

Issue 62

July 2017

www.solas.org.uk

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Summer Has Arrived

Your President



Richard Murray

Dear members

I hope as you read this article that you have had a pleasant summer break or are looking forward still to jetting off to somewhere warm. It's so important to chill, relax and leave office life behind you, albeit for a little while.

Without any doubt a Solicitor's office can be a highly stressful environment. As a Solicitor for the last 20 odd years, half that time at Partner level I have had more than my fair share of sleepless nights. I would put my house on it that each and every member of the Society who is reading this article has been in the same boat at some point or points in their working life. We are guilty I think, as a caring profession, of going that extra mile for our clients but in doing so quite often we are creating stressful situations for our-self that perhaps could have been otherwise avoided. My advice is to step back and take stock in those situations.....the secret I suppose is recognising that that point has been reached!

Stress can easily lead you down the road of depression. Within short order this can have implications for your health and your relationship with your immediate and indeed wider family. Regretfully one of my former colleagues took his life last year which of course was a massive shock to his family, friends and work colleagues. It's hard in the cold light of day to rationalise and understand how things got so bad for him that suicide was the only option available to him but when you are depressed things like that are not so black and white. All in the name of getting that account done, balancing the books, finishing off that executry or whatever else you might be working on at any given point. Sometimes all you need to do is take that step back and take a bit of a reality check. More often than not that bit of work you have been struggling with can wait another day or so. I have personally suffered from depression and continue to have my moments but the one thing I have learned is that you are not on your own. Support is there, you just need to be able to find the strength to ask for help.

A new collaborative initiative to promote and support mental health in the Scottish legal community was launched by the Law Society of Scotland towards the end of last year in close association with LawCare. Most legal organisations are represented and included within this initiative so have a voice. SOLAS is represented by me in my capacity as President. Here is an extract from a press release given by the Law Society to its members.

Legal Wellbeing Scotland is spearheaded by the Law Society of Scotland and driven by LawCare, a charity which provides support to the legal community. The initiative brings together representatives from a range of legal professional and educational establishments.

"Law can be very demanding, and we know that one in five solicitors will experience a mental health issue at least once in their career," explains Eilidh Wiseman, President of the Law Society of Scotland. "The goal of Legal Wellbeing Scotland is to promote improved mental health and wellbeing in the Scottish legal profession, by raising awareness and providing best practice solutions. This initiative provides a welcome opportunity to

work collaboratively with experts from across the legal sector, as well as encourage individual organisations to explore what they can do within their own establishments.

The full article can be read by following this link:

<https://www.lawscot.org.uk/news/2016/06/scottish-legal-profession-tackles-mental-health-issues/>

Mental health problems can be identified and treated effectively. The Law Society, as it should, recognises that stress is part and parcel with legal office life and should be congratulated for their positive stance in support of its members. The more mental health wellbeing is discussed the less a stigma it will be. There has been a lot of press about this subject, spearheaded by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. If you are depressed, please be assured that it's not your fault. It is an illness but is a curable one. Take comfort in the fact that your family and friends will provide whatever support you might need and of course that also applies to your employer.

I have mentioned LawCare a few times. This is a UK wide charity whose mission is to help the legal community with personal or professional concerns that may be affecting their mental health and wellbeing, and to promote understanding of how and when to seek help, without fear or stigma. Take the time to look at their website. They have counsellors on hand to help in whatever way that they can, and that does also include financial assistance where appropriate. If you do find yourself in a dark place, please pick up the phone and ask for help. There is no shame in doing so. Follow the link to LawCare's website:

<http://www.lawcare.org.uk>

Although things are not as bad within the profession as it was in 2008/09, the feel-good factor is not yet there. There is so much happening from a political perspective that it's impossible to know what the legal landscape will look like in the next 5-10 years. I think it's safe to say that it's going to be a bumpy ride. SOLAS is there to assist its members in the best way that we can. If you have problems and for whatever reason you don't wish to contact LawCare please speak with a Council Member to see if we can help. Remember a problem shared is a problem halved.

Have a splendid holiday and I look forward to catching up with you again in the autumn.

Best wishes

Richard

National President

Administrator's Report

It's summer again and I sometimes wonder where the months have gone. The first few months of this year have been very busy for me. Not just because of the work I do on behalf of SOLAS but on a personal basis too.

