

DENNIS WILLIAMS LIMITED

ABBREVIATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1994

Company Number: 559042



DENNIS WILLIAMS LIMITED

**ABBREVIATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1994**

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AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE DIRECTORS OF DENNIS WILLIAMS LIMITED PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 24 OF SCHEDULE 8 TO THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

We have examined the abbreviated financial statements on pages 3 to 6 together with the full financial statements of Dennis Williams Limited for the year ended 31 December 1994.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

The abbreviated financial statements are the responsibility of the directors. Our responsibility is to report to you as to whether the company is entitled to the exemptions claimed by the directors and whether the abbreviated financial statements have been properly prepared from the full financial statements.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. The audit of abbreviated financial statements consists of an assessment of whether the company satisfies the criteria necessary to take advantage of the exemptions available under the Companies Act. It also includes an assessment of whether they have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant provisions of that Act.

Opinion

In our opinion the company is entitled under Sections 246 and 247 of the Companies Act 1985 to the exemptions conferred by Section A of Part III of Schedule 8 to that Act in respect of the year ended 31 December 1994 and the abbreviated financial statements on pages 3 to 6 have been properly prepared in accordance with that Schedule.

On *5th June 1995* we reported, as auditors of Dennis Williams Limited, to the shareholders on the full financial statements prepared under Section 226 of the Companies Act 1985 for the year ended 31 December 1994 and our audit report was as follows:-

"We have audited the financial statements on pages 6 to 18 which have been prepared following the accounting policies set out on pages 10 and 11.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As described on page 3 the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those statements and to report our opinion to you.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

**AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE DIRECTORS OF DENNIS WILLIAMS LIMITED PURSUANT
TO PARAGRAPH 24 OF SCHEDULE 8 TO THE COMPANIES ACT 1985**

Continued

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 1994 and of its loss for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985."

Neville Russell

NEVILLE RUSSELL
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
and Registered Auditors

Oxford House
2 Oxford Row
LEEDS
LS1 3BE

Dated: *5th June 1995*

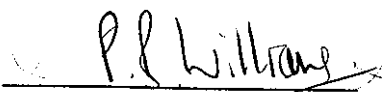
DENNIS WILLIAMS LIMITED

ABBREVIATED BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 1994

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>1994</u> £	<u>1993</u> £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	2	<u>69,254</u>	<u>78,340</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks		481,518	453,503
Debtors	3	88,614	52,919
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>58,939</u>	<u>99,092</u>
		629,071	605,514
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		<u>(426,076)</u>	<u>(406,240)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>202,995</u>	<u>199,274</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		272,249	277,614
PROVISION FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES		<u>(2,298)</u>	<u>(2,614)</u>
		<u>269,951</u>	<u>275,000</u>
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
Called up share capital	4	2,000	2,000
Profit and loss account		<u>267,951</u>	<u>273,000</u>
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS		<u>269,951</u>	<u>275,000</u>

Advantage is taken of the exemptions conferred by Section A of Part III of Schedule 8 to the Companies Act 1985. In the directors' opinion, the company is entitled to those exemptions having met the qualifications for a small company specified in Sections 246 and 247 of the Companies Act 1985.

Approved by the board on 5th June 1995
and signed on its behalf by


Miss P B Williams, Director

DENNIS WILLIAMS LIMITED

NOTES TO THE ABBREVIATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1994

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Accounting convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

(b) Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets on a reducing balance and straight line basis over their estimated useful lives.

The depreciation rates are as follows:

Leasehold premises	15% straight line
Computer equipment	33.33% straight line
Office equipment	15% reducing balance
Fixtures and fittings	15% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance

(c) Leases

Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

(d) Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is calculated on an average cost basis.

(e) Deferred taxation

Deferred tax is provided in respect of the tax effect of all timing differences, to the extent that it is probable that a liability will crystallise in the foreseeable future, at the rates of tax expected to apply when the timing differences reverse.

(f) Pensions Costs

Contributions payable to the company's pension scheme are charged to the profit and loss account in the period to which they relate.

