



THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF ARBITRATORS
WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2006

Hello everyone.

As you have probably realised, the Newsletter has been missing for a while. We have now reorganised our committee structure and as Vice Chairman I have taken on the task of producing the Newsletter, hopefully three times a year. If there is anything you would like to see in the Newsletter please let me know (robert.harrison10@btinternet.com) and I will see if it can be accommodated.

Bob Harrison

Letter from the Chairman,

Dear Members,

We at the committee hope you had a good summer. The committee has been busy. The respite before plunging back into the demanding routine was brief.

The AGM held on the 28th April was an excellent meeting. We were fortunate to have Christopher Thomas QC as our speaker who gave an insight into the more extra-ordinary and often confidential business that falls to be dealt with by the Professional Conduct committee. The time and costs involved in the events described were staggering. The Institute takes responsibility for the actions of its members and where they impact on the wider public the consequences can be far reaching. Reform is underway.

The new committee took charge following the AGM on the 28 April. We have new Honorary Officers and new Members. Our thanks to those who have retired.

Bob Harrison takes over as Vice Chairman, Madeleine Hanlon as Secretary and David Simons as Treasurer. With many of the officers retiring the business of handover has been taking place and we now have a new chairman of the Education and Training sub-committee in Robert Gemmell and Gordon Ainsworth chairman of the Branch Development sub-committee. However Gordon has recently been in Dublin and in view of ongoing commitments has had to step down as Chairman of the Branch Development sub-committee. A new Chairman of the sub-committee is to be appointed.

The branch has had a busy period. In May we co-hosted a meeting at St Philips Chambers chaired by Her Honour Judge Frances Kirkham at which Mr Justice Ramsey, and others gave excellent talks on such diverse subjects as arbitration appeals, competition law and duties of care.

In May we were visited by the President, Colin Wall. The Director General had hoped also to visit the branch and discuss the changes in the Institute. Due to a back injury he was unable to attend. A future visit is to be arranged. Colin discussed the changes and gave an excellent talk on the role of Dispute Resolution Advisor, a person appointed to act for all parties to a project to prevent disputes arising and if they do arise to advise on their resolution.

September and October have seen the commencement of the Education and Training sub-committee programme of events which are described in Robert Gemmell's report.

The trustees meet on the 16 and 17th November. The chairs of the branches will attend to represent the branches' views. The Institute conference will take place on the 17th and 18th November. Details of the conference can be found on the Institute's web site.

We want to encourage a young member of the branch to attend the conference. We are therefore offering to subsidise to the cost of attending the conference and details of the subsidy are given below.

The branch awards we had hoped to present last year at a dinner will be presented by the Director General or the President at a forthcoming event. We will have further details shortly.

In July I met with our own conference sub-committee, Sarah-Jane Hudson and Michael Craik, to review the planning of the annual conference. It was decided that the branch will hold its annual conference in the spring of 2007. Our theme will be dispute management from contract to procedure. We are hoping to hold the event at Warwick. Sarah-Jane is writing to high profile speakers who are on our wish list. We will have a further announcement soon.

For those of you who have been unable to visit the web-site – our apologies. We have now changed our web-site hosting arrangements and the details of all current events are available on the site as well as contact details.

For those wishing to progress to become panel arbitrators there are important changes. Pupillage must be completed by early 2007. After that new arrangements will be in force. If you are unaware of the changes do not hesitate to contact me.

If there are any matters that you would like me to take up at the trustees meeting or any other matters please e-mail me at twillis@wilkes.co.uk or write to me c/o The Wilkes Partnership, 41 Church Street, Birmingham B3 2RT.

I hope to see you at forthcoming events. On behalf of the committee I wish you a busy and prosperous end of the year.

Regards

Tim Willis

Chairman of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators West Midlands Branch.

YOUNG WEST MIDLANDS MEMBER SUBSIDIZED CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

The Annual Conference for the CIArb will be held over the 18 and 19th November 2006 at Selsdon Park Hotel, Surrey. Various packages are available. Package 1 includes attendance on both days, accommodation on the evenings of 17th and 18th including breakfast, Reception and Dinner on the 17th and 18th breakfast on the 18th and 19th and lunch on the 18th.

The package costs £517.00 including VAT. The Conference covers a broad range of subjects including Arbitration, Mediation, Adjudication and soft skills applicable to dispute resolution and negotiation. It is accredited for 10 hours CPD by the Law Society and Bar Council.

The West Midlands Branch will meet 50% of the package cost of the first young* member of the branch who e-mails their membership number and contact details to twillis@wilkes.co.uk

* under 35 years of age.

Message from the Chairman of the Education and Training Sub-Committee:

"I'm Robert Gemmell, chairman of the Education and Training sub-committee. Over the next year, the sub-committee will organise, for its members and their guests, 5 to 6 evening talks, an arbitrators' surgery and an annual conference.

We have already prepared a provisional programme of forthcoming events, and I am pleased to enclose a copy with this newsletter. Two successful evenings have already been held this year, with a talk by Peter Aeberli at Mills & Reeve's offices and a presentation by Stephen Lowsley and Chris Linnett at the offices of Wragge & Co. Turnout has been higher than expected, and we are grateful that a number of other firms have generously agreed to host some of our future events.

We look forward to our forthcoming meetings, especially as we will be welcoming other eminent speakers, and further details of each event will be circulated approximately 4 weeks beforehand. Places cost just £10 per head, which will also include drinks and a buffet afterwards - good value for such an interesting evening, I'm sure you will agree.

We always welcome ideas from members for future meetings, so if you would like to make a suggestion please send it to me by email (robert.gemmell@mcms.co.uk).

I look forward to seeing you at a future event."