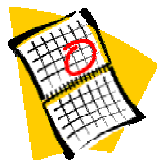


2007 Annual General Meeting Reports and Documentation



Tuesday 24 April 2007 at 6.00 p.m.

Sandy Park, Conference Centre, Exeter



**DEVON & EXETER
LAW SOCIETY**

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Reports from:

President and Committee	1/3
Vice President	2
Public Relations Consultant	3
Solicitors' Benevolent Association	3
Mediation	4-5
Social	6
Education & Training	6
Non Contentious Business	7
International Relations	8
Practice Management	9
Council Member	9
Litigation & Costs Liaison	10
Honorary Treasurer	11
Honorary Secretary	12

Contents pp.13-20:

- *Minutes of the 198th AGM held on 11th April 2006*
- *2007 AGM Agenda*
- *List of Officers for the Year 2006/2007*
- *Form of Proxy and Poll Card*
- *AGM Dinner Booking Form*

From your President and Committee Continued page 3

I recall Rod Mole telling me how quickly the year would pass, and indeed it hardly seems a moment since I accepted the wonderful honour of becoming President.

I am sure that one of the reasons why the year appears to pass so quickly is the sheer volume of work being undertaken by the Society at the current time. All parts of the operation of the Society appear to be busier than ever, and of course we do not rest on our laurels when it comes to considering the challenges of the Strategic Business Plan and the extension of the services offered to our members.

The credit for our performance must in no small way be attributed to the dedication of Monique, Tony and Charlotte who work tirelessly to improve the performance of the Society under the splendid guidance of our Honorary Secretary, Tony Spiers, and our Honorary Treasurer, Richard Adams.

I would like to pay tribute to the commitment and dedication of the members of the Committee and of the various Sub-Committees. You will see from the Reports presented to the AGM, the details of the hard work that has gone on during the course of the last year, and I must thank all

of those members who have given their time to assist the affairs of the Society for their hard work.

The Carter Review and the introduction of HIPs have occupied much of our thinking, and we have been involved in discussions and campaigning on these and other matters at local, regional, and national levels.

DELS is held in high esteem on a national basis and we have participated regularly throughout the year in debates and conferences at Chancery Lane ensuring that the voice of our membership is heard.

.../...

Special Guest Speaker: Des Hudson, Chief Executive

Des Hudson was born in Halifax, Yorkshire, and graduated in law from the University of Leeds in 1977. He qualified as a solicitor in 1980 and worked in private practice until 1987 specialising in crime and child protection work. In 1987 Des joined the Yorkshire Building Society as an assistant solicitor. In 1992 he took up the post of head of lending at the Britannia Building Society. In 1995 he became

operations director of Britannia Life, and in the following year he was made managing director. In 1998 Des joined SMG (Scottish Media Group) to become chief executive of their publishing division and was appointed a director of SMG plc in 1999.

Des joined the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland in September 2004 as chief executive design-



**Chief Executive
Des Hudson**



Des Hudson, Chief Executive

nate, subsequently becoming chief executive.

On 4 September 2006, Des Hudson took up the position of Chief Executive of The Law Society of England and Wales.

IT'S QUESTION TIME

If you have particular issues that you would wish Des Hudson to deal with at the Annual General Meeting, or a specific question that you would wish to put, please let DELS office know.

From the Vice President's Committee

"The Committee enthusiastically supported the broadening of membership of the Society to introduce associate membership for Trainee Solicitors"

The Committee first met on 31 May, and began work on a number of projects which carried on through the year.

The Society has been broadening its appeal to members of the profession, and the Committee was delighted to welcome some younger members in order to provide a greater focus to this task.

The Committee identified how there were time constraints on young lawyers who wished to be involved in the wider profession, but also to make progress within their own law firm.

The Committee had the benefit of contributions from Professor Simon Payne, who had been articulated to a Devon firm, and who was now Head of the Law School of Plymouth University, and Hannah Saxena, President of the Bracton Law Society at Exeter University.

A Social Sub-Committee has been set up, whose initial membership included Marie Macfarlane, Denise Gammack (as representative of the Devon Young Solicitors' Group), Claire Wainwright (then Chair of

the Exeter & District Trainee Solicitors' Group) and Hannah Saxena.

Successful events were held through the year, including a "Making Choices" evening function for Exeter University 1st and 2nd Year Undergraduates at a cocktail bar in Exeter, as well as a wine tasting, and an event with Plymouth University students – which unfortunately fell on a Friday evening, but where Tony Steiner carried the flag.

The Committee also enthusiastically supported the broadening of membership of the Society to introduce associate membership for Trainee Solicitors, and the work which Tony Steiner has been undertaking in setting up a DELS Work Experience Vacation Scheme.

The Committee continued to extend feelers to neighbouring Law Societies – and these met with varying degrees of success in Plymouth and Somerset.

The important work in preparation for the DELS bicentenary was rapidly moved on to a wider group within the Society, chaired

by Alec McNeill.

The Committee had the enjoyable task of considering DELS Young Solicitor of the Year Award for 2006. Congratulations are due to James McNally of Slee Blackwell, who was presented with his award at the Society's Dinner in February.

Looking to the future, the Committee is planning to give further encouragement to widening the appeal of the Society by involving members at all stages in their professional development, and working with the Social Sub-Committee to put on a number of "networking" events where members will be joined by other young professionals from around Devon.

Erik Salomonsen



**Vice President
Erik Salomonsen
Bond Pearce
Exeter**

Tuesday 24 April 2007 at 6.00 p.m.

From your President and Committee Continued from front page

In this context, it has been encouraging to note the much improved profile of our national body which has been able to concentrate on fighting for the causes of the profession, and indeed the promotion of the profession, having been released from the responsibility for dealing with regulation and complaints.

I am delighted that during the course of the last year we have been able to progress our aim to involve more of our young solicitors and trainee solicitors in the affairs of the Society. The

“Associate” initiative is proving to be a great success. We have also continued our work with our local universities and their law student bodies in an effort to persuade our local graduates to bear in mind all that our local firms have to offer.

Another development during the last year has been the launch of our Social Sub-committee, with the aim of developing involvement in the affairs of the Society through an increased number of social events during the year.

An excellent range of events are being planned for the coming months and running into our bicentenary year.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my year and it has been an immense pleasure to serve the Society. I wish Erik Salomonsen every success in the coming year.

Thank you all for your support during the last twelve months.

Chris Hart



**President
Chris Hart
Hooper & Wollen
Torquay**

From the Public Relations Consultant



**Pat Nettleton
PR Consultant 2006/2007**

Tel. 01548 580827 /
07866 752314

Work focussed on press releases to inform the media that Chris Hart was the new President. That work continued during the year to make sure the media are aware of the availability of Chris Hart as a spokesman for DELS.

