

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LAW SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting Minutes Tuesday 9th May 2023



1. Welcome

President Janine McKinney welcomed all the guests and members of Council to The Old Chemistry Theatre, Newton & Arkwright Building, Nottingham Trent University, Goldsmith Street, Nottingham for the 2023 AGM of the Nottinghamshire Law Society.

The President acknowledged the Past Presidents present at the AGM:

2002	Christine Doughty	2018	Laura Pinkney
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2. Apologies for Absence.

Listed in Appendix I

3. Minutes of the last AGM held on Tuesday 10th May 2022.

The Minutes of last year's meeting were displayed on the website on Thursday 5th May 2023 and distributed to the membership via a mailing on Monday 5th May 2023.

An error was noted on the minutes, thank you to Laura Pinkney for raising. The error being found on page 6:

The team that raised the highest fundraising amount was **Nottingham Law School** raising over £903.63 for the Access to Justice funds.

Should read:

The team that raised the highest fundraising amount was **Nottingham Law Centre** raising over £903.63 for the Access to Justice funds.

On the basis of this amendment being made to the minutes of the 2022 AGM minutes, the minutes were approved.

Proposed by: Stephen Luke Seconded: Lauren Crow

4. To Receive and Adopt the Accounts of the Society

Accounts to 31st March 2023.

The accounts and explanation notes for the 12-month period to 31st March 2023, were sent electronically to all members on Monday 5th May 2023.

The accounts need to be adopted as the property of the Society, Treasurer Jeremy Allen, explained the accompanying notes (Appendix 2 Draft End of Year Accounts & Explanation Notes).

Proposed by: Stephen Luke Seconded: Janine McKinney

5. To appoint the Auditors of the Society.

Treasurer, Jeremy Allen confirmed the Society's new auditors, Beeley & Hawley & Co will prepare this year's financial accounts.

The AGM requested to officially appoint Beeley & Hawley & Co as the official auditors of the Society.

Proposed by: Jeremy Allen Seconded: Janine McKinney

6. President's outgoing report

I cannot believe it is a year since I was appointed President.

I said it then and I make no apology for repeating myself - Philip was an outstanding President and his were incredibly difficult shoes to even try to fill. I really must pay tribute to and thank him for the help and support he has provided to me both before and during my year as President.

One of the things I have very much appreciated during my time on our Council is the real value that everyone individually brings. Many of us wouldn't necessarily encounter each other regularly in our day jobs. We all come together from our different firms and organisations with our different experiences and views. All of that mix makes the discussions on Council richer and our plans for the Society more varied and diverse. I would like to thank those on council for generously giving up their time to be involved.

I have had so many opportunities as President – some occasionally taking me out of my comfort zone – I never thought I would be playing drag queen bingo or pulling a pint behind the bar at the beer festival or admonishing a group of judges who snuck off to the pub halfway round the legal walk course!

I have formed bonds at our networking events and with other local law society Presidents across the country. Of course, Michelle's support for the local law societies has been phenomenal and is much appreciated by the national law society.

I was extremely proud to be on the panel for a "Pathways into the Judiciary "event, proud to see junior members of the society enter our competitions and proud to welcome trainees, pupils, those newly qualified and newly admitted into the society. As a result of the relationship, we forged with the Paul Southby then then High Sheriff, Mr Justice Nicklin spoke at one of those events which made it particularly special. Representing the Society at the legal services in Southwell Cathedral and St Mary's were also an honour.

Unique events during my year have been the planting of a tree as part of the Queen’s green canopy initiative which will hopefully be there for generations to come and also celebrating 100 years of women in the law with a lovely event in London.

I have introduced a new event that I hope will continue – Afternoon tea at Bromley House library which was actually home to this Society’s library a few years ago.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to be your President. I hope I have done the society proud.

I look forward to being a Past President and continuing to be involved in our society.

I know that I am leaving you in Stephen’s incredibly capable hands. Thank you, Michelle.

