

ANNUAL REPORT 2013



Birmingham
Law Society

One Region | One Profession | One Voice



Martin Allsopp, President



President's Foreword

As I considered preparation of this article I glanced at Mary Kaye's foreword of last year and noted the words "nothing actually prepares you for the work needed to run Birmingham Law Society". How right Mary was. I recall that I became your President on St George's Day and nothing of major significance happened in the first 7 days of my Presidency. Little did I know that a storm was fast approaching from the Atlantic.

I prepared myself for a major intervention of a City Firm which thankfully, up to the date of writing this article, never came. I was concerned about the effect on the profession of alternative business structures and the financial position of BLS in the midst of a recession. I could not then have known that I would be embroiled in the most significant Legal Aid battle that the profession had ever witnessed. With experience in the property market for more than 40 years this came as somewhat of a challenge. I have done my best in every speech that I have made and every article that I have written to defend the right of access to justice for all, notwithstanding the fact that at times I felt I was climbing the proverbial north face of the Eiger. As I write this article the local economy and the property market are showing considerable signs of improvement and I very much hope that our future President, Eileen Schofield, will not suffer with the same financial constraints as were prevalent in my Presidential Year.

I recognise that I owe many thanks to many people and in particular to our sponsors and to our excellent Board of Directors, headed by the illustrious Chris Owen, who ensure that our sponsors' expectations have been fully met. More thanks go in particular to the BLS office during my year led by Becky and during Eileen's year to be led by Liz whilst Becky takes a well-deserved break to have her baby. I know that the members of BLS and the entire Council and Board wish Becky every happiness and look forward to her return during Mushtaq's year and I know that we all have full confidence in Liz to take over Becky's demanding role in the interim.

By way of further gratitude may I express my thanks to all of those members of Council who were able to attend our Council Meetings during my year. Their help and support and in many cases guidance, particularly from our PR Media Committee, has been very much appreciated. For those of you who follow the local news in the Birmingham Post, which sadly is still only printed on a Thursday, you will have noted that BLS has actually made pages 1 and 2 of the Post for the first time in many years. My personal thanks also go to Enda Mullen, the Editor of the Post, and to Dawn of Headline Communications, our link between the Post and the Council, for taking the trouble and to report on issues affecting the profession during my year not just as to Legal Aid but closures forced on the

profession by the SRA and the cost of obtaining Professional Indemnity Cover which continues to be a major concern particularly to the smaller firms in our area going forward. It was my ambition to appear on page 3 of the Post but this page is apparently reserved for more glamorous articles!

I believe that we have reached a hiatus now in the number of members of BLS for the time being. A number of mergers have taken place during my Presidential Year and I believe that more will be planned for the next. The survival of BLS is dependent not only upon sponsors for its existence but also subscriptions from its members. I know that many of you will read this report and I would urge particularly the Senior Partners of the firms who consider wrongly in my opinion that BLS is not for them to take the trouble to mention the existence of BLS to their Partners or other members of the firm who will in my opinion benefit substantially from interaction with other members of the profession locally. At Council meetings and particularly at our Networking Events, which are held throughout the year, it is so good to hear from members of the society that they have met someone for the first time in 10 or 20 years and are glad to put a face to the name. Current procedures and targets mean that email is the communication of the day which whilst necessary is extremely impersonal. I am not suggesting that Lawyers communicate by way of Facebook but it is important in my view that they should take the time to meet their opponent or adversary or in property terms simply "the Solicitor on the other side" as I consider that personal interaction is still absolutely vital in today's commercial world.

On the subject of interaction during my year, we have held meetings with the representatives of the SRA and are due to meet them again during Eileen's year. We have entertained the Legal Ombudsman and as many of you will know the national Law Society (TLS), having encountered its own problems during my year, are now meeting regularly with the other Joint IV societies and particularly with ourselves as I believe that our articles, our Board, our business plan and our effective communications not only with one another but with other members of the Joint IV are all major examples of which TLS might well be advised to take note. Again we have an excellent effective communicator between ourselves and TLS in the name of

Rav Hothi who has worked tirelessly during my year to promote and maintain the relationship between TLS and BLS.

The highlight of my Presidential Year was an international event when my wife and I were invited as guests of the Antwerp Bar to the opening of the Flemish Legal Year. It was a tremendous opportunity to promote BLS internationally and none of the other societies including TLS had been invited to Antwerp to attend at the official opening. I was delighted to be able to promote BLS abroad and it was interesting to hear from those present from Germany, Holland, France and Belgium of course how the continent viewed our legal profession both in seeking that we maintain our relationship with Europe (costs to the society permitting) and to exchange ideas. Did you know, for instance, that in Europe professions are largely self-regulated and free from Government interference – SRA and LEO take note!

I have to turn now to our Charity for the year. I am most grateful for all of those who were personally able to attend my charitable event on November 29th and to “sleepover”, if that was the right word, in cardboard boxes in St Phillips Churchyard in freezing temperatures. My chosen Charity, St Basils, even on that evening alone had attracted sponsorship of more than £7,000.00 not only for those who attended but for those who supported the attendance by others and I do thank each and every one of you who were able to offer financial support for our event in these recessionary times.

As a pre-penultimate paragraph I would like to thank each and every one of our sponsors personally for their support to the Society over the year and hopefully in the years to come. Sponsorship, as I have always said, is a two way issue and it is very important that BLS ensures that the wishes and needs of the sponsors are met in consideration of the financial support that they provide to BLS to ensure its continued existence. Not many other societies hold a President's Dinner and a Legal Awards Dinner and have those events supported so generously by sponsors.

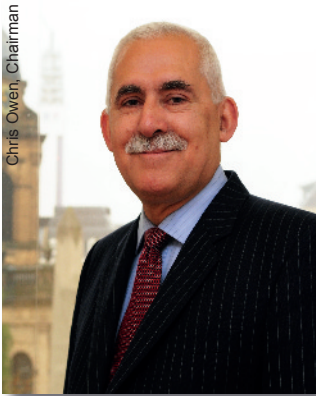
In closing, it remains for me to express my thanks again to the Board, my VP and DVP, BLS office, our various committees, the Council and to the help given to me personally by our Past-Presidents. As I said at the beginning of this article nothing ever prepares you for being President. I have therefore tried my best during my year to involve my Vice-President Eileen Schofield and my Deputy Vice-President Mushtaq Khan in many of the events that I have attended during my year, so that the passing of the Presidential Chain is a symbolic transfer and not an abandonment of responsibility and the conferment of unknown terrors! As I have been able to work closely with Eileen and Mushtaq during my year I am extremely confident that the mantle is being passed into very safe hands indeed and I wish Mushtaq as our new Vice-President and particularly Eileen as our new President

every success going forward and will always be on hand to help if ever the need should arise.

It has been a great honour and an absolute pleasure to have served you as your President.

Martin Allsopp
President
Birmingham Law Society

Chris Owen, Chairman



Report from the Board

At the end of my two years as Chairman I can report a very busy year and one where the need to have 10 directors has been much in evidence.

May I please remind you as to whom they are:

John Hughes Shakespeares, Vice Chairman
 Dean Parnell, Sydney Mitchell, Finance Director
 Angela Henry, Ferdinand Kelly, Staff Director and now Merchandising Director
 Bernard Shepherd, Miles Pierce and Co, Joint Marketing Director
 Andrew Beedham, Clarke Willmott, Joint Marketing Director
 Ian Shovlin, Higgs and Sons, Joint Marketing Director
 Sarah Kenyon, Mills and Reeve, Liaison Director
 Professor Bernardette Griffin, University of Law, Learning and Development Director
 Ben Henry, Jonas Roy Bloom, Membership Director
 Chris Owen, Chairman and Temporary Staff Director.

Ex officio and invited to attend:

Martin Allsopp, Allsopp and Co, President
 Mary Kaye, SGH Martineau, Past President, Sponsorship and Events Liaison

I have to report with sadness and my grateful thanks for their contributions to the work of the Board the impending resignations of John Hughes and Sarah Kenyon who are now moving on to other responsibilities. They will be missed.

During the year many of you will know the Board recruited Ben Henry from our ranks with the specific role of membership director due to the expansion of Sarah's responsibilities with liaison and her stewardship of the membership survey (in association with Research By Design). Ben has settled in nicely and is now embarking on a timely membership drive.

Dean Parnell will report on finance but broadly speaking the Society has remained in the black this year and despite difficult conditions out in our market place sponsorship and membership have held up. A more difficult year is anticipated for 2014/5 as Dean will no doubt expand upon.

We started the year by interviewing several of the major recruitment companies in Birmingham who deal with law firms and were very pleased to appoint Badenoch Clark mainly for qualified and Bell Cornwall mainly for support staff. The relationship with both has been excellent and I hope to see them continue their association with BLS.

Further preferred status organisations are planned so watch this space.

As mentioned above Sarah Kenyon worked very closely with RBD in relation to the member survey which went out just before Christmas. The only disappointments were that around 10% of our members' replied and secondly only 50% of Council members responded. Poor really. Sarah and RBD are scheduled to give the Board and Council a breakdown as to the responses shortly.

The three marketing Directors, our President and Rebecca Lynch have all worked hard to keep each sponsor on board and that seems to be the case going forward. Sponsorship in these tough economic times for all societies has become even more important as a source of income. Having three directors responsible for the marketing and sponsorship of BLS has once again proved necessary to cover the ground needed. A recent appointment to assist the office and the team is Mary Kaye who brings all of her undoubted contacts, experience and zeal to ensure that we have no gaping holes in our events/sponsorship strategy.

Professor Griffin and Liz Dziergas have settled well into their Learning and Development roles (having only been working together for just over a year) and again in very tough economic conditions where many free seminars are on offer, have managed to keep our figures up for which the Board are most grateful. Professor Griffin remains an integral part of the Board with her experience in this area and is always one step ahead of what the market, regulators and important reviews like the recent LETR are saying. New offerings and the way in which we place a reliance on the earnings from L and D are constantly under review.

Angela gave up her responsibility as Staff Director, at my request, to concentrate upon a new area for the Society, namely merchandising and although it is very early days I am confident that this will become an important part of our offering to members and another revenue source for the Society. Watch the Bulletin for news on how Angela creates this area of opportunity.

