



Adjudication
Society

2021

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW BY CHAIR, HAMISH LAL

- 1 As required by our constitution the Executive Committee shall present to each annual general meeting a report and accounts for the preceding year.
- 2 This is my first year as Chair of this important Society. Patently, there is a lot to do and I am delighted that we have a strong team dedicated and determined to achieve success for the Society across many areas.
- 3 The Treasurer is Martin Ewen. The Treasurer's Report continues to demonstrate that the Society is in good financial health. However, we cannot be complacent – a number of Societies compete for members and whilst our subscription is relatively modest we are keen to promote the Society and thus attract new members from QS Firms, Claims Consultants, Law Firms, Chambers, In-House Legal Departments and Industry.
- 4 The objects of the Society remain “to promote for the public and the individual member benefit, education, training, study and research (and the publication of the useful results of such research) in the field of adjudication practise and procedure and related subjects worldwide.” To meet these objectives we have, mindful of COVID, continued with limited activities and I will seek to touch upon some of them below.
- 5 In May 2021, we held our first virtual AGM. This followed an excellent and seminal lecture given by Alexander Nissen QC “The Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 The First 25 Years: a Silver Jubilee?”. This will our first annual conference since 2019. The list of attendees evidences the good support for the Annual Conference. An ambition remains to become better established and represented in the regions. The Regional Co-Ordinator's Report by Dean Sayers demonstrates the range of activity and the task for 2022.
- 6 Our Committee is active. Firstly, my thanks to the conference sub-committee who have brought together an excellent programme of topics and speakers for this year's conference. Richard Booth, Theresa Mohammed and Arran Dowling-Hussey have done an excellent job and I am delighted that Arran has agreed to be the Conference Convener taking over from Edward Quigg. We must thank Edward for all his leadership over the Years. James Pickavance and Claire King have established the Quarterly Case Law Updates – Member feedback has been excellent and one can see that this particular event will be highly successful. Sean Gibbs, Dean Sayers and Susan Francombe have developed a series of Practical Workshops designed to look at the practical issues involved in Statutory Adjudication – more on this in 2022. Our newsletter, case notes and the resources on our website provide a source of valuable reference materials. They also provide a hub for discussion and sharing of expertise within the adjudication community on the topics that challenge us. We very much encourage members to provide articles or papers. We must thank Tim Willis who leads on the Newsletter and its Editor Daniel Churcher.
- 7 We have continued to fund research and reporting on adjudication. Of course, for many years we were fortunate to have Janey Milligan's Reports. Now, Kings College London has taken that important obligation and we look forward to working with Professor Nazzini.

8. The nominating bodies sub-committee is working on providing better guidance on, and understanding of, the legal basis and practices of the appointment of adjudicators by parties or nominating bodies. The CIC instigated a nominating bodies forum which I participated in on behalf of the sub-committee. The outcome of this has been to start drafting an adjudication process and nomination process for low value disputes.

9 I thank the whole Committee for all their hard work and support. We must look forward to 2022.

Hamish Lal

2 November 2021