7. Presentations of the Awards

❖ President’s Cup 2022

On Monday 6th December, we hosted the annual negotiation competition, the President’s Cup. This was kindly hosted by Gateley Legal with two finalists, Davina Kahlon from Eversheds Sutherland and Jade Bradley from MJC Law seated around the table negotiating a film and book deal, similar to the storyline of Bridgerton.

The negotiation was strong between both parties, making it difficult to choose between them.

The winners were presented with their prizes after the competition, but we invited them back to receive their certificate, and an official photograph:

2nd Prize	-	Jade Bradley from MJC Law
1st Prize	-	Davina Kahlon from Eversheds Sutherland

❖ Kevin De Silva Memorial Legal Article Competition 2022

After a re-invigouration of the essay writing competition and a successful competition launch evening, we were inundated with entries!

The three finalists submitted excellent entries, focussing on mental health, remote court hearings and the SRA’s increased fining powers. The winning entry from Eleanor Harrison, was entitled *“Has the SRA caught the wellbeing buzz?”*

The winning article has been published by LawCare and forwarded to the SRA.

The winners were presented with their prizes after the competition, but we invited them back to receive their certificate and have an official photograph. Unfortunately, due to NJLD commitments, the winner Eleanor Harrison and finalist Charlotte Hajduk could not attend the AGM but finalist Joanna Spasova attended to be presented with the competition certificate.

Runner Up	-	Joanna Spasova from Nottingham City Council
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❖ **Hammond Cup 2023**

On Thursday 20th April, we were joined by the Hammond family, daughter Sara Davies and son, Ralph Hammond, grand children of the late Michael Hammond and distinguished judges HHJ Coe KC, HHJ Coupland and JP Simon Massarella.

Two mock trials began with our four finalists and Oscar winning performances from Drew Dennis and Jane Ching as the accused and the victim.

This prestigious competition is not only an historical advocacy competition for the junior lawyers of Nottinghamshire, but the only one of its kind in England and Wales.

The finalists have received their prizes; however, they were all present and we can present the winning trophy and certificates:

Runner Up	-	Aleena Kazmi from Freeths LLP
Runner Up	-	Katie Hall from MJC Law
Runner Up	-	Zoe Aindow from The University of Law
1st Prize	-	Emily Millard also from The University of Law

8. Charity Presentations

❖ **Charity funds raised at the John Pearce Quiz Night, held at Southbank Bar on Tuesday 2nd March 2023.**

The John Pearce Quiz Night is one of the highlights of the Society's year, inaugurated by and our former President, John Pearce, who attends the event each year. We had more than thirty-five teams in the Southbank Bar, competing in a quiz which was set by The Scrambled Eggheads from Nottinghamshire County Council. As is our custom, the question setters and previous winners nominated a charity for whom we raised funds. This year the team nominated WaterAid, to whom we were able to donate £1,100. We are lucky to have with us Richard Connell and David Williams here from the winning team to accept the charity cheque, please join me to receive the cheque for your chosen charity.

We also have to present the John Peace Trophy to the 2023 winners, this year it was won by The Bootleg Mark Chapmen team from VHS Fletchers, led by Jim Buckley.

Jim was thanked for his valued input over the years in the Hammond Cup before he and his team members were presented with the John Pearce Trophy.

❖ **Charity funds raised at the Annual Awards Dinner, held at The East Midlands Conference Centre on Friday 28th April 2023.**

On Friday 28th April, we gathered at the East Midlands Conference Centre for our event of the year, the Annual Awards Dinner.

As President, my chosen charity was IMARA, who provide support for children in Nottinghamshire that have suffered sexual abuse.

We are delighted to announce the final total raised from various events during the year, a just giving page, the sale of charity Christmas cards and finally the Auction and Raffle at the Annual Awards Dinner.

The total money raised was £8,760.00.

CEO of the Charity, Cath Wakeman OBE and Ellis Farnworth from IMARA joined us for the cheque presentation.

Cath Wakeman OBE thanked President Janine McKinney for selecting IMARA as the charity and for all the support Nottinghamshire Law Society has given the charity during the presidential year. The charity choice is quite apt, when you realise the children that use the charity, are victims of sexual abuse and are progressed through the Nottinghamshire courts.

