

**WESTERN COUNTIES BRANCH
AGM 20 APRIL 2010**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman	Mike Twine
1st Vice Chairman	Jonathan Wyatt
2nd Vice Chairman	Brian Hinchcliffe
Secretary	Morwenna Crichton
Treasurer	Robin Gupta
Branch PRO	Peter Buechel

I assumed the role of the Western Counties Branch following the Branch AGM on 23 April 2009, taking over from Peter Buechel.

Sadly, Brian Hinchcliffe Junior Vice Chairman and longstanding committee member died a few months ago after a long illness.

We were fortunate in having John Campbell QC and President of the Chartered Institute as our speaker at the AGM in April 2009, when he delivered a paper on the subject of "Bias and Conflict of Interest".

A successful Arbitrator's Surgery was held on 6 May 2009.

In June 2009, we held our informal summer meeting when members and their guests visited Stourhead, with some staying on in the evening to see a performance of the Merchant of Venice. Thanks to Jonathan Wyatt for his organisation of this event.

Rudi Klien was our guest speaker for the October meeting in Exeter, where he talked about the proposed changes in the Construction Act.

In November 2009 we held a meeting in Bristol, where Tony Bingham gave a presentation on "What can we Arbitrators learn from what we call the summary process of Adjudication?".

Our first meeting of 2010 was held in January in Taunton, when we had the good fortune to have our second visit from a current President in the same year, Joe Behan. He presented a paper on Mediation.

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. Morwenna Crichton will be standing down as Honorary Secretary and I would like to thank her for all her hard work. I would also like to thank Peter Buechel for his continuing support as Immediate Past Chairman and as the current PRO. Peter has done a magnificent job in keeping our own branch website up to date and of benefit to the branch.

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