

BIRMINGHAM LAW SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5th OCTOBER 2010

AT 8.30 AM AT HBJ GATELEY WAREING

In Attendance: John Westwood (Chair) Ilex
Bernard Shepherd HBJ Gateley Wareing
Tony Harris Sydney Mitchell Solicitors
Nilay Shastri Miles Pierce
Charles Bond Cobbetts
C Owen St Philip's Chambers

Apologies Raj Padiar Carlton's Solicitors
A Henry Henry Browne
D Waterhouse Rutherfords Solicitors
T McDaid No 5 Chambers
S Cunnane UKTI
Katie Silvester HBJ Gateley Wareing
John Hughes Needham and James

The Chairman informed the Committee that Philip Steele had resigned from the Committee due to his new work commitments. The Chair would write to Philip formally thanking him for his contribution to the work of the Committee. The Chairman welcomed Tony McDaid and Chris Owen to the committee.

1. Minutes of the Meeting 7th June 2010 The minutes of the meeting were taken as read and approved by the Committee and apologies received as detailed above.

2. US Evening September 14th

The Chair thanked those who were in attendance. Although the numbers were small it was an interesting and stimulating insight into how to go about gaining business in the US. The Chair thanked Charles Bond from Cobbetts Solicitors for use of the offices. He also thanked Nilay Shastri for his presentation and he confirmed that he would be writing to Scott James thanking him for his presentation.

3. Lyons September 9th& 10th

The committee reflected on the successful delegation to Lyon. Without doubt, all of the participants commented on how well they had been received by the Lyon Bar and the enthusiasm for the relationship to continue. The committee went on to discuss the opportunities that this now presented not just for reciprocal events for the Lyon Bar but also to develop relationships with other Bars including Barcelona and Frankfurt and indeed other European jurisdictions, it was likely that the President of the Frankfurt Bar would be attending the President's Dinner in November.

Discussion also centred on the benefits of delegations to Europe as opposed to further afield. It was noted that it was likely that there would only be one legal representative on the forthcoming UKTI/Birmingham Chamber visit to Hong Kong/Shanghai. Concern was expressed that in the current economic situation despite the generous grants from UKTI, firms were loathe to let personnel be away from office for too long. It was also felt that sometimes it was too difficult to get business in a three day period for example in Hong Kong.

The Chair felt that because Steve Cunnane was not in attendance it might be more appropriate to have the discussion at the next meeting, the Committee agreed.

4. Barcelona/Frankfurt

See previous item.

The Chair indicated that he had, had initial discussions with UKTI in Barcelona but the OMIS figures that they were quoting would deter firms from going on a delegation to meet Spanish Law firms, again it was agreed to defer the item until the next meeting.

5. Chair of Committees Meeting

The Chair briefly highlighted those items from a recent meeting of the Chairs of Committees that he felt required discussion however because of time the item was deferred.

6. Any Other Business

There were no items.**Date of Next Meeting** Tuesday November 30th 2010. 8.30 am (Please note change of scheduled date).Venue to be advised.

JW/10/10