

2011 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORTS AND DOCUMENTATION

AGM ON TUESDAY 5 APRIL 2011

DEVON & SOMERSET LAW SOCIETY

Tuesday 5 April 2011 at 6.00 p.m.



followed by a
Members' Dinner
(see back cover for menu details and booking form)

Any queries, please contact the Administrator, Miss Monique Bertoni at DASLS Office

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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT AND COMMITTEE

It has been a great pleasure for me to represent our Society as its President for the last twelve months.

I should like to take the opportunity in this report to thank some of the people who have supported me which has made such a difference to me during my year of office.

My sincere thanks go to the team at the DASLS Office, Monique Bertoni and Tony Steiner for all their help during the year. My best wishes to Michelle Johnston who has just joined them. Thank you also to our Honorary Secretary, Tony Spiers, and Honorary Treasurer, Richard Adams, for the benefit of their wisdom and advice.

The team have coped admirably this year with their move to new premises and change of personnel. The new office suite at Aston Court has provided us with a great new base which can already host small Sub-Committee meetings and which will hopefully in time be adapted so that larger groups can be accommodated. The proximity of the premises to the motorway junction means that those from outside Exeter attending meetings will be able to

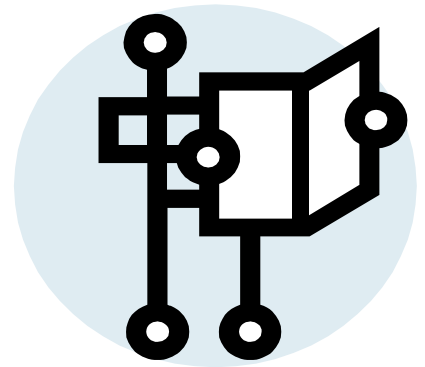
avoid the journey into and out of Exeter which should be of great benefit.

My thanks also to the members of our Committee and Sub-Committees who have worked so hard on behalf of DASLS during the year. It has been a real privilege to have the opportunity to sit in on and contribute to the meetings of all our Sub-Committees which has given me such an insight into the variety of issues affecting our profession. I have been extremely impressed by the quality of their work, by the time invested and by the personal commitment shown by our Sub-Committee members.

Many thanks to those of you who have supported our fundraising efforts on behalf of the Community Foundations for our two counties; the Somerset Community Foundation and the Devon Community Foundation, the charities I elected to support during my year of office. The Grass Roots Challenge meant that the funds raised during the year at our Professionals' Luncheon, Annual Members' Dinner, Charity Quiz and Strawberry Line Cycle Ride were match-funded pound for pound by the

Government. With the addition of Gift Aid, this more than doubled our fundraising efforts. I am sure that the two Foundations will use the money raised well on our behalf, meeting needs and creating opportunities in our two counties.

I have been fortunate to receive a number of invitations from other local Law Societies to attend their own Members' Dinners for which I have been very grateful. As well as being enjoyable social occasions, these have provided me with valuable opportunities to network with the officers and members of other local Law Societies. Similarly, the meetings of the Association of South Western Law Societies that I have attended have provided similar opportunities and have helped me to keep up-to-date on your behalf with the many significant changes currently affecting our profession. I hope that this has helped DASLS to be an effective conduit of information to its members and has also helped us to put forward our members' views in the various consultations that have taken place during the year.



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... FROM YOUR PRESIDENT AND COMMITTEE CONT'D

I also appreciated the opportunity to attend meetings of the Federation of European Bars in Aix en Provence and Madrid and to be able to accept the kind invitations received from our twin Bar in Rennes and from the Barcelona Bar to attend their annual ceremonial occasions. I should like to thank the members of our International Relations Subcommittee for their guidance during the year, with particular thanks to Rod Mole and Michael Cosgrave for their

company on these trips and for their invaluable assistance in dealing with practical arrangements.

I hope that this year has seen greater involvement from our Somerset members and that in my role as President, I have been able to make some small improvement to the mix of the two Societies. I was particularly pleased that this year we were able to hold our Annual Dinner for the first time in Somerset and that the evening was so

well supported and received by our members from both counties. Thank you to all those of you who were able to attend and to help make the evening such a success.

It is time now for me to hand over the reins to David Turner as he begins his year of office ably supported by his Vice President, David Bowen. My warmest regards and best wishes to them both.

Rebecca.Parkman@wards.uk.com



*Rebecca Parkman
President 2010-11*

PRESIDENT'S CHARITIES OF THE YEAR 2010-2011

Many thanks to those of you who have supported our fundraising efforts on behalf of the Community Foundations for our two counties.

**Bike Ride
12 March 2011 - The
Strawberry Line**



I invite any members and their families to

join me and my family on the ride. My husband, Ian, and son, Jacob, will be joining me for the full route and my daughter, Harriet, will be joining us for part of the ride.

**Somerset
Community Foundation**

Local giving for local needs

A leaflet giving further information about the route and attractions along it is available at

<http://www.thestrawberryline.co.uk/>

Rebecca Parkman

NEW - FROM THE IN-HOUSE LAWYERS' GROUP ...



*David Bowen,
Junior Vice
President & Crown
Prosecution Service
Representative*

The stereotypical solicitor is a private practitioner acting for their own private clients. However a significant proportion of our profession is now employed "in-house" – that is providing legal work to their employer, typically a commercial enterprise, government body, institution or other body.

Practising Certificate data produced by The Law Society reveals that in-house and central / local govern-

ment solicitors together amount to 14 per cent of the profession in the South West. Nationally the figure is around 26 per cent of the profession reflecting the higher concentration of in-house solicitors in the London area. These are the figures for the South West:-

Solicitors in private practice 6,568 (84.8%)

Solicitors in commerce and industry 479 (6.2%)

Solicitors in central and local government 593 (7.7%)

Solicitors in other sectors 109 (1.4%)

Because there must inevitably be a risk that in-house solicitors will feel isolated within their organisations and their own profession, there is a responsibility on our professional bodies to be their advocates and support.

For many years, DASLS' main Committee has included in-house solicitors. However, last year's visit by

FROM THE EDUCATION & TRAINING SUB-COMMITTEE



*Tony Steiner,
Acting Chair
Education &
Training*

The role of the Education & Training Sub-Committee is:

- to provide input on the content of the future training programme
- to monitor the success (or otherwise) of courses that have been run by the Society
- to respond to consultations regarding education & training as may arise from time to time
- to keep members advised

of changes to training requirements when they arise and arrange briefings and practical advice when required

- to consider such other matters regarding education and training as maybe referred to them by the main Committee from time to time.

The Sub-Committee is proud of its training programme; it seeks to provide quality training locally and at a cost effective price. The

introduction of a 3 for 2 offer during 2010 proved popular and this has been continued and extended in 2011.

In the last year the Society has provided 66 training events covering a broad range of substantive law topics. Attendance has been strong with an average of 20.5 delegates attending each seminar. Over 90% of those attending DASLS courses have said that the event was Good or Very Good, exceeding our target of over 75%.

COLLEGE OF LAW ONLINE TRAINING INITIATIVE

This year we have made arrangements with the College of Law to offer members an online training facility at a very competitive price. If you have not looked at this yet I encourage you to do so. Details can be found on the Society's website.

I am grateful for the support given to me by all the

members of the Education & Training Sub-Committee. They are the lifeblood of the training programme and their input ensures that the courses we offer remain relevant to current developments. If however you see a gap in the programme or identify a speaker that we should be inviting to the area please let

me know – we are always on the lookout for new ideas. Better still, if Training & Education is of interest why not join the Sub-Committee?

Finally, thank you for continuing to support DASLS training events.

Tony Steiner
tony@dasls.com

The College of Law Media service offers a total of up to 76 new TV style programmes per year accessible via 10 channels covering the many areas of law. The system is now available for trial via a training portal accessed via DASLS website.

... FROM THE IN-HOUSE LAWYERS' GROUP CONT'D

the President of The Law Society and a lunch hosted by her for in-house solicitors was so well received and attended that it prompted DASLS to create its own dedicated group.

From the start it was decided that this group would be a Sub-Committee of the main Committee, would be open to the whole membership and choose its own officers and business. It would report to the main Committee, who would have a standing agenda item to ensure prominence.

Many known in-house solicitors were contacted and the

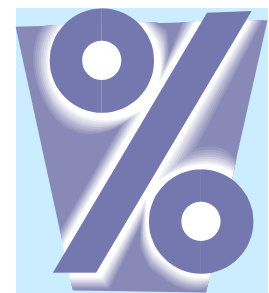
Group first met on the 5th October 2010 under the chairmanship of the Vice President, when its name and terms of reference were agreed.

A second meeting is scheduled for 1st March 2011 when the business will include defining the character and goals of the Group and the sort of issues it needs to tackle, setting its agenda, and turning itself into a meaningful forum and useful advocate for this section of the profession. It is hoped that the Group will become proactive and authoritative.

There are so many issues specifically affecting this Group – with but one client (be it a commercial company, public body or governmental department) who is also the employer, economic and business pressures tend to be unmitigated and there can be little leverage or room for manoeuvre. There certainly can be challenges to professionalism.