On their way are initiatives such as a helpline for all members, the architect for which is Andrew Beedham.

During the past 12 months after an exhaustive selection policy, interviews and criteria setting by John Hughes and Dean Parnell the Society decided to change banks to Lloyds Bank. My thanks to Dean and John for this task.

The property at 8 Temple Street has taken up a lot of time and not just in relation to the proposed refurbishment works but a rat infestation, site visits due to that problem and water ingress again. Our builders will be on site shortly making sure for insurance purposes that the building is water tight. A possible collapsing of drains in the private passageway abutting our premises is to be investigated.

In relation to the proposed refurbishment the sub committee has met and in early February will have received an initial feasibility study and costings from our advisors, Gerald Eve. A full update will be given to the AGM by me.

In closing there may be more Board changes between the time of writing and the AGM itself. If that is the case I will report further at that stage.

What is obvious to those involved on your behalf is that the Board is working well. We have a very full agenda each month and get through a lot of business. The relationship and communication between Officers and the Board is first class and other societies have taken note as to how Birmingham conducts itself which is encouraging.

I would like to pay tribute to our President, Martin, for his support, over the past 12 months to myself personally and to all Board discussions, often tinged with his sense of humour. The Board also looks forward to a close working relationship with Eileen our incoming President and her fellow officers.

Chris Owen
Chairman



Finance Report

During the financial year 2012/2013 we saw rental income from the DX reduce from £40,000 to £20,000. Generally, this should have resulted in a significant loss for the Society; however, through the sterling efforts of the Board, the Professional Officers and the team at the BLS office I am pleased to report that the trading loss was limited to just £2,915. I am also delighted to report that the Society made an unrealised gain of £35,489 on its trade investments which has lifted the Society's overall financial performance to a profit of £32,574 (when including the unrealised gains).

Although the Society lost 50% of the DX rental income, the Society was able to increase its turnover (excluding the DX) from £171,594 to £178,226 whilst also managing to reduce administration expenses from £216,569 to £209,288. The main reason for the increased turnover was an increase in subscriptions from the student membership and I believe that Birmingham Law Society now has one of the strongest student memberships of any regional law society.

As a result of the performance of the Society's investments the balance sheet has increased from £213,074 in 2012 to £245,648 in 2013. Given the difficult economic times, members should take great comfort in such a strong balance sheet especially as it significantly undervalues the true value of the Society's building at Temple Street.

Whilst the Society has had a successful year, 2014 promises to be a very challenging year. Subscriptions are likely to be adversely affected by both the closure and merger of certain law firms and professional fees will need to be incurred so that we can put together a plan on what we should do with the Society's Temple Street property. The good news is that the Society is aware of these

challenges and will be looking at ways of generating new income. The Society also anticipates engaging with more members as a result of an exciting program of events that is currently being planned.

Dean Parnell
Finance Director

President

MARTIN ALLSOPP - Allsopp & Co Incorporating AJ Salisbury & Co, 0121 705 9020

Vice President

EILEEN SCHOFIELD - Schofield & Associates, 01564 739 103

Deputy Vice President

MUSHTAQ KHAN - Freeth Cartwright LLP, 0845 634 2575

Joint Honorary Secretaries

PROFESSOR BERNARDETTE GRIFFIN - The University of Law, 01483 216 006

ANN HOUGHTON - Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP, 0121 300 3242

Board

Chairman - Chris Owen - 07540 666 014

Vice Chairman - John Hughes - Shakespeares, 0121 237 3000

Finance Director - Dean Parnell - Sydney Mitchell, 0121 698 2212

Joint Marketing Director - Bernard Shepherd - Miles Pearce, 0121 222 4177

Joint Marketing Director - Andrew Beedham - Clarke Willmott LLP, 0845 209 1040

Joint Marketing Director - Ian Shovlin - Higgs & Sons, 0845 111 5050

Staff Director and Merchandising Director - Angela Henry - Ferdinand Kelly Solicitors, 07714 200 189

Liaison Director - Sarah Kenyon - Mills & Reeve LLP, 0121 456 8200

Membership Director - Ben Henry - Jonas Roy Bloom, 0121 212 4111

Director of Education and Training - Professor Bernardette Griffin - The University of Law, 01483 216 006

Council Members

Martin Allsopp, Allsopp & Co inc. AJ Salisbury & Co

Helen Jane Arnold, Benussi & Co

Richard Atkins QC, St Philips Chambers

Karen Bailey, Bailey Wright and Co

Andrew Beedham, Clarke Willmott LLP

Judy Bonegal, Thursfields LLP

Rachel Broughton, Averta Employment Lawyers LLP

Tom Burns-Beech, Addison O'Hare

Roslyn Caldicott, Lanyon Bowdler LLP

Caroline Coates, DWF LLP

Olwen Dutton, Bevan Brittan LLP

Sarah Dwight, Sarah Dwight Solicitor

Steve Edmonds, DLA Piper UK LLP

Professor Rosemary Evans, Birmingham City University

Chris Fitton, Berryman's Law Mawer LLP

Richard Follis, Shoosmiths Services Limited

Malcolm Fowler, Dennings LLP

Derek French

Professor Bernardette Griffin, The University of Law

Angela Henry, Ferdinand Kelly Solicitors

Ben Henry, Jonas Roy Bloom

Michael Hibbs, Shakespeares

Ann Houghton, Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP

John Hughes, Shakespeares

John R Hughes, The Wilkes Partnership LLP

Steven Jonas, Jonas Roy Bloom

Monica Kapur, Wright Hassall

Mary Kaye, SGH Martineau LLP

Sarah Kenyon, Mills & Reeve LLP

Mushtaq Khan, Freeth Cartwright LLP

Paul Knight, Shoosmiths LLP

Matthew Lake, Weightmans LLP

Karen Levesley, Gateley LLP

Jon Lloyd, Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP

Tony McDaid, No5 Chambers

Adam McGiveron, SGH Martineau LLP

Ruth Minnis, Mills & Reeve LLP

Elaine Mitchell, Mills & Reeve LLP

Martyn Morgan, QualitySolicitors Talbots

Jerome O'Ryan, Birmingham City Council Legal Services

Chris Owen

Dean Parnell, Sydney Mitchell LLP

Malcolm Peebles, Gateley LLP

Eileen Schofield, Schofield & Associates

Bernard Shepherd, Miles Pearce & Co

Ian Shovlin, Higgs & Sons Solicitors

David Tatlow, Birmingham City Council Legal Services

Linden Thomas, University of Birmingham

Simon Thomas, The Wilkes Partnership LLP

James Turner, Tuckers Solicitors

Denise Watkins, Gordon Jones & Co

Peter Wiseman

John W Wynn, Birmingham City Council Legal Services

Abdul Zaheed, DBS Law Limited

One representative from each of:

Birmingham Solicitors Group

Birmingham Trainee Solicitors Society

The West Midland Assoc. of Law Societies

Warwickshire Law Society

Worcestershire Law Society

ELAINE MITCHELL

MALCOLM PEEBLES

ROSSLYN CALDICOTT

STEVEN EDMONDS

JUDY BONEGAL

Mills & Reeve LLP

Gateley LLP

Caldicotts LLP

DLA Piper UK LLP

Thursfields LLP

Birmingham Law Society Staff:

Office Manager: Rebecca Lynch, Tel: 0121 230 1707 / 07554007347

Professional Services Executive: Elizabeth Dziargas, Tel: 0121 230 1709 / 07809502852

Membership and Events Co-ordinator: Johanna Sahi-Proto, Tel: 0121 230 1706

Administrative Assistant: Denise Harnett, Tel: 0121 230 1700

Learning & Development Co-ordinator: Fiona Newby, Tel: 0121 230 1701

The Officers (The Executive Committee)

Martin Allsopp, President
Eileen Schofield, Vice President
Mushtaq Khan, Deputy Vice President
Professor Bernardette Griffin, Joint Honorary Secretary
Ann Houghton, Joint Honorary Secretary

The Board

Chris Owen, Chairman
John Hughes, Vice Chairman
Dean Parnell, Finance Director
Angela Henry, Staff Director and Merchandising Director
Andrew Beedham, Bernard Shepherd and Ian Shovlin, Joint Marketing Directors
Sarah Kenyon, Liaison Director
Ben Henry, Membership Director
Professor Brenardette Griffin, Director of Education and Training

Executive Sub-Committees:

Policy Committee

Chairman:

Martin Allsopp, Allsopp & Co inc. AJ Salisbury & Co

Committee members:

Helen Jane Arnold, Benussi & Co
Sukhdev Singh Bhomra, Mandla Bhomra & Co
Caroline Coates, DWF LLP
Richard Follis, Shoosmiths LLP
Professor Bernardette Griffin, The University of Law
Tony Harris, Sydney Mitchell LLP
Steven Jonas, Jonas Roy Bloom
Jon Lloyd, Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP
Dean Parnell, Sydney Mitchell LLP
Eileen Schofield, Schofield & Associates
Jayne Willetts, Jayne Willetts & Co

PR/Media Committee

Chairman:

Richard Follis, Shoosmiths

Committee members:

Karen Bailey, Bailey Wright & Co
Judy Bonegal, Thursfields LLP
Richard Follis, Shoosmiths LLP
Mary Kaye, SGH Martineau LLP
Dawn Roberts, Headline Communications
Ian Shovlin, Higgs & Sons Solicitors
Jayne Willetts, Jayne Willetts & Co

Consultation Paper Committee

Chairman:

Peter Wiseman

Committee members:

Bernard Shepherd, Miles Pierce & Co
Jayne Willetts, Jayne Willetts & Co

Technical Committees:

Company Law Committee

Chairman:

Adam McGiveron, SGH Martineau LLP

Committee members:

Andrew Beedham, Clarke Willmott LLP
John Campion, DLA Piper UK LLP
David Ellis, Higgs & Sons Solicitors
Simon Gill, Gateley LLP
Susheel Gupta, Higgs & Sons Solicitors
John Irving, Sydney Mitchell
Michael Lakin, Pinsent Masons LLP
Mandeep K Sagoo, JIC Consulting
Katie Silvester, Gateley LLP
Keith Spedding, Shakespeares
David J Stevenson, Pinsent Masons LLP

