



SOLAS ISSUE 78

JULY 2025

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SOLAS PRESIDENT NOTE

It's quite unbelievable to think I'm now nearing my eighth month as National President. To say it's been a hectic period is an understatement, but I've genuinely loved getting stuck into it. There's been a lot happening behind the scenes at SOLAS, and I'm proud of the direction we're heading in, even if the pace has kept me on my toes.

At last year's AGM in Aberdeen, I spoke about our plans to modernise how the Society operates, and I'm pleased to say we're on track. From 1st November 2025, we'll be launching our new member system. This will give you access to your SOLAS profile through a secure online portal, where you'll be able to manage your account. It's a big change, but one that will massively improve the experience in the long run.



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To support this, the annual membership fee will increase to £60 this year. I know no one's ever thrilled about price increases, but I want to be clear, this is the first rise in over 15 years, and it's essential if we want to keep moving forward. The world has changed a lot in that time, and if SOLAS is to keep pace, modernise, and deliver what members need, then we need to make sure we're properly resourced. We'll always aim to offer real value and keep the focus on what matters most to members.

The next AGM Dinner will take place in Dundee on Saturday 8th November 2025, and I'd really encourage you to consider coming along if you've never been before. These events aren't just about Society business, they're a chance to catch up, build relationships, and enjoy the social side of things too.

As we move through the rest of the year, one of my key goals is to encourage more members to attend events in person. Since the pandemic, we've leaned into online delivery (understandably) but we've lost a bit of that face-to-face interaction along the way. There's real value in being in the room, especially at our national seminars and the AGM dinner, and I'd love to see more of you there.

Finally, I want to recognise the fantastic results achieved by our students this year. Balancing work and study are never easy, and it's been great to see so many candidates not just sitting but passing with good marks across all modules. A huge well done to everyone involved and thank you to those who supported them along the way.

As always, I'm grateful to everyone who gives their time and effort to keep SOLAS moving in the right direction – from the branches to the Education Board and everyone else behind the scenes. The Society wouldn't function without that level of commitment, and it doesn't go unnoticed.

Thanks again for your continued support and I look forward to seeing many of you (hopefully in person) before the year is out. In the meantime, I hope you manage to enjoy a well-earned break over the summer.

Best wishes,

David Hamilton

President of SOLAS

Administrator Report

Dear Members

I hope you all enjoyed the 2 weeks of Summer in early May! Unfortunately, I missed it as I was in America on holiday. I'm hoping the sunshine is going to return! I think I need a month to recover! We drove part of Route 66 and I would highly recommend it.

Our Law Society Update Webinar in March was well attended as always, with 236 members and non-members. The feedback we received was very positive and members look forward to it every year. The next Seminar will be in person on Thursday 11th September in Perth and hopefully this will also be well attended. I will be sending out the booking form at the beginning of August. The venue is the Perth Theatre, which we used last year for the first time and we were extremely impressed. The staff were very well organised and comments from delegates attending were very positive.



Let's keep fingers crossed that the weather improves. Look forward to seeing you at the September Seminar in Perth and the National AGM and Dinner in November.

Kind regards,

Lorraine

Lorraine MacLeod,
SOLAS Administrator

Education Board: Course Feedback

SOLAS courses run from 25th August 2025 and are delivered by webinar. Enrolment forms can be downloaded from [here](#). Here's some feedback from last year's students:

The format of the self-marking homework I found very helpful as it meant you could identify areas where you had gone wrong immediately. This allowed you to try to work out the answers yourself and, for those where you couldn't, you knew the areas you would want to ask about at the next class.

The course materials in the booklet were well laid out and I felt that the way the course was taught and followed the workbook was beneficial for remote learning
I understood the lessons well, there were plenty of opportunities for questions and conversation.

Mock exam fantastic idea. A lot of us haven't sat an exam in many years (for me over 20 years) so ideal in seeing layout of how exam will be.

I thought it was a good idea having some of the lectures prerecorded
I have a better understanding of succession both testate and intestate. The depth of executries always intimidated me and I wasn't sure where to begin learning, but this module set it out perfectly.

SOLAS BRANCH REPORTS

ABERDEEN

We held our AGM by TEAMS on 24th April 2025, 13 members joined us and 8 apologies which is better than last year but still disappointing as we have over 90 members .