It is hoped also to connect with other such groups elsewhere, so that a unified and perhaps nationwide approach can be taken to wider issues.

David.Bowen@cps.gsi.gov.uk



In-house and central / local government solicitors together amount to 14 per cent of the profession in the South West.

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FROM THE SOCIAL SUB-COMMITTEE

The Social Sub-Committee (SSC) serves a special role within the Society as it continues to strive to improve relations between all members of the Society and to encourage them to get together. I have been proud to be part of such an active committee over the past year.

I have only been Chair of the SSC for a few months but have been an active member of the Committee for some years. The SSC has continued this year to organise a number of successful and well attended events and will endeavour to do so in the next year. In particular the DASLS Challenge Cup has recently completed its third year and is as popular and indeed as hotly contested as ever. My congratulations go to Foot Anstey who were crowned winners of

the Cup at the last event, the Quiz at the Mill on the Exe, in January. In the coming year the Challenge Cup will enter its fourth year. We hope it will remain as popular as ever and therefore a number of the events will be swapped for new ones to keep it fresh and interesting for the competitors whilst keeping old favourites such as the football.

The SSC always has more it can achieve and ways in which it can improve. In particular we wish to foster even stronger relations with our Somerset members and the forthcoming Somerset quiz should start the year off as we intend to continue.

We are always keen to have involvement from Somerset members and if

any of these members are interested in sharing ideas, attending events or even joining the Committee we would love to hear from them.

As always the Committee seeks to reflect the wishes of the Society's members and I would encourage feedback from any and all members at any time. Please also take the opportunity to complete the annual DASLS survey as this will enable us to provide the kind of events our members want.

I would like to extend my thanks to our outgoing Chairman, Ashley Bevans, for his hard work and enthusiasm during his running of the Committee. He has done much to further the works of the SSC during his time at the helm.



*Claire Revell,
Chair
Social
Sub-Committee*

I hope the Committee is able to continue with the good work that Ashley has done. I also would like to thank Tony Steiner for his excellent organisation and all the great work he has done on behalf of the SSC together with the SSC members who continue to perform their functions ably and with a smile!

SOLICITORS' BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION REPORT



<http://sba.org.uk/>

Every year SBA The Solicitors' Charity financially assists solicitors and their families when things go wrong through illness, accident or other misfortune.

The total number of beneficiaries in our area helped by the SBA in 2010 was 16; of these 8 applications in Somerset, 1 in Cornwall and 7 from Devon.

Of these beneficiaries 4 were widowed ladies, 4 single ladies, 1 single man, 3 married couples, 6 dependent children and 4 applications for Student Grants. The total awards authorised were, £66,326, of this sum £10,078 was by secured loan (which means the money will be recovered) and £56,248

was by interest free loans made to those on low incomes but with equity in their homes.

In these economic times the SBA has had to re-examine its policy and some of the more generous allowances of the past have not been continued so they can concentrate on those in real need.

May I ask everyone who is not a member to consider this very worthwhile Charity at a cost of only £10 per year payable by Bankers Order.

Application Forms are available from myself:-

Jeremy Lee
Symes Robinson & Lee
Manor Office, North Street
Credon EX17 2BR
Tel. 01363 775566
jl@srl-solicitors.co.uk



*Jeremy Lee,
SBA Director*

FROM THE MEDIATION SUB-COMMITTEE



*Angus McNicol,
Chair
Mediation
Sub-Committee*

Those who have used our mediators have been impressed by their skill and tenacity.

The Mediation Sub-Committee has continued to meet regularly. The Sub-Committee remain fully committed to encouraging and promoting mediation and we are all grateful to the real enthusiasts like Jeremy Ferguson and others who devote large amounts of their time to flying the mediation flag at home and abroad.

On 18 May 2010 we held a very successful training day which was well attended by local mediators. The course was conducted by Andrew Fraley, who will be well-known to most dispute resolution specialists as one of the most prolific of mediators, and Anthony Richards from a local training organisation called "Dramatic Improvement", who helped us to identify the characteristics of people we were likely to come into contact with as mediators as well as identifying the type of people we are. We received excellent feedback from those that attended.

The Sub-Committee are enthusiastic about spreading the word about mediation to solicitors and non-solicitors alike and when we were offered the opportunity to do a presentation in September 2010 at the lunch meeting of the Exeter Chamber of Commerce, we jumped at it; Judith Hirst, Stephen Homer and Liz Kendall gave a presentation to 105 members on the subject of the mediation services we provide. The feedback following the meeting was very positive and the Sub-Committee remain keen to give similar presentations to other Chambers in the region, or, for that matter, to any other organisations that would be receptive to such presentations.

We are keen to work closely with other mediation providers and David Turner and I met informally with Nick Pearson and Roger Isaacs, respectively Chairman and Treasurer of the Association of South West

Mediators, on 25 January 2011. They share our enthusiasm for the way in which mediation is becoming so mainstream and we agreed that our organisations should work together more closely in future, including attending each others' meetings and training days and sharing information.

The National Mediation Helpline has produced a disappointingly low level of referrals, and referrals to the DASLS Mediation Service have been fewer than we would have hoped for. I again urge you to consider the local home-grown option when you consider who to appoint as mediators. Those who have used our mediators have been impressed by their skill and tenacity; remember also that our mediation services come a great deal cheaper than the competition.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON DASLS MEDIATION SERVICES

GO TO www.dasls.com/MediationServices

to see a full copy of DASLS booklet containing Mediator Profiles, Current Rates and Mediation Booking Form

or email mediation@dasls.com



Devon & Somerset Law Society is a recognised trainer in mediation and a member of the Civil Mediation Council.

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FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE

The Vice President's Committee met three times over the last 12 months. I would like to thank all the Committee members for their help and assistance over the last 12 months.

It has been a busy year. There were two consultation papers which were completed on behalf of DASLS which addressed the proposed changes to the way the Solicitors' profession is regulated. These consultation papers, were lengthy, and answered in full, and sent to

the Solicitors Regulation Authority. The stance taken by the Vice President's Committee was broadly one of ensuring that a balance is maintained. Everyone accepts that changes in regulation have to be looked at, but it is also important to make sure that we do not become so highly regulated that it is impossible to move.

There have also been some new initiatives inside DASLS. We have more and more "in house lawyers" in our

region, who are members of DASLS, who may want to be.

The Vice President's Committee arranged a meeting for in-house lawyers which was extremely well attended. A second meeting will have taken place by the time you are reading this.

The development of this new group and the enthusiasm of the members of the group, who actively want to be involved with DASLS has been extremely pleasing.

David.Turner@footansteys.com



*David Turner,
Vice President &*

*Chair
Contentious Business
Sub-Committee*

FROM THE CONTENTIOUS BUSINESS SUB-COMMITTEE

... "the incident showed DASLS at its best; providing a forum for local firms to express their feelings with other likeminded practitioners" ...

It has been a busy 12 months for the Contentious Business Sub Committee too. In August 2010 we heard the news that many local firms had lost their contracts to carry out certain categories of legal aid work. An emergency meeting was arranged, which on an August evening still attracted over 40 people representing a number of our firms across the region. Various action points were outlined and communicated to Chancery Lane with the result that shortly afterwards there was a successful judicial review of the decision to cancel some firm's legal aid licenses.

In many ways, all those set against an unfortunate background, the incident showed DASLS at its best; providing a forum for local firms to express their feelings with other likeminded practitioners and actually affecting a material change for the better.

We have also held three meetings of the Contentious Business Sub Committee for the last 12 months and I would like to thank all members of the Sub-Committee for their help and assistance. We also took the Contentious Business Sub-Committee on a roadshow to Barnstaple, where

we had a very good turn out of some fifteen people representing various firms in the north Devon region, talking about contentious business.

The Contentious Business Sub-Committee has also been involved in collating and then completing two lengthy questionnaires dealing with the proposed reform of Legal Aid and the proposed reform of the funding of civil litigation. On both these questionnaires, the stance taken by the Contentious Business Sub-Committee was one of opposition to the proposed reforms which in our view severely affect access to justice.



*Chris Hart
Chair,
Practice Management
Sub-Committee*

FROM THE PRACTICE MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

Given the continued economic challenges faced by law firms across our region the role and work of the Practice Management Sub-Committee is of unprecedented relevance.

The year ahead is likely to herald yet more change for

many firms. October brings a significant change to the Legal Services landscape. It would appear that the profession is likely to undergo a period of consolidation that could see the number of firms operating in England and Wales reduced dramatically, perhaps in line with the apocalyptic predic-

tions of Professor Stephen Mayson. Involvement in the activities of the Sub-Committee and support for the management events run by DASLS will help your firm to face up to the challenges ahead. I would particularly recommend attendance at the course run by Nick Jarrett-Kerr on 11th May on

... FROM THE PRACTICE MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE CONT'D

the subject of Alternative Business Structures which will look at the strategic options available.

