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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
- 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

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'update'

From the Chairman



Chairman's Annual Report

In my second year as Chairman it is pleasing to be able to report that The Academy has had another successful year continuing to support practising experts as it was set up to do.

In the same way that Experts need to update themselves so it is important for The Academy to progress to maintain its profile as the leading body representing experts. This year has seen some very positive developments in this respect.

New Vice President

One area has been the recent appointment of Professor John Uff CBE QC as a Vice President. John is a very well known and highly respected figure in the world of engineering, construction arbitration and litigation. His association with The Academy is a very positive step forward and will help to strength our profile. It has already resulted in some prospective new members and enquiries.

Social Media

In an age where social media forms an important part of communication, The Academy has established a Social Media Team under the leadership of Shaun Walbridge. As yet this is in its early stages but it is intended that this will form a means of spreading news about The Academy and its activities for members and non-members alike who are active in this area.

For those of us who tend to avoid Social Media and still want to find out about The Academy we have started the process of updating the website. The current website has served The Academy for several years but with many developments in this area it was considered time to develop a more modern, easier to use, website with a greater range of facilities. For someone like myself this is unfamiliar territory and I would like to offer a huge vote of thanks to the Website Development Team involved in this activity. All of the Team are much better informed in this area than myself and have taken time out from their busy schedules for regular meetings to get this project underway. Websites, however, still take time to develop and it will be the new year before it comes online.

Mutual Cooperation

Other events of note are our involvement with other professional bodies which has been pursued by our Chief Executive, Nicola Cohen. This year has seen the signing of two new MoU's, one with the Institution of Structural Engineers and the other with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

New Members

It is good to report that The Academy continues to maintain a healthy position both financially and that we are still attracting a steady stream of new members which is clearly a benefit for



Chief Executive Nicola Cohen and Deputy Chairman Ben Johnson with Claire Bennison of the ACCA marking the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding between the two bodies

all. Hopefully this will be maintained for the foreseeable future.

Practice & Rules

Legislation and guidance are continually being updated and it is essential for experts to know how these changes may influence them. As a widely recognised and highly regarded expert body The Academy is routinely asked to participate in committees and forums which are looking at these developments. This participation is helped by the diversity of our membership and it may be that some members in particular areas are approached for advice on these matters from time to time.

Equally, this participation places The Academy in a strong position to advise its members on changes that are to be expected and their implications for expert work.

Events & Social

Earlier in the year we had the Chairman's Lunch, which unfortunately, due to work commitments, (inspecting a very large ice covered roof!) I was unable to attend. Many thanks to Sue Bayram, our immediate past Chairman for standing in for me and helping to make this a successful event.

Also as part of our annual program The Academy hosted the President's Dinner in Pewterers' Hall once more. We were pleased to welcome a number of prominent guests and as always this was a splendid setting which, combined with good company and the excellent food and wine, made it a highly enjoyable evening. Thanks to everyone who attended helping to make this a successful event.

The other social engagement for the year was the Gray's Inn Treasurer's Reception. It was good to note that The Academy was well represented for what was a very pleasant evening. We were also extremely fortunate with the weather.

Evening Meetings

As part of The Academy's activities we have hosted a number of evening meetings covering both civil and criminal areas of activity. These meetings have included presentations from:

- ❑ David Bridge explaining how the ever increasing amount of information which has to be dealt with for large cases may be handled under the Pilot

Disclosure Process,

- ❑ The Forensic Science Regulator, Gillian Tully, who gave a very interesting talk concerning evidence in the criminal litigation arena,
- ❑ Colin Passmore on Privilege at our joint meeting with the East Anglia Branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators,
- ❑ most recently Russell Hopkins, a barrister who provided interesting insight into recent cases.

Judicial Criticism

Unfortunately not all experts have been making the headlines for the right reason. Without going into details of individual cases which are already widely publicised, this has cast a shadow over the role of experts in some areas. It also seems to have given rise to a call for Accreditation of Experts based on academic training, rather than experience coupled with training. Accreditation through membership of The Academy provides a demonstrable ability to take on the role of an expert. For those who are new to this role The Academy offers practical training to assist them as they develop in this area. An apparent push for expensive academic training to achieve an 'Accreditation Certificate' even before they have experience in the role does not provide the assurance that most people involved with litigation are looking for when instructing an expert.

The real value of such training is most questionable when evidence from experts with highly specialist knowledge is required. These experts may only be required to provide evidence for a single case. Clearly their evidence should not be downgraded because they have not undertaken expensive academic training that would be disproportionate to their involvement.

Governance

A perennial challenge for The Academy is the administration and development which requires participation at both Council and Executive level. In a time where it would appear that there is increasingly difficult pressure from work many of our members find it difficult to spare time to assist with The Academy.

Catch Up with Evening Meetings Online

VIDEOS AVAILABLE

Evening Meeting recordings are available from the member area of the TAE website

Once more I would ask for possible volunteers to apply for the positions on Council and/or the Executive when we have our next round of elections.

