

2009 Annual General Meeting Reports and Documentation



DEVON & SOMERSET
LAW SOCIETY
www.dasls.com



DEVON & SOMERSET LAW SOCIETY

Tuesday 21 April 2009 at 6.00 p.m.

Exeter Golf & Country Club, Exeter

From your President and Committee



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**President
Alec McNeill**

Peter Peter & Wright,
Bideford

As our Honorary Secretary Tony Spiers told me before I took office "Presidents come and Presidents go" but despite this rather discouraging comment I have been proud to have been allowed to hold office as the President of DASLS during the Society's Bicentenary year; and to have had the opportunity to represent the Society and its Members both at home and abroad.

This past year has seen extremely difficult times for many businesses throughout the UK and not least for law firms and lawyers in the South West; and the Society has not escaped all the consequences of the economic downturn but it has benefited greatly from the cautious stewardship of our Hon. Treasurer Richard Adams and is weathering the

storm. The Society remains well placed to continue to support its Members and the profession generally in these difficult and changing times.

Having "rebranded" as "DASLS" and extended our boundaries at the beginning of the year we have in past months sought to secure a greater involvement in Somerset; in this we have been greatly aided by the presence and enthusiasm of both our Somerset Junior Vice President and committee members resident or working in Somerset. In recent months Taunton has been the venue for a successful initiative to involve Somerset practitioners more closely in the work of the Society with the setting up of working forums in both contentious and non-contentious areas and it is intended to expand upon this. The tradition of the Somerset Law Society Dinner has been continued and, although not attended in large numbers, an excellent evening was enjoyed in November by those who attended.

2008 saw the Society celebrate 200 years and as part of our Bicentenary celebrations we were able to build on the Annual Legal Sunday Service

and host a topical conference on terrorism which was well attended by many of our friends from near and far. We were fortunate also to have the attendance of the legal journalist, Joshua Rozenberg, who delivered our Bicentenary Lecture - "Law at a Time of Great Change"; plans are in hand for further lectures by noted Speakers in the future. The success of the June event was in no small way due to the meticulous planning and hard work of a small number of Members and, as always, the dedication and enthusiasm of our "Renslade House" team. We also received great support and encouragement from Exeter City Council, Devon County Council and the Cathedral Authorities and it was gratifying to realise the high regard with which they hold both our profession and more importantly our Society.

In October we were privileged to be able to host the FBE Conference in conjunction with our Gala Dinner. Our importance as a Local Law Society both nationally and internationally was evidenced by the significant financial support and general encouragement

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From the Education & Training Sub-Committee



Martin Justice
Chairman
Education & Training

Symes Robinson & Lee,
Creditor

One of the Society's core services to its members is the provision of training and CPD courses. The role of the Education and Training Sub-Committee is to provide input on the content of the future training programme and to monitor the success (or otherwise) of courses that have been run by the Society.

I am pleased to report that it has been another successful year for the Society's training programme. In 2008 we ran more courses than in the previous year. The number of CPD

courses was up by 10% to give a total of 67 courses for the year. There was also an increase in the number of delegates attending those courses, with a total of 1,432 delegates in 2008.

The success of our courses is not only measured by the number of people who attend but also by the positive feedback that we receive via the Seminar Evaluation Forms. Of those people who completed an Evaluation Form last year 96% rated the course as either "good" or "very good".

The Sub-Committee works hard to make sure that we offer a diverse range of courses to meet your needs in whatever area of law you practise. However, the courses are not just limited to legal training and include other important skills essential to being a solicitor or running a legal practice. Your Society also offers courses for paralegals and support staff as well as providing the Professional Skills Course (PSC) for Trainee Solicitors and the compulsory Law Management Courses Stage 1 and 2.

WE ARE
COMMITTED TO
MAKING OUR
COURSES
ACCESSIBLE TO
ALL OUR MEMBERS
AND THEY ARE
PROVIDED AT
VARIOUS
LOCATIONS
AROUND THE
REGION.

The current seminar programme

is available on our website, but our forthcoming courses for 2009 will include; "Managing People in a Economic Downturn", "Family Advocacy Training", "Pitfalls of Conveying an Insolvent Property" and "Solicitors' Accounts Rules".

We are also committed to making our courses accessible to all our members and they are provided at various locations around the region. In 2008 we ran a significant number of courses in Somerset and this year more are planned in both Taunton and Yeovil. We are

also running more courses in Tiverton, which has proved to be a popular venue in the heart of our region and readily accessible to all our members.

We want to provide courses that are relevant to our members and are always keen to hear your suggestions for future courses and training programmes. Your Sub-Committee also spends a great deal of time analysing the Seminar Evaluation Forms which course delegates are asked to complete. I would therefore encourage you to

take the time to complete these forms. For those of you who need a further incentive, all completed Evaluation Forms are now entered into a regular prize draw.

I am pleased to be continuing as Chairman of the Sub-Committee for a third year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Committee members and Tony Steiner and his team for making our training courses so successful in the past year.



All completed Evaluation Forms are now entered into a regular prize draw.

To see our full list of 2009 courses

Go to www.dasls.com and click on Training

TO BOOK, SIMPLY CONTACT CHARLOTTE LYTHGOE

No need for a booking form, just call!

Tel. 01392 411 585

Or email charlotte@dasls.com

Solicitors' Benevolent Association Report

In 2008 the SBA assisted financially with 8 applications from Devon together with 1 application from Cornwall (he asked that I deal with his affairs for personal reasons), and 2 in Somerset.

Of these beneficiaries 7 were widowed ladies, 1 single gentleman, 1 single lady, 2 married couples and 7

dependent children plus 2 applications for Student Grants.

The total awards authorised were, £65,921, a proportion of the awards, £44,937 was by interest-free secured loan, made to those on low incomes but with equity in their homes, and a further £14,984 was authorised by

unsecured loan and £6,000 in Student Grants.

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 either from myself or from Miss Bertoni.



Jeremy Lee
SBA Director

Symes Robinson & Lee,
Crediton

From your President and Committee Continued

which we received from The Law Society for the Conference and by the attendance of lawyers from all parts of Europe.

But the year has not just been one of celebration; the Society looks forward to the future. In this regard 2008 saw the preparation of a new Strategic Business Plan the full details of which are available on the Society's website. This Plan intends for the Society to expand both membership and areas of influence and in this it looks beyond the end of the current economic crises.

