



Issue 76 June 2024

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SOLAS President Natalie Cooke

Dear Members,

I can't believe as I write this that we are nearly halfway through 2024, where has the year gone, every year seems to go past quicker than the last one, is that a sign of me getting old!

It has been a very busy year so far, both professionally and personally, and I am sure that is the case for all of our members.

This will be my last article for the newsletters as I finish my two-year term as National President in November 2024 and David Hamilton, Glasgow Branch, will take up the presidential baton. I will still be involved in SOLAS as I will be remaining as the President of the Edinburgh Branch of SOLAS and will continue to attend branch and National Seminars whenever I can. I would like to thank everyone for their support during my two-year term.

The results of the classes have been provided and the pass rate has been good. The classes continue to be carried out remotely with the exams being held in person. Well done to all the students and the lecturers for their hard work and thanks also to the Education Board.

The branch secretaries continue to work together to bring online Seminars to all members regardless of which branch you are a member of and it seems to be working well and are very well attended.

We now have the facility to record the Seminars so please do still register for the seminars even if you can't attend on the night as you will then be sent the recording and can watch this at a later date and it will still count towards your CPD.

On the subject of CPD please do remember that at least 2 hours of the structured CPD needs to be an event organised by SOLAS so that could be the branch seminars or the National Seminars and now that you can watch the recordings of the branch seminars it should make it easier for members to do 2 hours of CPD organised by SOLAS.

Remember if there is a subject you want us to cover as part of the CPD syllabus then please contact your branch secretary.

Preparations are underway for the National Seminar which is happening on Wednesday 18 September 2024 and will be held in person in Perth, although it will not be held at the Dewar Centre, it will be held at a different location, so look out for the booking form.

Preparations are also underway for the National AGM/Dinner happening on Saturday 2nd November 2024 and this year it is the turn of the Aberdeen Branch to organise and host the AGM/Dinner. Aberdeen Branch are celebrating their 70th year so I hope to see a lot of our members there to celebrate this great achievement.

The details should be included in this newsletter but do look out for the flyer, which will be sent out to members shortly. The dinner is a great way to socialise and catch up with members from other branches or meet new people and is a great night out so it would be good to see as many of you there. Remember members can bring a guest with them.

I would like to thank all of the members for their continued support of SOLAS, because without the members support, SOLAS would cease to exist so please do continue to provide your support in any way you can if that is by way of attending the branch seminars, national seminars, being part of your branch committee etc. it all helps.

We are always looking for ways to make improvements and we are looking into doing an overhaul of the website, however if there is anything you think SOLAS can improve on then please do get in touch with Lorraine.

I would also like to thank all the members of General Council and Lorraine MacLeod our administrator, for their support and hard work.

I hope everyone has a lovely summer and look forward to seeing you at the National Seminar, AGM/Dinner or at the branch seminars.

Kind regards,

Natalie

Natalie Cooke
President of SOLAS



Administrator
Lorraine MacLeod

Dear Members

That was another quick 6 months!!! I've now been the administrator for over 18 months and it has been great getting to know members and hopefully helping with enquiries.

Our Law Society Update Webinar in March was well attended as always, with 226 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 Wednesday 18th September in Perth and hopefully will also be well attended. I will be sending out the booking form at the beginning of August.

We had a number of members who completed 10 hours CPD last year but this did not include 2 hours Structured SOLAS CPD. With our new Registering system for our branch Seminars, you are now able to watch the event at your leisure if you are unable to attend on the night.

Our Education Administrator, Shirley Sargent, sent an email to all this year's students for feedback. See below some of the comments.

I felt I learned
so much it
really helps me
in my day to
day work

Made things more clear to me
and gave me a better
understanding from what I
previously had going into the
course and feel a lot more
confident in my knowledge of
the 3 subjects. I like that for
the executry and feeling it
was a mix of theory and also
practical

I enjoyed the
PowerPoints in the
Executry module as
they were more
appealing. Lecturer
was very supportive
and engaging



**The course
administration for
SOLAS is first class.
Professional friendly
and efficient**



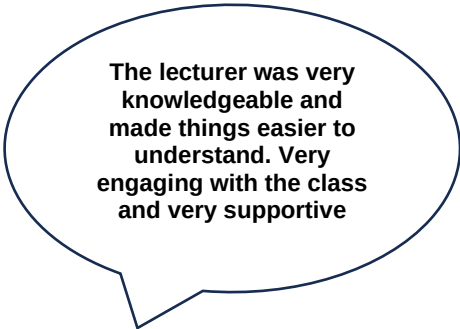
**I really enjoyed
the course and
would
recommend to
others**



**I have a better
understanding of the
work I do and can
apply what I learned
in practice**



**I feel more
confident and I
have a much fuller
understanding of
all areas**



**The lecturer was very
knowledgeable and
made things easier to
understand. Very
engaging with the class
and very supportive**

Let's hope the weather improves as I'm off to put my log burner on!!!! Look forward to seeing you at the September Seminar in Perth or the National AGM and Dinner in November.

