

OXFORD SOLE PRACTITIONERS GROUP

AGENDA OF A MEETING TO BE HELD AT THE RAILWAY STATION ROAD WHEATLEY OXFORD ON 1st DECEMBER 2009 AT 6.30 PM

1. Minutes of last meeting

Those minutes were accepted by everyone and we were reminded that a grant of £500 had been given by the SPG and this was recorded. The Grant was to enable us to pay for the meetings.

We were told that all future meetings could be held at the Railway Public House and if we have food they will not charge for the room.

2. Matters arising

Thames Valley SPG was unanimously decided upon as the name.

3. Appointment of Committee and Officers including Chair for the meeting

It was suggested that there be a rotating chair and Chris Stocker agreed to do the secretarial work and the next four meetings were decided and the date are 2nd March, 1st June and 7th September and 7th December 2010 the meetings will be chaired by:-

Elizabeth Mcquay 2nd March 2010

Howard Wilson 1st June

Tessa Hennessy 7th September 2010

Tanya Warner 7th December

Re CPD points.

Edward Pilling said sensible paper work must be sent to the BBO and there has to be a proper form. He said that there will be pro- active monitoring now so be careful with your points and keeping them up to date.

SRA visits

Watch the monitoring system it is random but they send you a letter and tell you when they are coming. There are reports prepared on these Meetings. NB They pick up on everything and the latest one is due diligence re your title indemnity policies. Needs and wants policy for the client. Be careful and do keep proper records.

There is some wording you need for your terms and conditions re the quotations for title indemnity insurance and Chris Stocker will send to each member the wording to put into those terms and conditions. Edward Pilling suggested we could charge for dealing with title indemnity insurance.

There is a speaker on SRA from AON who is reputed to be very good. It was suggested that there be a speaker from AON to see us next time on 2nd March 2009 to give a talk.

4. Topics for discussion

(a) P I Cover

Prime professions was discussed and the amount they charge in commission was open to criticism.

(b) Locum Cover

Nothing particular was said on this subject. It was suggested Peter Aldington was good at estate accounts. Tel 391883 (01865) 07789 265 731. He is currently £50 and hour.

(c) DX issues

It was suggested that every year negotiate the figure downwards. £1,500 was requested of Chris Stocker but he reduced this to £800 by negotiation, and if you work it out at first class post, he said it would have cost £500. Therefore the reduction was about right. Mike Honniball said he does not pay them on the dot. John Cave paid about £2,000. The minimum is £650.00.

(d) Work referrals

Chris Stocker is trying to set up a referral system. Everyone should have a professional format.

(e) Connect2Law

It does not cost anything, there are free seminars. You get 10% of the bills raised on some larger cases and 5% on average cases. There was some measure of agreement that the CPD lectures are good but their insurance is not so good. Picking up the telephone and getting help was good. They are happy to talk and they are helpful. We are all lawyers and it is good for us.

5. Future topics for discussion

Elizabeth McQuay said she wanted to set up an AON meeting said, she will deal with that. She also said that you should make sure that the terms of business that you put an estimate re your costs, either low, middle or high range, depending on the case but you must give that estimate not just your hourly rate. You have to give an estimate but that can increase.

In June we will have a general discussion. Same as we are having now.

September and December the agenda was to be decided at the next meeting.

6. SPG Executive Report

Council members report that the Co op have not changed their provisions. The Co op did not take on reserved activities and therefore nothing could be done re their attitude to freezing out SPGs

On ABS, it was stated that the Conservatives say they will slow it all down. ABS will clean up all the lucrative work said Chris Stocker. Will the SRA monitor them?

McDonalds Hotel in Ascot will be the venue of the next SPG grand meeting.

There are 15 local group of the SPGs. There needs to be short reports from local groups and all reports on local meetings for SOLO.

Law Society Update

Lloyds bank trying to tighten up SPGs doing conveyancing work and it is now limited to £500,000 on the borrowing.

7. Members Forum

Supposed to be anything not previously discussed. Chis will report to us at the next meeting on what will happen to the funds held by SPG on behalf of members more) and hopefully it will be disclosed at the next meeting what the precise figure is and where it will be spent.

8. Any other business

Health and safety (remember your No smoking signs in the office) Contact the SODC for signs if you do not have them. It was decided that we need a Health and Safety talk.

9. Date of next meeting

10. 2nd March 2010.

Howard J. Wilson

1st December 2009.