DENNIS WILLIAMS LIMITED

NOTES TO THE ABBREVIATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1994

2. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	<u>Total</u> £
COST	
At 1 January 1994	279,089
Additions	29,205
Disposals	(26,150)
At 31 December 1994	<u>282,144</u>
 ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION	
At 1 January 1994	200,749
Charge for the year	18,678
Eliminated on disposals	(6,537)
At 31 December 1994	<u>212,890</u>
 NET BOOK VALUES	
At 31 December 1994	<u>69,254</u>
 At 31 December 1993	<u>78,340</u>

DENNIS WILLIAMS LIMITED

NOTES TO THE ABBREVIATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1994

3. DEBTORS

The aggregate amount of debtors falling due after more than one year is £Nil (1993 - £8,000).

4. SHARE CAPITAL

	<u>Authorised</u>		<u>Allotted, Issued and Fully Paid</u>	
	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>
	£	£	£	£
Ordinary shares of £1 each	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>

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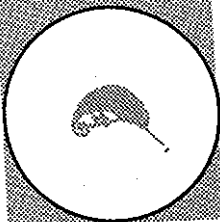
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1994****6. DEBTORS**

	1994 £	1993 £
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>2,257</u>	<u>2,146</u>

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	1994 £	1993 £
Accruals and deferred income	17,449	15,651
Corporation tax	9,800	8,000
Other taxes and social security costs	<u>4,119</u>	<u>2,662</u>
	<u>31,368</u>	<u>26,313</u>

8. CREDITORS: AMOUNT FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	1994 £	1993 £
Mortgage loan	<u>340,771</u>	<u>410,836</u>

The loan is secured by a mortgage in favour of the Leeds and Holbeck Building Society on the freehold property of the Leeds Law Society. Interest is currently being charged at a fixed rate of 11.75%. Whilst capital repayments were due to commence on 31 December 1996 on a basis yet to be determined, the Society made a voluntary capital repayment of £70,000 during the year.

9. ACCUMULATED FUND

	1994 £	1993 £
As at 1 January 1994	26,297	12,574)
Transfer from income and expenditure account	<u>41,106</u>	<u>38,871</u>
Balance at 31 December 1994	<u>67,403</u>	<u>26,297</u>

10. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

	1994 £	1993 £
Authorised and contracted for	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Leeds Law Society

BALANCE SHEET

	Note	1994	1993
		£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	5	406,220	406,220
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	6	2,257	2,146
Cash at bank and in hand		36,757	60,772
		39,014	62,918
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	7	31,368	26,313
NET CURRENT ASSETS		7,646	36,605
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR	8	413,866	442,825
		340,771	410,836
		73,095	31,989
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
Capital account		5,692	5,692
Accumulated fund	9	67,403	26,297
		73,095	31,989

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 12 April 1995
Signed on behalf of the Board of Directors

P Whitehead

P Whitehead

P Whitehead

A D C Turnbull

A D C Turnbull

A D C Turnbull

Directors

1. STATUS OF COMPANY

The company has no share capital and is limited by guarantee. The members of the company have agreed to contribute to a maximum of £10 each to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards. The particular accounting policies adopted are described below.
Accounting convention The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

Depreciation

It is the society's policy to maintain the freehold property in such condition that its value is not diminished by the passage of time and the relevant maintenance expenditure is charged against income before taxation in the year in which it incurred. Any element of depreciation is therefore considered to be immaterial and no provision is made. No value has been placed on fixtures and fittings or on the library, the upkeep and replacement of which have been charged against revenue.

3. STAFF COSTS

	1994 £	1993 £
Salaries	9,302	8,717
Social security costs	<u>367</u>	<u>406</u>
	<u>9,669</u>	<u>9,123</u>
	No	No
The average weekly number of salaried administrative employees during the year was	<u>2</u> £	<u>2</u> £
Aggregate directors' emolument	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>

4. TAXATION

	1994 £	1993 £
Corporation tax payable at 25%	9,800	8,000
Adjustment to previous years provision	<u>(12)</u>	<u>(2,392)</u>
	<u>9,788</u>	<u>5,608</u>

5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	1994 £	1993 £
Freehold buildings at 1 Albion Place		
Cost		
At 1 January 1994	406,220	404,818
Additions in year	<u>-</u>	<u>1,402</u>
At 31 December 1994	<u>406,220</u>	<u>406,220</u>

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 1994.

