

Society for Computers & Law

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Draft Minutes of the forty-second Annual General Meeting of the Society for Computers and Law held at 14.15 hours on Wednesday 25 January 2017 at Bird & Bird LLP, 12 New Fetter Lane, London, EC4A 1JP.

Those present were: Mark O'Connor (Chair), Anna Cook (Trustee), Chris James (Trustee), Mark Taylor (Trustee), Mark Lumley (Trustee), Matthew Lavy (Trustee), Neil Brown, Toby Crick, Cynthia O'Donoghue and Roger Bickerstaff.

In Attendance: Mrs Caroline Gould (Chief Executive Officer)

The meeting was Chaired by Mark O'Connor (MOC) who welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting of the Society for Computers and Law.

Agenda:

1. Apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Clive Freedman, Professor Richard Susskind, Martin Potter and Jeremy Barton.

2. The minutes of the forty-first Annual General Meeting held on 28 January 2016

MOC asked that minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2016 which are available on the SCL website, were taken as read. This was agreed.

Approval of the minutes

Proposed by: Anna Cook

Seconded by: Neil Brown

3. Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2016

MOC asked that the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2016 which are available on the SCL website were taken as read. This was agreed by all those present.

Chair's summary of last year's activities:

MOC said that he was delighted to report that 2016 had been an extremely successful year for SCL.

One of the highlights had been the **IFCLA Conference**, held in June 2016 in London. Over 165 attendees from 12 countries spent two days in earnest discussion sparked by brilliant speakers. It was enlightening, engaging, exciting and fun. Special thanks were given to Roger Bickerstaff, Caroline Gould and the SCL administration team for their contribution to the success of this event.

In October 2016 Richard Susskind gave the **SCL Annual Lecture “Upgrading Justice”** with an introduction from the Lord Chief Justice. It was a truly a stellar event and set the agenda for a wide-ranging series of top-level exchanges.

In November 2016, the **Tech Law Futures Conference** broached many new ideas and attracted over 100 attendees – many of them new to SCL. SCL is currently considering holding the 2017 event in Dublin.

SCL organised over 30 separate events – many of which sold out, and has made real progress in consultation responses, the Better Contracts initiative led by Andrew Hooles has the potential to be ground-breaking and the flow of ideas and news on the SCL new website (over 100 articles – and counting – and 60 news items in 2016) gives members a wonderful insight into so many important and developing topics. Chris James was thanked for his on-going contribution to the SCL IT Project.

MOC said that he was especially pleased that SCL has managed to build on the success of IFCLA and create improved links with other countries – the establishment of SCL events in Singapore and the start discussions about an SCL Hong Kong branch. The SCL Foundations of IT Law Programme series has gone from strength to strength, underpinning SCL’s commitment to the provision of education for aspiring tech lawyers.

In 2016 the Trustees were particularly pleased to be able to support BAILII - British and Irish Legal Information Institute, and also to finalise the details of an SCL Computer and Communications Law bursary in collaboration with QMUL.

The Trustees are pleased to report that SCL is in a very sound financial position and wish to express their gratitude to everyone who took part in an SCL event in 2016 and to those members who have hosted SCL meetings over the past year. The Trustees have been pleased to note an increase in members approaching SCL HQ with ideas for future events. The Trustees will continue with many of the current activities as mentioned in the Annual Report but would also be look at new ways of furthering the objectives of SCL.

MOC said that he counted himself lucky to be Chair of such a great organisation and that SCL members have every reason to feel proud of their association with the Society. 2017 is looking good and will be full of exciting and innovative events.

MOC asked that the Society’s Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2016 be received and adopted.

Proposed by: Mark Taylor

Seconded by: Anna Cook

Roger Bickerstaff took the Chair

4. Appointment of new Trustees and re-appointment of Trustees

There were 4 vacancies for Trustees on the SCL Board as Mark O’Conor, Anna Cook, Matthew Lavy and Mark Taylor were due to retire by rotation.

Neil Brown, Toby Crick and Cynthia O’Donoghue were standing for election to the SCL Board for the first time following their nomination by the Trustees.

Mark O’Conor, Anna Cook, Matthew Lavy and Mark Taylor are all seeking re-election.

Mark O’Conor - re-election as a Trustee for a period of two years.

Proposed by: Mark Lumley

Seconded by: Neil Brown

Anna Cook - re-election as a Trustee for a period of two years.

Proposed by: Chris James

Seconded by: Matthew Lavy

Matthew Lavy - re-election as a Trustee for a period of two years.

Proposed by: Toby Crick

Seconded by: Mark Lumley

Mark Taylor - re-election as a Trustee for a period of two years.

Proposed by: Mark O’Conor

Seconded by: Chris James

Neil Brown - election as a Trustee for a period of two years.

Proposed by: Anna Cook

Seconded by: Matthew Lavy

Toby Crick - election as a Trustee for a period of two years.

Proposed by: Mark O’Conor

Seconded by: Anna Cook

Cynthia O’Donoghue - election as a Trustee for a period of two years.

Proposed by: Toby Crick

Seconded by: Mark O’Conor

Mark O’Conor took the Chair

6. Any other business

After 10 years serving on the Board of Trustees, Roger Bickerstaff and Clive Freedman were retiring from the Board. The Trustees took the opportunity to thank Roger and Clive for their support and immense contribution to the Society over the last decade. MOC said that they had helped to make the Society relevant, exciting and ambitious.

Finally the Trustees thanked Caroline Gould for her management of the Society over the past year and also the SCL administration team, Maddie Southorn, Sarah Forster and Sian Leverton for their dedication and hard work.

Signed..... Dated.....