

Inside this issue

From the Chairman	1-2
Colin Wall	2
Annual General Meeting	3
News & Announcements	4
Academy Diary	4

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
- Model Terms of Engagement

This and past editions of 'update' are available from:
www.academyofexperts.org

Further information about anything contained in this publication may be obtained from The Academy of Experts

3 Gray's Inn Square
London WC1R 5AH
DX: 283 London, Chancery Lane

t: 020 7430 0333
f: 020 7430 0666
e: admin@academy-experts.org

[@tae_experts](https://twitter.com/tae_experts)

© The Academy of Experts 2015



'update'

From the Chairman



Summer is on the way out. As I write this, we are approaching the end of a slightly damp summer, certainly down here in Cornwall. At this time, thoughts often turn away from lazy summer days and cold beers to the more demanding tasks of growing and developing our expert witness practices. I am sometimes criticised for using the 'M' word in association with our work, but Marketing is just as important for us as for every other professional services business. While it seems, judging by the ridiculously low fees paid for publicly funded expert work, that the government expects experts to work for a pittance, most of us depend on securing appointments (at a reasonable fee level) to make a living.

TAE has an important role to play in that marketing. I would hope that by now every member wanting to advertise their expertise has taken an entry on our internet directory, but, equally important is that you keep its content up to date. I was recently very surprised to find out that many members hardly ever update their entries. I would say that this is missing a good marketing opportunity.

Networking is also a great way of becoming better known by those who recommend and

employ experts. I find that the networking opportunities provided by TAE events such as our evening meetings and of course our legendary dinners and lunches are fantastic for this, either by bringing along some of my clients or by just mingling with other experts. There are a number of such opportunities coming up in the Autumn, so I suggest that members look at our website and get involved.

On the subject of involvement, it will soon be AGM time, which brings an opportunity to get more involved in TAE by standing for membership of Council. The office will shortly be sending out details and I urge all members to consider giving a little of their time and energy back to TAE in this way. It is also great fun and you get to meet lots of interesting and amusing people along the way. There is only so much that our overworked office staff can do, so the help of members on Council and in other ways is key to our continued success.

For our mediation practitioners, I can announce that we will be assisting in the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators Mediation Competition in January 2016. We will be providing some of the Mediators to assist in mock mediations

continued inside...

Despite the poor weather Gray's Inn laid on a sumptuous repast for those that were prepared to brave the wet and windy conditions.



From the Chairman continued

COLIN WALL QDR MAE 1953 - 2015

...continued from page 1

which are carried out by law students over the course of a weekend. If anybody is interested, please drop me an email. It also counts for CPD!

Anyway, the summer still has a few days to run and this particular evening is warm and sunny – so I am off in search of that cold beer. I hope to see as many of you as possible during our busy autumn and winter programme.

**Dr Chris McArdle
Chairman
September 2015**

Many members will already know that sadly Colin Wall passed away this year.

Reknowned around the world for his work in Alternative Dispute Resolution Colin's passing is a great loss.

As an Expert Witness, a Chartered Arbitrator and an accredited mediator, Colin Wall served as a full time dispute resolver and trainer for many years.

As well as his Academy Membership Colin was very active in the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. He was the Managing Director and founder of Commercial, Mediation & Arbitration Services Ltd, Co-President of the UIA Forum of Mediation Centres, past Chairman of the Hong Kong Mediation Council, an Honorary Professor at the University of Hong Kong and a distinguished member of several mediation and arbitration panels.

Colin was listed as one of the 10 "Most Highly Regarded Individuals" in the research for The International Who's Who of Commercial Mediation.



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



President's Dinner 2015 - Painters' Hall

Wednesday 4th November 2015

Painters' Hall, London EC4V

New Venue

Tickets to the Academy's most formal function of the year - The President's Dinner - are now on sale. As ever the dinner is being held in the first week of November on Wednesday 4th.

After three hugely successful years at the Butchers Hall refurbishment works mean that we are moving just down the road to the beautiful Painters' Hall for this year's President's Dinner.

Your Ticket price includes:

- Pre Dinner Reception
- Dinner including wine & port
- After Dinner 'night-cap' reception

£115 inc vat



Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th October 2015 at 12 noon 3 Gray's Inn Square, Gray's Inn, London.

Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 To approve the minutes of the AGM held on 8th October 2014 – published in 'update' Volume 22 Issue No 5
- 3 Matters arising
- 4 Chairman's Report
- 5 Treasurer's Report including adoption of accounts for the year ending February 2015
- 6 To appoint the Auditors for the year 2015-2016
- 7 Election of Officers
 - Chairman
 - Deputy Chairman
 - Vice Chairmen
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
- 8 Election of Council Members
 - Three Vacancies
- 9 To approve 2016-2017 subscription levels
- 10 Any other business

Elections

Officer Elections

Elections will be held for the following posts:

- Chairman
- Deputy Chairman
- Vice Chairmen
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Council Elections

This year there are three vacancies for Council.