The Sub-Committee continues to run a good number of training courses dealing with topical management subjects. Given the pressure on training budgets, it is challenging to secure sufficient numbers for some courses, but generally the courses are well supported and the quality of them is unwaveringly good. Your feedback reviews of the courses attended are always considered by the Sub-Committee, and we welcome any ideas for future courses or suggestions as to how the delivery of courses might be improved. Thank you to Tony Steiner for continuing to ensure that an excellent range of good value management courses are run by DASLS and for his support of the work of the Sub-Committee. On the subject of good value I am hopeful that the Law Management Development Programme of courses being run in the Autumn and delivered by Andrew Dines will be well supported. Attendance at these types of courses is needed to ensure that your Society is able to continue to deliver courses of such quality at a local level.

The Sub-Committee has again this year run the inter-firm practice management surveys. The surveys prove to be of considerable benchmarking benefit to those firms that partake. We are always looking to try to get more firms to participate, and if your firm did not take part in the last round of surveys I would urge you to support the 2011 surveys later in the year.

The issue of professional indemnity insurance continues to be a major talking point and at the time of writing this report I am dealing with the response to the SRA consultation on the topic. This and numerous other subjects are covered by the local Practice Management Forums that continue to operate and be well supported in Torbay and South Devon, Exeter and East Devon, Plymouth and Somerset. The Forums are an excellent way to discuss relevant topics with other colleagues with management responsibilities and it is refreshing to see how issues are openly discussed. The North Devon Forum has not met recently and if you would like to participate in re-starting that local Forum please let Tony know.

I would remind you of the objectives of the Sub-Committee as follows: -

“The Practice Management Sub-Committee’s purpose is to support the management and leadership of DASLS member organisations, whether “private practice” or “in-house” and to assist the member organisations improve their performance and profitability. Its key areas of performance are:

- Identification of strategic partners to deliver competitive services to legal practices;
 - Encouraging debate within the profession about management and leadership issues;
 - Promoting the Society’s views to The Law Society, Solicitors’ Regulation Authority and other bodies as appropriate on matters relating to the management and leadership of legal practice”.
- Attendance at the Sub-Committee has been good and we are well represented by members across the Society’s region. We would always welcome participation of new members and if you would like to join the Sub-Committee or participate in the quarterly local forum meetings please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Tony Steiner.
- Finally, the Sub-Committee was very saddened to hear of the death of Simon Young last summer. Simon had served on the Sub-Committee and been a strong supporter of the Society, contributing to the training programme and the Strategic Plan. I also had the pleasure of serving with Simon in recent years on the Law Society’s Law Management Section Executive Committee and Simon’s contribution to the work of our Sub-Committee will be greatly missed.

chris.hart@hooperwollen.co.uk

The local Practice Management Forums are an excellent way to discuss relevant topics with other colleagues with management responsibilities and it is refreshing to see how issues are openly discussed.



The surveys prove to be of considerable benchmarking benefit to those firms that partake.

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FROM THE HONORARY TREASURER

In 2010 for the first time I opened the DASLS wallet and made a major purchase, shelling out £195,000 for our rather nice new office, and in doing so spent about half of the cash we've accumulated over the last twelve years or so.

Some say that there's never a right time for steps like this to be taken. Others that bricks and mortar are always a good investment. We managed to avoid buying at the top of the market, and

... I would go so far as to suggest that our figures for 2010 are commendable.



In fact compared to '09, 2010 showed increased profitability and overall, a tiny surplus.

since we can't know where it will go from here, I just hope this decision will prove to have been a good one.

Our Aston Court suite carried quite a cost with it, on top of the ticket price. We had to pay for it on 31 May, and to continue paying rent on our Renslade House lease until 25 December, which has meant a triple whammy of (a) further reduced income on capital (having spent a chunk of it) coupled with (b) ongoing rent for seven months and (c) a doubled set of business rates, one of which is at a higher level than the other. So too did the move itself: BT charges a fortune for the privilege of moving your accounts from one part of the City to another; the landlords at Renslade House wanted the place decorated and carpeted before they'd release us.

On paper and in our audited accounts the Society lost £17,807 in 2009 and a further £12,810 in 2010. As a result the balance sheet now shows capital of £457,194, down from a high of £487,811 at the end of 2008. However, if the one-off costs related to the move, and an unwelcome compulsory accounting element of depreciation on our premises, are put to one side, the picture is far rosier, and in fact compared to '09, 2010 showed increased

profitability and overall, a modest surplus. I wouldn't go so far as to say that the picture is rosy: £4,000 or thereabouts is not much of a return on the investment of £450,000 capital - but our auditor does say that, two consecutive years of loss on paper notwithstanding, there is no ongoing problem with the core of our organisation. Yes, we've had two poor years; but these should not be taken in isolation. They come after ten or more good ones, and we are certainly not alone in finding the going rather tough just now.

So I would go so far as to suggest that our figures for 2010 are commendable. To return to surplus in a year when recruitment income fell a further 10% from the already low 2009 figure took some doing. This was done by increasing turnover in other areas, cutting the cost of sales, not replacing a member of staff (with resulting pressure on the three remaining ones) and hard work, plus a good deal of thought and planning as to how we can better serve our members and help them through these tough times.

Of course, it was only done thanks to the extraordinary level of support we receive from our members. I wonder if any other local law societies' subscription income increased last year, as ours did (without the



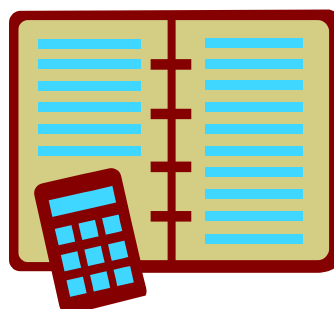
*Richard Adams
Honorary Treasurer*

subscription charge itself being increased)?

We were sad to receive the resignation of Rebecca Hill, on grounds of ill health at the start of this year. We welcome Michelle Johnston in her place.

None of us knows what 2011 or beyond that will be like. January's figures did not give any cause for celebration. In our budget we 'aim high'; if we hit the set targets there will be a healthy surplus for the year. If we do not, then there will not. But this will not be for want of trying, and with the strength of our reserves, we'll survive to fight another decade or two.

RichardA@crosse.co.uk



Part of the business at DASLS Annual General meeting will be the approval of the Accounts signed by the Auditors. Copies of the Society's accounts will be available at the AGM on 5th April. If any member would like an electronic copy in advance of the AGM, please contact the Administrator Miss Monique Bertoni monique@dasls.com

FROM THE NON CONTENTIOUS BUSINESS SUB-COMMITTEE



*Ashley Bevans,
Chair
Non Contentious
Business
Sub-Committee*

I wish to begin by thanking Patricia Durham-Hall, who recently stood down as Chair of the Non-Contentious Business Sub-Committee (NCBSC) for her sterling work. Under her stewardship the NCBSC has amongst other things forged links with the Association for Residential Managing Agents (ARMA). ARMA were so impressed by the set of precedent Landlord/Managing Agent Enquiries prepared by the NCBSC that they have fully endorsed

them and recommended that they were adopted by all members.

Law firms continue to face a number of challenges following the economic crisis. Issues caused by the removal of sole practitioner or smaller partner firms from Lender Panels have a profound impact upon legal services in the South West. As many clients live in areas where such sized firms are commonplace, some may have to travel further for

their legal needs to be met. Not only does this put further pressure on revenues, it serves to undermine our ability to truly service the public's needs. Equally, requiring a separate solicitor to be instructed on behalf of the lender in such circumstances is cumbersome and costly. The NCBSC has taken these concerns directly to The Law Society on behalf of our members where, we are assured, all that can be done is being done.

Even in such difficult times however DASLS has enjoyed much success. The NCBSC has continued to foster our personal links with the Plymouth Land Registry and has played host to its Land Registrars over countless years. This direct access affords us the ability to raise member concerns at the highest levels and ensure that they are fully taken on board.

It also affords us the ability to obtain first hand knowledge of developments and changes at the Land Registry that, we are advised, will be quite extensive. The new early completion policy had caused some concern with property lawyers, especially where a Transfer and Charge are involved. There have also been issues relating to accurate Bankruptcy Searches (responsibility for which has recently transferred to Plymouth). Both issues were raised with the Land Registrar at Plymouth who promised they would be looked into on behalf of the NCBSC.

The provision of legal services continues to remain competitive in other areas. The BBC recently featured a programme focusing on Will writing, currently an unregulated activity. Given the genuine concern held by both lawyers and the general public, the NCBSC has consulted members on the impact such activity causes. We also invited a representative of unregulated Will writers to attend a former NCBSC meeting to hear the other side of the argument. Perhaps there can be something both parties can gain from one another as a result.

Never resting on its laurels, the NCBSC continues to be progressive on behalf of its members. Plans for the NCBSC over the next 12 months include preparing a short form version of standard commercial property enquiries (quite a task for all those familiar with CPSE versions!) and designing a set of precedent property contract special conditions. Issues from un-

regulated activities such as Will writing and the forthcoming introduction of Alternative Business Structures will I am sure be regular features of the NCBSC meeting agendas.