ACTIVITIES

The company has continued to promote the advancement of the character, status and interests of solicitors and maintain a Law Library.

REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

A commentary on the activities of the society is given on pages 7 to 10. No major changes in future trading activities are at present contemplated.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

A summary of income and expenditure for the year is set out on page 7 to 8 of the financial statements.

FIXED ASSETS

Fixed assets are set out in note to the financial statements on page 8. The directors consider that the market value of the company's interest in land and buildings for their existing use is in excess of the amount at which they are shown in the financial statements but in the absence of a full professional valuation they are unable to quantify the extent of the excess.

DIRECTORS

All members of the committee as set out on page 1 are directors of the company.

STATUS OF THE COMPANY

Incorporated under the Companies Act 1862 and 1867 as a limited company, the word "Limited" being omitted by license of the Board of Trade.

AUDITORS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

We have audited the financial statements on pages 7 to 10 which have been prepared under the accounting policies set out on page 9 to 10.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS AND AUDITORS

As described on pages and the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those statements and to report our opinion to you.

BASIS OF OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

AUDITORS

Touche Ross & Co. have expressed their willingness to continue in office as auditors and a resolution to reappoint them will be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Board of Directors and signed on behalf of the Board



A D C Turnbull
Director 12 April 1995

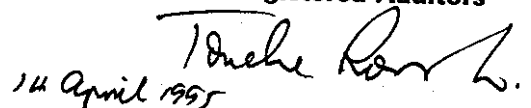
We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material mis-statement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

OPINION

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 1994 and of its surplus for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

Touche Ross & Co

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors



INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**Year ended 31 December 1994**

	Note	1994	1993
		£	£
INCOME:			
Members' subscriptions and entrance fees		39,099	38,300
Rent of Institute		64,466	61,804
Law Society dinners		(53)	213
Sale conditions - Forms sold (less purchases)		54	160
Use of photocopying facilities		121	72
Bank interest received		2,684	2,267
Midland document exchange		24,678	22,078
Sale of painting		-	252
Taxation talk profits		231	401
		<u>131,280</u>	<u>125,547</u>
EXPENDITURE:			
Law Institute expenses:			2,552
Rates and water	2,908		213
Light and heat	78		635
Repairs and renewals	1,747		1,804
Fire and accident insurance	1,290		290
Telephone	366		839
Cleaning	<u>978</u>	7367	<u>6,333</u>
EXPENSES			
Salaries and national insurance	3	9,669	9,123
Printing, postages and stationery		3,787	2,448
Secretarial expenses		1,000	1,000
Presidents' expenses		750	750
Sundry expenses		649	404
Office equipment		<u>600</u>	<u>426</u>
		16,455	14,151
LIBRARY EXPENSES:			
Text books and reports		14 598	13,645
Miscellaneous expenses:			730
Subscriptions and donations		733	520
Audit		550	1,612
Professional fees		2,054	
Lectures, course and sundry conference expenses		114	970
Bank charges		<u>263</u>	<u>284</u>
		3,714	4,116
Interest l)payable and similar charges:			
Loan interest		38,252	42,823
		<u>80,386</u>	<u>81,068</u>
Surplus for the year before taxation		50,894	44,479
Tax on surplus for the year	4	<u>9,788</u>	<u>5,608</u>
Surplus transferred to accumulated fund	9	<u>41,106</u>	<u>38,871</u>

There are no recognised gains or losses for the current and prior years other than as stated above.
All activities derive from the continuing operation of the company.

COMPLAINTS

The Leeds Law Society has had for many years a procedure for dealing with complaints raised against solicitors practising in the Leeds area, which is very successful. It operates in the following way.