Council Members are elected for a three year term and may hold office for no more than two consecutive terms.

Council is the governing body of The Academy and meets at least twice a year, in June and November - the next meeting is due to be held on 4th November. Details of the roles and duties of council members are available in the member area of the website.

If you would like to stand for election please complete and return the enclosed Nomination Form by noon on 17th September. Preferably this should be emailed to TAE along with a photograph of yourself but may alternatively be printed and posted/faxed.

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

DIARY, NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Government reviews MedCo early

The Government has decided to bring forward its planned review of MedCo, the whiplash medical report portal, by 3 months, following concerns at how it has been manipulated by medical reporting organisations.

The MedCo online portal became operational in April 2015 to enhance independence between those commissioning initial medical reports for whiplash claims and the medical experts who provide them. The initial call for evidence ran from 16th July to 4th September.

Increase in Litigants in Person

Members are reporting an increasing trend of being approached and asked to act for litigants in person. This is borne out by statistics just published by the Ministry of Justice in relation to Civil cases but excluding family cases.

"In 2014, both the claimant and defendant had legal representation in 52% of all defences (compared to 56% in 2013) whilst neither the respondent nor the claimant had representation in 27% of defences (compared to 21% in 2013). This is driven by defences of unspecified money claims, which account for 51% of all defences and in almost all such defences (97%) both sides were legally represented."

Solicitor fined and suspended for faking expert report

A solicitor, two-year post qualification, from Cumbria was recently indefinitely suspended and fined £10,000 by the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal for fabricating documents including expert witness statements from an orthopaedic surgeon and advice from counsel.

The Tribunal was sympathetic to the solicitor's plight which was one of panic as she became swamped. Stating "as persuaded by the respondent's evidence, which it found to be highly credible, that she had been struggling to cope to the extent that she contemplated having an accident so that she wouldn't have to go to work anymore". They further went on to say "Whilst no medical report was provided, the tribunal entirely accepted the respondent's evidence on her state of mind at that time and accepted that at the material time the respondent had acted in blind panic under immense pressure, with no thought of the consequences of her actions."

External Events and Meetings

Further to the success of its annual One Day International Conference, the SCLHK will be holding its 2015 One Day International Conference on Friday 6 November 2015 at the Hong Kong Football Club. The speakers at the Conference are drawn from leading barristers chambers in London as well as senior regional and technical professionals and will focus on reforms in the construction industry in 2015.

As The Academy will again be supporting the conference there are special discounted rates for TAE members.

Fact Sheets & Information Sheets

The Academy continues to add to its library for members and users of Expert Witnesses.

The latest two additions are in final preparation for publication:

- a fact sheet for members on "Discussions between Experts"
- an information sheet for individuals interested in acting as an Expert "Becoming an Expert Witness"

Full details and copies of the two sheets will be sent to members shortly.

Professional Journals

Most professions have at least one, if not more, journal or trade magazine. As part of our marketing strategy we are currently trying to broaden our database of these publications and place articles where we can.

TAE is asking all members to help by either sending us the editorial contact details of their profession's 'required reading' or directly contributing by writing articles. If you would like to help by writing an article but need help or information please do contact the office.

September		
Monday	7	Gray's Inn Hall reopens
Wednesday	9	↗ Evening Meeting
Wednesday - 16 - Thursday	16 - 17	↗ Foundation Course
Friday	18	↗ Procedure Rules
Monday	21	↗ Seminar - BELFAST
Wednesday	30	↗ Into Court
October		
Thursday	1	↗ Law for Experts
Tuesday - Wednesday	6-7	Mediation Training - Module 1
Thursday	8	Mediation Training - Module 2
Wednesday	14	↗ Evening Meeting
Tuesday	20	Mediation Training - Module 3
Wednesday	21	Mediation Training - Module 4
Thursday	22	Mediation Training - Module 5
November		
Monday	2	↗ ICAEW Forensic Conference
Wednesday	4	↗ TAE Council
Wednesday	4	↗ President's Dinner
Friday	6	↗ SCLHK Conference - Hong Kong
Monday	23	↗ Role & Responsibilities Hong Kong
Tuesday	24	↗ The Expert's Report - Hong Kong
Thursday	26	↗ Going into Court - Hong Kong

Unless otherwise shown all courses/meetings will be held in London
TAE dates are published in the **Events Calendar** - www.academyofexperts.org

Key to events:

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