March saw the spring seminar, which again was very well attended. I was very pleased to welcome Sophie Napier, Andrew Paterson & Peter Shand from Murray Beith Murray, along with Caroline Millar, from SKO Family Law. All four speakers were given a very warm welcome and made it a very interesting day. Ten days later my youngest daughter Gillian got married, then on the day after my husband & I were off to Vienna to relax and recharge our batteries. On returning I had time to call my own, before going in for surgery on my shoulder. Now eight weeks later, I am able once again to use my laptop and get on with the work in hand while at the same time continuing with my recuperation.

I now have to set my mind to arranging the autumn seminar which will be an update from The Law Society of Scotland, the flyer should be sent out to all members by the end of July.

Can I take this opportunity to remind all members that 5 hours of structured and 5 hours of unstructured CPD must be completed by 31st October each year. By just attending one of the two national seminars each year, completes the required hours for structured, if it so happens you are able to attend both national seminars I am pleased to say that your annual CPD requirements will be met in full. If you are unable to attend the national seminars, please remember that your branch will have at least five one hour seminars throughout the winter months. These seminars are held in the evening after work hours. For more information regarding your own branch seminars, please contact your local secretary.

You can download the relative CPD & Subs forms from the SOLAS web site.

As always please remember to notify me of any changes to your contact details.

Hope you all have a nice summer be it at home or in some exotic location throughout the world.

Dorothy Nicholson

Administrator

Update on Distance Learning

All three modules of the course have now successfully been completed by all the students and have attained a 100% pass rate.

The students and lecturers have been asked for their feedback and it has all been positive. The only slight issue was with the internet links but this did not have any major impact on the outcome.

A huge thanks to Scott Napier who, at the last minute, agreed to lecture the feeing course to the webinar students alongside his own class.

It is hoped that this will be a way forward to deliver the course to students who live remotely and are too far away to travel to the classes.

Barbara Duckworth

Inverness Area Organiser

Peter McMenemy's Birthday

President's Speech re Peter McMenemy's 70th birthday

I would like to take this time to say a few words about a long standing member of Solas. The first firm he worked for was Miller Thompson Henderson and Co, now Miller Thompson Brownlee Watson based in St Vincent Street and he also worked for Arthur Young McLelland Moores Chartered Accountants. When John Sorrie joined Maclay Murray and Spens in 1975 this member was working there. Classes in Glasgow were run pre Solas/Law Society by a Mr Hart, a chartered accountant and John Sorrie was encouraged by this member to go along to the classes. This member and Jim Forrest of Maclay Murray and Spens aided Mr Hart in the input of the classes. But Solas in Glasgow only really had older people (with the exception of this young man, a certain Tom McCafferty and Bill Craig as they were at the time) and the meetings were attended by about 8 or 9 people, so the classes were the catalyst for promoting Solas and putting it where it is today and this member was very much part of that, driving it on with other members with similar desires such as Sandy Clark from Edinburgh and Jim Pithie/Ian Scott in Aberdeen. In the early 70's this member along with Tom McCafferty set up a Solas 5 a side football competition which was played at Cartha Queens Park Rugby Club, there were 16 teams from Glasgow made up of law firms and they played annually for the solas cup. This went on for about 10 yrs. This member was instrumental in setting up the solas classes. In case you have not worked it out yet because he does go so far back given his age - I am, of course, talking about Peter McMenemy aka MR SOLAS. Peter along with Jim Forrest of Maclay Murray and Spens and Ronnie Graham the senior partner from Maclay Murray and Spens, who in the 1980's became President of the Law Society, were all instrumental in setting up the solas classes. Peter also arranged lecturers for the Glasgow branch. A lot of work was put in by joint committees in putting the work books together and ultimately launching the classes. If we go back to 1958 when the Glasgow branch was formed there were no classes and no seminars at that time, people who worked in law firms just applied for membership of solas. The classes started in the 1980's with recognition from the Law Society via Peter's connection with Ronnie Graham. The classes are of course administered by a joint board of solas and The Law Society. The cashroom section has always been the first class of the course – being the most important part of the course in both Societies eyes. Peter served on the joint board for many years, lectured in Trust Accounting and was the external examiner in Tax for a lot of years. He was of course the class organiser for the Glasgow/West of Scotland end of the course and he often gave reports at the national AGM. All of this, because he had the interests of SOLAS in his heart. As most of us here tonight have come through the classes we have a lot to thank Peter for, myself in particular as Peter was my Trust lecturer and he is constantly on tap whenever I have any queries and he has supported me in my time on the Glasgow committee. Can you join me tonight in wishing Mr Solas - Peter McMenemy - a very happy 70th Birthday which he will celebrate this Saturday 22nd April.