Press releases were issued and coverage obtained to raise awareness of the issues of regulation of will writers and home information packs.

I would like to continue to work with members to raise the profile of the Society and would welcome any suggestions about topical issues which may benefit DELS.

“Press releases were issued and coverage obtained to raise awareness of the issues of regulation of will writers and home information packs.”

Solicitors' Benevolent Association Report

In 2006 the SBA assisted financially with 13 applications from Devon together with 1 application from Cornwall (he asked that I deal with his affairs for personal reasons), and a re-application from one beneficiary in Somerset. Of these beneficiaries 2 were single, separated or divorced, 7 were widows - one in a nursing home - and there were 4

married couples, 6 dependent children and 1 applications for student grant. The total awards authorised was £73,463. A proportion of the awards, £23,955, was by interest-free secured loan, made to those on low incomes but with equity in their homes, and a further £49,508 was authorised by unsecured loan.

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 Monique Bertoni at DELS office.

Jeremy Lee

The aim of the Association is to assist solicitors and their dependents who are in need.



SBA Director Jeremy Lee

**Symes Robinson & Lee
Crediton**



**Mediation Sub-Committee
Chairman
Jeremy Ferguson
Chanter Ferguson
Bideford**

**“The plan to impose
a Manchester type
internal mediator
scheme on the
Exeter Courts
continued to be
divisive”**



From the Mediation Sub-Committee

This has been a year of ups and downs for your Sub-Committee and our Mediation Schemes.

We started the year on I think a very optimistic note, our Small Claims Scheme had been operating for some three years to quite justifiable acclaim and we had every reason to think that it would become a permanency at the Exeter group of Courts, we continued to service the Main Court Mediation Scheme and had applied to the Civil Mediation Council for accreditation.

June provided a dose of unwelcome reality when we learnt that:-

(a) the Department of Constitutional Affairs had decided that our Scheme was not appropriate and that they intended to impose an In-House Mediator on Exeter and the other Courts based on what they claimed was a very successful pilot at Manchester, and

(b) the CMC rejected our application for accreditation because we failed to meet two of their criteria.

The Committee authorised me to take whatever steps were necessary to adjust our training and procedures to comply with the CMC criteria and I notified the CMC that I wished to talk to somebody as to our deficiencies and how this could be remedied. Despite several requests I heard nothing and was then told that our continued par-

ticipation in the National Mediation Helpline Scheme would be suspended until we remedied our defects.

I finally managed to have a long talk with a very helpful senior person at the CMC, we adjusted our procedures and training requirements in accordance with the CMC practice and have reapplied for accreditation. Hopefully that process will go through this year.

The plan to impose a Manchester type internal mediator scheme on the Exeter Courts continued to be divisive and I was informed by the DCA that Exeter had elected to go for a Manchester Scheme and therefore our Scheme would be wound down and that from April 2007 Small Claims Mediations at Exeter would be handled by an In-House Mediation employed by the Court. Upon enquiry however I discovered that the District Judges were very unhappy with this proposal and that far from the decision having been made by the Department and approved by the Judges the decision which was in the form of a recommendation was the subject of considerable District Judge resistance. Action was obviously urgently required and during my absence on holiday a meeting was held with the District Judges when it appeared that their enquiries showed that the Manchester Scheme was far from being the universally acclaimed

panacea that the Department was holding out and that the Judges were determined to retain our Scheme, if at all possible.

Tony Steiner and I were then called down to a meeting in Exeter where I was told that because of District Judge pressure the Court were unable to advertise for an In-House Mediator to start in post in April 2007 but the Department was continuing to make the point that the Manchester Mediator was far more effective in securing settlements, particularly settlements achieved by telephone negotiations and therefore although we might have a short reprieve the Manchester Scheme was the preferred one. The District Judges however repeated their opposition.

In September having been assured by the Department that our Scheme was safe for another year an article appeared in the Law Society Gazette which seemed to say otherwise. I wrote to the Editor of the Gazette and eventually had a long conversation with the reporter who had written the original article and he published my views under the heading “Exeter Cries Foul”. We were then told by the Department that our Scheme was safe (albeit only for another year) and we in discussion with the Judges set out to modify some of our training to meet criticisms which had been made.



From the Mediation Sub-Committee Continued

I undertook some mediations during Mediation Week in the presence of film cameras and we now have the resulting tapes which are useful if only to show what not to do during the course of a mediation!

In December we were told that we were going to have to go through a tendering process in order to be able to continue our Scheme and at the date of writing that is under discussion but we are very happy to go to tender and I am quite sure that we can put forward a package to provide mediation services to the Small Claims Court for the next year. In the interim our contract with the Court has been renewed until September 2007.

During the course of the activities in September when it seemed that our Scheme was going to be shut down, I involved the enthusiastic assistance of Lord Phillips (formerly Jimmy Young's Legal Eagle) and I have since involved Lord Burnett in bringing pressure to bear on the Lord Chancellors Department to keep our Scheme alive but I must say I strongly suspect that the Department will try and find a way of closing down the Exeter Small Claims Scheme and that further battles may lie ahead.

How our Main Scheme participation will pan out in the future I do not know but it does seem that there are fewer mediations coming

through the Court, only one in the last six months.

On a very much brighter note however we have been offering mediation facilities through the Society and at the present rate of enquiries it seems we shall be undertaking twelve or more mediations a year through out of Court enquiries. We are maintaining our enviable reputation for having a thoroughly well managed Scheme with extremely competent Mediators and I think that in the years to come Devon & Exeter Law Society will become the highly respected name in the provision of mediation services that we set out to be so long ago.

I have had the most tremendous support during the past twelve months from the Committee, special mention of course must go to Monique who has tried to hold my madcap schemes together, to Judith Hirst for having painstakingly and expertly analysed the results of mediations and produced statistics which cannot be faulted and to Tony Steiner and Richard Adams who have been so helpful on the financial front. The other members of the Committee are enthusiastic, extremely hard working and show a dedication to our Scheme above and beyond the call of duty. It would be invidious of me to name names but the quality of debating Committee meetings is extremely high and I am most grateful to them for

their help.

Finally, Devon & Exeter Mediators are now becoming known on the international stage and I continue to promote our success both within the Federation of European Bars and further afield and I am extremely grateful for the support which has been shown for me in those endeavours.

Finally, bearing in mind that it was my fault to start with, I have felt and the Committee have approved my continuing to serve for another twelve months as Chairman but I have done a Tony Blair and have formally announced that I shall not be standing for re-election as Chairman of your Committee for the year 2008/2009, although of course I hope to continue to be a member.

To conclude therefore it has been an odd year, we have had some battles to fight and I am sure there are more battles to come but it seems to me to be a worthwhile thing that we are doing and I am so grateful to everybody for allowing me to continue to do it for so long.