I would like to thank the members of the Executive, Council and The Academy's Team at Gray's Inn for their help and support over the past year in keeping The Academy on track. There are always many tasks to be carried out to ensure the smooth running of The Academy and developing it for the future.

Eur Ing Simon Clarke
Chairman
October 2019

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Minutes of The Annual General Meeting held at 3 Gray's Inn Square, Gray's Inn, London, WC1 on Thursday 10th October 2019

Present: S Clarke – Chairman, in the Chair and Members

Apologies: The President, Vice Presidents, Messrs Allen, Cock, and Nelson.

The Chairman welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

1 Minutes of AGM held on Wednesday 10th October 2018

The minutes of the AGM were adopted and signed by the Chairman.

2 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3 Chairman's Report

The Chairman had prepared a written report which was circulated and would be published in the next edition of 'update'. There were no questions to the Chairman.

4 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the annual accounts and reported that there was a small deficit of just under £5000 but the Academy was still in a positive financial position. There were no questions to the Treasurer.

The adoption of the annual accounts was proposed and they were adopted by the meeting nem con.

5 To appoint the Auditors for the year 2019-2020

The Treasurer stated that the Executive would like to propose Greenaways as the auditors for the coming year. They had completed the last few audits for the Academy. The meeting agreed nem con that Greenaways be reappointed as auditors.

6 Election of Officers

The Secretary stated that nominations were as follows:

<input type="checkbox"/> Chairman	Derek Nelson
<input type="checkbox"/> Deputy Chairman	Ben Johnson
<input type="checkbox"/> Vice Chairman	Mike Allen
<input type="checkbox"/> Secretary	Paul England
<input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer	Joe Skilton

They were declared elected.

7 Election of Council Members

The Secretary stated that there were 4 vacancies for Council. The following were duly elected.

<input type="checkbox"/> William Hooper
<input type="checkbox"/> Mark Hoyle
<input type="checkbox"/> Michael Modiri
<input type="checkbox"/> Tony Sykes

8 Subscriptions

Council had considered the matter of subscriptions. It was Council's recommendation that the annual subscription should be increased by not more than 5% rounded. This was agreed.

9 Any Other Business

The Chairman thanked all members of the Council and in particular those who are retiring from office for their contribution over the last year.

The meeting closed.

What's your story?

A selection of 'war stories' from TAE members and readers - an opportunity to learn from the mistakes (or successes!) of others.

If you have an experience/war story to share with others please email editor@academy-experts.org.

EXPERIENCES

www.academyofexperts.org

DIARY, NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



New Chairman

At the Annual General Meeting on 10th October a new officer team was elected to serve for the upcoming year.

- | | | | |
|---|--------------|---|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chairman | Derek Nelson | <input type="checkbox"/> Vice Chairman | Mike Allen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deputy Chairman | Ben Johnson | <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary | Paul England |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer | Joe Skilton |



Congratulations go to incoming Chairman, Derek Nelson FAE (pictured above) who takes over from Simon Clarke MAE at the Chairman's Lunch on 31st January. All other officers assume their role with immediate effect.

New cooperation agreement with ACCA

In September the ACCA (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) joined the growing list of organisations to sign working agreements with The Academy.

Hot on the heels of the MoU signed with the Institution of Structural Engineers at the President's Dinner Chief Executive Nicola Cohen and (now) Deputy Chairman Ben Johnson signed on behalf of TAE on 5th September.

Although The Academy has always strived to work with other organisations on an informal basis the current trend for formal working arrangements makes these exciting times for all TAE members.

External Meetings & Events

Contact TAE for further information about any of the events shown below:

Society of Construction Law HK - International Conference

8th November - Hong Kong Football Club, Hong Kong

The SCLHK's conference theme is Change Management and Claims.

Worshipful Company of Arbitrators - Keating Symposium

14th November - Keating Chambers, London WC2R

The Keating Symposium brings together leading exponents and appointing bodies from the Private Dispute Resolution Community to discuss ways in which practitioners can establish and develop their PDR practices.

Diary Dates

October		
Thursday	10	➤ Annual General Meeting
Thursday	10	➤ Joint Evening Meeting CI Arb
Monday - Tuesday	14-15	➤ Expert Determination
November		
Wednesday	6	➤ TAE Council
Wednesday	6	➤ CMC Conference
Tuesday - Wednesday	12-13	➤ Foundation Course (2 days)
Thursday	14	➤ WCA Keating Symposium
Monday	18	➤ Role & Responsibilities Hong Kong
Tuesday	19	➤ The Expert's Report Hong Kong
Wednesday	20	➤ Going Into Court Hong Kong
Thursday	21	➤ Into Court
Monday	25	➤ Members' Reception - Hong Kong
December		
Monday	23	TAE Office Closes
Wednesday	25	Christmas Day
Tuesday	31	New Year's Eve
January		
Thursday	2	TAE Office Reopens
Wednesday-Thursday	15-16	➤ Foundation Course
Tuesday	21	➤ Into Court
Friday	31	➤ Seminar - 'TWYTW 2019'
Friday	31	➤ Chairmen's Lunch

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



JOIN THE CHAIRMEN FOR LUNCH

31st January 2020