By Shirley Green/John Sorrie/Tom McCafferty

Thanks

Dear Shirley,

Just a short note to thank you, your committee and the Glasgow membership for your kind words and the gifts given to me at the recent Glasgow AGM. To say I was gobsmacked is putting it mildly!! You all did a great job in keeping it quiet. I also received messages/cards from colleagues in other branches which were equally appreciated.

This was supposed to be a low key occasion but didn't quite work out that way in the end.....and I am only just starting to recover from it all!! There are a couple of Glasgow members I will be having a quiet word with shortly though!!!!!!

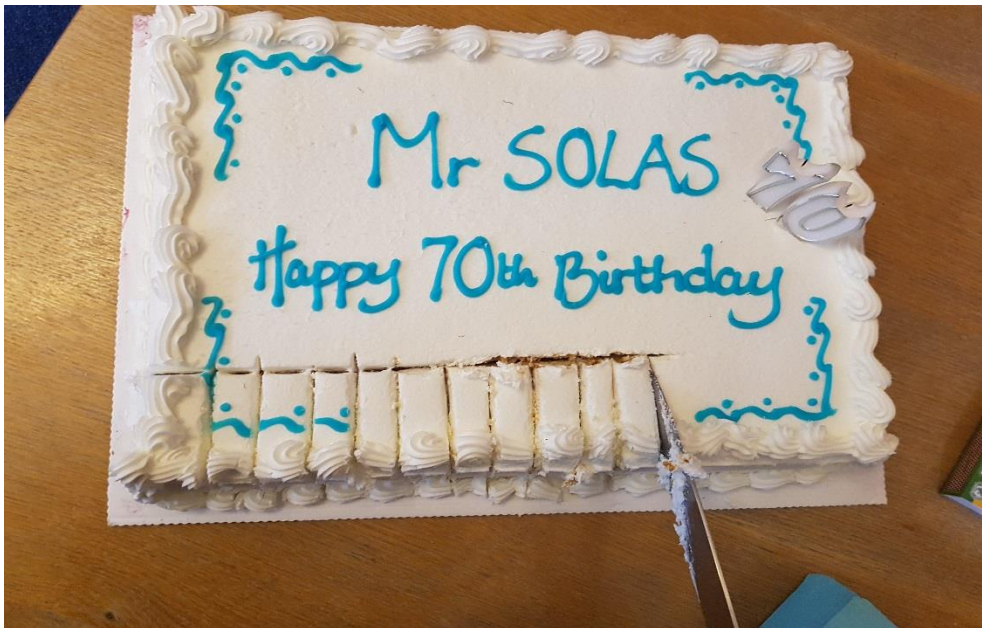
Once again, many, many thanks to you all and every best wish to the branch for the future.

Yours Sincerely

Peter

P.S. I was only 69 so looking forward to next year's again!!!!!! Only Kidding!!!!!!

Birthday Pictures



Continued



& More



Annual Dinner

SOLAS Annual Dinner & AGM

On Friday 3rd & Saturday 4th November 2017

Kingsmills Hotel, Culcabock Road, Inverness, IV2 3LP

Dinner - Friday 3 November 2017. 7pm for 7.30pm

Dance to Dubl Trubl (see Facebook page)

General Council is pleased to announce that the dinner cost has been subsidised.

Cost £25 (If not staying at the Hotel)

Accommodation including Dinner, Bed & Breakfast:-

Single Rooms - £125. Double/Twin Rooms - £160 (£80 per person sharing)

Family Rooms - £195 (£65 per person sharing)

NB Dinner is included in the price if you are staying at the hotel

SOLAS members are welcome to bring a guest along to the event

AGM - Saturday 4th November 2017 at 10.30am

I do/do not require accommodation:-

Single Room - Yes/No

Double Room/Twin Room - Yes/No OR Family Room - Yes/No

Sharing with

Name

Guest's Name

Address

.....

BranchTelephone No

Email

PLEASE CONTINUE OVERLEAF

Menu Choice - Please underline your choice from each course.