Criminal Law Committee

Chairman:

James Turner, Tuckers

Committee members:

Elaine Annable, The Legal Services Commission
Keith Astbury, Glaisyers LLP
Naheed Aziz, Staffordshire and West Midlands Probation Trust
Jonathan Barker, St Philips Chambers
Sukhdev Singh Bhomra, Mandla Bhomra & Co
Jamie-Ann Edwards, Staffordshire and West Midlands Probation Trust
Navdeep Hear, Her Majesty's Court Service
Kevin Hegarty QC, St Philips Chambers
Harry Ireland, Crown Prosecution Service
David Jackson, St Ives Chambers
James Jenkins, Crown Prosecution Service
Steven Jonas, Jonas Roy Bloom
Derek Larkin
District Judge Lesley Mottram, Birmingham Magistrates Court
Rachel Norton, Legal Aid Agency
Regan Peggs, Cartwright King Solicitors
Michael Seath, Birmingham Magistrates Court
Makhan Singh, Murria Solicitors Limited
Spencer Stephens, Purcell Parker
Ian Vesey, Vesey Solicitors
Simon Walton, The Firm Solicitors LLP
Simon Ward, St Philips Chambers
Joe Wilson, St Philips Chambers
Christopher Woodrow, Birmingham Magistrates Court

Dispute Resolution Committee

Chairman:

Dean Parnell, Sydney Mitchell

Committee members:

Alison Beard, Lewis Onions Solicitors
Andrew Bowen, Challinors
Parry Chauhan, Solomons Legal
Simon Clegg, St Philips Chambers
Caroline Coates, DWF LLP
Howard Dean, Keoghs Limited
Paul J Dean, St Philips Chambers
Gavin Faber, Higgs & Sons Solicitors
Robin Humphreys, Whatley Weston & Fox
Gurmeet Jakhu, Hamilton Pratt
Sarah Kenyon, Mills & Reeve LLP
Mushtaq Ahmed Khan, Freeth Cartwright LLP
Matthew Lake, Weightmans LLP
Karen Levesley, Gateley LLP
James Modley, Shoosmiths LLP
Mohammed Moeini, DBS Law Ltd
District Judge Musgrave,
Birmingham Civil Justice Centre
and Birmingham Family Court
Simon Thomas, The Wilkes Partnership LLP
James Woolstenhulme, Shakespeares

Education & Training Committee

Chairman:

Professor Bernardette Griffin, The University of Law

Committee members:

Joanne Bradbury, SGH Martineau LLP
Elizabeth Dziergas, Birmingham Law Society
Stuart Evans, Birmingham City Council Legal Services
Oliver Geidel, Christine Lee & Co
Monica Kapur, Wright Hassall
Adam Maguire, Higgs & Sons
Jennifer Nicholson, SGH Martineau LLP
Diane Price, SGH Martineau LLP
Norman Rea, Sydney Mitchell
Keith Uff, Birmingham Law School University of Birmingham

Employment Law Committee

Chairman:

Michael Hibbs, Shakespeares

Committee members:

Kavita Bachada, PEL Solicitors Ltd
Ed Beever, St Philips Chambers
Kate Charlton, Birmingham City Council
Martin Chitty, Wragge & Co LLP
Jon Coley, Pinsent Masons LLP
David Cooper, Cox Cooper Limited
Charles Crow, No5 Chambers
Ranjit Dhindsa, Hill Hofstetter
Fergal Dowling, Irwin Mitchell Solicitors
Victoria Duddles, Weightmans LLP
Andrew Faux, Cornwall Street Chambers
Victoria Garrad, Gateley LLP
Sarah George, St Philips Chambers
Jog Hundle, Mills & Reeve LLP
Mugni Islam-Choudhry, No5 Chambers
Alan Jones, Averta Employment Lawyers LLP
Tim Jones, Higgs & Sons Solicitors
Patrick Keith, Cornwall Street Chambers
Richard Santy, Shoosmiths LLP
Eileen Schofield, Schofield & Associates
Roger Sheppard, EEF Ltd.
Tracy Worthington, FBC Manby Bowdler LLP

Family Law Committee

Chairman:

Jerome O'Ryan, Birmingham City Council Legal Services

Committee members:

John Akers, Birmingham District Family Mediation
Chris Allen-Jones, Harrison Clark Rickerbys Solicitors
Philip Barnsley, Higgs & Sons Solicitors
Grant Bird, Blair Allison Family Law Solicitors
Stephanie Brown, No5 Chambers
Martin Canning, Garner Canning
Charlotte Fisher, SGH Martineau LLP
Mary Kaye, SGH Martineau LLP
Joanna Keene, Garner Canning
Robin Lewis, St Philips Chambers
Mark Mansell, St Philips Chambers
Fiona McCourt, Birmingham Civil Justice Centre
and Birmingham Family Court
Karen Moores, Sydney Mitchell LLP
Jayne Mullen, St Ives Chambers

Zahra Pabani, SGH Martineau LLP
Cathy Price, Price Mistry Ltd Solicitors
Allison Roberts, Birmingham Civil Justice Centre and Birmingham Family Court
Marc Saunderson, Mills & Reeve LLP
Sally Stephens, Cafcass

International Law Committee

Chairman:

Tony McDaid, No5 Chambers

Committee members:

Martin Allsopp, Allsopp & Co incorporating AJ Salisbury & Co
Sandra Astbury, No5 Chambers
Victoria Callicott, Eversheds LLP
Steven Cunnane, Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Ian Fox-Williams, Birmingham City University
Mandy Haque, Birmingham Airport
Tony Harris, Sydney Mitchell LLP
John Hughes, Shakespeares
Stephanie Lawrence, No5 Chambers
Viplavi Mahendra, India Business Hub Limited
Raj Padhiar, Carltons Solicitors Limited
Nilay Shastry, Miles Pierce & Co
Bernard Shepherd, Miles Pierce & Co
John Westwood, Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (CILEX)
Joe Wilson, St Philips Chambers

Property & Development Committee

Chairman:

Sarah Dwight, Sarah Dwight Solicitors

Committee members:

Martin Allsopp, Allsopp & Co incorporating AJ Salisbury & Co
John R Hughes, The Wilkes Partnership LLP
Mark Jones
Steve Kelway, Coventry District Land Registry
Martyn Morgan, Talbots Law Ltd
Christopher Morris, Wragge and Co LLP
Clive Read, SGH Martineau LLP
Bernard Shepherd, Miles Pierce & Co
Adam Turner, SGH Martineau LLP
Anthony Verduyn, St Philips Chambers
Denise Watkins, Gordon Jones & Co
Geoffrey Wood, Coley and Tilley

Personal Injury Committee

Chairman:

Caroline Coates, DWF LLP

Committee members:

Philippa Craven, Kennedys
Philip Edwards, Irwin Mitchell Solicitors
Janet Finney, Thompsons
Angela Fitzpatrick, DBS Law Ltd
Richard Follis, Shoosmiths LLP
Jagdeep Hayre, Birmingham City Council Legal Services
Sarah Kenyon, Mills & Reeve LLP
Peter Mulhern, Thompsons
Stephen O'Neil, Coley and Tilley
Dean Parnell, Sydney Mitchell LLP
Henry Pitchers, No5 Chambers
Thomas Rochford, St Philips Chambers
Andrew Shaw, Higgs & Sons Solicitors
David Tuck, Weightmans LLP
Chris Wiggan, Berrymans Lace Mawer LLP
Ann-Marie Wilde, Coley and Tilley
Michael Wingrave, No5 Chambers

Pro Bono Committee

Chairman:

Ruth Minnis, Mills & Reeve LLP

Committee members:

Hannah Ayers, Bailey Wright & Co
Inez Brown, Harrison Clark Rickerbys Solicitors
Samantha Burns, The University of Law
James Dixon, No5 Chambers
Imogen Francis, SGH Martineau LLP
Mark Jones, St Ives Chambers
Julia Jones, Bevan Brittan LLP
Sejal Karavadra, Kenneth Jones
Abisola Latunji, SGH Martineau LLP
Iqbal Mohammed, St Philips Chambers
Linden Thomas, SGH Martineau LLP

Student Committee

Chairman:

Ben Henry, Jonas Roy Bloom

Committee members:

Professor Bernardette Griffin, The University of Law
Angela Henry, Ferdinand Kelly Solicitors
Sarah Kenyon, Mills & Reeve LLP
Sonya Smith, Birmingham City University
Linden Thomas, University of Birmingham

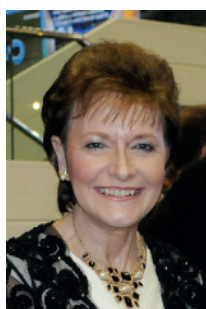
Report of the Joint Honorary Secretaries

This year evolution of the profession, regulation and legal aid changes have been recurring issues addressed by the Society in Professional Officers' meetings and Council meetings. The Society has endeavoured to ensure Council meetings are open forums for discussion and debate about these issues, with a view to understanding the challenges and opportunities each member faces, across our varying practices. To this end, the Society has invited a range of guest speakers to Council meetings and hosted audiences open to all members. This has included the SRA, the Legal Ombudsman, the Master of the Rolls, the National Law Society, lawyers personally involved in SRA interventions, pro bono ambassadors and others. The Society is always mindful of the need to understand our members (all 4,000 of them!) so that we can truly represent members locally, nationally and internationally. Every member's situation is different and we are keen to understand that.

The Society is also keen to understand clients and customers so that we can promote the profession. The President has led 'high street' road shows so as to meet the public and publicise the vital services solicitors can provide. It is felt the public like to know their lawyer as a real person, rather than receive a 'faceless' service.

It has again been a busy year for the Joint Secretaries and the Society but also an interesting and productive year. It is hoped that this year the Society has succeeded in understanding its members and therefore providing genuine representation and tangible benefits to members.

Bernardette Griffin,
Joint Honorary Secretary



Ann Houghton,
Joint Honorary Secretary



Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 23rd April 2013

The Council has pleasure in presenting the 194th Annual Report of the proceeding of the Society.