Our various Sub-Committees have once again worked hard and enthusiastically and some indication of the extent of their efforts and achievements is revealed by their individual reports. We are indebted to them and I am pleased to have this opportunity to express my

thanks and those of all Members to them all.

We have continued to build on our good relationship with Chancery Lane and although the year saw the retirement of our good friend Mary Jackson she promptly returned as a new DASLS member and we are now receiving good support from her successor as Regional Manager, Matthew Still. We received several visitors from Chancery Lane during the year and most recently I was pleased to be able to welcome President Paul Marsh as Principal Guest at the Society's Annual Dinner in February.

At the end of March DASLS will host the second National Conference of Local Law Societies. This event is to take place in Taunton and will be attended both by representatives from many of the Local Law Societies across the UK and by observers from

The Law Society; for the Society to have been invited to host and organise this event independently of Chancery Lane is indicative of the esteem within which the Society is held by our colleagues nationally.

My chosen charity for the year has been the North Devon Hospice and I am delighted to report that generous giving at our Dinners meant that despite difficult times we were able to raise in excess of £2,500.

In conclusion I record here my appreciation for all the support that I have received during the year from so many people. It has been a fantastic experience and I wish James Cross every success as he takes over.

Alec McNeill

President 2008/09

THE SOCIETY
REMAINS WELL
PLACED TO
CONTINUE TO
SUPPORT ITS
MEMBERS AND
THE PROFESSION
GENERALLY IN
THESE DIFFICULT
AND CHANGING
TIMES.



Full details of DASLS
Strategic Business Plan
2009-2012 are available on
the Society's website.

From the Public Relations Consultant



Pat Nettleton MCIPR

PR Consultant
2008/2009

I DO WISH
MEMBERS OF THE
SOCIETY WELL,
PARTICULARLY IN
THESE DIFFICULT
ECONOMIC
TIMES.

The year began with a press release on the announcement of Alec McNeill as your new President.

As part of the Society's bicentennial celebrations, press coverage was obtained on the guest speaker, Joshua Rozenberg, at an evening event in June.



Joshua Rozenberg and Alec McNeill

Releases were also sent out to mark the Federation of European Bars Conference in Torquay and the bicentennial Gala Dinner, with coverage in local papers and magazines.

I indicated in March last year that I wanted to lessen my commitments with a view to retiring, or, as politicians are



want to say, to spend more time with my family.

Actually, we just want to use our motor home touring Europe as old-age hippies.

I know that you have chosen to work with Janet Kipling and as a good colleague of mine, can say that you will be excellently served by her.

I do wish members of the Society well, particularly in these difficult economic times.

A special thanks to Tony Spiers, Tony Steiner and Monique Bertoni for their help and support.

I will leave you with a reminder on a couple of pointers should you receive a call from the press:

- ⇒ What is the story and what angle are they taking?
- ⇒ Ask what do they want to know?
- ⇒ Are they interviewing anyone else?
- ⇒ Buy yourself thinking time, say you'll ring back, but make sure you ask "what's the deadline?"

And for a crisis:

- ⇒ Condolences/ feelings /sympathy-genuine
- ⇒ Action - what are you doing about it?
- ⇒ Reassurance messages
- ⇒ Put it into context



From the Honorary Treasurer



Crumbs. What a year 2008 was. While the shares in several Banks followed those of Northern Rock into oblivion, your Treasurer signally failed in his attempts to limit the cost of the Society's 'special' events last year. He offers his apologies. The effects are plain to be seen in our annual accounts

and taint the picture of what would otherwise be seen to have been a good year's work.

In broad terms, as a result of staging the FBE's poorly supported October meeting (and bolting onto it our Bi-Centenary Dinner) just at the point when it was apparent that the financial world is falling around our ears, what would have been an annual

surplus on our activities of around £50,000 has turned out at less than £5,000. These events seemed like a good idea at the planning stage and were (I thought) first class and thoroughly enjoyed by those who participated - but we were simply over-taken by the credit crunch. In this we were not alone, but that is scant comfort.

Our courses did really well last year – Charlotte’s excellent work on these continues to bear fruit – and income was an all-time high. However, speakers and venues all raised their prices too while we did not – there has been stiff competition – and so while the income figure was particularly commendable, our expenses rocketed and the average margin has decreased by 16% or so, a big drop. Nevertheless it remains acceptable, at around the 50% mark.

2008 recruitment activity went from strong to modest as the year progressed, ending up at around the levels achieved in 2005 and 2006. However, as I write in February it is little better than dismal. In this, our Society reflects the legal world, and hence the wider world in which it operates.

We have set a budget for the current year but what chance of meeting it? Our accountants suggest we will do well to break even in 2009. I hope

we will do better than this and think we will, while at the same time taking comfort in our strong reserves. It’s hard to make firm predictions for the future when it is so difficult to gauge how long it will take for the recovery to come, or what form that recovery will take when it eventually arrives. More importantly I fear it may arrive too late for some of our members, particularly those whose practice depends upon conveyancing.

The accountants have a point. At the time of writing, two of our four main sources of income have been pretty much extinguished – our capital looks like it will earn next to no interest, which blows a big hole, and recruitment income is low. That said, subscription income has hardly reduced at all – now, more than ever, we owe our members a big debt of gratitude for the support they continue to show us. And courses are holding up too – as one would expect, given

the CPD rules, but it’s pleasing when things turn out as expected. Somehow this doesn’t always happen.

The depression notwithstanding, DASLS has plenty of work to do, given my long-term aim of achieving a similar percentage of Somerset solicitors supporting this Society as do Devon ones. Not easy to achieve, particularly at such a distance, but a real test of the quality of what we do.

Again I pay proud tribute to our staff, and thank them for their good work last year. It is certainly not their fault that we spent so much on staging the October events without enjoying the anticipated level of popular support. Thanks are also due to our sponsors, without whom there would have been no modest annual surplus on our trading activities at all.

It certainly was a memorable Bi-Centenary year.

Now, onwards and upwards.



Richard Adams
Honorary Treasurer

Crosse & Crosse,
Exeter

NOW, MORE
THAN EVER, WE
OWE OUR
MEMBERS A BIG
DEBT OF
GRATITUDE FOR
THE SUPPORT
THEY CONTINUE
TO SHOW US.