It continues to remain an honour and privilege for me to be both Chairman of the NCBSC and a member of DASLS. The NCBSC has grown to encompass new members from Employment and Private Client practice areas. The Sub-Committee however always welcomes new faces and new ideas. More importantly, the NCBSC will continue to put forward and address member queries and concerns. We are always open to new ideas and indeed new members so please do contact us – we would welcome your involvement.

axb@fordsimey.co.uk

*Plans for the
NCBSC over the
next 12 months
include preparing
a short form
version of
standard
commercial
property enquiries.*



*The NCBSC has
continued to foster
personal links with the
Plymouth Land
Registry*

FROM THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

The International Relations Sub-Committee has amongst its terms of reference the following:

- to raise DASLS profile and represent DASLS members abroad.
- to monitor DASLS' membership of the Federation of European Bars.
- to arrange appropriate representation at meetings, and to inform DASLS members of FBE activities.

*“DASLS’
twinning links
are truly unique,
a valuable
resource for all
DASLS
members”*

- to organise Lawyer/Student exchanges and individual visits with Lawyers from DASLS Twins Bars and to assist with placements abroad.

- to organise in turn the Annual International Lawyers meeting of the Twin Bars and to co-ordinate input to meetings organised by the other Twin Bars usually via working parties.

- to develop and nurture links with lawyers in other countries on an informal basis through personal contacts while consolidating the existing links with the core Twin Bars on an annual basis through arranging a weekend programme linked with the Legal Sunday Service.

The activities of the Sub-Committee through the year have been dedicated to strengthening the International profile of the Society and discharging those objectives. The Sub-Committee continues to be well supported which in itself reflects the ongoing commitment to and interest in international affairs.

A summary of the Sub-Committee's activities can conveniently be provided under a number of standing agenda headings.

Federation of European Bars (FBE)

Representatives attended the General Congress held in Aix-en-Provence in May. The debate focused on the question “Should we modernise the Lawyers’ Profession and the Bars?” It recognised that whilst modernization is a process of keeping up to date with change in conditions and

circumstances, it does not of itself necessarily imply improvement. It was acknowledged that whilst changes to the way the Profession is structured, the way it operates and the way it is financed were inevitable and any change to the core values and duties fundamental to the Lawyers’ Profession should be resisted at all costs. The Chairman presented a paper illustrating how regulatory and structural changes were impacting on the Profession in England and Wales.

It should be noted that Michael Cosgrave continues to Chair the Ethics Commission of the FBE.

The Stage and Intermediate meeting was held in Madrid in September. DASLS was represented by its President and Michael Cosgrave. The Stage debate focused on the continuous and specialised training of Lawyers’ within the European framework and the systems of accreditation operated within the various jurisdictions. The Intermediate meeting discussed the proposition that the member Bars of the FBE should be against the infringement of rights recognised by the European Convention of Human Rights and examined the threats to Professional secrecy.

The 2011 General Congress is to be held in Florence at which the Chairman will be nominated as Second Vice President.

International Meeting of the Twin Bars

The 2010 meeting was held in Erlangen and was attended by a select group of senior representatives of the



*Rod Mole
Chair
International
Relations
Sub-Committee*

Society. A full Report on the meeting can be found in Rob Newman's article, which was published in the July Newsletter under the heading “Beer and Bankruptcy in Erlangen”. As ever superb hospitality was afforded to our representatives. As stated by Rob in his article “DASLS’ twinning links are truly unique, a valuable resource for all DASLS members”.

The 2011 meeting is to be hosted by Leuven

Legal Sunday Service

The Society entertained 32 guests and accompanying persons representing the Bar of Bilbao, Erlangen, Gdansk, Leuven, The Hague and Verona as well as the second Vice President of the FBE Lutz Simon. All were welcomed by the Presiding Judge, Mr Justice Royce at the reception following the Service. We have yet to find an ideal format for the weekend but the Service itself is an attractive event, which allows the Society to reciprocate in respect of invitations received from



*The FBE has 210
member bars,
representing
approximately
800 000 lawyers.*

... FROM THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE CONT'D

The Sub-Committee has had some success in involving younger members to represent the Society on the international scene.

European Bars to the opening of their respective Legal Years.

Lawyer / Student Exchanges and Placements

The Sub-Committee has had some success in renewing its efforts in this regard and to involve younger members in representing the Society on the International scene. Emma Davy and Karen Dunstone attended a Conference on Insolvency and Debt Recovery organised by the Verona Bar Association. Lisa McClelland and Simon Mole represented the Society at the Solemn Opening Ceremony of the Legal Year in Leuven. In his visit to Rennes, James Roden combined a short-term work placement with the role of Presidential Aide and Translator.

It is still the objective of the Sub-Committee to fund on an annual basis to involve at least two young members from the Society in such activities.

Invitations from DASLS Twin Bars and other European Bars to attend their functions

Listed below are functions attended by representatives of the Society during the year.

- a) Verona Bar Celebrations of San Pietro Matire
- b) Erlangen Lawyers' Association Walking Day
- c) Rennes Bar Bicentenary
- d) Barcelona Bar Festivity of San Raimon de Penyafort.

Any other business

A. Bob Symons continues to fly the Society's flag in Kosovo and the Sub-Committee has endorsed his proposal that we promote mediation services to and pursue links with the Gjian Regional Law Society.

B. Jeremy Ferguson continues to promote the Society worldwide in his role as Mediation Ambassador.

CONCLUSION

As will be evidence the Sub-Committee has had a very busy year and thanks are due to the individual members who have contributed to deliver the International Profile, which the Society has set for itself.

rmole@chanterferguson.co.uk

FROM THE LAW SOCIETY COUNCIL MEMBER

It is difficult to summarise a year in the life of Chancery Lane.

For the record I attended -

- 9 Council Meetings,
- the AGM of the Law Society,
- 3 meetings of the Membership Board of which I was a member,
- 3 meetings of the Scrutiny and Performance Review Committee of which I am now a member and
- 3 meetings of the Steering Committee's organizing the 2010 and 2011 Presidents and Secretaries Conference.

All in all a good number of days spent in London with of course the associated travelling.

In addition I have attended ASWLS meetings and meetings of other Societies in the West Country and Gwent Constituency.

The year has seen the end of Bob Heslett's term of office as President and the installation of Linda Lee as the new President.

In the current changing times, the Law Society has an even greater obligation than ever to live up to its motto of "Supporting Solicitors". It is a representative body for more than a 145,000 Solicitors qualified in England and Wales and practising at home and around the world. It is tasked with promoting the interests of the Profession from sole practitioners and High Street Practices to in-house Solicitors and those

working in global firms. It endeavours to do so through the activities of its officers, executives, divisions, sections, committees, boards and Council.

For the current year the Law Society sought to focus on three areas:-

- a) Securing a proportionate regulatory system
- b) Creating services to meet members' needs
- c) Promoting Solicitors as true professionals

It will be for members to judge the level of the success achieved by the Law Society in dealing with those matters.

As to the proceedings of Council, to my mind the jury is still out. Whilst it functions as a debating forum its role as



*Rod Mole
Council Member
for West Country
and Gwent
Constituency*

2011 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORTS AND DOCUMENTATION

... FROM THE LAW SOCIETY COUNCIL MEMBER CONT'D

a decision making body is in practice somewhat limited. A considerable number of the papers it receives and considers are "for noting". Whilst Council members are privy to a considerable amount of inside information their ability to discuss or report the same with or to their constituents is in a lot of cases constrained by the application of the Law Society's code of practice on freedom of information. More and more of the agenda items are being presented on "pink" paper and consequently any dialogue with constituency members is very often in the form of after-the-event reporting.

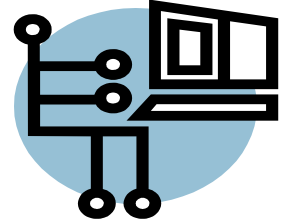
Notwithstanding those comments Council does retain a decision making role and can be influential in its debating function.

The issues that have faced Council during the past twelve months have been many and varied and by and large are rehearsed in the Minutes published on the Law Society website. I would however list below a number of those issues:-

- 1) SRA consultation on outcomes focused regulation.
- 2) SRA consultation on the new handbook.
- 3) The Law Society's policy in relation to it becoming an ABS Licensing Authority.
- 4) The MoJ consultation on the reform of Legal Aid.
- 5) The MoJ consultation on the reform of Civil Litigation Costs and Funding.
- 6) Professional Indemnity Insurance and response to the SRA's proposals in relation to the assigned risks pool.
- 7) Lenders' Panels and the introduction of the "Conveyancing Quality Scheme".
- 8) Accreditation.

For my part I have seen my contribution during the year as one of representing on Council the interests of this local Law Society and its members to the best of my ability and I take heart without taking any credit for the fact that we are a valued consultee with a reputation for innovation, involvement and influence.

rmole@chanterferguson.co.uk



The Law Society has a number of Committees covering different areas of law. For a full list of Committees to which you have access to papers go to <http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/aboutlawsociety/how/committees.law>

The Law Society has a regional structure of managers in the nine English regions and Wales. This regional network builds closer relationships between individual members and firms, and Chancery Lane.