Kind regards,

Lorraine

SOLAS Administrator

**SOLAS EVENING COURSE
SESSION 2024/25 ENROLMENT FORM**

PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS

NAME:	
EMPLOYER NAME & ADDRESS: Work Email: Telephone No:	
Personal Email:	
Personal Telephone No. & Home Address for postal purposes	

Please note that all classes will be delivered by webinar for 2024/2025. Students will require to always have their cameras on.

Exams will be held in person: please indicate the area you will attend the exam.

Module	Cost	Area
Cashroom accounting (classes start w/c 26 August 2024) Exam: 6 November 2024	£400	Aberdeen/Dundee/Edinburgh/Glasgow Inverness
Executries (classes start w/c 11 November) Exam: 26 February 2025	£400	Aberdeen/Dundee/Edinburgh/Glasgow Inverness
Feeing (classes start w/c 3 March 2025) Exam: 9 April 2025	£200	Aberdeen/Dundee/Edinburgh/Glasgow Inverness
Cost if enrolling for all three modules and paid at start of course	£850	Aberdeen/Dundee/Edinburgh/Glasgow Inverness
TOTAL FEE PAYABLE	£	

Payment by Bank Transfer to: SOLAS Education Fund: Sort Code: 83-47-00 A/c No. 19791072. Please use your name as a reference and email education@solas.org.uk to confirm your payment.

Please send completed form to:
Shirley Sargent
education@solas.org.uk

Deadline dates for enrolment are as follows:

Cashroom Accounting 26 July 2024, Executries 11 October 2024, Feeing 31 January 2025

Please note that if you withdraw from the course before the session commences, a refund of fees will only be given if written notification has been received 7 days prior to date of first class.

Terms and Conditions

Respect and Integrity

Given that students are working toward a professional qualification and may be representing their firm, it is expected that students behave in a respectful and considerate manner toward their lecturer and fellow students.

The Lecturer reserves the right to remove disruptive students from the course if they fail to meet the expected standards. If a lecturer removes a student from a class for any reason, they will advise the Education Board of this.

If students are experiencing issues which cannot be resolved by their lecturer, they should contact their Area Organiser.

Attendance

If classes are missed, then it is the student's responsibility to catch up in their own time. It would not normally be expected that students miss three classes consecutively. In the event that they do, consideration will require to be given to whether the student can continue to attend classes.

Funding

If an employer is funding the course, then all correspondence will be sent to the Firm's address.

Please note: If a course is funded by an employer; The Lecturer, Area Organiser or Education Board reserve the right to inform the employer if the Terms and Conditions are not adhered to.

I consent to the Society of Law Accountants in Scotland using my contact details for the purpose of my SOLAS module application in accordance with the Society of Law Accountants in Scotland Privacy Policy. (Please tick box)



I confirm that I have read and agree to the Terms and Conditions. (Please tick box)





**SOLAS Aberdeen Branch (70th Anniversary) Annual Dinner & AGM
on Saturday 2nd November 2024**

Copthorne Hotel, 122 Huntly Street, Aberdeen AB10 1SU

Annual General Meeting Saturday 2nd November at 1pm

Choice of stovies or macaroni cheese following the meeting
(Please indicate your choice of lunch if you are attending the AGM)

Dinner and Dance from 7pm until 12pm

- Dinner only - £30 per person
- Single Occupancy, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast - £100
- Twin Occupancy, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast - £150 per couple (£75 per person)
- Double Occupancy, Dinner, Bed & Breakfast - £150 per couple (£75 per person)

SOLAS members are more than welcome to bring a guest along to the event.

I do / do not require accommodation:

Please indicate: Single / Twin / Double Occupancy

Members Name.....

Guest's Name.....

Members Branch.....Telephone No.....

Email.....



3-course Set Menu

(please indicate your choice from each course)

Starters

Scotch Whisky Pate with Red Onion Chutney & Oatcakes
Soup of the Day (v)
Black Pudding Bon Bons with Mustard Aioli

Mains

Braised Ox Cheek with Herbed New Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables
Thai Vegetable Green Curry with Fried Pita
Haggis Stuffed Chicken, Whisky Sauce with Herb Mash & Seasonal Vegetables

Desserts

Sticky Toffee Pudding with Butterscotch Sauce & Vanilla Ice Cream
Chocolate & Caramel Tarte with Baileys Whipped Cream
Poached Pears with Whisky Caramel & Clotted Cream

(**Please inform of any Special Dietary Requirements**)

DRINKS

Please indicate one choice per person for drinks during dinner

- Prosecco / White Wine / Red Wine / Rose Wine / Beer / Soft Drink

Payment Method

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

Contact

Send completed forms to treasurer@solas.org.uk

Deadline is no later than 1st October 2024



Branch Reports

Aberdeen

We held our AGM by TEAMS on 29th May 2024, only 8 members joined us and 4 apologies which is very disappointing.

