

Report of Branch Chair, London Branch for the year to 26 April 2017

1. I am now approaching the end of my second year as Branch Chairman. As was my first, it has been an exciting and enjoyable time and an honour and a privilege to serve the Branch.
2. The London Branch Committee meets regularly and, almost without exception, in advance of every Branch Meeting. The committee and I have worked hard to deliver within our Programme a wide range of informative seminars and workshops.
3. The educational programme was full and varied, designed to cater for all levels of membership and to interest those practising both domestically and internationally. The support for our programme by you, the members, is greatly appreciated, as is the sponsorship given to us by the various host firms who continue to show unparalleled levels of generosity in terms of providing speakers and venues, and also fabulous receptions in splendid surroundings. It goes without saying that the Branch is incredibly fortunate to garner such support as it enables us to put on quality events, usually packed to full capacity, with waiting lists of those hoping to secure a place.
4. It has been a busy term for me as Chairman. As well as attending each of the London Branch events during the year and chairing a significant number of those, in June 2016 I also represented the Branch at the Branch Chairman's Forum in York where the chairmen from the United Kingdom and the Channel Islands met with the Director-General and the Director of the UK branches and Global Membership and others to consider the strategy for the Institute over the next few years and to discuss matters of mutual and specific interest.
5. Also in June, I attended a Dispute Resolution Community luncheon hosted by the then Master of the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators, Mr Michael Goodridge OBE. In September I was asked to preside over the book launch for Sir Rupert Jackson's new book on Costs. In November I represented the Branch at Congress where the incoming CI Arb Presidents for 2018 and 2019 were elected.
6. London Branch continues to cooperate and collaborate not only with the Institute at Bloomsbury Square but also with others interested in arbitration and alternate dispute resolution. In September 2016 we held the 13th Annual Joint Seminar with the London Court of International Arbitration on the subject of Economic Sanctions, a real hot topic in today's world, which resulted in heated debate long into the reception that followed.
7. The relationship with Bloomsbury Square goes from strength to strength and we are grateful for the support that we receive from them. Not only have they hosted workshops for the Branch, but they support our events whenever they can. Neil Newman, Director of Global Memberships is a frequent attendee at seminars which means that London Branch members also have an opportunity to regularly meet with members of the executive in a relatively informal setting.
8. London Branch events have proven to be topical and since the last AGM include:

2016	
28 th April	AGM and Annual Keynote Address: Speaker: Sir Bernard Eder result of LCJ comments on arbitration stifling development of the common law
19 th May	Workshop: Robust management of arbitrations without fear of challenge hosted by BI Sq for all practising and prospective arbitrators Leaders: David Brynmor Thomas and Marion Smith QC
7 th June	Seminar: “What do Insurers need out of ADR?” Reynolds Porter Chamberlain Speakers: Jonathan Wood, Colin Edelman QC, Phillippa Rowe Moderator: Daniel Djanogly
30 th June	Seminar: 13th Annual CIArb London Branch/Clyde & Co Mediation Seminar Speakers: Four Judges The Hon Sir Antony Edwards-Stuart, Sir Alan Ward, Judge Brian Doyle, and HH Nicholas Chambers QC gave perspectives on compulsory mediation in various practice areas.
7 th September	Seminar: 12th Annual CIArb London Branch/LCIA joint seminar on Economic Sanctions in International Arbitration Clifford Chance Speakers: Audley Sheppard QC, Hugh Mercer QC, Peter Maydon;
5/6 October TBC	Sports Seminar just after the Olympics in Brazil Fladgate LLP Speakers: Murray Rosen QC; Mark Buckley, Antonio Rigozzi and Brent Nowicki
10 Nov	Theatre Outing to Finsbury Park Theatre where the production of Deny Deny Deny provided a postscript to the Sports seminar
17 Nov	Compensation after Conflict Latham and Watkins Speakers: John Tackaberry QC, Arthur Harverd, Declan Mahoney and Charles Claypool
2017	
2 February	Seminar: Arbitrating Intellectual Property Disputes Wedlake Bell Speakers: Sir Robin Jacob, Clive Thorne, Raja Sengupta Moderator: Daniel Djanogly
22 February	Seminar: Construction Adjudication DWF LLP Speakers: Mark Hackett, Mark Klimt, Anneliese Day QC,

	Lindy Patterson QC. Chair: Irvinder Bakshi
23 March	Speakers' Dinner <i>Hosted by CI Arb LB</i>
28 March	Seminar: Third Party Funding – Risks and Benefits JLT Specialty Speakers Nicholas Bacon QC, Ed Brittain, James Clanchy, and Nick Rowles-Davies

9. Last month, as always, London Branch hosted a dinner to thank our 2016 host firms and speakers for their contributions to the London Branch programme.
10. There is little doubt that London Branch is one of the most active branches of CI Arb and that its high-calibre programme and networking opportunities give encouragement to those working in dispute resolution to be part of this vibrant community and to join the Institute. We continue to enjoy increased numbers of membership and now have 1637 members of the circa 14,000 members across 37 branches in 120 countries.
11. The popularity and strength of London Branch is due in no small part to the time and effort put into it by the Committee members, all with busy practices of their own and yet still finding the energy and commitment to serve the Branch and its members, and who assist in organising events, often without any public recognition. I would like to take a moment to thank each of them and to single out the our Vice Chair and Honorary Secretary, Paul Rose, not only for the work he does in his formal roles and in keeping our website updated, but for also his immense support of me during my term; and also, Amanda Lee, our Public Relations Officer, who continues to shine. Whilst not a committee member, Elinor Pritchard continues as our administrator and, as ever, a strong and invaluable part of the team. I have been greatly assisted by the professional and personal support I have received by the whole team around me and the 2016/17 successes of London Branch speak for themselves.
12. I repeat my thanks to them and this is the Branch members' opportunity to also thank the Committee for its efforts over the last year.

Irvinder Bakshi
Branch Chairman

26 April 2017