The letters of complaint (those making verbal complaints are asked to put them in writing) are referred to one of the Society's past presidents, who is authorised to deal with them by the Committee. The procedure is completely confidential, and although the past president makes a monthly report to the Committee, the report is statistical in nature, and no names are disclosed.

A few complaints can be dealt with immediately. For example some seek legal advice or representation, or claim damages, in which case the complainants will be informed in writing that the Society cannot give legal advice, or represent citizens, and are referred to solicitors (by reference to the Law List) or to the Citizens' Advice Bureau. Another example is when, from the face of the complaint itself, there is no basis for the complaint, and in such a case the complainant is so informed, with reasons. There are also some cases which, by their nature cannot be handled by the Society and in these cases the complainants are referred to the Solicitors' Complaints Bureau.

In the more usual matters, two letters are sent. The first is to the solicitor concerned or a senior partner in the firm. The letter is not a hostile one - to the contrary. It makes it clear that the Society's function is not disciplinary, but is an attempt to mediate between members and complainants in order, if possible, to avoid the matter being referred to the Solicitors' Complaints Bureau. A copy of the complainant's letter is enclosed and the comments of the solicitors sought. At the same time a letter is sent to the complainant acknowledging the receipt of the complaint, and telling the complainant that the solicitors comments are being sought.

It is pleasing to note that in almost every case the solicitors concerned accept the Society's involvement in the spirit intended. In the last two years only three solicitors have failed to respond, and only one has taken exception to the Society's involvement.

The Society takes the view that it is very important that such matters are dealt with expeditiously. Many complaints to solicitors themselves are exacerbated by the delay in dealing with them. In the absence of holidays, all complainants receive a preliminary reply within seven days.

What happens then depends upon the nature of the complaint and the response of the solicitors. Sometimes the past president inspects the solicitors' file, and/or

computer print-outs and documents. In many cases he is able to assure the complainant that there is no basis for the complaint - always with a full explanation as to how that conclusion is reached.

Sometimes an apology is due, and obtained, which satisfies the complainant. In some cases the past president has recommended the payment of modest compensation, and sometimes he has been able to suggest to the solicitors and/or the complainant how the problem can be resolved. Again it is pleasing to note that almost invariably the solicitors have accepted the past presidents suggestions with good grace, and in most cases so have the complainants. Some very complimentary letters have been received from both solicitors and complainants as a result of the Society's intervention.

In the twenty months up to the end of December 1994 the Society received 122 complaints. At the year-end only one (which was only received; just before the year-end) remained outstanding, all the others having been disposed of. Of the remaining 121 cases, one file was closed as a result of the S.C.B.'s involvement in the affairs of the solicitor concerned; in three cases the solicitors refused or failed to respond and the complainants were referred to the Solicitors' Complaints Bureau; in a further four cases the complainant was referred to the S.C.B. in view of the nature of the complaints; the other 112 cases were determined by the Society. The nature of the complaints are as follows :

Acting for opponent/others	:8
Conflict (acting in)	:2
Costs	:34
Delay	:29
Discourtesy/rudeness	:6
Failing to account	:6
Failure to apply for /Aid	:4
Failure to carry out instns.	:4
Failure to hand over docts,etc.	:6
Failure to pay witness/etc.	:8
Failure to reply/telephone	:22
Incompetence/Negligence	:33
Missing fund~ in estate	:2
Quotation not honoured	:2
Undertaking - breach	:1
Wrong information/lies	:2
Others	:12

Victor Zermansky

CIVIL LITIGATION

During the year the Committee submitted papers in connection with the Bar Standards review Body Consultative Paper and also the application by the Institute of Commercial Litigators to become An authorised body under the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990. Mr C T Grazin left the Committee to take up a full time appointment as a Chairman of Industrial Tribunals. Perhaps the major matter occupying the Committee during the past year has been the joint effort by the Leeds and Newcastle Law Societies to establish a Mercantile Court serving the North East. To assist in preparation of a joint submission to the Lord Chancellor's Department, the Committee circulated and analysed the results of a circular to local practitioners and as part of the same exercise letters confirming support were obtained from a number of substantial companies carrying on business in the Leeds area. The information thereby obtained was combined with similar surveys carried out by the Newcastle Law Society resulting in finalisation and submission of the bid paper. At the time of going to press further developments are awaited.

