

## **BIRMINGHAM LAW SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THE 26th JULY 2011**

#### **AT 8.30 AM AT HBJ GATELEY WAREING**

In Attendance:	John Westwood (Chair)	Ilex
	Bernard Shepherd	HBJ Gateley Wareing
	John Hughes	Needham and James
	Angela Henry	Henry Browne
	Nilay Shastri	Miles Pierce
	Tony Harris	Sydney Mitchell Solicitors
	Raj Padiar	Carlton's Solicitors
	Dominic Prentis	Cobbetts Solicitors
	Chris Owen	St Philips Chambers
	Tony McDaid	No 5 Chambers
	Steve Cunnane	UKTI
	Andrew Lancaster	Anthony Collins
Apologies	T Harris	Sydney Mitchell
	D Waterhouse	Rutherfords Solicitors

#### **Chair**

The Chair informed the meeting that he was stepping down from the position of Chair but would be happy to stay on the Committee. He had completed two years in the position and his responsibilities with his employers were increasing so much that it was difficult to predict his availability. The Committee agreed to his request and as there had been no nominations Bernard Shepherd agreed to temporarily taking the Chair. On behalf of the Committee and BLS, AL thanked the Chair for his work

JW indicated that the Committee was now quite large and he had had two further requests from Solicitors to join, BS noted that he had also had a request. AL felt that this was a good time to take stock particularly with regard to the composition/vice Chair/remit/communication with the

members all of which will be discussed at the next few meetings. The next meeting will be on **TUESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER AT 8.00 AM**

**Turkey.**

SC indicated that there might be funding to assist with a Professional/Business visit to Turkey in the Autumn. He would know by August 1<sup>st</sup>. There was much enthusiastic discussion, with a number of the Committee having links to Turkey and RP had sent through notes and powerpoint of a recent conference that he had been to. It was felt that a visit to Istanbul (despite the fact that many delegations already go there) along with other professional organisations would be the most beneficial destination. SC and BS would liaise and the topic would be discussed at the next meeting.

**France**

DP confirmed that the Opening of the Legal Year would be the first Friday of December; the possibility of a delegation would be looked at, at the next meeting.

**Barcelona.**

The Chair informed the Committee that the Barcelona Bar, through the UKTI, had again indicated their enthusiasm to develop a rapport with BLS particularly with views to reciprocal visits. It was felt that the channels should be kept open but in the short term priorities should rest with Turkey and France.

**AOB**

NS apologised that he would not be at the next meeting as he would be in India on business.

SC gave a brief update on the recent delegation to Singapore and RP would be putting an item in the next bulletin.

AL introduced the idea of a 'Forum for the Business Community in Birmingham', there was much discussion and enthusiasm and the item would be put on the next agenda.

**Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September **8.00 am** (please note the new time). Venue to be advised.