It is Aberdeen's turn to host the dinner in November 2024 when it will be the branches 70th Anniversary so let's make it a very special event with as many of you attending as possible. We have decided to shake things up a bit this year, the AGM and dinner will both be held on Saturday 2nd November 2024 at The Copthorne Hotel Aberdeen. The AGM will be held at 1pm with either stovies or mac-n-cheese provided for lunch and the dinner will be 7pm – midnight.

We have had 2 new members join our branch committee, Alison Sansbury and Sophia Gibson, it's great to have them on board.

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 last CPD meeting had more than 300 members registered. 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.

Kind regards,

Joyce Forbes
Aberdeen Branch Secretary



Branch Reports Continued

Dundee

Dundee Branch held it's AGM at Bertie Moonies in Dundee on 17 May 2024 and a very good time was had by all who attended.

As a result of the AGM, Kerri Dearsley was adopted onto the Branch Committee and Wendy Mitchell has stepped down from the Committee. New Committee Members are always welcome, please let Nikki Scott know if you are interested in joining.

In respect of the classes, Dundee had 2 students take the Cashroom Module and both passed, one with Distinction. The Executry module had 3 students and all passed. The Feeing Module had 2 students and both passed.

Dundee Branch is looking to hold quarterly social events and any ideas from Branch members would be gratefully received.

If any branch members have suggestions, or queries, please contact the President, Nikki Scott, at Nikki.Scott@blackadders.co.uk

Dundee Branch members are looking forward to attending the National AGM and Dinner/Dance in Aberdeen and we thank Aberdeen Branch Committee for their continued hard work in arranging.

Nikki Scott,
President and Secretary of Dundee Branch



Branch Reports Continued

Edinburgh

The Edinburgh Branch has had a busy few months since the last newsletter. In May, we hosted a face-to-face AGM at the Law Society offices in Edinburgh. The event included snacks, drinks, and an engaging talk by Richard Murray, former SOLAS president, on Powers of Attorney in executry work and a case review on Will interpretation. Richard's interactive, PowerPoint-free talk sparked much discussion on the benefits of in-person seminars.

The AGM and seminar were followed by a delightful meal at Zizzi's, attended by the committee, guests, and members. The AGM was also an opportunity to thank Tracey O'Brien for her six years of service as Branch Secretary and her additional year as a committee member. Tracey's dedication since 2018 has been commendable, and she will be greatly missed. We welcome Melissa Blackwood to the role and affirm Paul McRobb's ongoing commitment to event organisation.

Looking ahead, the Edinburgh Committee plans to host a new students' reception before the next SOLAS course begins in September and is excited about the upcoming Graduation Ceremony. We look forward to celebrating the hard-earned success of our students and welcoming new members.

If you have seminar ideas, please email EdinburghBranch@SOLAS.org.uk. We also encourage anyone interested in joining the Edinburgh Committee to get in touch. Serving is not demanding; we hold short, occasional meetings and exchange a few emails each month. New members bring fresh perspectives, and we invite you to join a meeting as a trial.

Best wishes for a lovely summer from me and the rest of the Edinburgh Committee.

Paul McRobb



Branch Reports Continued



Gillian Gray, Glasgow President

SOLAS Glasgow Branch

Committee News

Current Glasgow Branch Committee.

President:	Gillian Gray, Law Society of Scotland
Vice President:	David Hamilton, Hamiltons Law Accountants
Secretary:	Kirsteen Conway, Wright and Crawford Solicitors
Treasurer:	Eileen Hastie, SThree
Glasgow Class Organiser:	David Hamilton, Hamiltons Law Accountants
Committee Members:	Carrie McQueen, Euan Robertson, Jackson Boyd Solicitors Damien O'Kane, Jackson Boyd Solicitors Noreen Hope, Milne Craig Accountants Karen Whitelaw, Digby Brown Solicitors Jade Blair, Hamiltons Law Accountants Deborah Jaconelli, Friends Legal

Glasgow branch is running very smoothly. We have a great committee with everything being organised well.

The Committee provides support and assistance to its members. Please feel free to contact Glasgow Branch with any questions or queries on everyday practice needs and we can assist in providing solutions where we can.

Branch CPD News

Glasgow Branch held its 66th AGM on Thursday 2nd May 2024 per MS Teams with 38 members in attendance.

