

## INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW BY TIM WILLIS, CHAIRMAN

- 1 As required by our constitution the Executive Committee shall present to each annual general meeting a report and accounts for the preceding year.
- 2 This is my first year as Chairman taking over from Eddie Quigg who was Chairman for the preceding two years. This year's report contains accounts for the preceding year that were not available at the last AGM.
- 3 At the last AGM we had a transfer of the role of Treasurer from Hamish Lal to Tatyana Tall. The transfer of the role of Treasurer is always a complex exercise. Our constitution makes allowance for the outgoing Treasurer to remain involved for an extended period to facilitate the change of mandate and banking details.
- 4 Hamish has therefore been responsible for preparing the accounts presented at this AGM albeit Tatyana has taken charge of the gruelling business of dealing with the banks in terms of change of signatories, addresses etc and the day to day financial affairs of the Society.
- 5 The Treasurer's Report demonstrates that the Society is in good financial health. However, we are not complacent; we are aware of the challenge we face in ensuring that the Society remains relevant in a complex world of dispute resolution where numerous other bodies serve similar purposes to our own.
- 6 The objects of the Society remain "to promote for the public and the individual member benefit, education, training, study and research (and the publication of the useful results of such research) in the field of adjudication practise and procedure and related subjects worldwide)."
- 7 To meet these objectives we have continued with our activities and I will touch upon some of them below.
- 8 We have held regional events and our annual conference which have been well supported. The ambition to become better established in all of the regions remains. The Regional Co-Ordinator's (Regional Liaison Officer's) Report demonstrates the range of activity and our future ambitions.
- 9 Our sub-committees have been active.
- 10 Firstly my thanks to the conference sub-committee who have brought together an excellent programme of topics and speakers for this year's conference.
- 11 The guidance notes sub-committee are working on 4 sets of guidance which are in preparation or being updated. These notes are a joint initiative with the CI Arb. They will be published in the coming year.
- 12 The legislative sub-committee has met to consider whether the Society will respond to the recently announced consultations. They have concluded that the Society will not make a response but members are encouraged to do so and the Society will monitor the actions of other relevant bodies.

- 13 The nominating bodies sub-committee is working on providing better guidance on, and understanding of, the legal basis and practises of the appointment of adjudicators by parties or nominating bodies.
- 14 We have continued to fund research. Janey Milligan has published her report number 16. The research sub-committee will review how best to meet the need for research going forward. A new section of the website allows for research topics to be publicised.
- 15 Our newsletter, case notes and the resources on our website provide a source of valuable reference materials. They also provide a hub for discussion and sharing of expertise within the adjudication community on the topics that challenge us. The contributions of members of the Society and others are welcome. You are where much of that expertise resides.
- 16 Finally I wish to thank the committee for all their efforts in the last year. I wish also to thank Hugh Saunders who leaves us as editor of our newsletter and to welcome Jonathan Lewis as our new editor. I look forward very much to working with you all next year.

**Tim Willis**

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