

**Minutes of the 292<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Council of LES Britain and Ireland on  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at Speechly Bircham LLP, 6 New Street Square,  
London EC4A 3LX**

**Present**

Nigel Jones – President  
John Roe – Secretary  
Mark Wilson – Vice President

Dai Davis, Ian Hartwell, Anne Lane, Christi Mitchell, Fiona Nicolson, Robin Nott,  
Jennifer Pierce, Anita Roberts, Stephen Powell, Barry Quest, Martin Sandford, David  
Veasey, Michael Waggett,

In attendance

Jennifer Kirkcaldy. David Massey

The President thanked Robert Bond and Speechly Bircham for providing the venue  
for the Council Meeting and the Evening Meeting.

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Chris Bartlett, Conan Chitham Robert Bond, Mary  
Elson, Jeanne Kelly, Meredith Lloyd-Evans, Alastair Neill, Darren Olivier,  
Alastair Payne, Renate Siebrasse, Raja Sengupta

**2. Minutes of the 291<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the proceedings

**3. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising

#### **4. Finance**

In Raja Sengupta's absence Anita Roberts reported on the current financial status and the location of the funds. A major expense for the Society will be the deposit for the 2011 LESI conference and this will be needed 12 months in advance.

The cheques requiring ratification were proposed by Stephen Powell, seconded by Martin Sandford and approved.

#### **5. Membership**

The final membership figure for 2008 is 548 which is 39 (-7%) down on 2007. 21 of the members were obtained from the Fundamentals course and Nigel Jones agreed to telephone these new members to encourage them to renew their membership for 2009.

There were four new members admitted in December and at 14<sup>th</sup> January NN had received 128 renewals compared to 198 in 2008. David Veasey advised this was not a matter for concern at this early point in the year and a more complete picture would be available at the end of February.

Nigel Jones' President's Diary in the current issue of News Exchange stress the importance of the networking opportunities offered by LES membership in the current economic climate.

#### **6. Fundamentals Course**

6 registrations had been received by 14<sup>th</sup> January but 20 are needed to run the course. The deadline with Cranfield has been extended from 18<sup>th</sup> January to 6<sup>th</sup> February but Ian Hartwell agreed to try to renegotiate the current arrangement in view of the current downturn in the conference market.

Details for the Course will be forwarded to Saskia van Dijk-Struyk and the European Presidents. Stephen Powell told Council he had already sent the information to Scandinavia.

#### **7. 11<sup>th</sup> February Event 2009**

Mark Wilson apologised for the late marketing of this event but it will be high quality and aimed at those executives with 3-4 years experience. The conference will start at 9.45 and run through into an informal evening buffet and refreshments. Members are welcome to attend one of both of the sessions.

## **8. Other Meetings in 2009**

Mark Wilson reported that a venue is needed for the March meeting but a speaker has been arranged. The May meeting will take the form of a legal masterclass but the date clashes with the Pan-European Conference in Copenhagen and a change of date will be considered. The arrangements for the Annual Meeting in June are progressing well and Stephen Powell (on behalf of Council) agreed to call Elizabeth Ward, Chair of the North East Region, to encourage attendance from the local membership.

## **9. Help from LESI**

Council considered the letter received from Felix Grether, Vice President LESI and requested that LESI be requested to help identify speakers for meetings

## **10. Public Interest Group (PIG) Report**

Barry Quest presented his paper to Council in the form of a presentation. The idea was to have a balanced view which could be presented to outside organisations and encourage meetings with representatives of the different sides of the patent debate. Council were encouraged to make use of the excellent paper written by Barry Quest and the President thanked him for his efforts.

## **11. Committee Reports**

Meredith Lloyd-Evans' report on the Renewables Committee was circulated to Council and a report on the field visit to British Sugar at Wisington will appear in the next News Exchange.

Robin Nott reported the following activities from the Laws Committee:

LESI, through the European Committee, Jean-Christophe Troussel, prepared a response to the Preliminary Report on the Pharmaceutical Sector Inquiry. Colin Sainsbury, Susan Singleton and Robin Nott on the Laws Committee, with the help of Colin Sainsbury's colleague, David Hourihane, helped with this. It was recognised that since LES represents originator and generics companies LESI could not take sides but should try to clarify the debate and comment on the problems raised by the Report. It is felt that the response as submitted, after approval by the Board of LESI, met this need. It was agreed that LES (B&I) should not make an individual submission.

Colin Sainsbury reported that the Regulations on Horizontal Agreements needed to be brought up to date by being made less rigid and formalistic and more economics based. He, Susan Singleton and David Hourihane were co-operating on an LESI submission, again orchestrated by Jean-Christophe Troussel. It was again agreed that LES (B&I) should not make an individual submission. The submission has been submitted.

Mark Wilson has put together a programme for the February meeting which has been circulated. The Laws Committee has provided a number of speakers.

Mark is also planning an evening meeting at Freshfields in May with Paul Joseph from the Laws Committee who is kindly making facilities available; and is working hard on the Programme for the LES (B&I) conference on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> June in Leeds with help from the Laws Committee.

## 12. Other Business

There was a discussion of whether, and if so how, the Society should recognise the contribution made by members of Council, or others, when they step down from the roles they have performed for the Society. It was agreed in principle that some form of gift should be presented at an appropriately-timed ceremony to recognise truly exceptional contributions (such as that of Chris Goodman, recognised with the presentation of a commemorative glass bowl at the Annual meeting in Dublin in 2007), but that recognition based solely on length of service in any particular role (eg on Council) was not appropriate. The President agreed to consider whether any recent retirees from Council and other offices should be considered for an "exceptional contribution" award, and revert to Council to review his conclusions.

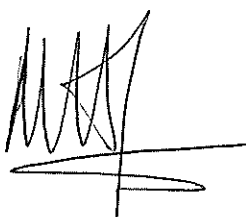
The position of Honorary President was discussed, as Robin Jacob told us some time ago that he wished to stand down. The ideal person would have a high profile, not be a lawyer and have a close association with IP matters. A number of names were mentioned including Robin Saxby, Ian Harvey, Peter Jones, Trevor Bayliss, Sir Ian McAllister and Alison Brimelow. The Secretary was requested to search previous Council minutes for names that have been suggested in the past and to put the item on the next Council meeting agenda for further discussion.

Anne Lane reported on the progress with organising the 2011 LESI conference. 7 Conference Organisers have been interviewed and one is the clear favourite although all had some faults. Council will be informed on the final decision which will be made towards the end of January. Dai Davis will chase for the insurance quote for the conference.

Anita Roberts has discovered an LES network on Facebook and there a 4200 members on LinkedIn. These internet forums could be a good way of introducing young members to each other and Anita Roberts agreed to pursue this idea.

## 13. Date and time of next meeting

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2009 starting at 5.30pm at The Institute of Directors, Pall Mall, London



N. H. JONES

PRESIDENT

11.2.09