Bicentenary Events included -



**Bicentenary Gala
Dinner in Torquay
on 17 October**

From left to right

DASLS President Alec
McNeill and wife Judy

Laurette & FBE
President Joseph Van
der Perre

Andrew Holroyd OBE,
Past President of The
Law Society

David Jane, Solicitor
and brother Mike Jane

Sue Evens &
Bishop of Crediton
Robert Evens

Tim Smit CBE



**DASLS Bicentenary
Lecture with Joshua
Rozenberg on 7 June**
Held at Exeter University



River Dart Boat Trip on 4 July
Evening Cruise with Buffet and
Jazz Music from Robin Reece



**DEVON & SOMERSET
LAW SOCIETY**
1808 - 2008

*“Certainly a memorable
Bicentenary Year”*

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From the Non Contentious Business Sub-Committee

MEMBERSHIP



Patricia Durham-Hall
Chairman
Non Contentious Business

Solicitor, Taunton

WE ARE EVER
CONSCIOUS OF
TRYING TO
EXPAND OUR
REMIT WITHIN
NON-
CONTENTIOUS
BOUNDARIES.

If we had gone from strength to strength last year, then we are bulging at the seams now!! We are a lively group of 17 stretching from Torquay to Taunton. We welcomed new members Julie Tiao (Charlesworth Nicholl, Crediton) and we hope a member of the Stokes Partnership, Somerset will also join us. Steven Came (Ford Simey) has swelled our private client ranks. Claire Revell (Everys) has come on board representing non contentious employment issues and Guy Bottard (Stones) has agreed to represent company commercial interests as and when required. Sadly Alison Lavery (Trowers and Hamblins) has retired from the Sub-Committee and we thank her for her valuable input over the years and wish her all success in the future. Ashley Bevans (Ford Simey) has been elected Vice Chair instead. Our meetings take on a very lively format and Monique does sterling work with the minutes, especially as now some are taking on a more technical nature!!

We received presentations from Claire Revell and from Guy Bottard regarding their relevant practice areas and how our committee might be able to assist its members in those disciplines. We are ever conscious of trying to expand our remit within non-contentious boundaries.

To this end also we held an informal Forum of Somerset lawyers (non-contentious) in November courtesy of Foot Anstey, Taunton. It was very successful and I was pleased to find that the areas of concern and debate were very similar in both counties. The attendance from lawyers across the county was most encouraging. Jonathan Stokes (Stokes Partnership) brought up additional areas of interest to conveyancers and he subsequently attended our next Sub-Committee meeting in Exeter presenting some detailed technical points for analysis.

HIPs and ECONVEYANCING

These are generally placed on the back burner at the moment. We are, however, examining the proposed compulsory content of the HIP as from this April in our Working Party (see below). Econveyancing has been postponed (but see under Land Registry below).

WILLS & PROBATE

We now have a 50% representation on the Sub-Committee from private client. The survey we carried out on the effect of Lasting Powers of Attorney across the region brought in a stupendous 41.9% response and again Ashley Bevans will carry

out the analysis which is published in the March Newsletter, for members' interest. I am quite happy to write to Chancery Lane with any recommendations that might ensue.

The Sub-Committee has received several disturbing reports of unregulated will writers, across the region and further afield. Maxine Barnes (Furse Sanders) has done an analysis of this problem and it was decided that we need, as a profession, to publish the problem further and, at the same time, extol the merits of our profession as trustworthy and professional will writers and estate administrators etc. With this in mind we have approached the Vice President's Committee for their advice and potentially financial and publicity help to do this.

We are also hoping for a guided and explanatory tour to be arranged of the Exeter Probate Sub-Registry that Donna Rowland (WBW Solicitors) is arranging.



The survey on the effect of LPAs across the region brought in a stupendous 41.9% response.

Standardisation of Documents

GO TO

<http://www.dasls.com/>

UNDER SHORTCUTS
MENU CLICK ON

Inquiries Before Contract
of Managing Agents /
Freeholders Form

Non Contentious Business - Continued

STANDARDISATION OF DOCUMENTS

This has been an on going project of our conveyancing members and culminated last year in the successful adoption and copyrighting of the DASLS Leasehold Enquiries of Managing Agents/Freeholders. **Please note again** that this is available to our members (free) on DASLS website, and is really most helpful. It is being recommended by ARMA to all its members and we will next take up the possibility of negotiating a general fee with all the major Managing Agents in the South West.

We convened a further Working Party to examine the residential enquiries before contract (Law Society TA series) and DCLG version of Property Questionnaire to be included in HIPs from this April. Our Working Party (including leading academic Alastair Teague of Plymouth

& Exeter Universities) concluded that, unlike the Leasehold Management exercise – where there was a vacuum – these enquiries were probably exhausted by the documents mentioned above. Indeed, there is much duplication within the documents themselves, that will no doubt drive practitioners and clients equally up the wall. We will therefore consult our members to see if they agree with this conclusion, and if so DASLS will recommend that all members abide by the Protocol and do not submit any further enquiries unless specifically relevant to that property. We do hope that this will assist all parties in cutting down time, paper and uselessly duplicated work.

PLYMOUTH DISTRICT LAND REGISTRY

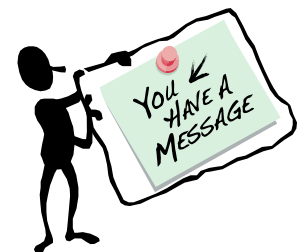
A group of us are attending the Land Registry at their invitation on 2nd March. We do this, as their guests, on a

regular basis and are demonstrated many aspects of their work and inter-facing with solicitors and indeed members of the public and other bodies. This time we have a list of technical questions, that has been compiled by Jonathan Stokes, of mutual interest, and we are in hope that their senior legal advisor will be present to discuss them. Results of this meeting will be published on DASLS website.

These past twelve months have been depressing for many members during the economic downturn, not least those in the property market. However, we retain an ever more enthusiastic and lively sub-committee membership and are just as committed to assisting our members in any way possible. If you have any issues that you would like debated and taken up, do not hesitate to contact me through DASLS office. We remain at your service.



IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES THAT YOU WOULD LIKE DEBATED AND TAKEN UP, DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT THE CHAIR THROUGH DASLS OFFICE.



Conclusions from the Lasting Powers of Attorney Survey 2008

It is clear that respondent firms to the questionnaire believe that the introduction of LPAs has had a notable impact upon the number of clients and work.