COUNCIL MEMBER

The year was dominated by negotiations with the Legal Aid Board on legal aid franchising and on the cost of default exercise leading to the information of the future of conveyancing working party, which produced the report "Adapting for the Future" which went to the profession for wide circulation. The working party had recommended removal of joint representation by solicitors of borrower and lender. The results of the consultation with the profession showed that such a proposal did not find favour. The Council was therefore obliged to re-look at the question of joint representation, in particular investigating the possibility of jointly instructing solicitors acting for a lender on a defined retainer basis only. Further consultation was to take place on this point, although a rule would be brought in to prohibit joint representation in respect of loans for commercial purposes, to a member of a solicitor's family or an employee of a solicitor or where a solicitor acted for both buyer and seller under one of the permitted exceptions.

So far as legal aid franchising was concerned, the Council re-affirmed its commitment that legal aid clients should remain free to instruct any firm of solicitors whether or not it held a franchise and that solicitors' firms should remain free to undertake legal aid work whether they wished to obtain a franchise or not. The Council also decided that substantial progress had been made in negotiations with the Legal Aid Board and that, therefore, whilst it did not specifically endorse the

proposals, practitioners should consider the documentation relating to franchising and make their own individual assessments as to whether or not they wished to apply for a franchise. Other developments in relation to legal aid were also monitored most carefully.

Following the formation of the Personal Injury Panel, the Law Society re-constituted its ALAS scheme by means of the Accident Line, which has proved to be a considerable success. The Council decided to undertake no further work in developing a framework within which multi-disciplinary partnerships could operate, but to keep the matter under review. A new Solicitors Remuneration Order was brought in making a number of proposals, in particular extending the definition of an entitled third party to call for a remuneration certificate to include a residuary beneficiary to an Estate, where the only personal representative was a solicitor acting jointly with a non-solicitor partner or employee in a professional capacity.

The basis of contributions for professional indemnity changed in relation to the basis of contribution calculation. The calculation of initial contributions became based on gross fee income rather than average gross fee income per principal. Retention of adjustments to take account of low risk work, additional charge for surveyors operating within a practice and claims loading were retained and larger deductible discounts, the adjustment for partner/staff ratio and the area discount were discontinued. The year also saw the controversial proposal for remuneration of the President, Vice-President and Deputy Vice-President. The Council's proposal that the President be remunerated on a similar basis to that of a High Court Judge and the Vice-President and Deputy Vice President receive 50% and 25% respectively, was thrown out and a members resolution to remunerate on the basis of legal aid remuneration was passed. The Council had in the previous year introduced the concept of Honorary Membership of the Law Society and the first Honorary Members of the Society were elected. These included the Right Honourable Lord Denning P.C..

As we look forward to next year, the Council will yet again be preoccupied with the future of legal aid and conveyancing. There will also be a review of the Solicitors Complaints Bureau and a growing emphasis on quality, which is now being seen as an important long term bedrock in the control of the cost of default.

Jeremy Shulman

LEEDS LAW SOCIETY SECRETARY'S REPORT

The committee has met by-monthly throughout the year, with meetings of the Officers in between.

Among the more significant events was the visit by the Lord Chancellor to Leeds to open the new Magistrates Court. The opportunity was given to the Society for a question and answer session with the Lord Chancellor and this proved to be an excellent opportunity for the Society to air its concerns in what I believe was useful dialogue.

Details of the visit were included in the Bulletin, which itself has been relaunched, being published by Northern Law Today who have sourced advertising and other material. The new look Bulletin is part of the commitment of the Law Society Committee to communicate better with its members and has the added advantage of costing the Society nothing. Inevitably there was a considerable amount of back room preparation before the launch of the Bulletin, both in negotiations with Northern Law Today and in discussions over the format. Ian McCombie, who has taken over the editorship from me to coincide with the launch of the new Bulletin, continues to do an excellent job and deserves your support.