Officers

At the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 23rd April 2013, Mr Martin Allsopp was installed as President of the Society, Ms Eileen Schofield as Vice President and Mr Mushtaq Khan as Deputy Vice President. Mrs Bernardette Griffin and Mrs Ann Houghton were installed as Joint Honorary Secretaries.

Board

Mr Chris Owen was installed as the Chair of the Board of the Society.

Council

The retiring ordinary members of the Council were:

Cassandra Bates, Andrew Beedham, John Campion and Andrew Lancaster.

The following members of the Society were duly nominated for election to the Council pursuant to Article (61):

Richard Atkins QC, Professor Rosemary Evans, Martyn Morgan, James Turner and Abdul Zaheed.

Obituaries

It is with great sadness that we announce the deaths of:

Ralph Cardinal formerly of Glaisyers passed away 6 January 2014. Ralph Cardinal formerly of Wood Amphlet Horden & Newey, Wood Amphlet Wild & Co and Reece Davies Wood Wild was a much respected solicitor until the company was taken over by Glaisyers where he was a consultant. Mr Cardinal passed away peacefully following a short illness.

John G. Silk at the age of 89. John Silk, who was the founder in 1953 of the Oldbury based firm now known as QualitySolicitors Silks and formerly known as Silks Solicitors and John Silk & Co was a prominent and much respected solicitor and businessman who continued to take an active and constructive interest in the firm until his death. His career included distinguished periods as Chairman of Hill & Smith Holdings PLC and of West Bromwich Albion with which club he had been associated throughout his life and of which he remained Club President at the time of his death.

Robert (Bob) Garratt DFC LLB who sadly died on 14 March 2014. Bob Garratt was President of Birmingham Law Society in 1978 and was actively involved in the legal affairs of the West Midlands until his retirement from practice at the age of 76. Bob was awarded the DFC for involvement in dangerous missions during the Burma campaign as a wartime Hurricane pilot with the RAF.

Consultation Paper Committee

There has been a constant flow of consultation papers during the year the vast majority of which have been referred to the specialist committees who have brought their undoubted expertise to bear in preparing responses. It is clear that the committees who are already struggling with full agenda have in every case expended a great deal of time and effort to produce really thoughtful and worthwhile responses. I am aware that the quality of the Society's work in this area is highly respected and does much to enhance the reputation of the Birmingham profession. I would thank all concerned for their hard work.

Whenever a consultation doesn't slot into the domain of a committee, the Consultation Committee will consider in the first place whether it is a paper which requires the Society's input. This year we have prepared only two papers. The Legal Services Board sought views on a proposal to have a lay-chair appointed to each of the regulatory bodies. A robust response resisting the proposal was prepared and we were pleased to find that our approach was consistent with the representations made by both The Law Society, the Solicitors Regulatory Authority itself and the Bar Council.

The second paper from the SRA concerned the proposal to increase its in-house fining powers from £2,000 where there is an adjudication. This should reduce costs all round of a reference to the SDT where statistically the majority of penalties fall below £10,000. It was felt that a limited increase to £10,000 was sensible provided there was careful monitoring and review of the use to which the increased power is put.

Jayne Willett's unparalleled knowledge on regulatory matters has been invaluable in our considerations as has Bernard Shepherd's long experience in practice. I would like to record my thanks to both of them for participating in our deliberations.

Public Relations / Media Committee

The tireless work of Officers and specialist committees is all too often unsung. PR & Media committee exists to encourage and facilitate spreading the word about the Society's activities. We aim thereby to raise the profile of BLS with members, the profession generally, the local business community and the general public.



Peter Wiseman, Chair,
Consultation Paper Committee



Richard Folis, Chair,
Public Relations/Media Committee



Judy Bonegal
Bulletin Editor

This is done by a combination of:

- Advice to & brainstorming with Officers on regular media opportunities – e.g. the President's column in the Post;
- Advice and guidance to the office and Officers on responding to high profile news stories such as the closure of local law firms;
- Organising and promoting events such as the private screening of the Whistleblower film in 2011 and the Human Rights anniversary conference in 2013;
- Looking for new ways to enhance the regard for the good work done by lawyers generally such as through The Phoenix paper.

The Society's year has been dominated by "Events dear boy, events". The effects of LASPO, Jackson, funding cuts and PII renewal difficulties have borne down on parts of the profession and kept the Officers busy with having to respond to events beyond their control.

Looking forward the PR & Media committee has already begun to expand its number. We plan to bring in new blood to help refresh the work and ideas that are needed to ensure that BLS and the legal profession generally continue to command respect in what have, for many, been troubled times. It has been a privilege to assist in that process.

Bulletin

The Bulletin has gone from strength to strength over the past year, with a much greater variety of content. It is particularly pleasing to see more member firms submitting copy including the many and varied social and charitable events which our members find time to involve themselves in whilst running busy practices.

We don't want to rest on our laurels however and I take the opportunity to use this report to ask more member firms (rather than relying on the dozen or so regular contributors) to submit articles and newsworthy items for consideration.

My thanks as ever go to Becky Lynch and Paul Blyth of PW Media for their invaluable help in producing the finished product. A tremendous amount of work is involved in turning a series of unrelated copy into the magazine which arrives on your desk

Learning and Development

The Birmingham Law Society learning and development had yet another challenging year in 2013. It proved to be an unchanged difficult year and although prices stayed the same for last four years we were faced with the steady but promising interest and significant rise in online bookings suggesting that website marketing is working. Regardless of pressures we are facing learning and development continued providing members with first class CPD training programme which included popular Human Rights Conference kindly hosted by Shoosmiths, a successful "Is the Future of the Legal Profession Under Threat? - Influence the Key Regulators in Shaping the Future Gateways to the Professions." conference in the autumn, a well-received debate with a panel of regulators "An Audience with ... The Legal Ombudsman" as well as "An Audience with ... The SRA Senior team" and "Jackson reform Conference" early in 2014.

To maintain a niche in the market and continue to provide even better value for money, learning and development continues to work closely with Professor Bernardette Griffin - Director of Education and Training, committees, expert speakers, sponsors and corporate partners to research the current needs of our members and to tailor training programmes to an ever changing market. We continue to offer a wide range of morning and evening seminars, half day workshops, lunch & learn events as well as conferences, debates and symposiums. We have also introduced pilot initiatives such as soft skills training for fee earners to allow not only lawyers but also support staff easy access to training and further personal development.

The Birmingham Law Society's comprehensive website, after a year of complete redesign, is proving to be one of our strongest connections with members allowing further interaction. Learning and Development constantly strives to provide high standard quality and value for money. This year we are hoping to introduce additional online benefits to members by working together with Lexis Nexis in providing a selection of webinars available through our website at discounted prices. This should strengthen the choice of our offering and cement the purpose of the online presence we have worked so hard on. Additionally, our easy and appealing online booking systems for seminars and events, and our member's area, are now working in full swing allowing online payments. This as well as growing

LinkedIn group and Twitter followers make for important and stronger social channels and instant communication with members.

Learning and development continues to actively be involved in providing guidance and support for the young generation of lawyers by organising Court visits for Newly Qualified members. As a member of the Education and Training Committee I can also confirm that this year's "Careers in Law Forum", kindly hosted by The University of Law, was again an enormous success.

May I take this opportunity to thank all our members for their generous support by allowing us to use their venues throughout the 2013, it has made a tremendous difference to quality of training we can now offer.

Criminal Law Committee

The focus of the past year has been upon fighting the cuts to public funding proposed by the Ministry of Justice. The Criminal Law Committee has focused its efforts on the following work

- holding public meetings to ensure it has the mandate of its members
- providing detailed responses to the key Government consultations
- publishing its consultation documents for reference by members
- attending all relevant multi agency meetings with Criminal Justice partners to advance the interests of the defence community
- providing representation for defence practitioners at local forums, including the Area Delivery Group, Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel, Crown Court User Group Meetings and with regard to Digital Working in the court
- providing a point of contact for defence practitioners to raise and resolve practical issues affecting them
- advising Council and the Officers of the Society in relation to the pressing issues arising from the national Law Society AGM and Bar day of action
- communicating changes in practice, procedure and issues arising to local practitioners.

The Committee has worked together with representatives of the national Law Society to assist them to re-engage with the profession locally.

Elizabeth Dzergas,
Learning & Development



James Turner, Chair,
Criminal Law Committee



The Committee has become a focal point for agencies in the CJS to disseminate information to practitioners.

The coming year poses ever increasing challenges for practitioners. The Committee will persevere with its efforts to inform, disseminate and provide effective representation for Birmingham Law Society's members in the face of those challenges. I thank all Committee members for their hard work.

Pro Bono Committee

The Pro Bono Committee has had a third successful year building on its aims of supporting, co-ordinating, promoting, signposting and raising the profile of pro bono work amongst BLS members and the local community.

On 14 October 2013, we hosted our annual pro bono networking evening. Our keynote speaker, Rebecca Hilsenrath, CEO of LawWorks, responded to the difficult question of how pro bono fits into a landscape of legal aid cuts by saying that the scarce free specialist legal advice must be used resourcefully.

We asked lawyers to think about the benefits of providing free legal advice to those who cannot afford to pay for it, and cannot get legal aid:

- to give something back to your local community
- to help vulnerable people access justice
- to enhance the reputation of the legal profession
- to develop your legal skills
- to raise your profile and that of your firm/chambers

At the networking event, lawyers were able to meet representatives from a number of local organisations whose service users need pro bono help:

- Age UK Birmingham
- Birmingham Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)
- The Birmingham Professional Support Unit (PSU)
- Centre for Professional Legal Education and Research (CEPLER)
- Midlands Legal Support Trust (MLST)
- LawWorks
- Business in the Community (BiTC)
- BVSC: The Centre for Voluntary Action

Gateway to Birmingham Advice Agencies (GBAS) – a HUB for Action for Blind People, Shelter, Birmingham Settlement, Freshwinds, Bita Pathways, Rathbone, Momentum, Midland Mencap, Disability Resource Centre, Birmingham Institute for the Deaf, Birmingham Tribunal Unit, Birmingham (Coventry) Law Centre, Age UK.