Jeremy Ferguson

"We are maintaining our enviable reputation for having a thoroughly well managed Scheme with extremely competent Mediators"





24 May, 6.00-8.00 pm
Wine Tasting Tour at
Sharpham Farm, Totnes
£8.50 per head
Contact DELS now to
book your place!

And don't forget the Make &
Shake Your Perfect Cocktail
22nd March, 7.00-9.00 pm
@ Starz Bar, Exeter
£17.50 per head
Numbers are limited.
Send your cheque
payable to Starz
Bar to DELS
office.



From the Social Sub-Committee

Hello and welcome. It is an exciting time for this new committee to DELS. With thanks already to the hard work and efforts of the young and vibrant committee combined with the support of DELS, I hope our initial success will continue.

We began our opening event with a Wine Tasting evening at Starz Bar in Exeter in November 2006. This was enjoyed by all given the attendance, feedback and the hangovers the following day! Other events have included a joint DELS/Trainee Solicitors' Group Salsa Night and the annual Shelter Quiz.

We are working closely with the younger members of the legal community including the Exeter and District Trainee Solicitors' Group. Developing those links is important to the future of DELS. In my view the recently newly created Associate Membership of DELS will only help to strengthen those links and attract younger members to DELS.

The success of the events organised by the Sub Committee is dependent on the support of its members. We want to meet the varied needs of all our members.

Therefore, we value your feedback and if there are particular events you would like to see, please can you contact me via DELS. Also, if any members are keen to become involved, please let me know.

Watch this space! Future events will be publicised in the DELS Newsletter, via email and on the DELS website. Planned social events include a "How to Make Your Own" Cocktail Evening, a Wine Tasting Tour at Sharpham Farm, a family activity day and sporting events.

Marie Macfarlane, Chair

From the Education & Training Sub-Committee

I am pleased to report that education and training has had another successful year.

We have provided fifty five CPD courses together with eight other courses including practice management.

The Sub-Committee has been strengthened by new and younger members, which is very encouraging.

We have been looking at other ways in which CPD might be provided including using IT and that is ongoing. If firms would welcome bespoke education and training delivered in that way their views would be most welcome.

I am standing down both from the chair and from the Sub-Committee and would

wish, as ever, to record my thanks to all the staff at DELS, but particularly to Tony Steiner who have worked so hard to deliver for DELS and to such great effect.

I wish my successor and the Sub-Committee continuing success.

Graham Bond

"We have been looking at other ways in which CPD might be provided including using IT and that is ongoing"



**Education & Training
Chairman
Graham Bond
Tozers
Exeter**

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To see our full list of 2007 CPD Seminars visit
www.devonlawsociety.org.uk and click on training.

To book simply contact Charlotte Lythgoe
No need for a booking form just call!



**Non Contentious Business
Chair
Patricia Durham-Hall
Every's
Exmouth**

“After doing research of its members over the imminent introduction of Home Information Packs, the Sub-Committee had unanimously decided to recommend The Law Society/MDA software package to DELS members.”



**HIPs will become
mandatory on
1 June 2007.**

From the Non Contentious Business Sub-Committee

I feel the Sub-Committee can be forgiven for appearing somewhat tunnel visioned over the imminent introduction of Home Information Packs on 1st June 2007.

With the “new” Department for Communities and Local Government watering down the ingredients of the packs there has been much uncertainty and indecision by firms on what action to be taken, if any. After doing research of its members, the Sub-Committee had unanimously decided to recommend the Law Society/MDA software package to DELS members and having taken that decision the HIPs working group was set up to organise a presentation in Exeter of the product.

This took place on 31st January 2007 at Sandy Park and was well attended by about 160 delegates including some estate agent guests for the first time. Denis Cameron from Chancery Lane was an excellent speaker (and may be engaged by DELS as a CPD lecturer in the future). He was very keen to point out the advantages open to our members if they act now. Unfortunately Pam Tierney for MDA was weak and after the feedback it was decided to follow it up with a news shot to all our members.

Many thanks to my working group consisting of Alison Lavery, Ian

Bradbury and Maxine Barnes, also to Pat Nettleton and the never tiring Monique for organising the presentation in conjunction with Chancery Lane.

Last November I attended the first National Conveyancing Congress at The Oval on behalf of DELS which was an extremely interesting two day event. I have written a report of this and it can be emailed to any member interested by Monique. I very much hope to attend again this year.

Membership criteria for our Sub-Committee was also debated and agreed. We can always invite any member to attend for a special occasion if they are needed. We are very sad to announce the stepping down of the immediate past chair Robert Coram who has guided me over the past year and been invaluable in his work on the committee for the past 15 years.

On a similar note we must thank Graham Carey who retired this year for his long service going back to pre-1985 and Rod Mole who was already sitting in the Chair of the Committee back in May 1986!! (I had no idea you were so long in the tooth Rod).

On the brighter side we have some new members and welcome Richard Holmes from Kitson Hutchings, and Angela Wil-

liams from Foot Anstey. This swells our ranks to 12. I would also like to thank our President for attending our meeting on 21 November and opening the Presentation at Sandy Park on 31 January.

Other topics we have debated this year have been will writing companies, e-conveyancing and the chain matrix, the new Mental Capacity Act 2005 and our annual visit to the Plymouth Land Registry that will now be arranged by Alison Lavery since Graham Carey's retirement.

Finally we have been asked if we might devise a standard questionnaire for use by solicitors in the DELS area requesting information from landlords, managing agent or local councils. I shall write a request for ideas to our members in the next newsletter and David Wheaton and Frances Canning have offered to correlate them for the Sub-Committee's deliberation and recommendation in 2007.

I would finally like to thank all the Sub-Committee members for their hard work and support during my first year as Chairman when our work has been very much in the lime light.

Patricia Durham-Hall



**International Relations
Chairman
Paul Derbyshire
Ford Simey
Exeter**

**“Our large
consignment of
books from DELS
has arrived in
Harare. Thank you
to all concerned.”**



**DELS database for
international work has been
enlarged and
details can be accessed via
DELS website.**

From the International Relations Sub-Committee

DELS has once again participated vigorously in the International scene. Links with our twin Bars have been strengthened by mutual visits and we continue to meet and exchange our ideas with our European colleagues through the Federation of European Bars. Events in Zimbabwe continue to cause alarm and our association with Zimbabwe is in good heart.

Zimbabwe

In May 2006 we hosted an employment law week for three representatives of the Zimbabwe Law Society. Members of DELS combined with the local Bar and with John Hollow, Employment Tribunal Chairman, to put together a programme of seminars and study sessions. This was rounded off by a visit to the Employment Appeals Tribunal in London. Our visitors were intrigued to see behind the scenes and find out how the UK employment tribunal service operates. They plan to seek revisions in the Zimbabwe Labour Law Courts and their procedures.

