

Annual General Meeting of UK Constitutional Law Group

Friday 17 January 2014 1.00-2.00 pm

MINUTES

Present: Merris Amos (Queen Mary, University of London); Nick Barber (Trinity College, Oxford); Robert Hazell (UCL Constitution Unit); Andrew Le Sueur (Essex, in the chair); Mara Malagodi (LSE); Roger Masterman (Durham); Jo Murkens (LSE); Aileen McHarg (Strathclyde); Colm O'Connell (UCL Faculty of Laws); Sebastian Payne (Kent); John Stanton (City).

1. Apologies

Anthony Bradley; Gavin Drewry; Richard Ekins (St John's College, Oxford); Hayley Hooper (Trinity College, Oxford); Jeff King (UCL); Sir Stephen Laws; Peter Leyland (London Metropolitan); Peter Munce (School of Politics, Philosophy & International Studies, Hull); Javier Garcia Oliva (University of Manchester); Sir Stephen Sedley.

2. To receive a report from Andrew Le Sueur (co-convenor) on International Association of Constitutional Law matters

A written report, previously circulated with the agenda, was received and considered.

3. To receive a report from Sebastian Payne (co-convenor) on events.

An oral report by SP was received and discussed. In 2013, the UKCLG co-organised the following: 1) on 10 June 2013, with the Devolution Club and London Metropolitan University a seminar on 'How politics influences the constitution: time for a new constitutional conventions'; speakers included Professor Lord Norton of Louth and Giovanni Rizzoni. 2) On 19 November 2013, a seminar with the Constitution Society on 'The Future of Judicial Review' at the British Academy.

Events planned for 2014 include: 1) on 20 January 2014, with London Metropolitan University and Oxford University Press, a seminar chaired by Mr Justice Bean to mark the publication of Bamforth and Leyland (eds), *Accountability in the Contemporary Constitution*; speakers include Mark Tushnet (Harvard). 2) on 30 January 2014, a talk at Queen Mary, University of London by Margit Cohn (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) on 'Non-Statutory Executive Powers in Five Regimes: Assessing Global Constitutionalism in Structural-Institutional Contexts'. Other events in the pipeline include one on 'art and the law'; on the Crown; and the support will be given to a conference organised by John Stanton on the teaching of public law to be held at City University on 23 June 2014.

4. To receive a report from Jeff King (treasurer) on 2013 membership and financial position

A written report, previously circulated with the agenda, was received and considered. In 2013 there were 82 members and funds of £7,617.41.

5. To receive a report from Nick Barber (blog editor) on the blog

An oral report was received and discussed. During 2013, Jeff King had joined NB as co-editor of the blog. NB expressed his gratitude to the panel of approximately 60 contributors to the blog. During the previous year over 450,000 hits had been received, a 20 per cent increase in traffic compared with 2012; and there were over 2,700 followers (who receive emails when a blog post is published). NB noted the distinctive style of the blog, with relatively long posts compared to some other blogs about to UK constitutional law. During 2014, NB and JK hoped to continue to widen the range of contributors and were considering including book reviews. Work would be done to see whether improvements could be made to the layout of the blog. Consideration would be given to steps that might be taken to improve backup and security for the blog.

6. To consider and approve proposal to place the Group on a more formal footing by the adoption of rules.

Rules, previously circulated with the agenda to all members, were discussed and adopted. The UK Constitutional Law Group would in future be styled 'the UK Constitutional Law Association' (UKCLA).

7. To elect nine members to vacancies on the UKCLA executive committee

The following were elected to serve on the executive committee.

Ms Merris Amos (Queen Mary, University of London) **

Mr Nick Barber (Trinity College, Oxford)***

Dr Richard Ekins (St John's College, Oxford)*
Dr Jeff King (UCL) **
Professor Andrew Le Sueur (University of Essex)***
Professor Roger Masterman (University of Durham) *
Professor Aileen McHarg (University of Strathclyde) **
Dr Javier Garcia Oliva (University of Manchester)*
Mr Sebastian Payne (University of Kent)***

Those marked * would serve for 2014; those marked ** for 2014 and 2015; and those marked *** for the standard three-year term. It was noted that members of the executive may stand for re-election.

The importance of seeking to have a better gender balance was discussed and agreed.

8. To agree subscription rate for 2014.

A subscription of £15 was agreed for all categories of membership during 2014.

9. Any other business.

On a proposal made by the executive committee, the AGM agreed that following should be invited to become distinguished life members of the UK Constitutional Law Association:

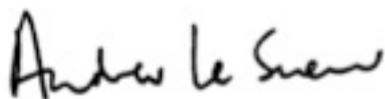
Professor Anthony Bradley (founding convenor of the UK Constitutional Law Group, former member of the IACL executive committee and IACL vice-president 1999-2007)

Professor Dawn Oliver (convenor of the UK Constitutional Law Group 2005-2010, member of the IACL executive committee 2007-2010)

Sir Stephen Sedley (founding Honorary President of the UK Constitutional Law Group since 2003).

There being no further business, the AGM ended at 1.50 pm.

Approved at AGM 9 January 2015



President