The major points of criticism which practitioners level at the LPA regime broadly focus on the following points:

- The LPA regime is more costly to clients, both in time and money;
- Preparation and registration of an LPA takes longer than the former EPA;
- The LPA forms are lengthy and not necessarily best designed for the purpose they seek to achieve;
- The Office of the Public Guardian is not as efficient as it can be in the processing and handling of applications submitted to it; and
- There is no set system or database in place for certificate providers.



Over 41% of firms contacted responded, indicative perhaps as to how emotive the issue of LPAs presently are.

2009 Annual General Meeting Reports and Documentation



Angus McNicol
Chairman
Mediation

Foot Anstey,
Exeter

AS A SUB-COMMITTEE WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU AS MEMBERS TO MAKE FULL USE OF OUR EXCELLENT MEDIATORS

From the Mediation Sub-Committee

This has been my first full year as Chairman of this Sub-Committee. Looking back on Jeremy Ferguson's excellent report of February 2008, I realise that an enormous amount has changed since then. We are now engaged in new challenges that are quite different in nature to the challenges of the past. For example, the Committee has had to accept, reluctantly, that DASLS will not - in the foreseeable future - ever be engaged in the small claims mediation scheme again, despite our undoubted success.

The Sub-Committee have been concentrating principally upon the following:-

1. Ensuring that we "tick all the right boxes" so that we may remain accredited mediation providers so far as the Civil Mediation Council is concerned.
2. Ensuring that our panel of mediators is properly qualified so that we may remain on the CMC panel which gives us the route that we need onto the National Mediation Helpline.

3. Endeavouring to work closer with other mediation organisations including the Association of South West Mediators, which is an association that encompasses mediators from all types of disciplines as opposed to just solicitors as in the case of DASLS.

Jonathan Dingle of Clerksroom laid on a first-class training day for 13 mediators on 15 January 2009. He was supported by an actress and trainer called Andrea Gordon who may be known to avid soap watchers amongst you. Between the two of them they opened our minds to new and better ways of conducting mediations.

Liz Kendall of The Injury Care Clinic Ltd is now joining the Sub-Committee. She is a very enthusiastic proponent of mediation and is anxious to ensure that we participate fully in the gradual evolution of the Civil Mediation Council. In future years you may be assured that a member of our Sub-Committee will seek election to the CMC Committee, so that we may have a direct say in what is happening. You may be

assured that from now on the Sub-Committee will do all it can to participate in the decision-making process of the CMC, and we have fixed a meeting for 7 April 2009 when we will plan our strategy as regards the CMC.

All that remains for me to say is that we as a Sub-Committee strongly encourage you to make full use of our excellent mediators.

Over the past 12 months our mediators have had a 100% success rate. If you make a referral through DASLS, mediators will usually charge on a basis of the National Mediation Helpline price tariff, which means that a three to four hour mediation where the value of the claim is not more than £50,000 will cost a maximum of £425 inc VAT per participant.

To conclude, therefore, the mediation scene feels quite different to how it was this time last year but the Sub-Committee have every intention in making the most of things and improving the profile of DASLS so far as mediation is concerned.



DASLS is a recognized trainer in mediation ; an accredited member of the Civil Mediation Council; and a recognised provider of mediators to the National Mediation Helpline.

For further information on DASLS Mediation Services

GO TO <http://www.dasls.com/>

under *OTHER SERVICES* menu **CLICK ON Mediation Services**

to open a full copy of DASLS booklet containing **Mediator Profiles, Current Rates and Mediation Booking Form**
or email mediation@dasls.com

Tuesday 21 April 2009 at 6.00 p.m.

From the Social Sub-Committee

The Society's social calendar continues to grow with a wide range of events over the last twelve months.

Most notably has been the success of the DASLS Challenge Cup which has seen seventeen member firms take part in at least one of the rounds including skittles, tag rugby, 5-a-side football, sandcastle building and a quiz evening. Curiously the pub based skittles and quiz rounds seemed to be most popular!

Congratulations go to Ford Simey and Veitch Penny who were joint winners of the cup presented at the Society's Annual Dinner in February.

More challenge events are planned for the next twelve months adding Pitch & Putt and Cricket to the competition and I hope even more firms will take part.

The first event is skittles on 18 March at The Atmospheric Railway Inn, Starcross. Firms may enter as many events as they choose and different people may enter

each event depending on individual preferences.

2008 was the Society's Bicentenary year and to celebrate the Social Sub-Committee organised a fabulous evening's cruise on the River Dart in July accompanied by a live jazz band and a delicious buffet. Over 50 members enjoyed this splendid occasion in spite of particularly heavy rainfall that evening.

Other events have included our regular wine tasting with Roger Hamley at Starz Bar in Exeter in November which was also well attended. We aim to repeat this in 2009 and also hope to arrange a visit to a local vineyard in the summer.

Membership of the Social Sub-Committee is a lot of fun. We have been joined by several trainee and young solicitors providing the Society with a link to the Devon & Somerset Junior Lawyers' Division. Although I am stepping down as Chair,

I will remain on the Sub-Committee and hope to support as many events as possible. Anyone wishing to join should let DASLS office know; our meetings are usually in the evening over a drink or light meal.

Ashley Bevans of Ford Simey has agreed to take the Chair for the next year and I wish him every success. My thanks go to all the members of the Sub-Committee for their enthusiasm and ideas. Thanks are also due to Charlotte Lythgoe and Tony Steiner at DASLS for their unwavering support.

Chair
Marie Macfarlane

Veitch Penny,
Exeter



President Alec McNeill presenting DASLS 2008/9 Challenge Cup to Ashley Bevans of Ford Simey.

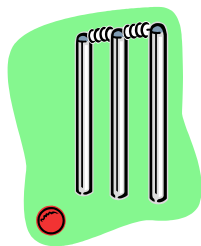
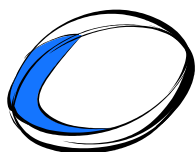
The Cup was jointly won by Ford Simey and Veitch Penny.

MORE CHALLENGE EVENTS ARE PLANNED FOR THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS ADDING PITCH & PUTT AND CRICKET TO THE COMPETITION AND I HOPE EVEN MORE FIRMS WILL TAKE PART.