In November 2006 Jeremy Ferguson attended the Zimbabwe annual summer school where he talked on the theme of mediation. He was able to witness at first hand the problems faced by the local practitioners. Jeremy plans to return this year to help train mediators.

Our large consignment of books from DELS has arrived in Harare. For some time the books were held up in customs but have now been released and are avail-

able for Harare practitioners to use. Thank you to all concerned.

Federation of European Bars (FBE)

The Spring meeting was held in Zurich where the theme was remuneration and success fees. This was followed in October by a meeting in Porto where the theme was legal training. A large contingent from DELS attended.

The FBE year was rounded off with a trip to Barcelona in February at the invitation of the Barcelona Bar.

It is proposed to host the October 2008 FBE meeting in Devon and this is to be discussed by DELS general Committee at its next meeting.

Twin Bars

The President has been very active this year in promoting good international relations. The first of his trips was to Leuven in Belgium, quickly followed by Verona to attend that city's annual celebration in May. The President of the Verona Bar, Aldo Bulgarelli was a guest at the DELS annual dinner.

In June DELS hosted the joint reception with the Bar and invited a number of international guests to attend the Legal Sunday Service. 15 guests came from Erlangen, Rennes, Leuven and Bilbao.

A special meeting was held in June to discuss whether the Twin Bars should be expanded to include Gdansk. The meeting agreed that although future contact and informal arrangements with Gdansk will continue it was not yet

time to enlarge the current official twinning arrangement between the four Bars. This is a topic that will surface again as relationships develop between Gdansk and other European countries.

The President attended a ceremony at The Hague on 26th June. Alec McNeill and his wife accepted an invitation from Erlangen for the annual walking day. He was delighted that frequent stops were made at various beer gardens.

In October there was a further visit to Leuven by the President and Rod Mole. Finally the President has been a recent visitor to the annual dinner of the Southern Law Association in Cork.

Database

It goes without saying that DELS members are keen to build on these international links. The DELS database for international work has been enlarged with the addition of a number of firms, names and details over the last year, access is available via the DELS website.

Future events

DELS has received an invitation from Rennes who are hosting this year's Twin Bars meeting on 24-27 May on a commercial law theme. Members are warmly invited to take part. If you would like to attend and/or contribute to DELS presentation, please contact Monique at DELS office for further details. The next FBE meeting is also in May in Naples.

Paul Derbyshire



**Practice Management
Chairman
Simon Sanger-Anderson
Tozers
Exeter**

“The aim of the Sub-Committee is to arrange training and information for firms on a wide range of matters relating to the running of a firm as a business.”



To reserve your place, email
mail@devonlawsociety.org.uk



**Rod Mole, Council Member for West Country and Gwent Constituency
Chanter Ferguson
Bideford**

From the Practice Management Sub-Committee

The aim of the Sub-Committee is to arrange training and information for firms on a wide range of matters relating to the running of a firm as a business and the focus of our work is assuming an ever greater relevance at this time of impending change which will have huge consequences for the future of the profession, and for legal aid firms in particular.

The local practice management forums which fall under the aegis of the Sub-Committee continue to flourish and are a useful source of feedback on the concerns of firms and the topics which they think

could helpfully be addressed through seminars or surveys. If you are not a participator in your local forum then do get in touch with Tony who can give you more information about when, where and how often your forum meets.

We continue to organise the Inter-Firm Comparison survey, the Inter-Firm Salary Survey and non-law training covering management, accounts, HR skills and specific topics such as client care. We ran a varied and interesting seminar programme last year and plans are already well advanced to do so in 2007, with Matthew Moore for

instance making a welcome return to talk about law firm marketing.

We are always looking for suggestions from members as to how what we do could be added to or improved upon; our constant dilemma is how to make relevant what we do for such a disparate group of member firms in terms of size and practice areas.

If you have an idea for a seminar or workshop topic which you want to discuss then feel free to ring me as Chairman or to talk to Tony Steiner.

Simon Sanger-Anderson

Forthcoming Practice Management 2007 Seminars

29 March, 2.00—5.15 pm, 3 CPD hours
Improving your Marketing

Venue: Exeter Racecourse
Speaker: Matthew Moore

1 May, 10 am—12.15 pm, 2 CPD hours
The New Solicitors' Code of Conduct

Venue: Exeter Racecourse
Speaker: Simon Young

9 May, 9.30 am—4.45 pm, 6 CPD hours
VAT for Legal Accounting

Venue: Buckerell Lodge
Speaker: Candy Orr

24 May, 9.45 am—1.00 pm, 3 CPD hours
Money Laundering Update

Venue: Exeter Racecourse
Speaker: Trevor Hellowell

25 September, 9.30 am—5.30 pm, 7 CPD hours
Law Management Stage One

Venue: Exeter Racecourse
Speaker: Robert Steele

26 September, 9.30 am—4.00 pm, 5 CPD hours
Law Management Stage Two

Venue: Exeter Racecourse
Speaker: Robert Steele

18 October, 1.00-5.00 pm, 4 CPD hours
Employment Law for Solicitors as Employers

Venue: Exeter Racecourse
Speaker: Tony Cooper

From your Council Member

Mr Mole will give an oral report to the AGM on 24th April when members will also have an opportunity to put questions to their Council Member.

Contact number: 01237 478751 and e-mail: rodmole@chanterferguson.co.uk

The Council is the governing body of The Law Society. In 2007 it has 100 seats, all held by solicitors. Sixty-one members are elected from geographical constituencies; the remaining 39 seats represent particular areas of law or specific groups of solicitors. The President chairs the Council, and along with the Vice-President and Deputy Vice-President, is elected by the Council and holds office for one year.



**Litigation & Costs Liaison
Chairman
Angus McNicol
Foot Anstey
Exeter**

From the Litigation & Costs Liaison Sub-Committee

We last met on 27 February 2007. The meeting was very well attended and there was a strong feeling amongst those present that the profession was reaching a crucial stage, particularly bearing in mind the proposed ongoing changes to the way Legal Aid is being administered and funded.

One of our most active members is Stephen Nunn who continues to strive valiantly to fight changes which would have the result of pricing the smaller criminal firms out of the market-place. He continues to attend the most important meetings, however far away they are, and to make the views of the local profession known. DELS therefore owe him a considerable debt of gratitude for what he continues to do. He is proposing with others on the Sub-Committee to prepare an action plan to ensure that the right messages get through to the decision makers.

Penny Scott and Tony Griffin of Cartridges have agreed to form a sub-committee to draw up a similar action plan in relation to Legal Aid for civil/matrimonial/public law claims.

