



**THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF ARBITRATORS
WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH**

**NEWSLETTER
July 2007**

Letter from the Chairman Tim Willis,

Dear Members,

We have got to the mid-point in our calendar and summer is now upon us – even if the weather suggests otherwise. Since our AGM the new committee have been busy and we have recently received an update from the Chartered Institute of activities of Bloomsbury Square.

The letters from the Director General and the Chairman of the Board of trustees have been included in our newsletter.

Following the discussion at Congress the proposals for pathways to fellowship and panel appointments certificates remain the subject of debate.

In relation to panel certificates, concerns were raised about the proposed conditions which require that before being granted a panel certificate the applicant would have to demonstrate that they had carried out arbitrations or adjudications. This potentially produces a catch 22 situation for those wishing to commence practising as arbitrators or adjudicators.

As a result of the discussions at Congress we have liaised with Bloomsbury square who have welcomed our offer of holding courses locally in order to assist those wishing to complete pupillage by December 2007.

We hope to be able to advise of the courses in early September. Those wishing to complete their pupillage are advised to contact Karen Cheel at Bloomsbury Square or Robert Gemmell or Nigel Ribbands of this branch.

I and Robert Gemmell met with Mike Owen the new Director of marketing membership and training to discuss the activities of the branch. We hope to work with Mike in taking forward the scheme for arbitration with the BCCI.

The sub-committees and honorary officers have worked hard on members behalf. Gordon Ainsworth has retired as branch development officer and is off to Abu Dhabi – our best wishes and thanks go with him. Michael Stephens has been chairing the branch development sub-committee and will be taking forward the scheme arbitration proposals developed by Robert Gemmell. Other initiatives are ongoing such as improving links to professional institutes and educational bodies. A joint dinner with the Worshipful Company is proposed.

We have had an active programme of events organised by the Education and Training Sub-committee under the chairmanship of Robert Gemmel. We have worked with other bodies such as CIOB and the Adjudication Society to provide a mixture of talks and debates.

Since our AGM we have held three events and have had visiting speakers including John Riches, Tony Bingham and members of Keating chambers. Our last event was the Keating chambers debate on the Melville Dundas decision in the House of Lords. The debate was both a fascinating opportunity to see eminent QC's and leading juniors debate the case and an opportunity to consider the consultation on reform of the Construction Act. Our next event in September looks at another new area of dispute resolution in rent review cases.

Although summer is here there is much work for the sub-committees to carry on. We wish you a pleasant summer and look forward to seeing you at our future events.

Yours sincerely

Tim Willis - Chairman

FROM THE SECRETARY

The committee for the session 2007 – 2008 is:

Tim Willis	Chairman
Robert Harrison	Vice Chairman, Editor New sletter
David Simmons	Treasurer
Madelaine Hanlon	Secretary
Robert Gemmell	Chairman Education and Training Sub-committee
Keith Blizzard	Education and Training Sub-committee member
Michael Stephens	Branch PRO, Chairman Branch Development Sub-committee
Nigel Ribbands	Branch development Sub-committee member
Michael Craik	Branch development Sub-committee member
John Pillinger	Branch development Sub-committee member
Chris Walker	Branch development Sub-committee member
Gordon Ainsworth	Resigned

The following new members have joined the branch and we look forward to seeing them at future meetings. Dr. E. Egan, Mr. B. Wall, Mr. N. J. Evans, Mr. J. Roberts, Ms. N. Fenwick-Goldthorpe, Miss B. J. Hinchcliffe, Mr. L. Westwood, Ms. L. De Feo, Ms. L. Costello, Mr. J. Tudor, Ms. T. Harrison, Ms. J. Carter, Mr. C. Gibbs, Mr. R. L. Hughes, Mr. S. Oteng, Mr. S. H. T. Micklewright, Ms. A. Bower, Mr. A. P. Smith and Mrs. M. E. Green

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The provisional programme of events is included with this Newsletter.