Contact details for all these organisations are on the new BLS website pro bono pages:
www.birminghamlawsociety.co.uk

We would encourage anyone with queries, or pro bono good news stories for our monthly Bulletin pro bono notice board, to contact the BLS Pro Bono Committee at probono@birminghamlawsociety.co.uk.

Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC)

The advocacy initiative has continued throughout 2013 and has been proving very popular amongst members. For those who are unfamiliar with this initiative, the Dispute Resolution Committee has set up a ½ day event for 12 to 15 junior lawyers which is rolled out on a quarterly basis. The event begins with the lawyers having attending an interactive advocacy training session with St Philips or No5 Chambers followed by a Court tour of Birmingham Civil Justice Centre. The tour concludes with an informal questions and answer session with one or more District Judges. This event provides an excellent opportunity for the attending lawyers to understand the pressures facing the Courts and to take on-board the dos and don'ts when undertaking advocacy before District Judges.

We are also continuing the periodic Accounts training with BDO where around 20 lawyers get bespoke training on understanding and interpreting accounts so that this knowledge can be directly applied to their individual practice areas. The feedback we have received for this event has been really good and it is clear there is a strong demand for this type of support amongst our members.

With the Jackson reforms having come into play in April 2013 we have been liaising with the local judiciary and we are looking to arrange a feedback session later this year with the local judges. However, prior to this meeting we will be seeking comments and examples (good or bad) from

Ruth Minnis, Chair
Pro Bono Committee



Dean Parnell, Chair
Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC)



litigation lawyers so that we can show the Court/Judges what they are doing well and where our members feel there could be improvement in the way the litigation cases are handled.

Finally, we have appointed two Deputy Chairs (Gavin Faber from Higgs & Sons and Mohammed Moeini from DBS Law Limited) who will ensure meetings still take place when our Chair (Dean Parnell) is unable to attend. This should ensure meetings take place more regularly thereby ensuring the various exciting initiatives can be progressed throughout the year.

Personal Injury Committee

2013 was a period of change for the personal injury world and therefore a busy year for the Personal Injury sub-committee in the light of the implementation of changes to funding, procedure and overall, the "Jackson" reforms.

We have debated many of the changes to the funding of personal injury litigation arising out of the implementation of the provisions of the Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishing of Offenders Act 2012, the introduction of fixed recoverable costs and extension of the electronic portal brought about by the Ministry of Justice reforms.

Many of the reforms were implemented on 1 April 2013 meaning that success fees and ATE premiums are no longer recoverable from the paying party. Thereafter, we have seen the development of the courts' approach to ensuring compliance with court orders and timetables with the now infamous "Mitchell" effect meaning that relief from sanctions for failing to comply has become harder to achieve. All this and also the introduction of costs budgeting itself for multi track cases.

The extension of the electronic portal came into effect from end July 2013 for the majority of accident cases where the value is below £25,000 – therefore the vast majority of claims fall within the portal where liability is admitted. It also has application to some disease cases and it would be fair to say that both claimants and defendants representatives are still finding their way through the operation of this new system such that the benefits, if any, are yet to be established.

The committee have taken the opportunity to debate the impact of these changes, to provide information to members of Birmingham Law Society through the Bulletin and to submit responses, as appropriate, on behalf of BLS to the relevant bodies conducting consultations. The committee has to take account of the fact that it is made up of roughly equal numbers of solicitors representing mainly claimants (i.e. injured people) and mainly defendants (i.e. insurers, local authorities and large corporates) and therefore there is a sharp divide between opinions on many of the critical issues. This has made for lively debate but in some instances prevents the committee from submitting a joint response. We have also been pleased to welcome new members to the team including members of the bar.

The committee have also worked with Elizabeth Dziergas on suitable training for members and were delighted to secure Dominic Regan, an acknowledged expert on the Reforms, who presented in Birmingham in March 2013 and returns to update us all on 2nd April 2014.

Education & Training Committee

The Education and Training Committee has been busy this year with various activities.

In 2013 we welcomed Jay Lutwyche (Wragge & Co LLP) as a new member to the committee.

The Education and Training Committee has been involved with the following this year:

- Two responses to the Legal Education and Training Review (LETR) which is a review of the whole of legal education and training and is commissioned by the SRA, the Bar, and the Institute of Legal Executives.
- A LETR conference in Birmingham took place in November. We had speakers from all the regulators and the Chair of the LETR Research Group. It was very successful and informed those members who attended about the proposed developments.
- Once again, in February we held our Careers in Law Forum where we provide interactive sessions for Year 12 students from schools within the region to obtain more

Caroline Coates, Chair
Personal Injury Committee



Bernardette Griffin, Chair
Education & Training Committee



knowledge of the law and what happens in Birmingham in relation to the legal profession. It was very well received by students and their teachers. We had a panel of professionals from the wider legal career market: a solicitor, trainees, a barrister, Chambers Chief Clerk, Graduate Recruitment Manager and Legal Executive to discuss their experience and answer questions in a very exciting speed networking part of the programme.

The aim of the committee is to ensure we respond to and represent the views of BLS members, keep everyone up-to-date on new education/training initiatives, and input into new developments.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the committee for their support throughout the year.

Employment Law Committee

The Employment Law Committee met monthly throughout 2013 to consider changes and proposed changes to the law, the impact of changes on Tribunal practice and to run two training seminars.

Andrew Cox left the Committee during the year and was thanked for his hard work. We have been joined by Patrick Keith, his alternate, Andrew Faux (Cornwall Street) also Kavita Bachada (PEL) and David Cooper (Cox Cooper). Mugni Islam-Choudhury was elected Vice Chair.

We have invited Regional Employment Judge Monk and the Regional Director of ACAS, Malcolm Boswell to meetings; they each provided insight and updates in their respective areas.

Two training sessions were organised by the committee and Liz Dziergas: first on 16 May 2013 entitled "Four difficult problems of employment law" chaired by Michael Hibbs with Jonathan Coley, Helen Hooper (MOHS), Mugni Islam-Choudhury, Ian Hill (Broadstone) and Sarah George speaking. The second on 18 September 2013 involved Malcolm Boswell (ACAS) and Employment Judge Colin Goodier on the new Tribunal rules and the ACAS conciliation system. There was very lively debate about both issues.

Michael Hibbs, Chair
Employment Law Committee



Debate during the year also has included Tribunal fees being charged, the rules being changed substantially and the Birmingham Tribunal moving premises.

Meetings have been well attended and the Chair would like to express his thanks for the continued support, enthusiasm and hard work of the Vice Chair and other committee members.

Family Law Committee

The Family Law Committee's agenda for 2012-2014 has once again been based upon the dramatic changes now being implemented to the Family Justice system under the Family Justice Modernisation Programme and the Children and Families Bill which is due to become law shortly.

These changes are in response to the Final Report of the Family Justice Review, the work of Mr Justice Ryder initially and following on from that the programme of modernisation put in place by the President of the Family Division aimed at creating a single Family Court and reducing delay, cost and litigation in both public and private law family cases.

Implementation of the reforms has moved forward at pace with the publication by the President of regular "views from the President's chambers" and the implementation of a revised pilot Public Law Outline which came in to force on the 1st July but was implemented locally on the 7th October. The Public Law Outline has been accompanied by guidance for Local Authorities and CAFCASS. Guidance on the use of experts in family cases and most recently on transparency and the publication of Judgments in the Family Courts.

A Private Law Programme has also been developed during the year and is the subject of consultation.

The Committee also regularly considered the impact of Legal Aid changes and has lobbied in this regard. The impact of litigants in person has also been regularly considered.

During the year a new family financial specialist court has commenced in Birmingham. The progress of this has also been monitored by the Committee.

Jerome O'Ryan
Chair, Family Law Committee



The Committee has continued to consider close liaison between HMCTS and Practitioners in working efficiently together, including a continuing focus by Birmingham Local Authority and CAFCASS and the Courts in establishing protocols for effective joint working and electronic filing of court documents.

In my year as acting Chair, I have enjoyed the support of all the Members of the Committee. Committee Meetings have been lively and I would like to thank all Members for their attendance, commitment and support and in particular Mary Kaye and Martineau LLP for their hospitality in hosting the Committee and providing administrative support during the year.

International Committee

The Committee appointed me as their new Chair just before the summer vacation in 2013. Since that time we have been reviewing membership of the Committee and this is very much work in progress.

We have approved a strategic plan looking to the future for the Committee and more importantly how the Committee can contribute to the BLS. A key objective is to raise awareness that it exists. With this in mind we held the first of what is planned to be a rolling programme of seminars each of which will be relevant to international work. The first was held at Birmingham Airport's Diamond House where the keynote speaker was Paul Kehoe, CEO of Birmingham Airport who gave an uplifting and informative talk on the airport and the benefits it brings to the region. We are holding our second event entitled "Eliminate the Risk Factor of Doing Business Abroad" which is being held at Hotel La Tour on Friday 14th March 2014.

We would like to encourage anyone and everyone to engage with our Committee if they have interests in developing work overseas or indeed bringing work from overseas here to the City of Birmingham.

With this in mind part of our forward plan is not simply to engage with lawyers and members of the BLS but businesses who we hope to persuade that Birmingham, rather than other regions, is where they should place their trust and of course their work.

Tony McDaid
Chair, International Committee



Property & Development Committee

Towards the end of 2013, the market seemed to burst to life and it is still not known whether this is due to a general upturn in the market or the Government's flagship help to Buy scheme. No-one knows whether there is going to be a boom but all conveyancing practitioners are reporting a very busy December, and whereas we would have expected it to become less busy in the early part of the New Year, this does not seem to have happened. This growth in the market is heavily centred on London, but even within the last few days, I have seen clients gazumped (by as much as £50,000 – although that was a property in London), and many properties going to sealed bids.

The market may become less busy as we enter April due to the new affordability tests that are due to start - the criteria for mortgage lending will become stricter again. We can only wait to see what the next year brings.

In the last year, we saw the introduction of the new Property Information Form and Fixtures and Fittings form. These forms seem to have been well received by the profession. They are clearer to the clients and adopt a more structured and sensible format - which only goes to help the house mover.