The Sub-Committee does feel strongly that if the profession responds promptly, thoroughly and

reasonably to new consultation papers, the authorities will take some note as is evidenced by the unexpectedly strong responses to the Carter Report last October which resulted in the slowing down of the process and a rethink on the part of the government.

Representatives from the Sub-Committee will be attending the following events: -

- ◆ The LSC's conference held at the Eden Project on 13 March 2007 entitled "Legal Advice – The Way Ahead for Rural and Coastal Communities". The aim is to try to make the LSC understand the problems that the changes are causing particularly to small firms and the effect that these changes have on access to justice, if implemented.

- ◆ There is then an event taking place in parliament on 19 April 2007 where representatives from local Law Societies will be attending. This will be an opportunity for those representatives to talk directly to MPs about the crisis in Legal Aid in their areas. The aim generally is to help MPs, many of whom have no concept of how Legal Aid works, to get a deeper understanding.

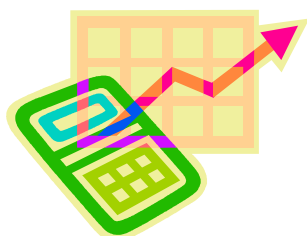
DELS Members are urged to make representations to their individual local MPs as soon as possible.

Apart from the above, you may know that the OFT have taken the view that the procedure for arriving at recoverable cost rates in contentious matters, whereby information about overheads is obtained from local firms, has been deemed to be an uncompetitive process. The new rates which took effect from 1 January 2007 and which run for two years have been increased solely by reference to the increase in RPI. Details were included in the January newsletter. It has been proposed that there be set up a new Costs Council to deal with future reviews of recoverable cost rates although we are told that the DCA have no definite plans and are still considering the position. The Sub-Committee will keep you posted as to any developments although we are unlikely to hear anything for some time.

The Sub-Committee, which welcomed the input from new 'recruits' Penny Scott of Cartridges and Romano Sidoli of Slee Blackwell at its last meeting, seem generally to be fired with enthusiasm and long may this last!

Angus McNicol

"If the profession responds promptly, thoroughly and reasonably to new consultation papers, the authorities will take some note as is evidenced by the unexpectedly strong responses to the Carter Report last October"



The guideline rates for summary assessment which took effect on 1st January 2007 were increased solely on account of RPI. Please refer to DELS January 07 Newsletter for the latest figures.



**Honorary Treasurer
Richard Adams
Crosse & Crosse
Exeter**

“2006 was a good year. To quote our auditors, ‘it is an impressive result this year with the employment register income standing out’”



From the Honorary Treasurer

Time is money.

‘No, it’s not’, says P Dantic, a lawyer of my acquaintance, brilliant at spotting species of tree and correctly spelling their Latin names but less good at appreciating the beauty of a full wood. ‘How can you equate something ephemeral, like time, with something so clearly tangible as money?’

Fair point, Mr Dantic. More accurate perhaps to say that money pays for time. Or that it encourages the world go around. And so while (unlike commercial enterprises) we do not exist to make profits for our shareholders and owners, and our raison d’être is therefore not the making of financial surpluses, we do need to do this if we wish to achieve much as an organisation, and to support our fundamentally important (and non-remunerative) activities.

To me, the range of these looks likely to continue to widen – post-Clementi with the fragmentation going on in Chancery Lane, it is surely unlikely to narrow – and it is good to be able to afford to consider developing our activities, where opportunities or demand to do

so exists.

For DELS to continue in this vein, it should fund things that financially do not ‘wash their own face’ only after careful consideration of the wisdom of so doing, and as a result each year ought to show a surplus greater than the sum of the membership subscriptions it collects.

I’m pleased to report that 2006 was a good year. To quote our auditors, ‘it is an impressive result this year with the employment register income standing out’. Indeed so, and our 06 pre-tax surplus of £73,666 is a new record. Reserves as at 1 Jan 2007 stood at £365,162. At this rate we shall very soon be in a position to acquire suitable business premises for cash if we so choose.

Seminar income wasn’t bad either, marginally below that of last year but still a good sum – though it remains a mystery to me why it is that we seem unable to persuade more of our members to send delegates to our courses.

On the spurious basis that only solicitors attend courses, which ig-

nores fee earners who are not solicitors, and assuming we have 1,000 members, which we don’t quite have, the annual spend of each of our members on the courses we offer is only a little over £100 per year. This won’t get close to covering CPD requirements.

It seems to me that despite the very best efforts of our staff over many years, we continue only to scratch the surface of the CPD market. I fail to understand why this should be. Another of life’s unsolved mysteries.

As ever I pay tribute to our staff, including the now-departed Lydia, and thank them for their great efforts and excellent results.

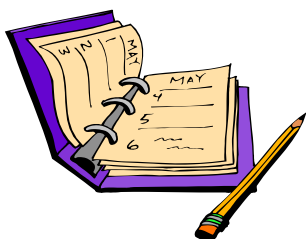
Richard Adams



**Honorary Secretary
Anthony Spiers MBE
Michelmores
Exeter**

secretary@
devonlawsociety.org.uk

“If there are any *would be* committee members whose sponsors missed the deadline, will they contact me because the Committee has power to co-opt people “



“The Committee shall have power ... (h) to co-opt any Member of the Society for a period not exceeding twelve months at any one time and such co-opted Member shall have all the powers of an elected member of Committee”

**Extract from DELS Articles
of Association**

From the Honorary Secretary

First an apology! The Newsletter in January this year, was published later than intended because of delays at the printers. This meant that the nomination form for aspiring committee members only reached members just before the time for nominations closed. I'm sorry about this.

Next year we propose to put the nominations in the previous November Newsletter so that there is plenty of time for people to think about and make nominations to your committee.

For this year, if there are any frustrated *would be* committee

members whose sponsors missed the deadline, will they contact me because the Committee has power to co-opt people and I am sure would be delighted to welcome volunteers.

Our constitution provides for us to have not less than 10 and not more than 40 committee members. We actually have 2 continuing members whose terms of office continue beyond this AGM, and no nominations for new members.

Is the membership trying to tell us something.....and if so what is that?

On a more optimistic note DELS has had an active and successful year during which we have played our part on the National, Regional and Local stages within the profession and provided an increased level of support to our members in their practices.

We now have a representative body at National level which is not constrained by regulatory responsibilities. This is something I have long advocated and I have high hopes that it will enable Chancery Lane to provide strong leadership for our profession in the future.

Tony Spiers

Committee Meetings 2007/2008

All meetings start at 2.15 pm (except for the AGM)

Tuesday 12 June 2007

Tuesday 25 September 2007

Tuesday 4 December 2007

Tuesday 4 March 2008

Tuesday 22 April 2008 - Annual General Meeting

DEVON & EXETER LAW SOCIETY

The 198th Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on
Tuesday 11th April 2006 at 6.00 p.m. at The Exeter Golf & Country Club, Exeter.