Mike Sleath has continued to look after our interests in relation to the tenants of the Society at 1 Albion Place. His time was taken up during the year with the sudden departure of the RAC, who occupied one of the ground floor units, but at the time of writing it looks as if he has successfully negotiated the surrender of the RAC lease on terms favourable to the Society, along with the reletting of the unit to a new tenant.

Stephen Evans resigned as Honorary Assistant Secretary during the course of the year and I am grateful to him for his support in the past. His place has been filled by Jonathan Oxley of Lee and Priestley and I hope his appointment will be confirmed at the Annual General Meeting.

This report would not be complete without a tribute to Peter Whitehead who, in his presidential year, has supplied leadership and direction and to all the other members of the committee, who willingly give up time and effort and finally, to the office staff at 1 Albion Place, who do such an excellent job.

James Towler
Honorary Secretary

REVIEW OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING 1994 TO 1995

The Education and Training Committee has, during the course of the year, been involved in the following activities:

1. Joint seminar with the Institute of Taxation. This was a successful event attended by members of both organisations. It will be repeated again next year.
2. Attending Leeds University Information Fair. The intention is to represent small firms in the area and also to give general advice to those who are having difficulty seeking training places. The majority of the other stands were taken by firms of solicitors looking for new recruits.
3. The Committee considered the possibility of sharing trainees among firms in order to create additional training places. This proved less attractive in practice than in theory.
4. A programme of education law talks was under discussion throughout the year. It is hoped that this will soon culminate in the provision of training under the auspices of Leeds Law Society.
5. The yearly open day for independent schools took place. The trainees organised visits to different firms and the day culminated in a series of lectures to the sixth formers on how to enter both sides of the legal profession.
6. The Committee considered and prepared a response to a working paper issued by the Lord Chancellor's Department on the future of legal education. The response was sent to the Lord Chancellor's Department on behalf of the Society.

Anne Topaz

CRIMINAL LAW AND LIAISON

I do not actually have a committee as such but represent practitioners in this city in relation to criminal law matters. Along with Rodney Lester and Paul Hinds we have regular meetings with the clerk to the Justices and his deputies at the Leeds Magistrates' Court where topics of mutual interest are discussed and where ever possible problems between practitioners and the court are resolved. I also, along with Rodney Lester and David Ake represent the Law Society at quarterly meetings of the Leeds Magistrates Court User Group which comprises of Magistrates, their Clerks, Probation Officers Police and CPS. At these meetings our voice is heard and our views are listened to, if not always acted upon.

One feature of the work this year is to try and improve solicitors visiting arrangements, in particularly to Leeds Prison, which I believe has improved.

Anthony Sugare

LEGAL AID AND ADVICE

This year our Sub-Committee has continued to monitor life under standard fees and developments within franchising. There is as yet a low rate of franchise applicants, particularly in crime, where the benefits have been almost non-existent. It remains to be seen whether the new pay differential between criminal franchises and non-franchised practitioners will change matters, not so much because of the startling extravagance of the increased hourly rate but because of the clear pointers to future divisions.

With the Lord Chancellor's Green Paper on the future of Legal Aid soon to be published and in the certainty that no political party would be persuaded to allocate any more money to the Legal Aid budget than at present, the sub-Committee at its last meeting began to consider ways in which a more efficient quality service could be achieved. The Law Society anticipates publishing its own consultation paper shortly, with the objective of restoring a proper level of Legal Aid eligibility whilst avoiding regional and no doubt erratic cash limiting finding instead ways of trimming excess expenditure such as the payment for two lawyers in court when one would do. We hope to continue to discuss in detailed proposals for change both within our sub-Committee and ultimately within Leeds Law Society as a whole.

Miss Ruth Bunday

DINNER AND ACTIVITIES

The Annual Bar Liaison Dinner was held last year on the 24th March. It was organised by Helen Camidge who volunteered to do so at short notice and was enjoyed by all who attended. It was held once again at the Mansion House.

