



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2010



CMC ANNUAL CONFERENCE: 11th May - Plasterers' Hall, London:

Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury MR, Head of Civil Justice, and Sir Rupert Jackson, Lord Justice of Appeal and author of the Review of Civil Costs, are Keynote Speakers. Guest speakers include Simon Madden (Ministry of Justice), John Sturrock QC (Core Mediation) and Maria Arpa (Centre for Peaceful Solutions). The programme covers mediation in the legal, employment, family and international contexts, as well as practical workshops. (See Website for booking form).

CMC EGM: 31st March 4.30pm to 18.30pm at the LSE Third Floor, Aldwych House, Houghton Street London, WC2A 2AE. Members will be invited to discuss the effect of the responses to the CMC survey and any proposals the Board may be making in this context. The Registrar will circulate the agenda following the Board meeting on 24th February.

www.civilmediation.org
registrar@civilmediation.org

For an authoritative review of UK mediation from the CMC's perspective see the website for Sir Henry's Paper to the Academic Committee in January

MISCELLANEOUS

REPORTS

Communications Committee ("CC")

Strategic Action Plan: the second workshop stage towards creating a CMC strategic action plan took place with Board and CC members on 1st February. Pursuing the Chairman's vision of the CMC as a focal point for the development of civil mediation in all aspects, the workshop looked at ideas for direction, including identifying markets, developing 'good practice', kite-marking, promoting, educating, lobbying, and seeking culture

change. The workshop included an informative presentation on the role of communications by Julie Hollings, the PR Consultant brought in to assist, and the afternoon session was ably moderated by Heather Allen with input from Bernard Quoroll. A draft Action Plan is currently being prepared, considering strategic internal and external audiences, 'branding', website design, mission statements and key CMC messages. Proposed actions include looking at ways to implement the Jackson Review, and creating a web-accessible events diary.

Academic Committee

The Committee considered the following topics: a comprehensive mediation reading list for the CMC website; finding sources of independent research funding for various topics; and ADR in university and professional education. Stimulating presentations were given at the meeting by Dr Sue Prince on USA insurance mediation following Hurricane Katrina; and by Sir Henry - a real *tour de force* narrative of UK mediation from the CMC's view-point.

Financial Report

The Treasurer reported a credit balance of £95, 695.

Lord Slynn Prize 2009

The year's prize was awarded to Jeremy Tagg, of the MoJ for his outstanding and notable contribution to the development of mediation in the UK.

Board Visits to Panels

Sir Henry visited JCS Mediation, Watford; Paul Randolph visited Wessex Mediation, Southampton; both visited the Academy of Experts, London; and Sir Henry will shortly visit the Association of Cambridge Mediators.

See the Website for relevant extracts from Sir Rupert Jackson's Review of Civil Costs

Employment & Workplace Committee

Business Plan unveiled: the committee launched the CMC Workplace Mediation Business Plan. The plan has been developed for use as a framework to help establish employment-related mediation across the UK. The plan sets out the CMC's strategy over the next 3-5 years for building a mediation infrastructure within places of work. Instead of a new set of initiatives, it seeks ways in which principles of conflict resolution can be woven into the infrastructure of every UK company. The principal aim of the plan

is, within a 3-5 year period, to raise awareness and increase use of mediation in the workplace. (See the website for a full copy of the plan)

There are now 37 organisations on the Workplace Registration Scheme. Hits to the website passed 3,000 in November. Providers are looking at why 'hits' are not converting to work, as the post Gibbons phase is moving disappointingly slowly.

Clive Lewis was interviewed on BBC 5 Live, David Liddle on Sky News, Graham Massie on BBC News, all in relation to the Royal Mail dispute.

Accreditation Committee

The co-chairs of the NMH Providers' Forum (Dominic Stanton and Tom Thomas) have been co-opted to the committee, which has now considered the outstanding issues re accreditation. Copies of the revised Scheme and Application Form (now on the website) have been sent to all current providers, explaining the changes made for 2010-2011. The revised Scheme and Application Form now reflect the CMC's current requirements, and are a recognition of the division of responsibilities between the

CMC (re accreditation) and the MoJ (re the NMH scheme). The Committee noted the likely need for a list of recognised training providers, and will be preparing the ground for such a list with the aid of Debbie De Girolamo's report on the content of various training courses together with information furnished to the CMC by the ten training providers identified. Providers are warned that after April 2011, panel newcomers will probably be required to have had not less than 40 hours' training, and at least 3 'observer-ships' in 12 months, 1 of which may be a role-play. Debbie will discuss her findings at the CMC Conference).

Breaking news: Nottingham Trent University beat the world in ICC mediation advocacy competition: CMC Board members attended as mediators in the mock sessions. Sir Henry sends congratulations to winning team and invites them to CMC Conference.