There is not very much to report since the December newsletter.

The AGM and dinner will be held by Dundee Branch on Saturday 8th November 2025 , if you've never been to a dinner I would strongly recommend it, it's a great night out and a chance to meet up with your fellow members.

CPD is still being done online with 250-300 members joining which is fantastic . The webinars are recorded and a link sent to every member who has registered for the talk so you can watch it whenever suits you.

As I have said before geography plays a big part in our branch but with national CPD now available on Microsoft Teams we are definitely seeing more people attend these sessions. The full programme of seminars are noted on the SOLAS

website but an email with the link to register for the talks will be sent out to every member prior to the CPD talk.

If anyone has any suggestions for topics or speakers that could provide a talk, please let me know. Your branch is here to work for you, please help by supporting us. Wishing you all a lovely summer break.

Joyce Forbes,
Branch Secretary, Aberdeen

DUNDEE

Dundee Branch has had a good year with several social events held. All who attended were very pleased and I want to personally invite more of our members to come along as they are a great resource for networking. We've been holding them on Friday evenings so people can kick their shoes off and cut loose but if you think there is a better evening to consider, let me know. The next event is tentatively scheduled for 29 August, 6 pm, place to be determined.

We held our AGM on 7th June and elected Jessica McCardle onto the Committee and she has kindly agreed to take on the roll of Branch Secretary. We are very excited to have another new face on the the Committee and we welcome Jess and her fresh outlook.

Dundee Branch will be hosting the National AGM and Dinner Dance this year at the Apex Hotel, City Quay, on 8th November and we look forward to welcoming many of you to what, most assuredly, will be a great night! SAVE THE DATE!

As always, I want to encourage more of our newer members to become involved with the Committee. The Branch, and the Committee, can only function as long as there are members willing to be involved. As current Committee Members retire, we require someone new to take their place. If there is no one willing to step up then eventually the Branch will fade away or be subsumed by one of the bigger branches. If you don't want this to happen then you must become an active participant



SOLAS AGM & DINNER

Click [here](#) for attendance form

Please do let me know if you are interested in becoming more involved.

Have a wonderful summer and I hope you find it a time to relax and refresh both body and soul.

Nikki Scott
President, Dundee Branch

EDINBURGH

Over the past year, the SOLAS Edinburgh Branch has continued to support its members through a wide range of learning and networking opportunities. The most recent local event, the Annual General Meeting, was held at Angel Share on 30th April 2025, with 11 members attending and 15 sending apologies.

As highlighted in the Edinburgh President's Report, a major success this year has been the continued rollout of joint online seminars with other branches. Topics included trust transparency, the Trust Registration Service, good practice management, and LGBTQ+ issues in private client work. These sessions were well attended, and with recordings now available to all registrants, members have greater flexibility to catch up in their own time.



The President also noted that the March 2025 National Seminar, held online, attracted over 200 attendees and featured a helpful update from the Law Society, delivered by Gillian Alexander. The in-person National Seminar in Perth (September 2024) was also a success, with great feedback on the change of venue. Just a reminder, members are expected to complete at least two hours of structured CPD through SOLAS events each year, and the regular online seminar schedule makes this easier to achieve.

There were a few changes on the Edinburgh committee this year, with Tracey O'Brien stepping down from her role as Secretary and committee member. Her hard work over the years was warmly acknowledged. Paul McRobb and Melissa Blackwood have since taken on the co-secretary roles, and we're pleased that Natalie Cooke is continuing as Branch President. All other office bearers were re-elected and will continue in post until 2027 or 2028. Neil McNab was also reappointed as auditor, and no new nominations were received for the council.

Student engagement in Edinburgh saw mixed results this year. While a student reception wasn't held due to low interest, the online classes were well attended, and exam results remained strong. The Diploma Ceremony in October 2024 at the Law Society of Scotland was a real highlight, 38 people

attended, including most of the 14 graduates, and we were delighted to welcome 10 new members to SOLAS.

Finally, encouraging greater member involvement at branch level remains a priority. The recent closure of the Inverness Branch is a reminder of the importance of participation. At the Edinburgh AGM, a branch-level member poll was proposed to help gather feedback and boost engagement. We'd love to see more members join us at events, like the upcoming National Dinner and AGM in Dundee, and to consider getting involved in the Edinburgh committee. Meetings are short, online, and a great way to make a difference. If you're interested, just get in touch at edinburghbranch@solas.org.uk.