CPD events continue to be held online per MS Teams, at members request. The turnout for these has been fantastic. It is brilliant to see so many of our members online.

The syllabus can be found on the SOLAS website www.solas.org.uk

We want ALL our Members to get the very best of their membership. If the dates or CPD topics do not suit you, please let us know. If you would like something covered in CPD the Committee will do its absolute best to allocate a speaker.

If you have any CPD requests please let us know and we will endeavour to find a speaker.

Please contact GlasgowBranch@solas.org.uk to inform us of any changes.

Glasgow next Seminar 27th August 2024 Law Society of Scotland on AML

Other Upcoming Events

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.

Aberdeen Branch are hosting this year's Annual Dinner and AGM on Saturday 2nd November 2024 at the Copthorne Hotel in Aberdeen. 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.

Please look out for the flyer for both events and book your places.

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SAVE THE DATE



SOLAS Glasgow Branch Student Graduation

"Save the Date"

Thursday 24th October 2024, 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.

Details to be confirmed in due course.



Requirements for CPD

STRUCTURED CPD. – 5 Hours

The participation in training or study of subjects, allowable for all **STRUCTURED CPD** hours, must be for the purpose of directly enhancing the professional, technical skills of the member of SOLAS as provided for within the following conditions:-

- (a) The training or study must be relevant to the core subjects studied to gain membership of SOLAS
- (b) Or the training or study must be relevant to a professional duty considered by SOLAS General Council to be appropriate for performance by a member of SOLAS within a Legal Office, e.g. Practice Management, Office Management, Financial Accountancy, Health and Safety; this provision to be limited to a total of 2 CPD hours in any CPD year.
- (c) The following are examples of duties, which are considered by SOLAS General Council **NOT** to be allowable for CPD under provision (b) above – Estate Agency, Conveyancing.



UNSTRUCTURED CPD – 5 Hours

This consists of reading, either from textbooks, update on Law Society Accounts Rules, PAYE Guidelines, Money Laundering and financial related matters etc. Lecturers at SOLAS classes may claim unstructured hours only, for preparation of these lectures.

Branch committee meetings, General Council meetings, or attendance at Branch or National AGM do not count towards CPD.

Combinations of structured and unstructured hours are acceptable only when the full amount of structured time has been completed, e.g. if 7 hours of structured are met, 2 hours may count towards unstructured total but not vice versa.

If any member is unsure regarding the status of CPD they should contact the Administrator who will advise.

THE SOCIETY OF LAW ACCOUNTANTS IN SCOTLAND



Please return to:-
administrator@solas.org.uk

All Forms must be returned by 30th November 2024
Please Note - No reminder will be sent it is your responsibility to return your form and pay subs by 30th November 2024

CPD Year 01.11.2023 to 31.10.2024

Member's name: **SOLAS Number:** S0.....

Firm's Name:

Branch:

Please mark type of membership

Full / Associate £40 paid by 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

Must include 2 hours SOLAS CPD seminar/event

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

Date	Activity	Organiser	Contact Address	Hours

B) UNSTRUCTURED - Group Meetings; Discussion Groups – In-house or within other offices.
Reading – Textbooks, Financial or Business papers, Seminar Notes etc.

Date	Activity	Details	Hours

**BASIC REQUIREMENT - STRUCTURED 5 HOURS PLUS UNSTRUCTURED 5 HOURS
OR 10 HOURS OF STRUCTURED**

I certify the above to be a complete CPD record

Signed

Date

If for any reason you have difficulty meeting the CPD requirements, please indicate on the form and return it to the administrator with a written explanation of your reasons. Thereafter the form will be forwarded to General Council who will consider each case on its own merits and you will be informed of Council's decision in due course.

Registered in Scotland No. 37463. Registered Office: 2nd Floor North, Saltire Court, 20 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2EN

THE SOCIETY OF LAW ACCOUNTANTS IN SCOTLAND



<http://www.solas.co.uk>



SOLAS Office Bearers

Natalie Cooke, President
The Law Society of Scotland

David Hamilton, Vice-President
Hamiltons Law Accountants

Lindsay Murray, General Secretary
Brodiess LLP
Edinburgh

Gillian Gray, General Treasurer
The Law Society of Scotland

General Council Members

Aberdeen

Blair Chalmers
Joyce Forbes, Your Cashier
Jenny Hiscox, Anderson Bain

Dundee

Heather Davidson, Rollos Law LLP
Nikki Scott, Blackadders
Lynne Alexander, WM Thomson
& Son

Edinburgh

Gillian Forsyth, Murray Beith Murray
Paul McRobb, Your Cashier

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Carrie McQueen, Dickson Middleton
Noreen Hope, Milne Craig

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 The Society of Law Accountants in Scotland

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