The Annual Dinner of the Society was held at the Queens Hotel in February and organised once again by Simon Kernyckj. 300 members and their guests attended including 18 top table guests and the speakers were Mr Justice Christopher Holland and Jervaise Phinn.

The Annual Golf Competition at Ganton was organised by Martin Jobbings and 30 people entered this year. The Booth Cup was won by our President Peter Whitehead and the Middlebrook Cups were won by Martin Jobbings and Bob Harrap.

Polly Browne

NCB SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

The early part of the year was largely taken up considering the Law Society's consultation paper "Adapting for the Future" and its two main proposals of separate representation for lenders and borrowers, and a conveyancing quality standard. Under the guidance of Ted Brown, the Sub-committee spent many hours considering the proposals, before holding an open evening for members in June, which was attended by Karen Aldred, Head of the Property and Commercial Services Department of the Law Society.

The views expressed at the meeting, and subsequently encompassed the Leeds Law Society's formal response in early July, reflected subsequent conundrum of the Law Society as a whole. Whilst there was a majority in favour of a conveyancing quality standard, no consensus could be reached on the question of separate representation. As members will be only too well aware, that particular hare has not yet stopped running, and the NCB sub-committee continues monitor developments.

The other work of the committee was much as normal, concerning the cost of local searches and other technical and practical issues. Both Andrew Linden and Stephen Lopernan resigned from the sub committee during the year They have been replaced by Caroline Hedges and Kevin Hostford. The sub committee would welcome any further additions.

Mike Sleath

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

President

Peter Whitehead

Deputy President

George Moorhouse

Hon. Treasurer

Andrew Turnbull

Hon. Secretary

James Towler

Acting as Hon. Assistant Secretary

Jonathan Oxley

Committee

Robert Addlestone
Mrs Heather Anderson
Alan Baker
David Ake
Miss Polly Browne
Miss Ruth Bunday
Umberto Vietri

Anthony Conway
Ian Goldman
Robert Heslett

Sue Harris
Roger Ibbotson
Miss Helen Kavanagh
Jerry Pearlman

Mike Sleath

Robin Smith
Anthony Sugare
John Taylor

Anne Topaz
Steven Wood
Ian McCombie

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

For my year of office I set three objectives to advance the role of the society. The first was to improve the capacity of the committee to represent its members and to involve younger members as much as possible. I started by attending a meeting of the young solicitors' group to exchange views, to invite them to participate in the work of the committee and sub-committees and to persuade them to use the lines of communication which would be improved by the revitalised bulletin. The young solicitors are now represented on the main committee and some sub-committees and I hope that they will make regular contributions to the bulletin. I believe that the foundation for greater links between the society and young solicitors has been laid.

In September we seized the opportunity to present the view of our members to the Lord Chancellor on a variety of topics and to press our case for a Mercantile Court in Leeds. The latter campaign succeeded, being acceptable in principle, only to be thwarted by the lack of an appropriate judicial appointee. I trust that the society will persist until the goal is achieved.

The second objective was to improve the image of the profession. This has been fostered through the open day, charitable activities and the new-style bulletin which enables us to express our opinions on legal issues in a more professional manner. A prime example has been the contribution we have made to the inquiry into

the working of the Solicitors' Complaints Bureau in commending the advantages of our own efficient conciliation system.

My third objective was to improve relationships between the court administration and advocates and to this end I have held regular meetings with representatives of the court practitioners and a joint seminar involving advocates, court clerks and the crown prosecution service to bring greater cohesion to our common purpose of improving the administration of justice.

It has indeed been a privilege to be your President. However small the achievements may be, they would not have been possible without the enthusiasm, commitment and expertise of our Honorary Secretary, James Towler, Honorary Treasurer, Andrew Turnbull and the committee and sub-committee members who are prepared to give freely of their time for the good of the profession. I offer my thanks to each and every one of them for their unfailing support.

Peter Whitehead

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