Provisional Programme for Challenge Cup March 2009 - January 2010



18 MARCH
Skittles



MAY/JULY
Tag Rugby & Cricket

SEPT/NOV
5-a-side Football & Pitch and Putt



JANUARY
Quiz



For further details on any of these events, please email charlotte@dasls.com

2009 Annual General Meeting Reports and Documentation

From the Contentious Business Sub-Committee



David Turner
Chairman
Contentious Business

Foot Anstey,
Exeter

The Sub-Committee has continued to meet on a regular basis and indeed met in an open meeting basis in Taunton during the year (see below).

This Sub-Committee has a very wide remit. Our members spend a long time attending various Court Users Committee meetings, local Criminal Justice Board meetings, Legal Aid meetings and other various interest group meetings. I am grateful to all of our members who attend such meetings and keep us up to date with what is happening.

Whilst we no longer, as a Sub-

Committee, meet and liaise with the Presiding Judge in relation to recoverable costs rates in civil litigation, we can still have a say and even possibly an influence. This year representations were made and I am pleased to say (as reported to you in earlier Newsletters) that the guideline recoverable rates in civil litigation were raised in January 2009 to a level which was very reasonable.

Last year the Sub-Committee also met on an open meeting basis in Taunton. It was a

great success. We hope to replicate these open meetings in North Devon and in Torbay during the course of the next year.

Finally, can I encourage anyone who practises in contentious work (crime or civil) to join our Sub-Committee if they have an interest. We are a friendly group; the meetings do not last too long and it is a great way to meet with other litigators. Please think about it and if you are interested, please do contact me.

david.turner@foot-ansteys.co.uk

From the Practice Management Sub-Committee

GOOD,
EFFECTIVE AND
VISIONARY
MANAGEMENT
HAS NEVER
BEEN MORE
IMPORTANT.

When I wrote this Report a year ago I started by referring to the daunting challenges facing the legal profession and how I hoped that the work of this Sub-Committee would better equip firms to deal with those challenges. At that time, although there had been a downturn in the residential property market, we were all largely unaware of the ravages of the recession to come.

At times such as these it is inevitable that firms tend to focus their management energies inwards, concentrating on issues such as cash flow and the motivation of staff at a time of redundancies and modest salary increases. Nevertheless those firms that will best ride out the recession and be the first to prosper in any upturn will be those that retain a clear vision as to where they are going and how to get there. Good, effective and visionary management has never been more important.

Against this background it is good to see the continuing support for the Surveys organised by this Sub-Committee. There

was strong support last year for the Inter-firm Salary Survey and returns are coming in again for that Survey this year. There has also been good support of the Inter-firm Comparisons Survey. An Inter-firm Indemnity Survey was carried out in 2008 and was felt to be very useful, but the Committee feels that it is not a Survey that necessarily needs to be carried out each year. However, with the likelihood of Indemnity Premiums increasing significantly this year the Committee is looking to arrange a Seminar later in the year to assist firms in achieving the best rates available.

Support for the Training Courses organised by this Committee has generally been good and the positive feedback suggests that both the choice of topics and speakers has worked well. In difficult times there is a tendency for support for such courses to fall away, but I would urge all firms to make maximum use of the courses coming up. Thanks to Tony Steiner's perseverance

they remain extremely good value and as I said earlier, good management has never been more important. Hopefully, these courses will provide help and new ideas in that regard. As always any ideas for courses or speakers will be most welcome.

The local Practice Management Forums are now well established, although attendance appears to have plateaued. For the firms that have not attended these Forums previously, then it might well be a good time to go along to share experiences and to find out how other firms are facing up to the difficulties thrown up in these turbulent times.

Finally whilst attendance at the Practice Management Sub-Committee has generally been good over the last year and has increased significantly from a year or so ago, there is always room for new faces and fresh ideas, so anyone interested should please contact me as Chairman, or Tony Steiner.



Hugh Winterbotham
Chairman
Practice Management

Stones,
Exeter

From the Vice President's Committee

It has been a pleasure to chair the Vice President's Committee in 2008 and 2009.

The Vice President's Committee has been ably assisted by its members and a special thank you and farewell goes to Stephen Lawson who steps down after many years service to the Vice President's Committee. Another thank you and farewell goes to Jeremy Ferguson who stepped down in 2008. Thank you Jeremy for all your hard work.

As the "think tank" for DASLS, the Committee in 2008 and 2009 has dealt with many and varied issues including representations to the SRA on their numerous consultation papers. There is now a link on DASLS website to ensure that practitioners can consult and are aware of consultations.

The Committee this year has been successful in providing a grant to Plymouth University for Mooting and prizes.

One of the issues which has taken up the Committee's time both in

September and in January was DASLS' future PR activities. Pat Nettleton who was DASLS' public relations advisor stepped down in 2008 which meant that the Committee then looked at a strategy of developing PR and in particular:

- Setting objectives
- Identifying key audiences
- Defining key messages
- Considering dedication of time, availability and expenditure

On 27th January, after a beauty parade of PR consultants, the Committee were able to endorse the Executive's decision and look towards and confirm the appointment on a probationary period of a PR consultant, namely Cake Publicity. Cake will present to us again after 31st March, date of the Local Law Societies' Conference hosted by DASLS.

The Committee sat on three occasions during the last 12 months, namely 8th May, 2nd September and 27th January and each of those meetings were extremely full in terms of agenda and vibrant in

terms of input. I am very pleased that our Somerset members have been able to actively support the Committee and a special thanks to Rebecca Parkman, Junior Vice President for her valuable input and enthusiasm.

I would also like to take this opportunity of thanking our hard working and extremely enthusiastic DASLS administrators, particularly Monique Bertoni and Tony Steiner both of whom have attended each Vice President's Committee meeting and whose input has been invaluable.

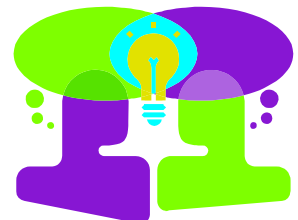
Unless an emergency meeting is called, my last meeting of the Vice President's Committee was on 27th January. The Committee remains, I am happy to say, active as the Society's "think tank" dealing with matters that are not within the remit of any standing sub-committee and I know that the Committee will continue in that role under its new Chairman for 2009 / 2010.



**Vice President
James Cross**

Kitson Hutchings,
Torquay

ONE OF THE
ISSUES WHICH
HAS TAKEN UP
THE COM-
MITTEE'S TIME
WAS DASLS'
FUTURE PR
ACTIVITIES.