STARTERS

Roast Tomato and Pepper Soup, finished with a pesto oil

Marbled Salmon Terrine, dill vinaigrette, pickled cucumber

Ham Hock Ballotine, pickled vegetables, mustard aioli and chargrilled brioche

MAIN COURSES

Roasted Chicken Breast with Smoked Garlic and Pancetta
Chateaux potatoes, cauliflower purée, baby vegetables, red currant jus

Grilled Seabass Fillet
Chives crushed potatoes, wilted spinach, lemon butter sauce

Porcini Ravioli
Sage cream, rocket salad

DESSERTS

Apple Crumble Tart, Simpsons of Buckie toffee ice cream and caramel sauce

Chocolate Marquise, mango sorbet, passion fruit coulis

Sticky Toffee Pudding, caramel sauce and vanilla pod ice cream

Special Dietary Requirements

Please underline one choice per person for drinks during dinner:

Prosecco/White wine/Red wine/Beer

Payment Method

Bank Transfer

RBS Sort Code: 83-52-00, Account No: 10071018
Society of Law Accountants in Scotland

Cheque

Cheque for the **full amount payable to SOLAS**
Tina Hunter, General Treasurer, SOLAS
Tigh Na Shian, 24 Alma Avenue, Aberfeldy, PH15 2BW Telephone 07538155811 with any queries.

(NB: Cheques will be cashed prior to the event as the Hotel requires full payment by 11th October)

Please reply as soon as possible in order to secure accommodation in the Hotel but **no later than 2nd October 2017.**

Branch Reports

Aberdeen Branch

No Report

Dundee Branch

Dundee branch would like to send their congratulations to one of their new branch members Natalie Holden, on the birth of her son Lukas Delroy Chung at 7lb 2 on 18th June 2017.

Edinburgh Branch

We had our branch AGM in April at the Royal Overseas League. It was followed by a seminar given by Natalie Cooke on Accounts Rules Compliance.

The Committee appreciate the members that could attend the AGM and hope that the wine and nibbles went down well.

For those that couldn't get along, or as a reminder for those that could, we thought you might like to read Richard Murray's speech he gave.

It's been a busy year for the Edinburgh Branch and my thanks to the committee members for their hard work over the last year. More often than not this can be a thankless task.

It has been difficult for a number of years and with Brexit, possibly change in government and not knowing what the future will hold for law firms. Even when times are tough things need to be kept going and times are still hard, however employers recognise SOLAS and they look for this qualification when they are hiring Cashroom staff. There has been talk about the SOLAS Course going back to being a 2 year course but we will need to wait and see if this does happen.

From April 2016 we delivered the following Seminars to our members.

- ❖ *Tina Heywood, from the Law Society on the Accounts Rules*
- ❖ *Andrew Brown, from the QLTR*
- ❖ *Richard Murray, from Harper MacLeod on Succession Scotland Act 2016*
- ❖ *Stephen Vallance, from Harper MacLeod on Simple tips on Presentation and Networking*
- ❖ *Alison Edmondson, from SKO on Cohabitation Law*

❖ *Ryan Tierney & Ian Burrell, from Berkeley Heritage Insurance on Bond of Caution*

The Seminars are always very well attended with a number of new faces and this is to the branch's credit, however the Committee are aware that there are some duplication of what topics are covered.

We have a strong calendar for forthcoming seminars but subjects for seminars are always sought and the Committee are open to any suggestions. Please email or speak with a committee member about this.

We had the students Reception in August held at the Royal Overseas League. This is a chance for new students to meet the Committee and Lecturers.

Diploma Ceremony as usual took place in October at the offices of the Law Society. As usual this was a success and we had the honour of David Cullen, Registrar at the Law Society handing out the Diploma Certificates. It was a good evening and enjoyed by all. Another highlight of the SOLAS diary.

The Dinner and AGM was held in Edinburgh. This was well represented by the branch with the usual suspects attending.

A Date for the Diary is the National AGM – November – Inverness will be the hosts this year.

I have been asked to join a Committee that the Law Society is running with Lawcare and there are a lot of parties from the legal profession on the Committee. It was good to get to a place where the Law Society are providing support to the profession and if you have any questions about the Committee please get in touch with me.

Richard Murray, President

Thank you Richard for your longstanding involvement with SOLAS.

Change of Office Bearers

President - Richard Muray

Vice President - Linda trotter

Treasurer - Lindsay Murray

Secretary - Natalie Cooke and Mandy Gibb

After three years in the role of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary the posts came up by rotation at the AGM. Richard, Linda, Lindsay and Mandy have agreed to continue in their respective roles. Natalie Cooke stepped down as joint secretary. Natalie will continue to be on the Committee and is also now on general SOLAS Committee.

The Edinburgh Branch also welcomed a new Committee member, Tracy O'Brien this year. Last year the Committee was also joined by Lauren Carmichael.

