CHAIR'S REPORT FOR 2026

Welcome

A warm welcome to our members, our current and incoming committee, and our Honorary President at this Annual General Meeting. What a year it has been for the Adjudication Society! It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as Chair from 2025 to 2026, a period of growing membership and an expanding program of events.

Financial

Our Treasurer has confirmed that the Society is once again in a healthy financial position—a strong foundation for our growing program of events across the United Kingdom and Ireland. Profit has increased this year, but we must also look ahead realistically: inflation, combined with our decision to hold the 2027 conference attendance fee at this year's level, is expected to put pressure on next year's conference budget.

Annual Conference

Our annual conference remains the Society's flagship event and, once again, attracted strong attendance from members and non-members alike. Bringing an event of this scale together takes significant work. My thanks go to Hamish Lal, Suryen Nullatamby, George Gibbs and Robert Gibbs for their work in arranging this year's conference.

Overview of the Year's Activities

We set ourselves an ambitious target for events in 2025 to 2026—and surpassed it! With over 30 events held, we greatly increased the number delivered compared with the period 2023 to 2025.

Carly Thorpe's report as Regional Convenor brings our regional activity into focus, with more detail on the work undertaken and events held. I encourage you to read it. Accessible events are central to our support for members: wherever you live, you should have opportunities to take part.

Looking ahead, Carly will take over from me as Chair, marking the start of the Society's next chapter.

Achievements and Milestones

Our membership continues to grow—from 769 when I became Chair to 840 today. That growth is an important milestone for the Society and another reason to celebrate this year's progress.

Diversity and Inclusion

Equal opportunities remain at the heart of the Adjudication Society's work. Throughout the year, we have continued our efforts to broaden participation in our industry and encourage everyone to take part.

Acknowledgments

Behind this year's achievements is the hard work of our main committee, regional and specialist groups, and volunteers. To everyone who has contributed, thank you. To those stepping down, I offer my sincere thanks for the time and support you have given the Society.

My thanks also go to the speakers and panel members who have supported our program throughout the year, and to those who have generously provided venues. Their contributions help bring our events to life.

I would also like to offer special thanks to Nicholas Gould, who stands down this year, for his many years of service to the Society in a variety of roles, including Chair.

Finally, to our members: this is your Society. Join an event, get involved in a local or national committee, and help shape what comes next. Your involvement helps us deliver what you want from the Society. Let's build on this year's momentum together!

Sean Gibbs (CHAIR)

November 2026