Panel membership is still an issue for many firms of all sizes. The Conveyancing Quality Accreditation Scheme is now entering its fourth year, and I cannot stress enough to conveyancing firms that it is vital to obtain this accreditation. Santander have made it compulsory for all firms, not only new firms applying to their panel, and it is anticipated that other lenders will follow. There is also the prospect of 'lender exchange' whereby the lenders will group together and have one common panel membership. This is not necessarily a good move for the profession in that such arbitrary decisions as firm size could lead to some small (and very good) firms being removed from the panels of more lenders due to the information being centralised and all panels following the same approach to panel membership. If your firm has any concerns about this, the Law Society have issued draft letters to be sent to

Sarah Dwight, Chair,
Property & Development Committee



your local MP and I would suggest you do so if you believe that your firm could be affected by this move.

We are fortunate in that the Committee continues to comprise solicitors from large city centre firms to medium, small and sole practitioners as well as continued representation by Steve Kelway from Coventry Land Registry, Tony Verduyn, a property barrister from St. Philip's Chamber and Roger Lloyd from Birmingham City Council Legal Services.

The Committee will continue to promote Birmingham and to represent the views of property lawyers. I would like to thank the Committee for all of their contributions, and a special thanks to Adam Turner of SGH Martineaus, our secretary, for the preparation of the Agenda and Minutes and a second thanks to Martineaus, who continue to host our meetings every month.

Student Committee

Both the Student Committee and BLS student membership grew in 2013. Student members now include students from all of the city's universities, and the Committee now has active representation from Birmingham City University, BPP Law School, University of Birmingham and University of Law, with Aston University due to join during 2014.

All first year LLB students from Birmingham City University, BPP Law School and the University of Law are sponsored by their institutions to become members of BLS for the full duration of their course. The Committee's goal is to have block membership rolled out to all local universities during 2014.

During 2013/14 the Committee participated in the following events:

- Tours of local firms and chambers
- Two speed networking events
- A careers talk
- Presentation on Preparing for Networking hosted by Mills and Reeve
- Presentation on Commercial Awareness hosted by Irwin Mitchell

The Committee comprises Professor Bernardette Griffin, Angela Henry, Ben Henry, Laura Ralfe and Linden Thomas, as well as representatives from local universities.



Ben Henry, Chair,
Student Committee

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2013

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

The directors present their report with the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2013.

Principal Activity

The principal activity of the company continues to be the provision of facilities for members in accordance with the purposes set out in the Memorandum of Association.

Directors

The directors shown below have held office during the whole of the period from 1 January 2013 to the date of this report.

A Beedham
Professor B Griffin
A Henry
J Hughes
S Kenyon
C Owen
D Parnell
B R M Shepherd
I Shovlin

Shares of the company

The company is limited by guarantee not having a share capital divided into shares. Each member guarantees during his membership and for one year after membership ceases, a sum up to £10 to the Society in the event of a winding up order.

Freehold property

In the opinion of the directors the value of the Society's building and the site on which it stands is substantially in excess of that at which it is shown on the balance sheet.

Statement of directors' responsibilities

The directors are responsible for preparing the Report of the Directors and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable Law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Statement as to disclosure of information to Auditors

So far as the directors are aware, there is no relevant audit information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the company's auditors are unaware, and each director has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

The auditors, J W Hinks LLP, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD
C Owen
Director

26 March 2014

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO
THE MEMBERS OF THE BIRMINGHAM LAW SOCIETY***(A Company Limited by Guarantee)*

We have audited the financial statements of The Birmingham Law Society for the year ended 31 December 2013 on pages six to fourteen. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008) (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities).

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in a Report of the Auditors and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As explained more fully in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities set out on page two, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the companies circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Report of the Directors to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any material that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on the financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2013 and of its deficit for the year then ended;

- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion the information given in the Report of the Directors for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report or in preparing the Report of the Directors.

Neal Aston ACA ACCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants
and Statutory Auditors
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 3BH

26 March 2014

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31 December 2013

	Notes	2013	2012
		£	£
TURNOVER	2	178,226	171,594
Administrative expenses		<u>209,288</u>	<u>216,569</u>
		(31,062)	(44,975)
Other operating income		<u>(22,968)</u>	<u>(42,737)</u>
OPERATING DEFICIT	4	(8,094)	(2,238)
Income from fixed asset investments		5,466	5,432
Interest receivable and similar income		<u>1</u>	<u>734</u>
		5,467	6,166
		(2,627)	3,928
Interest payable and similar charges		<u>357</u>	<u>1,015</u>
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION		(2,984)	2,913
Tax on (deficit)/surplus on ordinary activities	5	<u>(69)</u>	<u>416</u>
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR		<u>(2,915)</u>	<u>2,497</u>

STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

For the year ended 31 December 2013

	2013	2012
	£	£
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	(2,915)	2,497
Unrealised gains on trade investments	<u>35,489</u>	<u>22,648</u>
TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES RELATING TO THE YEAR	<u>32,574</u>	<u>25,145</u>

BALANCE SHEET

31 December 2013

Company Registration No 00005188

	Notes	2013 £	2012 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	6	32,366	34,316
Investments	7	<u>201,372</u>	<u>159,834</u>
		233,738	194,150
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	8	137,866	48,759
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>43,189</u>	<u>28,019</u>
		181,055	76,778
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	9	<u>166,659</u>	<u>51,776</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>14,396</u>	<u>25,002</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		248,134	219,152
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due after more than one year	10	<u>2,486</u>	<u>6,078</u>
NET ASSETS		<u><u>245,648</u></u>	<u><u>213,074</u></u>
RESERVES			
Revaluation Reserve	13	81,101	45,612
Income and expenditure account	13	<u>164,547</u>	<u>167,462</u>
		<u>245,648</u>	<u>213,074</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 26 March 2014 and were signed on its behalf by.

C Owen - Director

D Parnell - Director

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2013

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**Accounting convention**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of certain assets and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

A review of the presentation of the Society's financial statements has been undertaken during the year ended 31 December 2013. As a result, the presentation of the Society's financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2012 has been restated. The net assets of the Society as at 31 December 2012 remain unchanged.

Turnover

Turnover represents the invoiced sales of services, excluding Value Added Tax, and revenues are earned when such values are supplied.

Turnover received in advance is not recognised as income but as deferred income until such time when services are supplied.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Fixed assets donated to the Society are included as income at an estimate of their market value at the time of receipt.

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value, of tangible fixed assets over their estimated useful lives to the business at the following rates:

Freehold property	- freehold property has not been depreciated as, in the opinion of the directors, the value of the Society's freehold property and the site on which it stands is substantially in excess of that at which it is shown on the balance sheet.
Furniture and equipment (owned)	- 15% per annum on reducing balance basis
Furniture and equipment (leased)	- 20% per annum on straight line basis
Computer equipment	- 25% per annum on straight line basis

Deferred tax

Deferred tax is provided in full on timing differences which result in an obligation at the balance sheet date to pay more tax, or a right to pay less tax, at a future date, at rates expected to apply when they crystallise based on current tax rates and law.

Timing differences arise from the inclusion of items of income and expenditure in taxation computations in periods different from those in which they are included in financial statements.

Deferred tax is not provided on timing differences arising from the revaluation of fixed assets where there is no commitment to sell the asset.

Deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is regarded as more likely than not that they will be recovered. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are not discounted.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Assets acquired under finance leases are capitalised as tangible fixed assets at their fair value and depreciated over the shorter of their lease terms and their useful economic lives. Finance charges are allocated over the period of the lease rentals in proportion to the capital element outstanding.

Operating lease rentals are charged/credited over the lease term on a straight line basis.

Investments

Listed investments are stated in the financial statements at closing middle market price immediately prior to the end of the financial year. Income from listed investments is recognised as income received.

Realised gains and losses are shown separately in the appropriate section of the profit and loss account.

Unrealised gains and losses in the current year are shown as a movement through the revaluation reserve to comply with the Companies Act 2006. Prior to 2005 unrealised gains and losses were included in the profit and loss account.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2013

2. TURNOVER

The turnover and deficit (2012 - surplus) before taxation are attributable to the one principal activity of the company.

An analysis of turnover by class of business is given below:

	2013	2012
	£	£
Subscriptions	118,937	112,457
Post boxes rental	18,450	18,364
Lectures and courses	40,839	40,773
	<u>178,226</u>	<u>171,594</u>

3. STAFF COSTS

	2013	2012
	£	£
Wages and salaries	87,807	88,090
Social security costs	7,902	7,805
	<u>95,709</u>	<u>95,895</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year as follows:

	2013	2012
Management and administration	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>

4. OPERATING DEFICIT

The operating deficit is stated after charging:

	2013	2012
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	2,206	2,856
Depreciation - assets on finance leases	831	415
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	—	3,069
Auditor's remuneration	1,200	1,200
	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
Directors' remuneration and other benefits etc	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>

None of the directors of the Society have received any remuneration during the year ended 31 December 2013 (2012:£nil)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2013

5. TAXATION

Analysis of the tax (credit)/charge

The tax (credit)/charge on the deficit on ordinary activities for the year was as follows:

	2013 £	2012 £
Current tax:		
UK corporation tax	–	500
Corporation tax - prior year	<u>(69)</u>	<u>(84)</u>
Tax on (deficit)/surplus on ordinary activities	<u><u>(69)</u></u>	<u><u>416</u></u>

The company has taxation losses of approximately £400,000 (2012: £400,000) carried forward and available for set off against any future operating surplus but not against investment or property income.

A deferred tax asset in respect of the taxation losses carried forward has not been recognised on the grounds that there is insufficient evidence that the losses will be recoverable in the foreseeable future. In the event that it is possible to forecast the availability of sufficient taxable profits, a deferred tax asset will be included in the financial statements. The estimated value of the deferred tax asset not recognised, measured at a tax rate of 20% (2012: 20%), is £79,000 (2012: £79,000).