The Regional Manager for the South West is **Matthew Still**
Mobile: 07969 046708 matthew.still@lawsociety.org.uk

Regional reviews for the South West are regularly posted on The Law Society Regional Work South West page. They contain the latest news, practice notes, compliance update and details of forthcoming events in the region. <http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/aboutlawsociety/how/workinengland/southwest.page>

NOTES

This section has been left intentionally blank for your own notes. You can let us know your questions in advance by mailing them to secretary@dass.com or by asking them in person at the AGM.

AGM ON TUESDAY 5 APRIL 2011

TAKE NOTICE that the 203rd Annual General Meeting of the Devon and Somerset Law Society will be held on **Tuesday 5 April 2011** at 6.00 p.m. at the Exeter Golf & Country Club, Exeter, when the following business will be proposed:-

AGENDA**ORDINARY BUSINESS**

1. Apologies
2. a] To confirm the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting.
b] Matters Arising
3. To receive the Report of the Committee for the year 2010/2011 and the President's Report on her year of office.
4. To receive the Report of the Honorary Treasurer and consider the Committee's recommendation that the report and the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2010 as audited by Glover Stanbury & Co. of Barnstaple be approved and that Messrs Glover Stanbury & Co. be nominated as Auditors for another year.
5. Mr J C R B Lee, as the Society's Representative for 2010, to report on the Solicitors' Benevolent Association; and consideration of the recommendation of the Committee that a donation of £1,750.00 be made.
6. To consider the Committee's recommendation that:
The sum of £1,800.00 be set aside for another year for division between the law schools at the three Universities (Exeter, Plymouth and West of England) at the discretion of the Vice President's Committee.
7. To receive reports on the year's activities from the following:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Council Member, Mr P R Mole | Mediation Sub-Committee |
| Vice President's Committee | Non-Contentious Business Sub-Committee |
| Contentious Business Sub-Committee | Practice Management Sub-Committee |
| International Relations Sub-Committee | Social Sub-Committee |
| Education and Training Sub-Committee | In-house Lawyers' Group |
8. To appoint officers and members of the Committee for the next year. The following nominations have been received:

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| President | Mr D M Turner (Exeter & East Devon) |
| Vice President | Mr R D Bowen (Exeter) |
| & Crown Prosecution Service Representative | |
| Second Vice President | Mr P R Dyson (South Devon) |

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| <u>For One Year</u> | |
| Honorary Secretary | Mr J A Spiers MBE |
| Honorary Treasurer and | Mr R A Adams |
| Membership Secretary | |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <u>To the Committee for One Year</u> | |
| The Immediate Past President | Mrs R E E Parkman (Somerset) |
| The Law Society Council Member | Mr P R Mole |
| Local Government Representative | Mrs S C Aggett |

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| <u>To the Committee for Three Years</u> | |
| Miss L McClelland (Somerset) | Miss P H Durham Hall (Somerset) |
| Mr C J A Cooper (South Devon) | Mr P J Cox (South Devon) |
| Mr A C P Teague (North Devon) | Mr T G Penny (North Devon) |
9. To transact any other business of which prior notice has been given*.

* **N.B.** Any member who wishes to give notice of any other business at the Annual General Meeting should please address the same to the Honorary Secretary at the Society's Registered Office (address below).

Dated 22 February, 2011

By order of the Committee

J A Spiers MBE Honorary Secretary

Registered Office: Aston Court, Pynes Hill, Exeter Devon EX2 5AZ

A member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting is also entitled to appoint a proxy to attend, and on a poll, vote instead of him or her. The proxy need not be a member of the Society. *Form of proxy - go to page 19.*

In order to be valid, completed proxy appointment forms must be lodged at the Society's registered office no later than 5.00 p.m. on Friday 1st April 2011.

DEVON AND SOMERSET LAW SOCIETY

The 202nd Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday 20 April 2010 at 6.00 p.m. at the Tiverton Hotel, Tiverton.

PRESENT Attendance list filed in Minute Book.

James Cross, President in the Chair; Rebecca Parkman, Vice President; David Turner, Junior Vice President; Rod Mole, Law Society Council Member; Anthony Spiers MBE, Honorary Secretary; Richard Adams, Honorary Treasurer; Ashley Bevans, David Bowen, Michael Cosgrave, Paul Derbyshire, Patricia Durham-Hall, Jeremy Howell, Delyth Jenkins Evans, Jeremy Lee, Alec McNeill, Angus McNicol, Rob Newman, Rachel O'Connor (*Trainee Solicitor Associate Member*), Christopher Palmer, Tom Penny, Zoë Sims, Robert Symons and Alastair Teague.

Also in attendance, Guest Speaker Linda Lee, Vice President of The Law Society; Matthew Still, *The Law Society South West Regional Manager*, Miss M Bertoni, DASLS Administrator, Mr A J Steiner, DASLS Executive Director.

The President welcomed everyone to the 202nd Annual General Meeting and claimed that had it not been for the 6-day airspace shutdown owing to the volcanic ash cloud from Iceland which left people stranded abroad while on their Easter holiday, there would have been more members present this evening.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from

Charles Cooper, Peter Cox, Philip Davies, Clive Dixon, Paul Dunn, Michael Freeland, Chris Hart, John Hawkins, Julia Honeywill, Helen Jarvis, Kerry Larbalestier, Stephen Lawson, Sarah Mudge, Rebecca Opie, Andrew Pryce, Charles Pugsley, Claire Revell, HH Judge Erik Salomonsen, David Scarrott, David Stacey, Christopher Thomas, Shirley Tull, Charles Verney, Jonathan Wharmby, Joanna Williams and Peter Williams.

2. THE MINUTES

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 21/04/09, having been circulated (*with copies available at the meeting*), were confirmed and signed by the President as proposed by Mr Derbyshire and seconded by Mr Howell. There were no matters arising.

3. THE REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT AND COMMITTEE FOR 2009/2010

The President said that he would be happy to answer questions on his report at pages 1&4 in the AGM documentation. He expressed his grateful thanks to the members for letting him serve as DASLS President – it had indeed been an honour and a delight to represent the Society. He encouraged anyone to think about putting themselves forward for presidency and thoroughly recommended this role. In response to Mr Derbyshire, the President confirmed that he enjoyed the ‘Solicitors Make a Difference’ walk on 24 & 25 October last year despite getting soaked over Dartmoor on the Saturday and going through Exmoor which was much more akin to the Lake District on the Sunday! The highlight, apart from the company for which he thanked Messrs Turner and Still present this evening, was the live interview on the Saturday morning shouting out DASLS message from the top of a tor for BBC Radio Devon.

4. THE REPORT OF THE HONORARY TREASURER

Mr Adams had to report the first loss since he became Honorary Treasurer of £17,808 as shown on page 7 of the accounts which were circulated at the meeting. Our accountants though considered we had done rather well given the economic downturn in 2009. In spite of this, the monthly figures to date show that we are on target; he was therefore hopeful for the Society to achieve a modest surplus in 2010.

Prompted by Mr Howell, Mr Adams explained the 3 contributing factors to this loss. It was worth noting that had interest receivable on our capital remained as in previous years, we would have been in the black. In addition there was a modest reduction in numbers attending courses which impacted significantly on the training surplus. To cap it all, there was a huge reduction of income from recruitment – for example in May 2009 not a single placement was made which was unprecedented. Thankfully, the fourth main source of income that of subscriptions had hardly reduced at all. He added that members are only fulfilling a small proportion of their required yearly CPD training via their Society but we are doing our utmost to promote and increase the percentage who do. Mr Derbyshire commented that the competition from webinars had had an impact. The President concurred that 2009 had been an exceptionally difficult year for everyone.

Mr Penny asked why there was no reference in the accounts to the new premises for DASLS administrative office and wondered whether there was any provision for the move and associated furnishing costs. Mr Adams clarified that the move was being treated as a one-off capital expense. The President said that DASLS was to move from rented accommodation at Renslade House to Pynes Hill on a “99-year lease and a share of the freehold” ownership basis. The premises offered a better accommodation with easier access by road. The completion date is at the end of May and the move is scheduled in August. The President thanked Mr Adams for looking after the Society’s finances competently and extended his thanks to the full time administrative staff.

Mr Adams moved the resolution on the AGM agenda that the accounts of the Society for the year to 31 December 2009 be approved and the Committee’s recommendation that Messrs Glover Stanbury & Co. be appointed as the Society’s Auditors for the forthcoming year. This was proposed by Mr Bowen, seconded by Mr Penny and approved unanimously.

5. SOLICITORS’ BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

Mr Jeremy Lee reminded the meeting that the aim of the Association was to assist solicitors including their dependents. He explained that the recession led the SBA to re-examine its policy. The total awards in our area were just under £46K which was still a considerable sum but the money had been targeted to people in real need. The SBA is planning a new branding in the coming year to increase its income because of the impact of the recession on its investments and of voluntary donations being less forthcoming.