The Committee remains active dealing with matters that are not within the remit of any standing sub-committee.

2009 Annual General Meeting Reports and Documentation



Rod Mole
Law Society Council
Member and

Chairman
International Relations

Chanter Ferguson,
Bideford

OUR ACTIVITIES
THROUGHOUT
THE YEAR HAVE
BEEN
DEDICATED TO
STRENGTHEN-
ING THAT
INTERNATIONAL
PROFILE
THROUGH
EXISTING
CONTACTS



For members who can help
with international matters
visit DASLS International
Business Database page
on the website

From the International Relations Sub-Committee

The Bi-centenary profile for the Society includes the following statement:

“DASLS is an active member of the Federation of European Bars (FBE) and in addition has direct twinning arrangements with the local Bars of Rennes (France), Leuven (Belgium), Erlangen (Germany) and Verona (Italy). The Society also has strong links with lawyers in Cork (Eire), Bilbao (Spain), Gdańsk (Poland), The Hague and Rotterdam (Holland) and has been active in developing links with The Law Society of Zimbabwe in an effort to offer support and encouragement to their oppressed lawyers”.

The activities of the Sub-Committee throughout the year have been dedicated to strengthening that International profile through its existing contacts and partners with the aim of enabling our members to build and develop networks and relationships in the field of International Legal Practice. However in addition new contacts have this year been forged both in Russia and South America.

A summary of the Sub-Committee’s activities can conveniently be provided under a number of

standing agenda headings.

FBE - DASLS representatives attended the General Congress held in Istanbul in May which was a joint function held with AEA. The Debate focused on the marketing opportunities available to lawyers both nationally and globally.

The Stage and Intermediate meeting was of course held in Torquay in October and was hosted by the Society. This proved to be a flag ship event for the Bi-centennial year and notwithstanding the financial outcome proved in all other respects to be a great success. The minutes of the Sub-Committee record the thanks due to those individuals and organisations who contributed to that success. In seeking to address the two topics of “Core Duties” and “Alternative Business Structures” the conference had the potential to attract considerable interest from both home and abroad.

INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF THE TWIN BARS

Once again in its Bi-centennial year it fell to the Society to host this event. The chosen theme of “Terrorism” proved to be an inspired and topical

choice given the bomb attack in Princesshay, Exeter during the week before the meeting. The event allowed the Society’s Repertory Company the opportunity once again to display their skills. In total forty two international guests from seven Countries attended the meeting and enjoyed a programme which also included “The Legal Sunday Service”, a performance of Gilbert and Sullivan’s “Trial by Jury” and “The Rozenberg Lecture”.

Our hosts next year are Gdańsk.

TWINNING WITH THE LAW SOCIETY OF ZIMBABWE

The situation in Zimbabwe continues to be one of political and economic crisis despite the power sharing deal signed between the Zimbabwean President and the opposition Leaders. Although the Society remains anxious to offer its support where required it has been difficult to maintain effective means of communication and to deliver that support.

Tuesday 21 April 2009 at 6.00 p.m.

**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) Bilbao Bar Annual Dinner

(c) President's Days Rotterdam Bar Association

(d) Closing Ceremony of The Hague Bar

(e) Erlangen Lawyers' Walking Day

(f) Opening Conference of the Young Bar of Leuven

(g) Barcelona Bar Festivity of Sant Raimon de Penyafort

(h) Cork Southern Law Association Annual Dinner

(i) Rennes Bar Rentrée

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A. The Commonwealth of Independent States

In June both our President and Jeremy Ferguson attended the Third CIS Lawyers Forum held in St. Petersburg.

B. Columbia

In August the President and Rod Mole were members of a delegation of forty two lawyers from the UK joining lawyers from North America, Europe and Latin America who spent a week in Columbia at the invitation of

Acadeum, the Association of Columbian Human Rights Defenders. The object of the visit was to listen, question and gather evidence of the difficulties and hardships that human rights lawyers were experiencing in carrying out their duties in Columbia. A report from the President on the visit has already appeared in the Society's Newsletter.

CONCLUSION

As will be evident the Subcommittee has had a very busy and challenging year and thanks are due to the individual members who have contributed to deliver the International Profile which the Society set for itself in its Bi-centenary.



Law Society Past President Andrew Holroyd OBE CBE

Torquay, October 2008

..... AND
PARTNERS WITH
THE AIM OF
ENABLING OUR
MEMBERS TO
BUILD AND
DEVELOP
NETWORKS AND
RELATIONSHIPS
IN THE FIELD OF
INTERNATIONAL
LEGAL PRACTICE.

From your Council Member

Mr Mole will give an oral report to the AGM on 21 April when members will also have an opportunity to put questions to their Council Member.

Members will be aware that The Rt Hon Lord Hunt of Wirral MBE has been commissioned by The Law Society to undertake an independent Review of the regulation of the solicitors' profession in light of the Legal Services Act 2007, with the intention of publishing a set of recommendations in the late Summer of this year.

More information can be found at www.legalregulationreview.com

Lord Hunt has announced his intention to hold a series of regional meetings in May to help him engage with the largest possible number of members of the Law Society.

The South West visit is scheduled on 15 May 2009 in Bristol and details will be published on DASLS website as soon as they are available.



The Law Society

A list of constituencies and council members can be found on the [Contact your council member](#) page on The Law Society website.
www.lawsociety.org.uk/home.law

DEVON AND SOMERSET LAW SOCIETY

The 200th Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday 22 April 2008 at 6.00 p.m. at the Exeter Golf & Country Club.

PRESENT

Mr V E S Salomonsen, President in the Chair; Mr A McNeill, Vice President; Mr S Ward, The Law Society Communications Director; Ms M. Jackson, The Law Society South West Regional Manager, Miss M Bertoni, DASLS Administrator, Mr A J Steiner, DASLS Membership Services Manager and 29 members of the Society whose attendance was recorded.

The President welcomed everyone to the 200th Annual General Meeting and extended a special welcome to Mr Stephen Ward from Chancery Lane.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr P R Mole, *Law Society Council Member*, Robert S. Ager, Margaret Anstey, Michael E. Barnes, John S. Brooke, Philip J. Davies, Roger J. Dawe, Clive Dixon, Paul D. Dunn, Michael F. Freeland, John Hawkins, Julia Honeywill, Stephen A. Lawson, Frank Murray, Sarah Mudge, Andrew M. Pearson, Andrew N. Pryce, David Scarrott, Mark S. Shell, David J.H. Spencer, Ailsa M. Tatton-Shell, Christopher N. Thomas, Shirley J. Tull, William H. Vine, Stephen J. Walker, Jonathan Wharmby, Peter Williams, Bryan Wordsworth and Pat Nettleton *DASLS PR Consultant*.