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Furniture, computers and equipment £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 January 2013	23,043	78,093	101,136
Additions	<u>–</u>	<u>1,087</u>	<u>1,087</u>
At 31 December 2013	<u>23,043</u>	<u>79,180</u>	<u>102,223</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 January 2013	–	66,820	66,820
Charge for year	<u>–</u>	<u>3,037</u>	<u>3,037</u>
At 31 December 2013	<u>–</u>	<u>69,857</u>	<u>69,857</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 December 2013	<u><u>23,043</u></u>	<u><u>9,323</u></u>	<u><u>32,366</u></u>
At 31 December 2012	<u><u>23,043</u></u>	<u><u>11,273</u></u>	<u><u>34,316</u></u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2013

6. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS - continued

Fixed assets, included in the above, which are held under finance leases are as follows:

	Furniture, computers and equipment £
COST	
At 1 January 2013	
and 31 December 2013	<u>4,155</u>
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 January 2013	415
Charge for year	<u>831</u>
At 31 December 2013	<u>1,246</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 December 2013	<u><u>2,909</u></u>
At 31 December 2012	<u><u>3,740</u></u>

7. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2013 £	2012 £
Listed UK Stock Exchange investments		
Valuation at 1 January 2013	159,834	131,935
Additions	32,316	—
Disposals	(22,369)	—
Realised gains on disposals	919	—
Revaluation - unrealised gains	<u>35,489</u>	<u>22,648</u>
Valuation at 31 December 2013	206,189	154,583
Movement in uninvested cash	<u>(4,817)</u>	<u>5,251</u>
	<u><u>201,372</u></u>	<u><u>159,834</u></u>
Historical cost	<u><u>149,946</u></u>	<u><u>132,250</u></u>

The investment forms part of the proceeds received from the sale of the Society's collection of antiquarian and/or text books. An ordinary resolution passed on 23 November 2000 by the Society provided that the net proceeds (excluding any interest earned thereon) should only be used for capital expenditure purposes.

The authority conferred on the Officers of the Council by the above resolution was subsequently extended to allow the net proceeds to be used for additional purposes provided that such authority is exercised with prior approval of the Council of the Society and such terms are subject to such conditions as the Council may specify.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2013

8. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2013	2012
	£	£
Trade debtors	111,602	19,088
Other debtors	16,432	18,982
Prepayments	9,832	10,689
	<u>137,866</u>	<u>48,759</u>

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2013	2012
	£	£
Finance leases	1,385	1385
Trade creditors	15,322	29,654
Tax	–	500
Social security and other taxes	2,290	2,214
Other creditors	1,441	300
Deferred income	135,546	7,393
Accrued expenses	10,675	10,330
	<u>166,659</u>	<u>51,776</u>

Unsecured loans totalling £300 as at 31 December 2013 (2012: £300) included within other creditors are interest free and repayable on demand.

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2013	2012
	£	£
Finance leases	693	2,078
Deferred income	1,793	4,000
	<u>2,486</u>	<u>6,078</u>

11. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

The following operating lease payments are committed to be paid within one year:

	2013	2012
	£	£
Expiring:		
Between one and five years	–	1,304
	<u>–</u>	<u>1,304</u>

12. SECURED DEBTS

The following secured debts are included within creditors:

	2013	2012
	£	£
Interest on finance leases	2,078	3,463
	<u>2,078</u>	<u>3,463</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2013

13. RESERVES

	Income and expenditure account	Revaluation reserve	Totals
	£	£	£
At 1 January 2013	167,462	45,612	213,074
Deficit for the year	(2,915)		(2,915)
Unrealised investment gains/losses	—	35,489	35,489
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
At 31 December 2013	<u>164,547</u>	<u>81,101</u>	<u>245,648</u>

The income and expenditure account represents an amalgamation of various sundry funds contributed by members over the years together with surpluses and less deficits arising. The distribution of the income and property of the Society is restricted by the Memorandum of Association.

14. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

The company, being a company limited by guarantee and not having any share capital divided into shares, is controlled by the directors of the Society.

15. MEMBERSHIP

Each member guarantees during their membership and for one year after membership ceases a sum up to £10 to the Society in the event of a winding up order.

16. APB ETHICAL STANDARD - PROVISIONS AVAILABLE FOR SMALL ENTITIES

In common with many other businesses of our size and nature we use our auditors to prepare and submit returns to the tax authorities and to assist with the preparation of the financial statements.

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31 December 2013

	2013		2012	
	£	£	£	£
Turnover				
Subscriptions	118,937		112,457	
Post boxes rental (including Birmingham Letter Exchange)	18,450		18,364	
Lectures and courses	40,839		40,773	
		178,226		171,594
Other income				
Rents receivable	20,000		39,769	
Insurance recharges	2,968		2,968	
Income from Stock Exchange listed investments	5,466		5,432	
Bank interest receivable	1		734	
		28,435		48,903
		206,661		220,497
Expenditure				
Wages and salaries	87,807		88,090	
Social security costs	7,902		7,805	
Books and binding	—		4,700	
Telephone and postages	10,868		10,846	
Printing and stationery	2,258		6,557	
Premises expenses	60,529		51,147	
Grants and prizes	100		482	
President's Dinner	(2,589)		(1,495)	
Public relations	8,849		5,755	
Legal Awards	(22,318)		(16,609)	
Newly qualified	(1,425)		(568)	
Sponsors' advertising regarding Legal Awards	4,031		4,025	
Other events, travel and associated expenses	5,013		895	
Computer expenses	8,480		18,410	
Lectures and courses	18,413		17,617	
Incidentals	995		565	
Professional charges	14,257		8,427	
Auditors' remuneration	1,200		1,200	
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets				
Fixtures and fittings	3,037		3,271	
Profit/loss on disposal of fixed assets	—		3,069	
		207,407		214,189
Carried forward		(746)		6,308

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31 December 2013

	2013		2012	
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward		(746)		6,308
Finance costs				
Bank charges	2,800		2,380	
Realised gains/losses on investment disposals	(919)		—	
Hire purchase	357		1,015	
		<u>2,238</u>		<u>3,395</u>
NET (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS		<u><u>(2,984)</u></u>		<u><u>2,913</u></u>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The additional information relation to the following prize funds has been prepared from the accounting records of the company. While it does not form part of the statutory financial statements, it should be read in conjunction with them and the responsibilities section of the auditors' report thereon.

	2013 £	2012 £
THOMAS HORTON PRIZE FUND CAPITAL		
Charities Official Investment Fund 283 Income shares at cost	<u>271</u>	<u>271</u>
INCOME		
Interest received during year	154	127
Less: Gold Medal Prize	<u>(250)</u>	<u>(250)</u>
Deficiency transferred to Income and Expenditure account	<u>(96)</u>	<u>(123)</u>
T FOSTER DUGGAN STUDENTS' PRIZE CAPITAL		
£520 5½ % Treasury Stock 2009/12 (redeemed on 9th September 2009)		
Redemption value	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
INCOME		
Interest received during year	-	-
Less: Bronze Medal Prize	<u>(100)</u>	<u>(100)</u>
Deficiency transferred to Income and Expenditure account	<u>(100)</u>	<u>(100)</u>
HERBERT WILLISON PRIZE FUND CAPITAL		
Charities Official Investment Fund		
241 Income shares at cost	<u>250</u>	<u>250</u>
Income balance at beginning of year	2,264	2,206
Interest received during year	<u>181</u>	<u>108</u>
	2,445	2,314
Less: Book Prize	<u>(50)</u>	<u>(50)</u>
Balance at end of year	<u>2,395</u>	<u>2,264</u>
PETER NICHOLLS PRIZE FUND		
Balance at start of year	-	-
Less: Book prize	<u>(50)</u>	<u>(50)</u>
Deficiency transferred to Income and Expenditure account	<u>(50)</u>	<u>(50)</u>

Accountant's Report to the members of The Birmingham Law Society

In accordance with your instructions, we have compiled the unaudited financial statements set out above from the accounting records and explanations supplied to us.

J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants
Birmingham
26 March 2014

PRESIDENTS:

THOMAS LEE	1818	GEORGE CORBYN BARROW	1952
JOHN MEREDITH	1825	CECIL HAMMOND COX	1953
JOHN SIMCOX	1832	THOMAS BERNARD SMITH	1954
ROGER WILLIAM GEM	1833	JOHN ALBERT CALTHROP TAYLOR	1955
THOMAS EYRE LEE	1848	PHILIP HORTON VERNON	1956
CLEMENT INGLEBY	1852	GEOFFREY MARTEN KING	1957
JOHN WELCHMAN WHATELEY	1855	GEORGE MANNING BUTTS	1958
ARTHUR RYLAND	1873	JOSEPH KENNETH WALKER	1959
GEORGE JAMES JOHNSON	1874	RODERICK SYDNEY KING-FARLOW	1960
ARTHUR RYLAND	1876	WILLIAM HENRY TILLEY	1960
WILLIAM EVANS	1877	JOHN SHUFFLEBOTHAM	1962
JAMES MARIGOLD	1879	FREDERICK WILLIAM WHITALL OAKLEY	1963
THOMAS HORTON	1882	CHARLES THOMAS WINTERTON	1964
CHARLES EDWARD MATTHEWS	1885	RICHARD LAURENCE EKIN	1965
CORNELIUS THOMAS SAUNDERS	1888	GEOFFREY HORACE PIDDOCK	1966
SIR THOMAS MARTINEAU	1888	HAROLD FREDERICK ROGERS	1967
LAURISTON WINTERBOTHAM LEWIS	1891	CHRISTOPHER HEDLEY HARMER	1968
JOSEPH BENNETT CLARKE	1893	THOMAS HARRY PARKINSON	1969
ARTHUR GODLEE	1895	CHARLES HERBERT LEA	1970
THOMAS HAWKES RUSSELL	1897	JOHN ATKINSON RUTLEDGE	1970
JOSEPH ANSELL	1899	SYDNEY SOLOMON JACOBS	1972
RICHARD ALFRED PINSENT	1901	JOHN TIMOTHY ARTHUR SMITH	1973
JOHN BARHAM CARSLAKE	1903	JOHN ANTONY ALDERSON	1974
ALFRED POINTON	1906	DAVID LIDDELL	1975
WALTER BARROW	1908	WALTER WOOD	1976
JOHN GILBERT BRADBURY	1910	DAVID STANLEY ADAMS	1977
ALFRED HENRY COLEY	1912	ROBERT JOSEPH GARRATT	1978
JAMES HARGREAVE	1914	GEORGE SIEGFRIED JONAS	1979
ARTHUR LABRON LOWE	1916	DENYS ERIC FORDHAM	1980
FRANCIS AUGUST CHATWIN	1918	ROGER HORTON VERNON	1980
ARCHIBALD SOMERVILLE BENNETT	1919	ARNOLD MAURICE PUTSMAN	1982
JAMES ARTHUR MARIGOLD	1920	CHRISTOPHER JOHN JAMES	1983
EDWARD EVERSLED	1921	FREDERICK HAROLD TURNER	1984
THOMAS COOKSEY	1922	PETER LESLIE TAYLOR	1985
CHARLES EKIN	1923	BRIAN EDWARD GLYNN WILLIAMS	1986
JOSEPH JAMES	1924	JOHN RICHARD BETTINSON	1987
FRANCIS HENRY PEPPER	1925	DAVID HOWARD HIGGS	1988
RICHARD ALFRED PINSENT	1926	CHRISTOPHER WYNDHAM HUGHES	1989
CORNELIUS HALE SAUNDERS	1927	PHILIP EDWARD RICHARDSON	1990
HUGH BARHAM CARSLAKE	1928	CHARLES RODERICK KING-FARLOW	1990
GEORGE HUGGINS	1929	JOHN ADRIAN JAMES AUCOTT	1992
GEORGE ARTHUR CHARLES PETTITT	1930	STANLEY BERNARD SHORTT	1993
LESLIE ARTHUR SMITH	1931	JOHN MICHAEL BUCKINGHAM	1994
SYDNEY VERNON	1932	ALBERT WILLIAM HEASELGRAVE	1995
GEORGE ARTHUR CHARLES PETTITT	1933	RICHARD DUDLEY CHAPMAN	1996
WILFRED CLARKSON MATTHEWS	1934	MICHAEL DAVID HUMPHREY SHEPHERD	1997
FRANK HENRY CUFAUDE WILTSHIRE	1935	MALCOLM GASKELL FOWLER	1998
LESLIE ARTHUR SMITH	1937	TREVOR ARTHUR LEE	1999
HERBERT WILLIAM LYDE	1938	JAYNE BELINDA WILLETTS	2000
JOSEPH THOMAS HIGGS	1939	MICHAEL JAMES WARD	2001
GEORGE HAROLD WILLCOX	1941	ANTHONY RALPH COLLINS	2002
ARTHUR JOHN GATELEY	1943	DIANE PATRICIA BENUSSI	2003
JOHN FREDERICK WEST	1945	STEVEN MICHAEL JONAS	2004
WILLIAM CHARLES COLEMAN GELL	1946	RICHARD THOMAS FOLLIS	2005
CHARLES ADRIAN ASHFORD ELTON	1947	PHILIP DUNKLEY STEEL	2006
JOHN FAIRFAX CROWDER	1948	SUKHDEV SINGH BHOMRA	2007
JOHN HENRY SQUIRE ADDISON	1949	CAROLINE AMANDA COATES	2008
GEORGE ARTHUR LYON HATTON	1950	BERNARD ROBERT MCWALTER SHEPHERD	2009
CYRIL HIGHWAY	1950	DEAN CURTIS PARNELL	2010
		ANDREW JOHN LANCASTER	2011
		MARY DYMPHNA KAYE	2012

HONORARY SECRETARIES AND TREASURERS:

CLEMENT INGLEBY	1818
WILLIAM REDFERN	1829
ARTHUR RYLAND	1832
THOMAS SMITH JAMES	1835
WILLIAM HARE	1852
CLEMENT MANSFIELD INGLEBY	1853
EDWARD SARGANT	1857
GEORGE JAMES JOHNSON	1865
THOMAS HORTON	1872
ARTHUR GODLEE	1882
THOMAS HAWKES RUSSELL	1889
WALTER BARROW	1897
EDWARD EVERSHED	1903
CHARLES EKIN	1909
LESLIE ARTHUR SMITH	1913
ARTHUR MUSGROVE	1916
WILFRED CLARKSON MATTHEWS	1921
WILLIAM CHARLES COLEMAN GELL	1927
JOHN FAIRFAX CROWDER	1932
JOHN FAIRFAX CROWDER	Joint 1936
GEORGE CORBYN BARROW	
GEORGE CORBYN BARROW	1945
GEORGE CORBYN BARROW	Joint 1946
PHILIP HORTON VERNON	
PHILIP HORTON VERNON	1947
PHILIP HORTON VERNON	Joint 1949
GEORGE MANNING BUTTS	
GEORGE MANNING BUTTS	1955
GEORGE MANNING BUTTS	Joint 1955
HAROLD FREDERICK ROGERS	
HAROLD FREDERICK ROGERS	Joint 1956
DAVID CHARLES STEVENS	
DAVID CHARLES STEVENS	Joint 1958
MICHAEL PAUL CHETWYND HAYES	
MICHAEL PAUL CHETWYND HAYES	1961
MICHAEL PAUL CHETWYND HAYES	Joint 1967
JOHN RICHARD BETTINSON	
JOHN RICHARD BETTINSON	1968

HONORARY SECRETARIES:

JOHN RICHARD BETTINSON	Joint	1970
JOHN MICHAEL JENNINGS		
JOHN MICHAEL JENNINGS	Joint	1971
ANTONY DERBYSHIRE		
ANTONY DERBYSHIRE	Joint	1972
ROGER HORTON VERNON		
ROGER HORTON VERNON		1976
ROGER HORTON VERNON	Joint	1977
CHRISTOPHER WYNDHAM HUGHES		
CHRISTOPHER WYNDHAM HUGHES	Joint	1978
CHRISTOPHER JOHN JAMES		
CHRISTOPHER WYNDHAM HUGHES	Joint	1980
PHILIP EDWARD RICHARDSON		
PHILIP EDWARD RICHARDSON	Joint	1983
PAUL GRENVILLE PHARAOH		
PAUL GRENVILLE PHARAOH	Joint	1987
JOHN ANTHONY JAMES		
JOHN ANTHONY JAMES	Joint	1988
JOHN MICHAEL BUCKINGHAM		
JOHN MICHAEL BUCKINGHAM	Joint	1991
RICHARD DUDLEY CHAPMAN		
RICHARD DUDLEY CHAPMAN	Joint	1992
MALCOLM GASKELL FOWLER		
JUDITH MARGARET BONEGAL	Joint	1994
PETER DAVID WISEMAN		
PETER DAVID WISEMAN	Joint	May - Sept 2002
STEVEN MICHAEL JONAS		
PETER DAVID WISEMAN	Joint	Sept 2002
MARK JONATHAN BEESLEY		
PETER DAVID WISEMAN	Joint	June 2004
ANDREW RICHARD LEWIS BOND		
ANDREW JOHN LANCASTER	Joint	April 2008
HELEN JANE ARNOLD		
JON LLOYD	Joint	April 2009
KEITH BROWNE	Joint	April 2010

HONORARY TREASURERS

JOHN FRANK LESTER	1970
JAMES EDWARD ROWLEY	1973
KENNETH JOHN WERRING	1977
CHARLES RODERICK KING-FARLOW	1979
CHARLES JAMES BRAGG FLINT	1985
GRAHAM RUSSELL RITCHIE	1986
MICHAEL JAMES WARD	1992
MILTON NICHOLAS PSYLLIDES	1999
ANDREW JEFFREY STILTON	2004
RICHARD STEER	2008
MARTIN ALLSOPP	2009
JOHN HUGHES	2010

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

1. WE ENCOURAGE CLOSER CONTACT BETWEEN MEMBERS THEREBY STRENGTHENING THE REGIONAL LEGAL COMMUNITY

- by providing a programme for members including networking and activity based events;
- by holding public debates/discussions which are important to members;
- by establishing and maintaining effective lines of communication with all members.

2. WE REPRESENT THE PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR MEMBERS

- by direct representations and lobbying to Government, the SRA, The Law Society and other organisations;
- by engaging in consultations;
- by making use of the media.

3. WE PROMOTE THE SOCIETY, OUR MEMBERS AND THE REGION ON THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STAGE

- by ensuring members are aware of the work which is undertaken by the Society;
- by ensuring all Officers, Board Members and Council Members promote the Society and its members whenever speaking to national or international organisations, including during international visits;
- by promoting the international relations the Society has and establishing links.

4. WE ENSURE OUR MEMBERS ARE KEPT UP TO DATE WITH ANY IMPORTANT ISSUES RELEVANT TO THE LEGAL PROFESSION

- by using any and all available means (electronic, seminars, newsletters, correspondence etc);
- by engaging in public debates/discussions with people associated with such changes;
- through training and other educational events.

5. WE RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF LEGAL ISSUES RELEVANT TO THE PROFESSION

- by promoting the rule of law and access to justice
- by raising issues relevant to the provision of legal services such as Alternative Business Structures, cuts in legal aid, diversity issues in respect of access to the legal profession etc;

6. WE ARE REGARDED AS AN INTEGRAL AND IMPORTANT PART OF BIRMINGHAM AND SURROUNDING REGIONS BY ENSURING CLOSE LINKS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS (BOTH LEGAL AND NON LEGAL) INCLUDING;

- a. national organisations such as The Law Society;
- b. local organisations such as Universities, Chamber of Commerce, Birmingham Forward, Business Voice WM, PINWM etc;
- c. local organisations involved in the administration of justice such as the Judiciary/Tribunals and the Police;
- d. Birmingham Trainee Solicitors Group and Birmingham Solicitors Group;
- e. Pro bono groups and charities.

7. WE CONTINUOUSLY CONSIDER PROVIDING SERVICES THAT BENEFIT OUR MEMBERS.

March 2013



Birmingham Law Society

43 Temple Row
Birmingham B2 5LS
DX: 13100 Birmingham 1
General Enquiries: 0121 237 6004
Fax: 0121 237 6100
email: info@birminghamlawsociety.co.uk
www.birminghamlawsociety.co.uk