He then proposed that we adopt the Committee’s recommendation that a donation of £1,750.00 be made to the Association. This was seconded by Mr Cosgrave and approved unanimously.

6. GRANTS

The Vice President reported that funding had been awarded to Exeter University Law Students last year to support their Debt Literacy Project. Mr Adams saw at first hand their work with local secondary school students when he attended a mini-moot at the Law School. The Vice President's Committee had approved further funding towards the cost of sending a group to an International Mediation Competition which was later cancelled because the organiser became unwell.

Messrs Palmer and Howell raised concern over the merit and cost of these grants given the loss DASLS incurred in the last financial year.

The President believed that it was a good provision to have as part of DASLS role to promote and advance our profession. The onus is on the Law Schools to apply for funding and the applications relate to bona fide activities and worthwhile projects.

Mr Adams said that he was not in favour of reducing the availability of grants and agreed that it was good to promote links between the profession, universities and others.

Mr Newman concurred that it was important to maintain links with young lawyers and that the sums involved were modest.

Mr Palmer proposed that we adopt the Committee's recommendation that a total of £1,800.00 be set aside for division between the law schools at the three Universities (Exeter, Plymouth and West of England) at the discretion of the Vice President's Committee. This was seconded by Mr McNeill and approved unanimously. The President thanked everyone for the debate.

7. COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT AND REPORTS FROM THE SUB-COMMITTEES

Written reports had been circulated from the Vice President's Committee, the Contentious Business, the Education and Training, the International Relations, the Mediation, the Non-Contentious Business, the Practice Management and the Social Sub-Committees.

Mr Rod Mole invited questions from the floor on his written **Council Member's report** which had also been circulated for consideration. The list of acronyms has been extended with LeO – this is the new Legal Ombudsman being set up by the Office for Legal Complaints under the Legal Services Act 2007.

Contentious Business – Chair Mr Turner was pleased to have new members joining the Sub-Committee this past year.

International Relations – Chair Mr Rod Mole flagged up the next international gathering in DASLS diary which is the weekend of the Legal Sunday Service on 13 June this year.

Education & Training – The President gave a vote of thanks to the outgoing Chair Mr Martin Justice for his work.

Mediation – Chair Mr Angus McNicol was also pleased to report an increased membership of the Sub-Committee which is looking to play some part in the arrival of LeO with a view to building up our profile in conciliating our own complaints within the new scheme.

Non Contentious Business – Chair Patricia Durham-Hall said that after much activity, the Sub-Committee was now waiting to see the political outcome of the general election in May and how that will affect the property market.

Social – Chair Mr Ashley Bevans was delighted to see the DASLS Challenge Cup, now in its third year, going from strength to strength with many more (large and small) firms involved. Patricia Durham-Hall congratulated the Society for encouraging individuals not in firms to participate and join an open team.

8. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The President praised Mrs Rebecca Parkman who served very well as DASLS Junior Vice President and Vice President. He was delighted to welcome and propose her presidential nomination, unopposed, for the year 2010/2011 and invested his successor with the Somerset Presidential Jewel. This was agreed and greeted with acclamation.

The new President, on behalf of the Committee and of the Society, moved a vote of thanks to Mr James Cross who had followed through his aims over the past year. His ambitious *Solicitors Make a Difference* walk did raise awareness as well as funds for the Devon and Somerset Community Foundations. The year culminated with DASLS Dinner which certainly proved to be the pinnacle. The President was therefore sorry not to be able to present James Cross with the Past President's Jewel. She resorted instead to a photocopy of the newly designed DASLS Past President badge in anticipation of the arrival of the item itself.

2010 would certainly be a special year for the new President, she said. Firstly, it was twenty years ago when she signed her Articles with her father, Mr Ian Jerram, who was President of the Somerset Law Society in 1998 – so probably she and he are the first combination of father / daughter Presidents and she, herself, is certainly the first DASLS President from Somerset. She felt that the Past Presidents were all very hard acts to follow and thanked them all. She referred particularly to the support given by Mr Alec McNeill when she became Junior Vice President – she would continue to do her best. She said that she would like to see an increase in membership involvement and her aim was for the Society to continue to be visible to members and to offer things in which they would want to participate, in particular members from Somerset. She thanked the administrative team who are the backbone of DASLS together with the Hon. Secretary and the Hon. Treasurer whose support make it possible to take on the presidential role.

Upon the meeting approving their nominations, she then invested Mr David Turner as Vice President with the Devon Presidential Jewel and welcomed Mr David Bowen to the office of Second Vice President for the year: he will continue also as Crown Prosecution Service representative.

The President proposed the following nominations to the Committee. It was resolved that the officers and committee members listed below, as seconded by Mr Cosgrave, be appointed:-

For One Year Honorary Secretary: Mr J A Spiers MBE and Honorary Treasurer & Membership Secretary: Mr R A Adams.

To the Committee for One Year Immediate Past President Mr J M G Cross; Law Society Council Member Mr P R Mole; and Local Government Representative Miss D Jenkins Evans

To the Committee for Three Years Miss C L Revell (Exeter & East Devon)

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No member had raised any business under this heading.

There being no other business, the Annual General Meeting closed at 6.47 p.m.

Full list of Devon & Exeter Law Society Presidents since Incorporation until 2007

| | | | | | | | | |
|------|-----------------|----------|------|-------------------------|---|------|------------------|---|
| 1926 | C R M Clapp | Exeter | 1954 | F F Annear | N | 1982 | D G Williams | E |
| 1927 | G B Oerton | B'ple | 1955 | W F Pugsley | N | 1983 | J I Mosley | S |
| 1928 | A Anstey | Exeter | 1956 | J J Malim | S | 1984 | M E Barnes | N |
| 1929 | H C Brown | Oke'ton | 1957 | G H S Butcher | E | 1985 | J W Parkinson | E |
| 1930 | G H Stephens | Exeter | 1958 | L J Hallett | E | 1986 | D J Jones | S |
| 1931 | J Symes | Crediton | 1959 | C Hamlyn Taylor | S | 1987 | F P de M Horsey | N |
| 1932 | M A Mathew | Exeter | 1960 | S W Wright | N | 1988 | J F Eden | E |
| 1933 | T Phillips | Exeter | 1961 | V O M Donnithorne | E | 1989 | B G Nelson | S |
| 1934 | T J W Templeman | Exeter | 1962 | N H H Cordwent | S | 1990 | G A Feinson | N |
| 1935 | S Hilton | Torquay | 1963 | D C Harward | N | 1991 | S A Lawson | E |
| 1936 | F P Cottey | Exeter | 1964 | T Anstey | E | 1992 | M B G Cosgrave | S |
| 1937 | H W Michelmore | Exeter | 1965 | H A T Coles | S | 1993 | J M Rowland | N |
| 1938 | R Boase | Torr'ton | 1966 | D F Brown | N | 1994 | R D Newman | S |
| 1939 | S H Easterbrook | Torquay | 1967 | A J McGahey | E | 1995 | J C N Robinson | E |
| 1940 | N J Lake | Exeter | 1968 | H Sykes-Balls | S | 1996 | C J C Palmer | N |
| 1941 | B R Dunning | Honiton | 1969 | D W Blackwell | N | 1997 | A N Pryce | S |
| 1942 | H T Michelmore | E | 1970 | J S Pope | E | 1998 | S W Arnold | E |
| 1943 | H Linford Brown | E | 1971 | The Rt Hon Lord Citrine | S | 1999 | D L Whiteley | N |
| 1944 | G C Daw | E | 1972 | Sir John Palmer | N | 2000 | G G N Bond | S |
| 1945 | P H W Almy | S | 1973 | W J Hallett | E | 2001 | R J Challans | E |
| 1946 | V Thompson | E | 1974 | B R Wordsworth | S | 2002 | J J Ferguson | N |
| 1947 | F M I Watts | S | 1975 | E F Clark | N | 2003 | J W Howell | S |
| 1948 | J W Waddingham | E | 1976 | D B Crosse | E | 2004 | P A Derbyshire | E |
| 1949 | G H McMurtrie | S | 1977 | T C Richards | S | 2005 | P R Mole | N |
| 1950 | S W Cleave | E | 1978 | J M H Arthur | N | 2006 | C D Hart | S |
| 1951 | S A Copp | N | 1979 | B A Harris | E | 2007 | V E S Salomonsen | E |
| 1952 | F C Landsell | S | 1980 | Mrs M Anstey | S | | | |
| 1953 | Sir Godwin | E | 1981 | C M Verney | N | | | |
| | Michelmore KBE | | | | | 2008 | DELS/SLS Merger | |

Officers of Devon & Exeter Law Society 1920-2007

Honorary Secretaries

| | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1920 – 1929 | M A Mathew |
| 1929 – 1934 | J W Nowell* |
| 1934 – 1946 | J W Waddingham* |
| 1946 – 1952 | J S Pope |
| (1951 | D Lyon Smith - Assistant Secretary) |
| 1952 – 1968 | D Lyon Smith |
| (1963 – 1968 | J F Eden - Assistant Secretary) |
| 1968 – 1974 | W S Simey |
| 1974 – 1975 | W J M White |
| 1975 – 1980 | J W Parkinson |
| 1980 – 1987 | S A Lawson |
| (1985 – 1987 | C J C Palmer - Assistant Secretary) |
| 1987 – 1994 | C J C Palmer |
| (1987 – 1989 | P L Mattholie - Assistant Secretary) |
| (1993 – 1994 | J A Spiers - Assistant Secretary) |
| 1994 - 2007 | J A Spiers MBE |

Honorary Treasurers

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1920 – 1929 | M A Mathew |
| 1929 – 1934 | J W Nowell |
| 1934 – 1936 | J W Waddingham |
| 1936 – 1946 | M A Mathew |
| 1946 – 1949 | J W Waddingham |
| 1949 - 1959 | J W Waddingham] |
| 1959 – 1975 | M A Mathew] joint |
| 1975 – 1988 | G H S Butcher |
| (1987 | B R Wordsworth |
| 1988 - 1989 | D L Whiteley - Assistant Treasurer) |
| 1989 - 1998 | D L Whiteley |
| 1998 - 2007 | R A Adams |

It should be noted that Mr J W Nowell and Mr J W Waddingham were one and the same.