Last year, we raised a significant amount of money for the Dame Agnes Mellors Charity. Unfortunately, the representative Chris Adam's could not attend the AGM, but he sent a report, which was read by President Janine McKinney.

Report from Chris Adams, Dame Agnes Mellors Charity

The Dame Agnes Charity remains indebted to the Society for its generous help last year. I promised to report to you as to how the money raised by the Society has been used, and I am delighted to now do so.

The post covid period has been very difficult for many youth organizations. Starting up again after the pandemic has been challenging, and this has been exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis.

The needs of less fortunate youngsters have never been more acute. Your money has made a big difference. We have applied it to three specific projects.

Keiren Thomson runs a youth organization called Helping Kids Achieve in Bulwell. He grew up in the area and readily admits that he might have fallen the wrong side of the line before choosing to become a youth worker. Helping Kids Achieve aims to take youngsters off the streets by offering an opportunity to participate in sport. In 2019, immediately prior to the pandemic, he won the community volunteer award at the BBC sports personality of the year.

We have used your money to provide for the hire of a sports hall twice a week and to help with associated costs. As I mentioned last year, we also help with breakfast clubs. Your money has helped us to support Henry Whipple Primary School in Bestwood, Nottinghamshire. They are in an area of extreme deprivation and the school is trying to provide a breakfast for every pupil. They offer every pupil a breakfast at the start of the day. The school staff volunteer in the preparation and serving of the breakfast but they were struggling to find the 13p cost of each breakfast. We have used £1500 of your funds to buy 13,500 breakfasts to help them provide breakfasts through to the summer holiday.

Some of you will recall that we also help with funding for school trips and holidays. The schools value such trips very highly for the enrichment possibilities which they offer. They are more important than ever following the lack of social contact during the lockdowns.

Some schools have always had difficulty in funding all of the children in each group. They now find that costs are increasing too, threatening the viability of some trips.

We have used £3500 of the funds raised by the Society to help with various trips to ensure that they take place.

Every penny of the funds raised by the Society has been used directly to support these projects. Our charity remains very grateful to the Society for helping us to carry out our work. Your generosity has made a very real difference to a significant number of young lives in Nottingham, and on their behalf, we thank you.

❖ **Legal Walk 2022 – Highest Fundraising Team**

The annual Legal Walk for 2022 was held in the city on Thursday 19th May – a huge turnout with over 200 plus walkers.

Leading the walk were HHJ Godsmark KC, HHJ Polly Coe KC, Paul Southby- High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire, Under Sheriff and Nottinghamshire Law Society Past President Deborah Hutchinson, Nottinghamshire Law Society President Janine McKinney and Vikky Lai, Nottingham Junior Lawyers Division Chair.

There were over 20 teams walking and over 200 walkers, who completed the 8k walk around Nottingham, concluding at the Vat & Fiddle.

The team that raised the highest sum was Nottingham Law School, who raised over £1,125.00 from 36 donors for the Access to Justice funds.

President Janine McKinney asked Sally Denton and Banita Gogia to collect their prizes celebrating the ‘Highest Fundraising Team’ for the Nottingham Legal Walk 2022.

9. Nottinghamshire Law Society – Sporting Achievements

During the summer of 2022, the Society stepped up to the sporting challenges of cricket and we surpassed ourselves by winning all three trophies.

The matches were:

The Wheelhouse Cup, named after former president, Alan Wheelhouse is the cricket match between the Society and the Old Nottinghamians’ Society. This year we managed to regain the trophy from the ON’s!

The Battle of the A52, is the annual cricket match between Nottinghamshire Law Society and Derby and District Law Society. This year we won the shield back again after a fantastic game.

The Radford Cup, again named after former president Alan Radford is the annual Nottinghamshire Law Society Solicitors verses Barristers cricket match, which was won by the Solicitors team.

Members of the NLS Cricket Team, joined President Janine McKinney for a photograph with all three trophies.