Future Seminars

The new 2017/2018 terms starts in September and we would welcome your suggestions for future seminars!

As Richard mentioned in his speech, subjects for seminars are always sought. Mandy emailed members for suggestions in May and she has received some responses, to include the name of speaker, which is great. We would love to get more ideas so let us know the topics you would like us to cover this year. If you would like to give a talk, or, if you know of someone whose work would be of interest to members we would really like to hear about it. Please contact Mandy at Mandygibb@lawscot.org.uk with details and the nature of the talk.

Glasgow Branch

Glasgow Branch Syllabus 2017/18

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
14/11/17	CPD	Jack Boyle, Blackadders	Do's and Don'ts at the office party
07/02/18	CPD	Paisley Sheriff Court	Commissary Department
13/03/18	CPD	Craig Samson, Blackadders	Family Law; The Big Issue-Who Gets to Keep the Dog?
18/04/18	AGM/CPD	Jack Boyle, Blackadders	Social Media Misconduct
08/05/18	CPD	Graham Mackenzie	Anti Money Laundering Regulations
05/09/18	CPD	Toni McNicoll, Blackadders	Income and Capital Gains Tax in an Executry
02/10/18	CPD	Siobhan McGuigan, Blackadders	Guardianships
25/10/18	Graduation	Not required	Not required

Inverness Branch

No Report

CPD Form



The Administrator,

17 Raith Gardens,

Kirkcaldy, KY2 5NJ

All Forms must be returned by 30th November 2017

CPD Year 01.11.2016 to 31.10.2017

Member's name: **SOLAS Number**..... (Must be included)

Firm's Name and Address:

Branch: -

Please tick the undernoted boxes as appropriate

Membership: Full ☐ Associate ☐ Cheque £40 attached ☐ BACS ☐

PERSONAL RECORD OF CPD UNDERTAKEN

A) **STRUCTURED** – Must be related to SOLAS Exam Subjects i.e: Cashroom, Executry Administration, Trust Accounting, Taxation, Feeing & Investment

Conferences, Seminars (SOLAS National and Branch, Law Society, In-house, etc), Workshops, Further Education, Personal Training etc.

				CPD
Date	Activity	Organiser	Contact Address	Hours



- 2 -

Reading – Textbooks, Financial or Business papers, Seminar Notes etc.

			CPD
Date	Activity	Details	Hours

Requirement	Actual
-------------	--------

5

5

10

Date

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Payment of Subs

Please note that subs can now be paid by BACS or cheque. If paying by BACS it is important that you quote your membership number on the payment as the Administrator and Treasurer have to be able to allocate the sum to the correct member. It is also imperative if a firm are making multiple payments on one BACS payment to quote all membership numbers and to advise the Administrator. There is an advice form which should be used and gives the bank details for making the BACS payments. Please see following page for advice form.

All forms should be sent to the Administrator no later than 30th November 2017. Please do not send forms without making payment. If you wish to email CPD form to the Administrator please do not send hard copy in post.

Please do not staple cheques to CPD form.

Should you have any questions please contact the Administrator at Dorothy.nicholson@solas.org.uk

Payment Advice Form

Please send to National Treasurer

tinaheywood@hotmail.com

& Copy to

Dorothy.nicholson@solas.org.uk



BACS Payment Advice

Payment Date

Firms Name

Total Amount Paid £.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Name

SOLAS Number

Amount

Total Amount of Payment

£

Office Bearers

Richard Murray – President
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Edinburgh
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Shirley Green - Vice President
Blackadders LLP

Lindsay Murray – General Secretary
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Tel: 0131 656 0018

Tina Hunter – General Treasurer
Tel: 07538155811

June Payne – Education Fund Treasurer
Ledingham Chalmers
DX AB15 Aberdeen
Tel: 01224 480408

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Carol Ann Baxter
Joyce Forbes

The Law Practice
Alex Hutcheon & Co

Dundee

Heather Davidson
Lynne Parks

Rollos Law LLP
Blackadders LLP

Edinburgh

Natalie Cooke

The Law Society

Glasgow

Gillian Gray
Carrie Brown
Noreen Hope

The Law Society
The Law Society
Denovo Business

Inverness

Lisa Marie Macaree
Irene Yule

Macleod & MacCallum
South Forrest

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Inverness

Shirley Sargent, Middleton Ross & Arnot, Mansefield House, 7 High Street, Dingwall, Tel : 01349 862214

Solas Administrator

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