Full list of Somerset Law Society Chairmen and Presidents 1796-2007

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|------|---------------------------------|--------------|-------|----------------------------|---------------|
| 1796 - 1817 | <i>No Records</i> CHAIRMEN | | 1866 | Trevor, John | Bridgwater | 1912 | Clarke, Charles Peard | Taunton |
| 1818 | Batten, John | Yeovil | 1867 | Boucher, Benjamin | Wiveliscombe | 1913* | Baker, William Thomas | Bridgwater |
| 1819 | Baker, John | Blagdon | 1868 | Foster, John Hopkins | North Curry | 1914 | Broomhead, Thomas | Taunton |
| 1820 | Leigh, Henry James | Taunton | 1869 | Messiter, Henry | Wincanton | 1915 | Nalder, Arthur Edward | Sh'ton Mallet |
| 1821 | Pinchard, William Price | Taunton | 1870 | Trenchard, Henry C. | Taunton | 1916 | Channing, Archibald | Taunton |
| 1822 | Nicholetts, John | S Petherton | 1871 | Warden, Thomas | Williton | 1917 | Mackay, Douglas | Sh'ton Mallet |
| 1823 | Trevor, John William | Bridgwater | 1872 | Auber, Henry P. | N Petherton | 1918 | Hagon, Chas Edmund | Bridgwater |
| 1824 | Coles, James | Bridgwater | 1873 | Baker, John | Ilminster | 1919 | Sheppard, Herbert Byard | Taunton |
| 1825 | Fisher, Joseph | Bath | 1874 | Trevor, John | Bridgwater | 1920 | Goode, William Winter | Langport |
| 1826 | Do. | | 1875 | Do. | | 1921 | Harris, Richard Granville | Wells |
| 1827 | Boys, Percival | Bridgwater | 1876 | Do. | | 1922 | Pearse, Thomas Vincent | Wiveliscombe |
| 1828 | Dyne, Edward | Bruton | 1877 | Messiter, Henry | Wincanton | 1923 | Chubb, Alfred Everard | Wells |
| 1829 | Pinchard, William P. | Taunton | 1878 | Payne, Edward Turner | Bath | 1924 | Wilson, Colin McClure | Wells |
| 1830 | Do. | | 1879 | Do. | | 1925 | Teek, Henry Comer | Axbridge |
| 1831 | Clarke, Thomas Edward | Chard | 1880 | Do. | | 1926 | Watson, Douglas Statham | Burnham |
| 1832 | Leigh, W. | Taunton | 1881 | Do. | | 1927 | Bath, Robert | Glastonbury |
| 1833 | White, Frederick | Wellington | 1882 | Trevor, John | Bridgwater | 1928 | Foster, E.P. | Wells |
| 1834 | Mullins, Charles | Chew Magna | 1883 | Do. | | 1929 | Wedd, H.G. | Langport |
| 1835 | Leigh, Henry J. | Taunton | 1884 | Do. | | 1930 | Channer, O.R.M. | Taunton |
| 1836 | Randolph, James | Milverton | 1885 | Hill, W. John | Langport | 1931 | Whitley, G. | Bridgwater |
| 1837 | Payne, John | Milverton | 1886 | Swayne, Walter T. | Glastonbury | 1932 | Burrough, W.G. | Wedmore |
| 1838 | Mullins, Thomas | Goathurst | 1887 | Louch, John | Langport | 1933 | Warry, H.C. | Yeovil |
| 1839 | Newman, Edwin | Yeovil | 1888 | Meyler, Thomas | Taunton | 1934 | Barrington, T. | Bridgwater |
| 1840 | Anstice, Richard | Bridgwater | 1889 | Payne, Alexander Richard | Milverton | 1935 | Stiling, W.H.C. | Burnham/Sea |
| 1841 | Nicholetts, John | S Petherton | 1890 | Bath, Edward | Glastonbury | 1936 | Dodson, F.S. | Taunton |
| 1842 | Newman, Edwin | Yeovil | | PRESIDENTS | | 1937 | Willmott, F.W. | Taunton |
| 1843 | Taylor, John | Bath | 1891 | O'Donoghue, Henry O'Brien I. | Ashton | 1938 | Moger, H.G.D. | Taunton |
| 1844 | Leigh, Henry James | Taunton | 1892 | Payne, Alexander R. | Milverton | 1939 | Poole, G.S. | S Petherton |
| 1845 | Bradford, John Willmott | Langford | 1893 | Swayne, Walter T. | Glastonbury | 1940 | Cruttwell, G.H.W. | Frome |
| 1846 | Messiter, George | Frome | 1894 | Easton, Richard | Taunton | 1941 | Pulman, T.M. | Taunton |
| 1847 | Taylor, John | Bath | 1895 | Dunn, William | Frome | 1942 | Lee-Michell, F. | Wellington |
| 1848 | Davis, William | Frome | 1896 | Do. | | 1943 | Thorne, W.H.A. | Minehead |
| 1849 | Messiter, Henry | Wincanton | 1897 | Louch, John | Langport | 1944 | Batten, Major H.C.C. | Yeovil |
| 1850 | Dyne, Edward | Bruton | 1898 | Kite, George Henry | Taunton | 1945 | Briggs, A.H.H.G. | Weston |
| 1851 | Davies, Edmund | Wells | 1899 | Lovibond, George | Bridgwater | 1946 | Boxall, F.S. | Yeovil |
| 1852 | Trevor, John | Bridgwater | 1900 | Poole, Hugh Ruscombe | S Petherton | 1947 | Clarke, Geoffrey P. | Taunton |
| 1853 | Messiter, Henry | Wincanton | 1901 | Harris, Richard | Wells | 1948 | Pardoe, C.B. | Bridgwater |
| 1854 | Murley, G.B. | Langport | 1902 | Poole, Walter J Ruscombe | Bridgwater | 1949 | Blake, J. Humphrey | Crewkerne |
| 1855 | Hill, John | Paulton | 1903 | Trevor, Edward | Bridgwater | 1950 | Pulliblack, Maurice | Taunton |
| 1858 | <i>No Minutes</i> | | 1904 | Alms, Edward Theodore | Taunton | 1951 | Powell, W.E. | Weston |
| 1859 | Hill, John | Paulton | 1905 | Louch, Edward Queckett | Langport | 1952 | Hurford, H.J. | Minehead |
| 1860 | Louch, John | Langport | 1906 | Poole, William | Taunton | 1953 | Addleshaw, J.H. | Sh'ton Mallet |
| 1861 | Murley, G.B. | Wincanton | 1907 | Chubb, Francis O.O. | Wells | 1954 | Saul, I.W. | Taunton |
| 1862 | Randolph, James | Milverton | 1908 | Booker, William T. | Wellington | 1955 | Harris, C.W. | Wells |
| 1863 | Hill, John | Paulton | 1909 | Watson, Edgar Henry | Taunton | 1956 | Rutter, C.L. | Wincanton |
| 1864 | Swayne, Walter Thomas | Glastonbury | 1910 | Goodall, Sidney Frederick | Wells | 1957 | Rutter, J.J.B. | Wincanton |
| 1865 | Pinchard, Wm. P. | Taunton | 1911 | Barham, T. Foster | Bridgwater | 1958 | Jowett, C.J.P.C. | Yeovil |