PRESENT

Mr P R Mole, President in the Chair; Mr C D Hart, Vice President; Mr C J C Palmer, Council Member; Mr S Payne, Head of School of Law, University of Plymouth, and 26 members of the Society whose attendance was recorded. The President welcomed all the members present to the 198th Annual General Meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Robert S. Ager, Michael E. Barnes, Cecil M. Bishop, John S. Brooke, Alan D. Brookes, Robert S. Coram, Michael B. G. Cosgrave, Roger J. Dawe, Michael P.G. Ducray, Michael F. Freeland, Helen Jarvis, Kerry J. Larba-lestier, Allister McNeill, Sarah Mudge, Robert D. Newman, John A.G. Pearn, Andrew M. Pearson, T. Colin Richards, Jeremy C.N. Robinson, James M. Rowland, David Scarrott, Mark Shell, Ailsa Tatton-Shell, Christopher N. Thomas, Shirley J. Tull, Jonathan Wharmby, David L. Whiteley, Angela Williams, Joanna Williams, Peter Williams and Ms M. Jackson, The Law Society South West Regional Manager.

2. THE MINUTES

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 19th April 2005, having been circulated, were approved and signed by the President as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

3. THE REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT AND COMMITTEE FOR 2005/2006

The President declared that it had been an honour and privilege to serve and represent the Society over the past 12 months. Looking back on his presidential year, it had indeed been a very special time for him. He hoped that the year ahead would not be too daunting for Chris Hart when he recalled the time commitment that the office entailed: 9 international visits, 2 conferences, 5 committee meetings, 2 meetings of the Association of South Western Law Societies, 10 dinners and a number of various other functions; all seemed to have gone well. And DELS goes from strength to strength. The Society is ably served by its permanent officers who make sure that we stay solvent, keep on the right path and comply with our strategic business plan. The good administrative team is the envy of all other Local Law Societies and DELS is likely to be the first Local Law Society to acquire Investors in People status.

The President also paid tribute to his predecessor Paul Derbyshire who dedicated his presidential year to pro bono work but which left him wondering how to follow such an act! DELS is influential both at home and abroad. The watch word is simply "BE THERE" to help the Society promote itself both nationally and internationally.

4. THE REPORT OF THE HONORARY TREASURER

Copies of the accounts were circulated at the meeting. Mr Adams said that he was happy with the Society's financial overall performance despite a downturn. He explained that DELS, as with any other business, is susceptible to the fluctuations of recruitment activities. The adoption of the accounts of the Society for the year to 31 December 2005 and the Committee's recommendation that Messrs Glover Stanbury & Co. be appointed as the Society's Auditors for the forthcoming year were proposed by Mr Bowen, seconded by Mr Lawson and approved unanimously.

The President thanked Mr Adams. He added that while, by tradition, there was no report from the Honorary Secretary, it was a pleasure to welcome Mr Spiers back and ready for the next presidential year.

5. SOLICITORS BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

Mr Lee reminded the meeting to consider becoming members of this very worthwhile charity which only costs £10 per year. The SBA offers financial help not only to solicitors but also to their dependents in straightened circumstances, many of whom despite State benefits fall out of the safety net one way or another. Mr Lee spoke in strong support of the Committee's recommendation that a donation of £1,250.00 be made to the SBA. This was approved unanimously.

6. GRANTS

The President welcomed Mr Simon Payne, Head of the Law School at the University of Plymouth. He thanked Mr Payne for coming this evening. He then invited the meeting to consider the recommendation from the Committee that a grant of £200.00 be made to the Bracton Law Society and that a grant of £400.00 be made towards the Friends of the Law School at Exeter University; both grants being consistent with previous donations.

Mr Lawson asked whether DELS was maintaining any contact with the law students at Exeter University. He recalled his years as the Society's Honorary Secretary when it was customary for DELS officers and local practitioners to meet the students over a drink. Such evenings offered a good interchange. The President agreed that steps to foster this relationship should be pursued.

In answer to Mr Pryce's query, Mr Bond explained how the Friends of The Law School came into being to foster links between practitioners and academics. The main objective is a programme of public lectures, seminars and social events held during the academic year. Contacts were originally made with Professor Kim Economides as Head of the Law School. We need to make sure that these contacts are kept with the new Head, Professor John Usher.

The President invited Mr Payne to comment from his experience with law students and practitioners in the Plymouth area. Mr Payne agreed that such contacts were a good thing especially now that from September 2006, Plymouth University will be running the Legal Practice Course. This course was established within the Law Department at Exeter University in 1992.

The President said that DELS was looking to work more closely with Plymouth Law Society and that the main Committee will need to bear this in mind when consideration to such grants is given for next year.

Both grants were approved unanimously.

7. **COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT**

The President said that while members knew that Mr Palmer would cease to be Council Member at The Law Society's AGM in July, perhaps they had not fully appreciated the extent of the work that he had put in. On their behalf the President thanked Mr Palmer for the sterling service that he had provided to DELS, its members and to the Association of South Western Law Societies.

Mr Palmer thanked the President for his kind remarks. As this was his last AGM as Council Member, Mr Palmer felt that it was appropriate to say a few words and limit his report to the structural changes taking place in Chancery Lane.

The Law Society is well on the way in its restructuring: the 2 new Boards (Regulation and Consumer Complaints) are up and running, independently of, and separate from, the Council. It now needs to prepare itself for the new representational role. The "Have your Say" consultation exercise finishes on 21 April and Mr Palmer encouraged those members who had not yet done so to respond. There are 17,000 replies to date which the experts say is a good and meaningful response.

Meanwhile, the Council has agreed its own vision of what the future Law Society might be as a representative body. Four main themes have emerged from the road show meetings with practitioners:

- i. Overall support for a national Law Society
- ii. Support for a compulsory levy but in return for 'value for money'
- iii. Perceived role for the Law Society as the voice of the profession, as opposed to simple provision of member services
- iv. A need for the Law Society to be more effective in its communication with the profession, the government and others

At its last meeting, the Council agreed some basic principles:

- Scope and purpose of the Law Society* – to act as the collective voice for solicitors and to respond to their needs.
- Unique potential of the Law Society* – it is
 - a) the only national body representing and promoting solicitors' collective interests nationally and internationally and promoting the profession of solicitor;
 - b) the profession's advocate as first consultee of the regulator, a focal point in campaigning for law reform especially to protect the independence of lawyers and the rule of law;
 - c) the single most accessible source of essential information in relation to the profession and legal practice;
 - d) the first point of contact for ethical, professional and practice advice and for pastoral care;
 - e) the leading commentator on and promoter of matters of public interest relevant to the solicitors' profession.