In January, the second Francis Reeson Squash Tournament was held at the Park Squash club. This year there were more competitors. The trophy is named after former District Judge Francis Reeson. This year the final game was between Kassra Powles and Grant Benskin and once again, Grant triumphed, retaining the trophy for yet another year.

Grant Benskin was officially presented with the Francis Reeson Squash Trophy.

10. Acknowledgement of sub-committees of the Society.

At this AGM we acknowledged and thanked the various sub-committees and Chairs for their work with the Society.

The sub-committees and the chairs represented at the AGM:

Civil Court Users Committee	-	Chair	Thomas Herbert
Criminal Committee	-	Chair	Ian Boddy
Education & Training Committee		Chair	Helen Fanning
Equality & Diversity Committee		Co-Chair	Lauren Crow
International Committee		Chair	Daniel Harley
Private Client Committee		Chair	Bindiya Patel
Resolution		Chair	Andrew Dennis

And the Nottinghamshire Junior Lawyers Division,
Chair - Sadia Hussain
NJLD Representative - Stuart Parris

11. Appointment of the new President of the Society, Stephen Luke.

Stephen Luke is now appointed President for the year 2023-2024 and gives his inaugural address:

First of all, I'd like to express my gratitude to Janine McKinney for her outstanding contributions as President during the past year. Janine has demonstrated unwavering dedication to her role, tirelessly applying herself and providing support to both myself and others. I know she will reflect back on this past year with a sense of accomplishment and take pride in what she has managed to achieve. Thank you, Janine.

Having served as Deputy Vice President for two years and Vice President this past year, I've had the opportunity to closely observe the remarkable growth of the society. This growth isn't just limited to the number of members and active participants but extends to how the society has rallied together following the pandemic.

The new normal as we called it with all meetings being held behind our computer screens at home, an unprecedented time which Philip had to face during his appointment as president over those 2 years, and of course this last year with Janine as president continuing to grow the society and entice all of you back out from behind the comfort of your computer screens to bring life back to all the society events.

Testament to that was the amazing turn out at the awards last week, hopefully you all managed to make it. We moved to the East Midlands conference centre to accommodate the growing numbers and what a fantastic night it was with over £8,000.00 being raised for our nominated charity IMARA.

Moving forward to this upcoming year, one question I have been asked numerous times over the last 3 years is, what do I want to achieve in my year as President?

This isn't an easy question to answer, and I've given this some serious thought over the last 3 years, there have been numerous ideas and ideologies which have presented themselves.

However, I remember walking into the new Law Society office at Clarendon Street and seeing all the photos back up on the wall of all the Presidents who have gone before me, and there are a lot, as most will know the society began in 1875.

Apart from being the face of the society this year, promoting the society at events across the country and of course being the best president, I can be. As someone who started his legal training in Nottingham, qualifying and growing as a legal professional in the city, I want to cherish the fact that we are a local society. So, what do I mean by that?

The best example I can give, returning to the most recent annual dinner, everyone came together on an equal standing whether they were, paralegals, trainee solicitors, practice managers, Partners in law firms or Judges... Everyone was included, everyone mingled, networked, made new connections and importantly new friendships.

That's what I want to continue to achieve & grow this year, support for everyone in Nottinghamshire. We are a society which is here to be the voice of everyone in this room & beyond and we would not be what we are today without our valued members and council and especially all the hard work that has been done before me.

We come to these meetings or events as individuals, but we are all a part of something bigger and this is what I want to cherish.

We are trusted in our rolls to represent you all to do what's right for the Nottinghamshire legal profession. Our relationship with the national Law Society continues to get stronger each year, and we will continue to grow those links for the future of the society and solidify ourselves as one of the most innovative and engaging local societies in the country. Whilst expressing what we believe is Important for Nottinghamshire.

Therefore, if anyone has any questions or suggestions whether this be for social events, training, mentoring or any other issues, please do not hesitate to contact myself directly or of course Michelle.

On that note I want to say that say a big thank you to Michelle Foster our Head of Operations Manager for all of her hard work and dedication and her flawless attention to detail especially at all the events held by the Society.

