation - Module 3
Monday	10	➤ ICAEW Forensic Conference
Tuesday	11	➤ Mediation - Module 4
Wednesday	12	➤ Mediation - Module 5
Wednesday	12	➤ Evening Meeting
Thursday	20	➤ Into Court
Monday	24	➤ Role & Responsibilities <b>Hong Kong</b>
Tuesday - Wednesday	25-26	➤ Mediation Assessment
Tuesday	25	➤ The Expert's Report <b>Hong Kong</b>

### Key to events:

- Academy Courses
- Academy Events & Meetings
- External/Joint/Supported Events