However these principles will be tested against the consultation findings. Mr Palmer assured the meeting that the profession's response will not be ignored.

Mr Palmer explained that although technically he is one of the Council Members for the West Country & Gwent constituency, in practice it has meant being DELS representative and it has been a privilege to do so for the last 7 years. He recounted how he first became involved with the Society when he was persuaded by Mr Lawson to become Assistant Secretary in 1985. However, his lasting and happy memory will be of all the friends that he has made during that time. Mr Palmer concluded by wishing all present the very best for the future. No doubt there would be challenging times ahead but DELS is well placed to rise to whatever these challenges may be; indeed DELS has a great future.

The President reiterated the Society's thanks and gratitude on behalf of the members who have benefited from Mr Palmer's hard work.

Mr Lawson wondered what Mr Palmer's view was on the adverse publicity following criticism by Zahida Manzoor, the Legal Services Ombudsman as well as the Legal Services Complaints Commissioner, on the Society's handling of consumer complaints. Mr Palmer opined that Ms Manzoor's comments were completely out of order and her demands unreasonable. He applauded the leadership of The Law Society for the tough comments made in the press releases issued by the Chairmen of the 2 Boards, Law Society President and Law Society Chief Executive, including the suggestion of conflict of interest in Ms Manzoor's dual role.

The Honorary Secretary said that much of the current critical press for solicitors arose from claim against the miners' compensation scheme. It is perceived that some in the profession took advantage of sick miners' who were making compensation claims. The Law Society has said that 45 solicitors from 10 firms are facing hearings before the Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal. The reality is that there is much mileage for the press in reporting on cases that have gone wrong and this is not good for the profession.

8. **REPORTS FROM THE SUB-COMMITTEES**

Written reports from all the Chairmen of DELS Sub-Committees had been previously circulated. The President invited the officers concerned to add any comment if they wish.

a) Vice President

Mr Hart reported that his Committee met recently to consider the "Have your Say" consultation. It proved difficult to draft a response from a local law society's perspective but this was finalised and sent direct to the President of The Law Society. The response has been acknowledged personally by Mr Kevin Martin and is currently posted on DELS website. The Committee also attained a grant of £4,000 for DELS from Chancery Lane's national fund of £25,000 to assist with the operation of its local complaints conciliation scheme.

b) International Relations

Mr Derbyshire said that it had been a busy year internationally with the President flying DELS flag on his many travels. The Society is now officially twinned with Verona. In May this year, 3 lawyers from Zimbabwe will come to Devon for a week long Labour Law programme. A grant has been obtained from The Law Society's Charity fund to cover their travel costs. Mr John Hollow, Chairman of the Exeter Employment Tribunal is involved and has organised a visit to the Employ-

ment Appeal Tribunal in London. Mr Derbyshire was grateful to him and he also thanked the members who will be giving up their time to look after them and host them. Further events in the calendar include the 9th to 12th June 2006 Exeter Legal Sunday Service weekend when members are encouraged to participate.

c) Litigation and Costs

Mr McNicol reported that his Committee was still looking to find a successor to Mr David Turner who was responsible for the negotiations relating to recoverable costs in civil litigation. He reassured the meeting that the exercise should not present any problems with the OFT as long as the results are not released and distributed to DELS members. Earlier in the year the OFT had issued a warning to local law societies over fee research for use as guidelines by local costs judges.

d) Mediation

The need to write all DELS AGM reports means that, by the date of the actual AGM things have moved on! Mr Ferguson therefore gave an update on the international scene where there continues to be interest in DELS Small Claims scheme. The Poland wide convention in Warsaw due to be held in February has been postponed to June followed by more mediation training in Krakow for lawyers there. Mr Ferguson was in Hanover 2 weeks ago to address a conference attended by German Judges.

e) Non Contentious Business

The outgoing Chairman, Mr Coram, had sent his apologies. The President invited Patricia Durham-Hall to give an update on the Committee's activities. She referred to her *Planning for HIPs* report which was published in DELS March Newsletter. This will be a standing item on the agenda for future meetings together with all issues relating to e-conveyancing. Patricia Durham-Hall said that the Committee will continue to keep members updated as to all the developments.

f) Public Relations Consultant

Pat Nettleton said that she will meet Mr Hart after the meeting to identify opportunities to attract good media coverage and build on raising DELS' profile for the benefit of the local profession.

9. **APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS & MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

The President had great pleasure in inviting Mr Chris Hart, Mr Erik Salomonsen and Mr Allister McNeill to their respective offices of President, Vice President and Junior Vice President for the year 2006/2007. No other nominations have been received.

The President, in welcoming Chris Hart to office and investing him with the Presidential Jewel, hoped that the new President would have as much pleasure as he had over the last 12 months. The new President in turn invested Erik Salomonsen with the Vice President's Jewel.

The President gave a vote of thanks on behalf of DELS to Mr Mole for his energetic stewardship of the Society. Mr Mole had maintained a good sense of humour, purpose and responsibility throughout the countless functions and meetings he attended and the changes faced by the profession. The President cherished personal memories of their double act on the occasion of a function held in Belgium. However the most memorable part was Mr Mole's address in Italian at the twinning ceremony in Verona which set a most unfortunate precedent for the new DELS President to follow! He then presented Mr Mole with the Past President's Jewel.

The President welcomed the rest of the nominations to the Committee, noting in particular the remarkable achievements of the Honorary Secretary, Mr Spiers, and the Honorary Treasurer, Mr Adams, for holding their posts for 12 and 8 years respectively.

The President also echoed Mr Mole's comments in respect of Mr Palmer's service and hoped that we will mark his retirement properly later in the year.

Mrs Anstey added that she hoped DELS would also grant Mr Palmer life honorary membership as was her case when she retired.

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 Mr P R Mole

The Law Society Council Member Mr C J C Palmer (until 13 July 2006)

Local Government Representative Mr R Gash

Crown Prosecution Service Representative Mr R D Bowen

To the Committee for Three Years

(Exeter & East Devon) Mr D P White

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Honorary Secretary confirmed that no member had raised any business under this heading.

The President shared his thoughts with the meeting at a time of considerable change for The Law Society and the way that the profession was likely to be represented in the future. The news over the last few weeks just shows how the profession is being presented to the public at large: the arguments and uncertainty over HIPs, the shambles that is the Government's approach to IHT, further major changes to legal aid and the Legal Services Ombudsman's recent comments in respect of complaints handling resulting in bad publicity against which The Law Society had to stand up and defend its corner.

Therefore, during the coming year, the President wished to see DELS promoting the good image of the profession throughout the county. Solicitors work hard and conduct thousands of transactions with the vast majority of clients completely satisfied. Members also give up huge amounts of free time, involved in charitable or voluntary work in their communities.