I welcome and congratulate this year Lauren Crow as Vice President and Marie Dancer as our new Deputy Vice President. I am looking forward to working with you all in my capacity as President, we're a great team and will provide continued support to each other throughout the year.

All that is left for me to say, is that I want to assure you that I will be building upon the already strong foundations laid before me and I am delighted to be the new president of such a great local Law Society, a society I first became involved with at the age of 17, over 24 years ago.

President Stephen Luke presented Janine McKinney with a bouquet of flowers and card from Council.

12. Appointment of the Vice President.

Lauren Crow was appointed Vice President for the year 2023-2024.

13. Appointment of the Deputy Vice President.

Marie Dancer was appointed Deputy Vice President for the year 2023-2024.

14. Re-Appointment of the Honorary Treasurer.

Jeremy Allen was re-appointed as Honorary Treasurer, for the year 2023-2024.

15. Re-Appointment of the Honorary Secretary.

Kathryn Meir was re-appointed as Honorary Secretary, for the year 2023-2024.

16.1 Announcement of Constituency Seats on Council:

MARIE DANCER appointed for the **Constituency Seat of Broxtowe.**

CATHERINE WALKER appointed for the **Constituency Seat of Mansfield**

SELINA TURNER appointed for the **Constituency Seat of Newark & Sherwood.**

16.2 Announcement of Sole Practitioner Seat on Council:

ALDIJANA HOAD appointed as the **Sole Practitioner** seat on Council.

16.3 Announcement of Bar Representative Seats on Council:

LISA HARDY appointed for the **Bar Representative (Criminal)** seat on Council.

JOHN CAMPBELL appointed for the **Bar Representative (Civil)** seat on Council.

STEVEN VEITCH appointed for the **Bar Representative (Family)** seat on Council.

16.4 The **Local Authority Representative Seat** remains vacant, however, there has been an expression of interest in the role. If anyone would like to discuss the role further, please contact Michelle Foster, Head of Operations.

16 Any Other Business

President Stephen Luke asked that the membership support the forthcoming Nottingham Legal Walk, which was being held on Wednesday 17th May, starting at the Magistrates Court at 5:30pm.

17 AGM Closure

President Stephen Luke thanked everyone for attending the 2023 AGM, the hospitality of the NTU Events and Conferencing and Jay Glenn for providing the official AGM photography.

President Stephen invited all those attending to join Council for networking with drinks and canapés.

President Stephen Luke officially closed the AGM with no further business at 6:40pm.

The membership of Nottinghamshire Law Society will next convene at the 2024 AGM, which will be held on Tuesday 14th May 2024 for the AGM.

Appendix I Attendance & Apologies

Attendance

Name	Position	Name	Position
Executive			
Janine McKinney	President	Jeremy Allen	Honorary Treasurer
Stephen Luke	Vice President	Lauren Crow	Deputy Vice President
Michelle Foster	Head of Operations		
Council Members			
John Campbell	Bar Representative: Civil		
Andrew Dennis	Resolution		
John Gossage	Counsel		
Aldijana Hoad	Sole Practitioner Representative		
Stuart Parris	NJLD Representative		
Laura Pinkney	Academic Representative: Nottingham Law School & Past President (2017)		
Ben Trott	PR & Marketing		
Steven Veitch	Bar Representative: Family		
Committee Chairs & Committee Members (*Council Representative)			
Helen Fanning	Education & Training Committee Chair*		
Lauren Crow	Equality & Diversity Committee Co-Chair*		
Daniel Harley	International Committee Chair*		
Joshua Morley	Property Committee Co-Chair*		
Past Presidents'			
Christine Doughty	(2002)		
Kevin De Silva Memorial Legal Article Competition 2022			
Yoanna Spasova	Finalist		
President's Cup 2022			
Davina Kahlon	Winner		
Jade Bradley	Finalist		
Hammond Cup 2022			
Emily Millard	Winner		
Zoe Aindow	Finalist		
Katie Hall	Finalist		
Aleena Kazmi	Finalist		

