

WESTERN COUNTIES BRANCH

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AGM April 2011

The principal Western Counties Branch officers for the last 12 months were: Mike Twine (Chairman), Jonathan Wyatt (Vice Chair), Steve Wilkinson (Honorary Secretary), Robin Gupta (Honorary Treasurer) and Peter Buechel (Public Relations officer).

The focus for the Western Counties Branch this year has been its programme of education and training events. Introduction courses were held in Mediation, Arbitration and Adjudication on 19 June, 18 September and 13 November respectively. All courses were well attended and I would like to thank the branch members who acted as course directors.

We were fortunate in having our Patron, Sir Mark Havelock-Allan BT QC as our speaker at the AGM in April 2010, when he delivered a paper on the subject of "Privacy and Confidentiality in ADR".

I attended the Branch Chairman's meeting at Bloomsbury Square on 22 April.

In June 2010, we held our informal summer meeting when members and their guests visited Mount Edgcombe House and Country Park in Cornwall, departing by ferry from the Mayflower Steps in Plymouth. Thanks to Jonathan Wyatt for his organisation of this event.

In September 2010 we held a meeting in Bristol, where Her Honour Justice Frances Kirkham gave a presentation on "How important is the law in mediation?".

I would like to thank Jonathan for the times he deputised for me, including representing the branch at Congress in Heidelberg on 19 and 20 October.

A mock mediation was held in Taunton in November 2010.

Our first meeting of 2011 was held in January in Bristol, with a talk by Niall Lawless on how different aspects of culture may be compared and contrasted, and relate to arbitration, conciliation and mediation framework.

On 25 March Sue Banwell-Moore assisted by Glyn Matthews held a Mediation Workshop in Taunton which was fully subscribed.

I attended the UK Branch Chairman's meeting in Bloomsbury Square on 30 March.

I should like to thank the Branch committee for their support during the year, particularly as I have not been able to give as much time to Branch matters as I would have liked. Particular thanks to Morwenna Crichton who stood down as Honorary Secretary and I would like to thank her for all her hard work over the years. Steve Wilkinson has taken over from Morwenna. I would also like to thank Peter Buechel for keeping our own branch website up to date.

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On behalf of the committee I would also like to thank David Simper, a Trustee, who has been very supportive of the branch, in particular representing our interests and concerns to Bloomsbury Square.

Michael Twine
Chairman Western Counties Branch