2. THE MINUTES

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 24th April 2007 and of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 17th September 2007, having been circulated (with copies available at the meeting), were taken as read and signed by the President as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

3. THE REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT AND COMMITTEE FOR 2007/2008

"The President's life goes in a preordained pattern and the year has flown by" stated the President. But looking at the reports in the AGM documentation much has been achieved over the past 12 months: notably, the coming together of the Devon & Exeter and Somerset Law Societies. The President paid tribute to those involved with the merger and acknowledged the tireless work of those involved with the Sub-Committees. The marvellous financial performance continues as the Society provides good value for money during the credit crunch times, and the growing of DASLS' influence and popularity on the international front.

The President then reported on his year of office the personal highlights of which included a BBC interview on the evils of bugging by the Government and the photographs of DASLS Dinner in the Devon Life magazine. He expressed his gratitude to the members who helped raise money for *Macmillan Cancer Support* and *Farms for City Children*. Both charities have been grateful for the profile-raising which has been achieved. The last fundraising business quiz is to be held in Torquay on 22 May 2008. One memorable solecism was a mix up over functions and dress code: the President paraded in a lounge suit at the Insurance Institute Dinner which was a black tie event!

The President concluded his report by thanking most sincerely Miss Bertoni and Mr Steiner and the whole team at Renslade House. The Society's office is a well-oiled machine.

4. THE REPORT OF THE HONORARY TREASURER

Mr Adams expressed his appreciation to DASLS staff for the excellent results that made 2007 a record year. He invited questions from the floor on the accounts which were circulated at the meeting.

Mr Hart moved the resolution on the AGM agenda that the accounts of the Society for the year to 31 December 2007 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 seconded by Mr Ferguson and approved unanimously.

5. SOLICITORS' BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

Mr Lee reported that the SBA is celebrating its 150 years anniversary and will be hosting a number of events throughout the year including some in the South West in the autumn. The Committee's recommendation that a donation of £1,750.00 be made to the Association was proposed by Mr Turner, seconded by Mr Robinson and approved unanimously.

6. GRANTS

The President invited the meeting to consider the recommendation by the Committee that a total of £1,800.00 be set aside each 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.

Mr Turner asked about the inclusion of the 2 universities outside our area. The Vice President explained the reasoning behind the proposal. Bristol and Plymouth in effect cover DASLS patch in terms of training would-be solicitors. Exeter University now simply offers a law degree following the move of its Legal Practice Course to Plymouth University in 2006. Geographically it makes sense to include UWE and all 3 institutions will benefit from DASLS encouragement.

The sum of £1,800.00 and the allocation concept were proposed by Miss Durham-Hall, seconded by Mr Derbyshire, and approved unanimously.

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

Law Society Council Member Mr Rod Mole had presented his apologies. His comprehensive written report outlining the significant changes and the issues of the day at The Law Society was noted.

Written reports from all the Chairmen of DASLS Sub-Committees had been previously circulated. The President invited the officers present to give an update.

a) International Relations

Zimbabwe features a lot in the news currently. The results of the presidential election held in March have still to be announced. Mr Derbyshire asked Mr Ward for an update in respect of the contacts with the Zimbabwe Law Society. Mr Ward said that ZLS President, Beatrice Mtetwa, was in London last October when The Law Society launched an appeal to help the Zimbabwe Law Society maintain the Zimbabwean legal system during the current crisis. This initiative reached the Zimbabwean Government. The on-going support continues but needs to be done discreetly with the help of the Foreign Office and other agencies.

Mr Ferguson went to Zimbabwe twice in 2007 to set up a civil mediation training programme and a further visit is planned after the 2008 election. He marveled at Zimbabwe lawyers' amazing courage as they work in very difficult circumstances. Although aware of the danger of messages being intercepted and misunderstood, he is in touch by email with Beatrice Mtetwa who will be attending the meeting of the Federation of European Bars in Torquay in October and take part in the discussions.

b) Mediation

Mr McNicol asked that we spread the word and encourage members to use the Society's mediation services. He reminded the meeting that DASLS Mediators are very experienced (thanks to the intense training through the Small Claims scheme) and successful (100% success rate in 2007 for out of court mediations). Mr Ferguson (out-going Chairman) continues to receive invitations and is due to give a number of presentations abroad on our mediation techniques next month.

c) Education & Training and Social

Mr Steiner said that series of courses are planned in Taunton and Yeovil. The Sub-Committee is keen to hear from members about high calibre speakers so that they can be invited to give courses locally.

He also reported on the successful skittles evening on 16 April which was the launch event of the DASLS Challenge Cup. A total of 10 events will take place over the next 12 months. Firms may enter as many events as they choose. There is a league table and the firm with most points will be awarded the cup at DASLS 2009 Dinner.

8. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS & MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The President proposed the presidential nominations, unopposed, of Mr Alec McNeill, Mr James Cross and Mrs Rebecca Parkman in their respective offices of President, Vice President and Second Vice President for the year 2008/2009. He thanked Mrs Parkman, who practices in Somerset, for having supported a number of DASLS events already.

The President said he was delighted to invest his tireless successor, Alec McNeill, with the Presidential Jewel and wished him every success during an even busier and challenging next 12 months.

The new President in turn invested James Cross with the Vice President's Jewel and welcomed Rebecca Parkman too.

The President was pleased to see everyone this evening and said how honoured and delighted he was to take on the presidential role with the knowledge that he will be ably supported by all involved. On behalf of all the members and of the Society, he moved a vote of thanks to Erik Salomonsen for his leadership through the change from DELS to DASLS. As a memento, he made a presentation to Erik of an engraved glass paperweight which reads Last President of DELS 2007 – First President of DASLS 2008, along with the Past President's Jewel.

This was an appropriate time for Mr Adams to recall the performance by Kit & the Widow at the Society's Dinner in February which incorporated a song written specifically for the occasion. He presented Erik with a framed manuscript of DASLS song lyrics with our grateful thanks.