Paul McRobb
Branch Secretary, Edinburgh

CPD REQUIREMENTS

10 hours minimum - including 5 hours structured (2 hours SOLAS CPD)

All CPD must be relevant to the core subjects studied taught by SOLAS or relevant to a professional duty considered by General Counsel to be appropriate for performance within a Legal Office (excludes Estate Agency and Conveyancing)

Structured: Participation in training or study, including seminars, webinars and conferences

Unstructured: This consists of reading, either from textbooks, update on Law Society Accounts Rules, PAYE Guidelines, Money Laundering and financial related matters. Branch committee meetings, General Council meetings, or attendance at Branch or National AGM do not count towards CPD.

contacts administrator@solas.org.uk for any queries.

You can download the CPD Form [here](#).

GLASGOW

UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE



SOLAS Glasgow Branch Student Graduation

Thursday 23rd October 2025, Glasgow Caledonian University

All Members welcome.

This is a fantastic event to congratulate our New Graduates and New Members.

Come and celebrate with a fabulous night of food and drink.

This is a great event to meet up with friends, colleagues, and network.

Other Upcoming Events

September Private Client National Seminar

11th September 2025

The September Private Client National Seminar is being held at Perth Theatre and Concert Hall this year. We would love to see many of our Glasgow Branch Members in attendance. This year's event is being sponsored by various parties so will be a new and exciting concept for SOLAS.

Dundee Annual Dinner and AGM

8th November 2025

Dundee Branch are hosting this year's Annual Dinner and AGM in November 2025 at the Apex Hotel in Dundee. This will be a fabulous night and we are looking for as many members as possible to attend the night. Glasgow Branch will subsidise travel costs for Glasgow Members who would like to attend this event. Please contact the Branch if you are interested in attending for more information.

Branch CPD Event

Glasgow Branch trip to McTear's Auctioneers in Glasgow – 17th June 2025

McTear's deals with Executry & Estate Sales in relation to valuations for Inheritance Tax and valuations for Insurance and Capital Gains Tax Planning.

Glasgow Branch hosted this event and ran a bus to/from Glasgow City Centre in order for Members to attend. This was a fantastic event with circa 40 members in attendance. Brian Clements and Magda Ketterer of McTear's gave a fabulous presentation and good insight into the work of McTear's. It was great to hear their interesting stories and have a wander around the Auction House at some of their upcoming auction lots. Members received tea/coffee and a lovely gift from McTear's on the night.

A massive thank you to McTear's for having us. We will definitely do this again some time.

For those members who enjoy in person events the Branch Graduation is held annually in October which is a fantastic event for meeting members and celebrating with a glass of bubbly and bite to eat.

Upcoming Seminars

Glasgow Branch – 26th August 2025

Why Preparation and Conduct of Case Really Matters in Sheriff Court Cases

This is an online event - available to all members.



Gillian Gray,
Glasgow President



Lorraine MacLeod
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The Society originated in 1910 in Aberdeen and flourished until the First World War which disrupted its activities, and in 1924 due to the loss of membership during the War and the lack of new members it was allowed to lapse.

In 1953 there was a renewal of interest, again in Aberdeen and the Aberdeen branch was reformed in 1954 and then in 1958, a branch was formed in Glasgow.

Branches in Edinburgh and Dundee followed shortly thereafter and although the Dundee branch lapsed for some years it was re-established in 1988. Classes started in Inverness in September 1991 and a branch was formed in 1993.

We're on the Web!
www.solas.org.uk

 The Society of Law Accountants in Scotland
 @SOLASmembership

SOLAS OFFICE BEARERS

David Hamilton, President
Hamiltons Law Accountants

Nikki Scott, Vice-President
Blackadders

Lindsay Murray, General Secretary
Brodies LLP, Edinburgh

Gillian Gray, General Treasurer
The Law Society of Scotland

General Council Members

Aberdeen

Blair Chalmers
Joyce Forbes
Jenny Hiscox, *Anderson Bain*

Dundee

Lynne Alexander, *WM Thomson & Son*
Heather Davidson

Edinburgh

Gillian Forsyth, *Murray Beith Murray*
Paul McRobb, *YourCashier*

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