

**THE SURREY LAW SOCIETY**  
Company Number 4336425  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024**  
**3:30pm on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024**  
**Hosted online via Microsoft Teams**

**MINUTES**

**Formal Business of the 2024 AGM:**

- 1. To welcome Members present and receive apologies:**  
The President Dawn Lawson welcomed 21 Members to the meeting. Apologies were received from 12 Members.
- 2. To approve the Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting:**  
These were approved as an accurate record of the 2023 meeting. The Minutes were proposed by Claudene Howell and seconded by James Scozzi.

- 3. To receive the President's report from Dawn Lawson:**  
Dawn began her report with an update on the Sailing for a Cure event, which welcomed 42 attendees and featured 25 auction and raffle lots in aid of Cancer Research UK. The event raised approximately £2,500 for the charity. She also noted that the Society hosted its annual Past Presidents' Championship Cup, attended by 62 people, including 16 teams of drivers. In October, the SLS held the SLS Legal Awards 2024, which attracted 265 attendees, featured 12 award categories, and welcomed Alex Macqueen as the special guest speaker. In November, the Annual Quiz and Pizza Night sold out completely, rounding off a very successful programme of social events for the year.

Turning to training, Dawn reported that the Society delivered 2 in-person courses, 7 online courses, and 10 webinars over the year, with a total of 450 bookings.

Dawn also confirmed that she had attended a number of Law Society events throughout the year, including Local Town Halls, and had maintained regular contact with the Law Society regarding the TA6 form.

Dawn reiterated that her goal for the term had been to raise as much money as possible for Cancer Research UK and was pleased to report that the Society had raised a total of £3,530.25 in 2024. She expressed her thanks to all who had supported and donated.

- 4. To receive the Treasurer's report from Claudene Howell:**  
Claudene presented a breakdown of the financial year, reporting that Surrey Law Society recorded a loss in the year to 31 March 2024. A key factor was the timing of events, notably the 2024 Spring Social taking place in April rather than March, resulting in all associated ticket sales and sponsorship income being allocated to the next financial year.

She noted, however, that the Society has seen encouraging growth in several areas. Patronage package income for the 2023 calendar year rose to £29,750, up from £26,200 the previous year. Awards revenue also increased significantly, from £35,700 in 2022 to £45,500 in 2023.

Turning to the management accounts, Claudene reported a much more positive current position, with the Society recording a profit of £9,798 as at the end of October 2024, compared with a loss of £1,142 at the same point last year. The Awards also performed strongly, generating a profit of £9,619 this year compared with £5,683 last year.

Claudene confirmed that in 2025 the Society will maintain a firm focus on its revenue-generating activities and explore new opportunities to further diversify and strengthen its income.

**5. To receive and adopt the Company's Annual Accounts for the financial year 2024 together with the Directors' Report on those accounts:**

Members voted unanimously in favour of adopting the accounts for the financial year 2024.

The accounts were proposed by James Scozzi and seconded by Kieran Bowe.

Kieran thanked Claudene and Helen for all their hard work in resolving the issue with Barclays and commented how disruptive the account closure had proved with regards to the Society's day-to-day operations.

**6. To elect the Officers and Committee of the Society to serve in 2024 - 2025 namely: -**

**The President:**

James Scozzi

The members present voted unanimously in favour of electing James as President for the period 2024 to 2025; the election was proposed by Emma Patel and seconded by Kieran Bowe.

A poll was opened for online attendees to vote in the remaining Officers and Committee Members 'en bloc' as follows: -

**The other Officers:**

Vice President – Kim Wintle

Deputy Vice President: Vacant

Honorary Secretary – Kieran Bowe

Honorary Treasurer – Claudene Howell

**Plus, a Committee of 12 members:**

Dawn Lawson (Immediate Past President)

Nick Ball

Madeleine Beresford

Carina Brits

Maralyn Hutchinson

Ema Jones

Dev Jummooodoo

Hayley Lalsing

Alastair Logan

Emma Patel

Rachel Philip

Suzanne Walker

The officers and committee members were proposed by Sushila Abraham and seconded by Hayley Lalsing. These elections were unanimously approved by the Members online.

James took on the role of Chair for the remainder of the meeting and thanked Dawn for all her hard work throughout the past year. He commented that his focus this year would be to create new revenue streams for the Society. James confirmed that his nominated charity for 2025 is The Community Foundation for Surrey.

**7. To receive a report from Law Society Council Members for Surrey – Sushila Abraham:**

Sushila began her report by thanking and congratulating James Scozzi and all committee members who had been appointed.

Sushila noted that no further updates on the Axiom case are expected until March or April 2025, when there should be greater clarity on the LSB's position and its recommendations for the SRA.

The other issue Sushila raised was the SRA's consultation on the Client Account. She emphasised that it is important for all solicitors to engage with this consultation, as the outcomes could have a significant impact on firms going forward.

Sushila noted that 2025 marks the 200th anniversary of The Law Society and that a number of events and functions will be taking place throughout the year. She will keep the committee updated on the details as they are confirmed.

Richard Atkinson has been elected the new President of the Law Society, with Mark Evans as Vice President and Brett Dixon as Deputy Vice President.

Bethany Walker and Martin Whitehorn are now representing Junior Lawyers at the Law Society.

Helen confirmed that she has circulated the Client Account consultation to the committee and hopes that a couple of members will take the lead in drafting the Society's response. SLS will also be contributing to the County Societies Group's collective response.

**8. To transact any other business of which notice shall have been given.**

Katie Foulds provided an update on the Surrey Junior Lawyers Division. She confirmed that their new committee chair is Alex Watson-Lee of Charles Russell Speechlys, succeeding Bethany Walker. The SJLD has recently undergone a rebrand. They held a successful Annual Charity Gala in March 2024 and are planning their next Gala for February 2025, which will have a masquerade theme, along with a full programme of events throughout 2025.