The President made a plea to members for support in respect of the many events (some of them carrying CPD hours) organised during the 2008 Bicentenary year, in particular the Bicentenary Lecture with Joshua Rozenberg featured during the International Meeting of the Twin Bars in June; the Dart River Cruise on 4 July which has a limited availability of tickets; and the meeting of the Federation of European Bars and the Bicentenary Gala Dinner in October in Torquay.

The President proposed to take the rest of the nominations to the Committee en bloc. Miss Durham-Hall seconded the proposal and with spontaneous applause from the floor it was resolved that the following officers and committee members be appointed:

For One Year

Honorary Secretary

Mr J A Spiers MBE

Honorary Treasurer and Membership Secretary

Mr R A Adams

To the Committee for One Year

The Immediate Past President

The Law Society Council Member

Local Government Representative

Crown Prosecution Service Representative

Mr V E S Salomonsen

Mr P R Mole

Mr R Gash

Mr R D Bowen

To the Committee for Three Years

Miss M Macfarlane (Exeter & East Devon)

Mr P Cox (South Devon)

Mr T G Penny (North Devon)

Miss Z Sims (North Devon)

Mr A Teague (North 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 6.50 p.m.

The President welcomed and introduced Mr Stephen Ward, who was appointed Communications Director of The Law Society in June 2007.

Mr Ward congratulated DASLS Officers on their astonishing despatch of business. He also complimented the Society for being outward looking on the international front. He recalled the difficulties when he worked for Lord Falconer and was involved with the South Western European Campaign which got besieged by UKIP. During his career, Mr Ward feared he had become the 'patron saint of lost causes': first the Euro, then the Dome, and now Solicitors!

NOTES

DEVON AND SOMERSET LAW SOCIETY

OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 2008/2009

President	MR A McNEILL
Vice President	MR J M G CROSS
Second Vice President	MRS R E PARKMAN
Immediate Past President	MR V E S SALOMONSEN
Honorary Secretary	MR J A SPIERS MBE
Honorary Treasurer	MR R A ADAMS
Auditors	MESSRS GLOVER STANBURY & CO.

COMMITTEE

Till Annual Meeting 2009

MR D P WHITE (EXETER & EAST DEVON)
 MR K J SHEARN (SOMERSET)
 MR C D HART (SOUTH DEVON)
 MR S A LAWSON (EXETER & EAST DEVON)
 MR M B G COSGRAVE (SOUTH DEVON)
 MR J J FERGUSON (NORTH DEVON)

Law Society Council Member

MR P R MOLE

Solicitors' Benevolent Assoc. Representative

MR J C R B LEE

Local Government Representative

MR R GASH

Crown Prosecution Service Representative

MR R D BOWEN

Full List of Presidents since Incorporation

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	2008	A McNeill	N
1953	Sir Godwin	E	1981	C M Verney	N			

Offices of the Society since 1920

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 - present	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 - present	R A Adams

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

DEVON AND SOMERSET LAW SOCIETY

TAKE NOTICE that the 201st Annual General Meeting of the Devon and Somerset Law Society will be held on **Tuesday 21 April 2009** 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 2008/2009 and the President's Report on his year of office.
4. To receive the Report of the Honorary Treasurer and consider the Committee's recommendation that its report and the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2008 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 2008, 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 each 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	Public Relations Consultant
Education and Training Sub-Committee	Social Sub-Committee
8. To receive the Committee's recommendation that Honorary Life Membership be granted to Messrs Stephen Lawson and Jeremy Ferguson in recognition of their considerable contribution to the affairs of the Society over many years.
9. To appoint officers and members of the Committee for the next year. The following nominations have been received:

President	Mr J M G Cross (South Devon)
Vice President	Mrs R E E Parkman (Somerset)
Second Vice President	Mr D M Turner (Exeter & East Devon)

For One Year

Honorary Secretary	Mr J A Spiers MBE
Honorary Treasurer and Membership Secretary	Mr R A Adams

To the Committee for One Year

The Immediate Past President	Mr A McNeill (North Devon)
The Law Society Council Member	Mr P R Mole
Local Government Representative	Miss D Jenkins-Evans
Crown Prosecution Service Representative	Mr R D Bowen

To the Committee for Three Years

Mr C D Hart (South Devon)
Mr A Bevans (Exeter & East Devon)
Mr M B G Cosgrave (South Devon)
10. 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 3 March, 2009 By order of the Committee **J A Spiers MBE** Honorary Secretary

Registered Office: Suite 5, Renslade House, Bonhay Road, Exeter Devon EX4 3AY

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 on next page.

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 17th April 2009.

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 21st April 2009, and at any adjournment thereof.

Signed:

Name: [Block Capitals please]

¹ Insert Name

² Insert your address

³ 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 AND SOMERSET LAW SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: TUESDAY 21 APRIL 2009

At 6.00 p.m. , Exeter Golf & Country Club

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

6.00 p.m. Annual General Meeting
7.30 p.m. Cash Bar
8.00 p.m. Dinner at £24.95 per person inclusive of VAT

If you wish to reserve a seat for the dinner, please return this form to the Administrator

BY NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 3 APRIL 2009 PLEASE

TO: Miss Monique Bertoni, Suite 5, Renslade House, Bonhay Road, Exeter EX4 3AY
[DX 8361 Exeter 1] Tel. 01392 411585 Fax. 01392 431511

Please reserve seat(s) for the Dinner following the AGM on 21 April 2009 at 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. at the Exeter Golf & Country Club.

We enclose a cheque for £ (£24.95 per person incl. VAT) made payable to DEVON & SOMERSET LAW SOCIETY.

CONTACT NAME

FIRM and ADDRESS (DX preferred)

Tel. Ref. Date

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

Roasted Butternut Squash Soup
with Toasted Brioche Croutons drizzled with Truffle oil **OR**

Succulent King Prawns on Avocado Puree with Sweet Chili Sauce

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Supreme of Guinea Fowl stuffed with Fresh Spinach,
wrapped in Parma Ham and roasted **OR**

Steamed Fillet of Local Sea Bass in a Seafood Bisque

All served with a Panache of Seasonal Vegetables

♣♣♣♣

White Chocolate Mousse with a Compote of Winter Berries **OR**

Chef's Home-made Lemon Meringue Pie with Clotted Cream

♣♣♣♣

Coffee & Mint

Please indicate if a special meal is required:

Name(s)

Dietary Requirements

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