The review of DELS strategic business plan last year demonstrates the wish to take on further challenges and maintain the progression of the Society. There is still much to be done to see younger members involved. To this end, there will be a recommendation to adopt changes to permit membership from trainee solicitors. It is also proposed to introduce a new Social Sub-Committee: we need to have a bit more "fun".

In these uncertain times, it is important to strengthen the Society and to seek to widen DELS influence. Good links are already being developed with Plymouth Law Society. The President added his own welcome to Mr Simon Payne, Head of the School of Law at Plymouth University and thanked him for taking the time and trouble to come.

Devon is a marvellous place to practise law. We need to encourage law students to recognise the quality and diversity of legal work and the firms available throughout the county. Likewise local law students should not feel that they have to move from the South West when they can pursue purposeful and fruitful careers coupled with a great quality of life in Devon.

On a personal note, the President thanked in anticipation his partners at Hooper & Wollen for their support and encouragement (so far!) and hopefully during the coming year. Thanks are also due to DELS team from the stewardship of Tony Spiers and Richard Adams and the administrative staff through to the quality of the members serving on all the Sub-Committees. Only recently at a Chartered Accountants' function, DELS business set up was held out as a model example of how a professional society should be run. The President concluded that we had an excellent base to work from and felt that we were entitled to shout about our successes from the roof tops. He thanked everyone for attending.

There being no other business, the Annual General Meeting closed at 6.56 p.m.

NOTES

DEVON AND EXETER LAW SOCIETY

TAKE NOTICE that the 199th Annual General Meeting of the Devon and Exeter Law Society will be held on **Tuesday 24th April 2007** at 6.00 p.m. at Sandy Park Conference Centre, 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 2006/2007 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 2006 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 2006, to report on the Solicitors' Benevolent Association; and consideration of the recommendation of the Committee that a donation of £1,250.00 be made.
6. To consider the Committee's recommendation that:
 - (a) a grant of £200.00 be made to the Bracton Law Society; and that
 - (b) a grant of £400.00 be made towards the Friends of the Law School initiative at the University of Exeter.
 - (c) a grant of £400.00 be made for the benefit of the students attending the Legal Practice Course at Plymouth University School of Law. The way such sum is utilized is to be determined by Paul Derbyshire and Tony Spiers (who are members of the Advisory Board of the School) in consultation with Professor Simon Payne.
7. To receive reports on the year's activities from the following:

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

President	Mr V E S Salomonsen (Exeter & East Devon)
Vice President	Mr A McNeill (North Devon)
Second Vice President	Mr J M G Cross (South Devon)
For One Year	
Honorary Secretary	Mr J A Spiers MBE
Honorary Treasurer and Membership Secretary	Mr R A Adams
<u>To the Committee for One Year</u>	
The Immediate Past President	Mr C D Hart (South Devon)
The Law Society Council Member	Mr P R Mole
Local Government Representative	Mr R Gash
Crown Prosecution Service Representative	Mr R D Bowen
<u>To the Committee for Three Years</u>	
9. To receive the Committee's recommendation that Honorary Life Membership be granted to Mr Christopher Palmer in recognition of his considerable contribution to the affairs of the Society over many years.
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 Suite 5, Renslade House, Bonhay Road, Exeter EX4 3AY.

By order of the Committee J A Spiers MBE Dated 13 March, 2007
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.

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 20th April 2007.

DEVON AND EXETER LAW SOCIETY**OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 2006/2007**

President	MR C D HART
Vice President	MR V E S SALOMONSEN
Second Vice President	MR A McNEILL
Immediate Past President	MR P R MOLE
Honorary Secretary	MR J A SPIERS MBE
Honorary Treasurer	MR R A ADAMS
Auditors	MESSRS GLOVER STANBURY & CO.

COMMITTEE

<u>Till Annual Meeting 2007</u>	MR T G PENNY (NORTH DEVON) MR J GRIFFIN (EXETER & EAST DEVON) MR M B G COSGRAVE (SOUTH DEVON) MR R J G BLAIR (SOUTH DEVON)
<u>Till Annual Meeting 2008</u>	MISS M MACFARLANE (EXETER & EAST DEVON)
<u>Till Annual Meeting 2009</u>	MR D P WHITE (EXETER & EAST DEVON)

<u>Law Society Council Member (until 13/7/06)</u>	MR C J C PALMER
<u>Law Society Council Member (from 13/7/06)</u>	MR P R MOLE
<u>Solicitors' Benevolent Association Representative</u>	MR J C R B LEE
<u>Local Government Representative</u>	MR R GASH
<u>Crown Prosecution Service Representative</u>	MR R D BOWEN
<u>Devon Young Solicitors' Group Representative</u>	MISS M MACFARLANE

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			
1952	F C Landsell	S	1980	Mrs M Anstey	S			
1953	Sir Godwin Michelmore KBE	E	1981	C M Verney	N			

Offices of the Society since 1920Honorary 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] M A Mathew] joint
1959 - 1975	G H S Butcher
1975 - 1988	B R Wordsworth
(1987	D L Whiteley - Assistant Treasurer)
1988 - 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.

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

DEVON & EXETER 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 24th April 2007, 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 board will act as your proxy.

✕ _____

POLL CARD

NAME OF MEMBER (BLOCK LETTERS)	RESOLUTION NO.	VOTE	
		FOR	AGAINST
	1.	.....	.....
	2.	.....	.....
	3.	.....	.....
	4.	.....	.....
	5.	.....	.....
	6.(A)	.....	.....
	6.(B)	.....	.....
	6.(C)	.....	.....
	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 EXETER LAW SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: TUESDAY 24 APRIL 2007

6.00 p.m., Sandy Park Conference Centre, Exeter.

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 £29.95 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 THURSDAY 5 APRIL 2007 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 24 April 2007 at 7.30 for 8.00 p.m. at Sandy Park, Exeter.

We enclose a cheque for £ (£29.95 per person incl. VAT) made payable to DEVON & EXETER LAW SOCIETY.

Please indicate if any special dietary meal is required:

Name(s)
 Dietary Requirements

CONTACT NAME

FIRM and ADDRESS (DX preferred)

Tel. Ref. Date

The Menu will be:

- Dressed Salmon with Lemon & Watercress Mayonnaise*
- Roast Rare Beef with Horseradish Dressing*
- Honey-glazed Gammon Ham*
- Roasted Mediterranean Vegetable Quiche*
- ♣ ♣ ♣
- Hot Minted New Potatoes with a selection of salads*
- Coleslaw with Fresh Pineapple & Seedless Grapes*
- Mixed Dinner Rolls*
- ♣ ♣ ♣
- Strawberries and Clotted Cream*
- Chocolate Fudge Profiteroles*
- ♣ ♣ ♣
- Freshly-brewed Coffee and Mints*

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