Full list of Somerset Law Society Presidents *Continued*

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------|-----------------|---------------|------|------------------|----------------|------|------------------------|---------------|
| 1959 | Wyatt, F.N. | Wells | 1976 | Creswick, G.B.N. | Frome | 1993 | Moule, P.F. | Yeovil |
| 1960 + | Wyatt, F.N. | Wells | 1977 | Gosling, B.J. | Weston | 1994 | Fox, P.L.M. | Taunton |
| 1961 | Powell, W.H. | Weston | 1978 | Collett, D.J. | Weston | 1995 | Watkis, J.B. | Burnham/Sea |
| 1962 | Powell, W.H.D. | Weston | 1979 | Bennett, P.F. | Wrington | 1996 | Pollard, T.G. | Wells |
| 1963 | Arrow, C.J. | Yeovil | 1980 | Carpenter, R.M. | Langport | 1997 | Rose, M.R. | Taunton |
| 1964 | Rickards, L.E. | Sh'ton Mallet | 1981 | Shaw, J.L. | Bridgwater | 1998 | Jerram, K.I. | Weston-s-Mare |
| 1965 | Husband, C.J.R. | Bridgwater | 1982 | Fielden, J.H. | Burnham/Sea | 1999 | Pulvermacher, F.M. | Taunton |
| 1966 | Reed, N.W. | Bridgwater | 1983 | Rutter, J.F. | Wincanton | 2000 | Priest, S.R. | Yeovil |
| 1967 | Harding, T.H. | Wellington | 1984 | Hallam, E.W.L. | Midsomer N'ton | 2001 | Davidson, J.R. | Wells |
| 1968 | Smith, P.E.G. | Wellington | 1985 | Thorne, J.R.A. | Minehead | 2002 | Allan, N.J. | Crewkerne |
| 1969 | Fryer, L.J. | Weston | 1986 | Baker, S.G.B. | Yeovil | 2003 | Edwards, R. | Yeovil |
| 1970 | Cruttwell, S.H. | Frome | 1987 | Osmond, J.G. | Taunton | 2004 | Morgan, R.W. | Taunton |
| 1971 | Boodle, A.T. | Yeovil | 1988 | Stokes, R.M. | Yeovil | 2005 | Murray, F.G. | Taunton |
| 1972 | Ash, R.G. | Bridgwater | 1989 | Gardner, A.J. | Cheddar | 2006 | Morris, W.P. | Taunton |
| 1973 | Collett, S.W. | Weston | 1990 | Close, J.M. | Taunton | 2007 | Hayllar, C.F. | Bridgwater |
| 1974 | Hannah, D.G. | Weston | 1991 | Mulligan, R.K. | Wellington | | | |
| 1975 | Meller, D.C. | Wincanton | 1992 | Warren, Olga | Taunton | 2008 | <i>DELS/SLS Merger</i> | |

N.B. Presidents were only elected from 1891; prior to that date the names given are those of the Chairman of the Meetings of the Somerset Law Society at the Taunton Spring Assizes.

* Mr. Baker died within a short time of his election.

+ There was no General Meeting in 1960 and Mr. Wyatt held office until Mr. Powell was elected at a special Meeting in June 1961.

Officers of Somerset Law Society 1796 - 2007

Honorary Secretaries & Treasurers

| | | | |
|-------------|--|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1796 – 1810 | Charles Edwards, Chard | 1911 – 1927 | Herbert Byard Sheppard, Taunton |
| 1810 – 1836 | Uriah Messiter, Wincanton | 1928 – 1948 | Geoffrey Peard Clark, Taunton |
| 1837 – 1862 | Wm. Price Pinchard, Taunton | 1949 – 1960 | Walter Rex Williams, Taunton |
| 1863 – 1897 | John Henry Biddulph Pinchard, Taunton | 1961 – 1970 | Patrick Fenton Moule, Yeovil |
| 1898 – 1899 | John Edward William Wakefield, Taunton | 1971 – 1976 | Francis Michael Pulvermacher, Taunton |
| 1900 – 1910 | Edgar Henry Watson, Taunton | | |

Honorary Secretaries

| | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1977 – 1983 | F.M. Pulvermacher, Taunton |
| 1984 | F.M. Pulvermacher, Taunton] |
| | R.M. Fountaine, Wells] (joint) |
| 1985 – 1988 | R.M. Fountaine, Wells |
| 1989 | R.M. Fountaine, Wells] |
| | J.S. Walters, Radstock] (joint) |
| 1990 – 1991 | J.S. Walters, Radstock |
| 1992 | J.S. Walters, Midsomer Norton] |
| | K.J. Shearn, Bridgwater] (joint) |
| 1993 – 2007 | K.J. Shearn, Bridgwater |

Honorary Treasurers

| | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1977 - 1981 | D. Perratt, Taunton |
| 1982 - 1993 | W.P. Morris, Taunton |
| 1994 - 1997 | F.G. Murray, Taunton |
| 1998 - 2007 | R.E.E. Parkman, Weston-super-Mare |

Presidents and Officers of Devon and Somerset Law Society 2008 - present

Presidents

| | |
|------|---------------------------|
| 2008 | A McNeill, North Devon |
| 2009 | J.M.G. Cross, South Devon |
| 2010 | R.E.E. Parkman, Somerset |

Honorary Secretaries

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 2008 - present | J A Spiers MBE |
|----------------|----------------|

Honorary Treasurers

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| 2008 - present | R A Adams |
|----------------|-----------|

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**DEVON & SOMERSET LAW SOCIETY****FORM OF PROXY**

I 1

of 2

being a member of the above named Company, hereby appoint 3

Or failing him/her

Or failing him/her the Chairman of the meeting as my proxy to vote in my name on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the Company, to be held on 5th April 2011, and at any adjournment thereof.

Signed:

Name: [Block Capitals please]

¹ Insert Name² Insert your address³ Insert name, if required, or leave blank whereupon the Chairman of the meeting will act as your proxy.

✂

POLL CARD

| NAME OF MEMBER (BLOCK LETTERS) | RESOLUTION NO. | VOTE | |
|---|--|--|---------|
| | | FOR | AGAINST |
| | 1. | ..... | ..... |
| | 2. | ..... | ..... |
| | 3. | ..... | ..... |
| | 4. | ..... | ..... |
| | 5. | ..... | ..... |
| | 6. | ..... | ..... |
| | 7. | ..... | ..... |
| | 8. | ..... | ..... |
| | 9. | ..... | ..... |
| SIGNATURE OF MEMBER, PROXY OR CORPORATE REPRESENTATIVE | HAS A PROXY FORM ALREADY BEEN SUBMITTED? YES / NO | PLEASE INSERT ✂ IN THE APPROPRIATE COLUMN ABOVE | |

**DEVON &
SOMERSET
LAW SOCIETY**

Supporting Solicitors in Practice.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON TUESDAY 5 APRIL 2011
at 6.00 pm, Exeter Golf & Country Club, Exeter**

The meeting will be followed by a Members' Dinner for which the arrangements are as follows:

| | |
|---------|--|
| 6.00 pm | Annual General Meeting |
| 7.30 pm | Cash Bar |
| 8.00 pm | Dinner at £25.50 per person inclusive of VAT |

Administrator:
Miss Monique Bertoni
Aston Court
Pynes Hill, Exeter EX2 5AZ

DX 8361 EXETER

Tel. 01392 366 333

Fax. 01392 366 278

E-mail: monique@dasls.com

*Please reserve seat(s) for the Dinner following the AGM on 5/4/11
at 7.30 for 8.00 pm at the Exeter Golf & Country Club.*

*We enclose a cheque for £ (£25.50 pp incl. VAT) made
payable to Devon & Somerset Law Society.*

CONTACT NAME

FIRM and ADDRESS (DX preferred)

Tel. **Ref.**

*Please tick your choices on menu below
(one form per person, please photocopy)*

TO RESERVE A SEAT FOR
THE DINNER, PLEASE
RETURN THIS FORM TO
THE ADMINISTRATOR
BY NO LATER THAN
TUESDAY 22 MARCH 2011

DINNER MENU SELECTOR FROM MR/MRS/MISS/MS

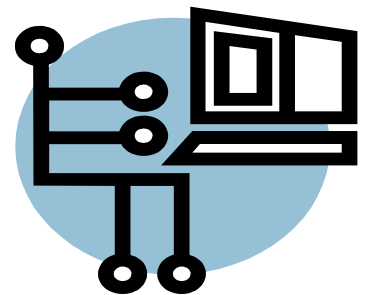
- Fan of Galia Melon with Mango and Paw Paw OR
- Smoked Salmon & Prawn Pate served with Dill Mayonnaise OR
- Chef's Homemade Soup with Crispy Croutons
- *****
- Baked Breast of Chicken stuffed with Creamy leeks, wrapped in Streaky Bacon, served on a Rosti Potato Cake and coated with a rich Red Wine Jus OR
- Baked Loin of Cod served with a Basil Cream Sauce and Prawns OR
- Escalope of Devon Pork topped with a Tomato Concasse and Mature Cheddar served with a Marsala Cream Sauce OR
- Spinach and Feta Cheese Strudel with Tomato and Herb Sauce (vegetarian option)
- *****
- Chocolate and Ginger Cheesecake served with Clotted Cream OR
- Fresh Fruit Salad served with Cream OR
- Blackberry Bavaois with a Bramley Apple Compote served with Clotted Cream and Cinnamon Shortbread

*All main courses served with a selection of fresh seasonal Vegetables and Potatoes
Includes Coffee and Mints.*

Please indicate any allergies and/or special dietary requirements:

.....

A bar will be provided and wine may be ordered before dinner.



*Have you seen
our website?
Log on to
www.dasls.com*