John Pearce Quiz 2022 Winners

David Williams	Nottinghamshire County Council – The Scrambled Eggheads
Richard Connell	Nottinghamshire County Council – The Scrambled Eggheads

John Pearce Quiz 2023 Winners

Jim Buckley	VHS Fletchers – The Bootleg Mark Chapmen
Jon Hullis	VHS Fletchers – The Bootleg Mark Chapmen
Freddie Sail	VHS Fletchers – The Bootleg Mark Chapmen

NLS Sporting Achievements Attendance

Grant Benskin	Francis Reeson Squash Trophy & Cricket Team
Martin Foulds	Cricket Team
John Hooper	Cricket Team
Vikky Lai	Cricket Team
Wesley Walton	Cricket Team

AGM Guests

Cath Wakeman OBE	IMARA Charity
Ellie Farndon	IMARA Charity

Sally Denton	Nottingham Law Centre
Banita Gogia	Nottingham Law Centre

Jane Jarman	Nottingham Law School & Education & Training Committee
Callum Scott	NLS Legal

Stuart Luke	Luke & Bridger Law
Martin Bridger	Luke & Bridger Law

Apologies

Name	Position	Name	Position
Council* & Committee Members			
Marie Dancer	Deputy Vice President & Constituency Seat: Broxtowe*		
Kathryn Meir	Honorary Secretary & Past President 2017*		
Philip Turton	Past President*		
Ian Boddy	Criminal Committee Chair*		
Shama Gupta	The Law Society, Council Member*		
Lisa Hardy	Criminal Bar Council Representative*		
Bindiya Patel	Private Client Committee Chair*		

Catherine Walker	Constituency Seat: Mansfield*
Andrew Fitch-Holland	Criminal Committee Member*

Past Presidents'

Peter Ellis	Past President 2008
Deborah Hutchinson	Past President (2010) & Under Sheriff of Nottinghamshire
John Lymbury	Past President 2004
Austin Moore	Past President 2013
Alan Radford	Past President 2015

Sub-Committee Members

Katherine Beggs	Private Client Sub-Committee Member
Robert Hill	Private Client Sub-Committee Member

NLS Competition Winners & Finalists

Eleanor Harrison	Kevin De Silva Memorial Legal Article Finalist 2022
Charlotte Hajduk	Kevin De Silva Memorial Legal Article Finalist 2022
Shannon Keenan	President's Cup Winner 2022
Amber Collington	Hammond Cup Finalist 2022

Sport

Kassra Powles	NLS Cricket Team Captain
Shiv Nand	NLS Cricket Team
Alistair Rose	NLS Cricket Team

Charity

Chris Adams	Dames Agnes Mellers Charity
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Appendix II

Shama Gupta, Law Society (TLS) Council Member Report

PC fee consultation:

Help shape the priorities of your professional body. Take part in a 10-minute survey by 24th May to be entered into a draw for a £100 voucher.

Further reading - [Share your thoughts on our plans: practising certificate fee consultation | The Law Society](#).

Climate Change:

There are a growing number of considerations involving climate change that are impacting solicitors and law firms. The new comprehensive guidance provides support on issues including:

- how to competently provide advice on the physical and legal risks involved with climate change.
- the regulatory implications of providing false or misleading statements ('greenwashing') about your firm or the advice offered to clients.
- what to consider in the solicitor-client relationship, including when accepting client instruction.

Further reading - [Milestone climate change guidance for solicitors | The Law Society](#).

Diversity & Inclusion:

The new D&I framework encourages you to take a systematic approach and embed D&I in a way that has a lasting impact.

Further reading - [Diversity and inclusion framework | The Law Society](#).

Foreign transactions:

For the first time, English and Welsh solicitors and law firms will be able to register to practise in India on a permanent basis, under new rules published by the Bar Council of India in March 2023.

Further reading - [India opens up to English and Welsh solicitors and law firms | The Law Society](#).

TLS is always open to feedback from you and I would like to hear from you about anything you may wish to share concerning your professional needs. Please contact me at <https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/about-us/our-governance/council-constituencies-and-current-members/shama-gupta>.