



Issue 74 June 2023

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SOLAS President
Natalie Cooke

Dear Members,

I can't believe as I write this that we are nearly halfway through 2023, where has the year gone! It has been very busy both professionally and personally and I am sure that is the case for all of our members.

The results of the classes have been provided and the pass rate has been good. The classes continue to be carried out remotely with the exams being held in person. Well done to all the students and the lecturers for their hard work and thanks also to the Education Board.

The branch secretaries continue to work together to bring online Seminars to all members regardless of which branch you are a member of and it seems to be working well.

I/General Council have sent out a survey to all of the members to get their views on SOLAS and the aim of this survey is to see what we do well, what if anything do we need to change, or is there anything that isn't working. As I write this article the results are not yet in from this survey but I want to thank members in advance who have completed this survey as it will help SOLAS going forward.

Preparations are underway for the National Seminar happening on Wednesday 20 September 2023 and will be held in person in Perth, so look out for the booking form. Preparations are also underway for the National AGM/Dinner on 3 and 4 November 2023 and this year it is the turn of the Glasgow branch to organize and host the AGM/Dinner. Look out for the flyer which will come out to you all shortly. The dinner is a great way to socialize and catch up with members from other branches or meet new people and is a great night out so it would be good to see as many of you there. Remember members can bring a guest with them.

I would like to thank all of the members for their continued support of SOLAS, because without the members support, SOLAS would cease to exist so please do continue to provide your support in any way you can if that is by way of attending the branch seminars, national seminars, being part of your branch committee etc. it all helps.

I would also like to thank all the members of General Council and Lorraine MacLeod our administrator for their support and hard work.

I hope everyone has a lovely summer and look forward to seeing you at the National Seminar, AGM/Dinner or at the branch seminars.

Kind regards,

Natalie



Administrator
Lorraine MacLeod

Dear Members

Well, that's me been in the post of administrator for 8 months, it's certainly quietened down since November/December!!!!

Our Law Society Update Seminar in March was very well attended with 219 members and 22 non-members. The feedback we received was very positive. The next Seminar will be in person on Wednesday 20th September in Perth and hopefully will be well attended.

I would like to welcome Karen Whitelaw who is the new Glasgow Branch Secretary replacing Kirsteen Conway.

We sent out our Questionnaire to 462 members and received 84 completed, all with positive comments. Thanks for all who replied.

Going forward, we will no longer accept cheques and all payments for Seminars and subscriptions will have to be paid by BACS.

That's me off back out to do some weeding!!!! Look forward to seeing you at the Seminar or the National AGM and Dinner in November.

Kind regards,

Lorraine



**SOLAS EVENING COURSE
SESSION 2023/24 ENROLMENT FORM
PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS**

NAME:	
EMPLOYER NAME & ADDRESS: Work Email: Telephone No:	
Personal Email:	
Personal Telephone No. & Home Address for postal purposes	

Please indicate the area you live in.

Please note that all classes will be delivered by webinar for 2023/2024

Exams will be held in person at a central location in each area.

Module	Cost	Area
Cashroom accounting <small>(Classes start w/c 28th August 2023)</small>	£400	Aberdeen/Dundee/Edinburgh/Glasgow Inverness
Executries <small>(Classes start w/c 13th November 2023)</small>	£400	Aberdeen/Dundee/Edinburgh/Glasgow Inverness
Feeing <small>(Classes start w/c 4th March 2024)</small>	£200	Aberdeen/Dundee/Edinburgh/Glasgow Inverness
Cost if enrolling for all three modules and paid at start of course	£850	Aberdeen/Dundee/Edinburgh/Glasgow Inverness
TOTAL FEE PAYABLE	£	

Cheques must be made payable to **SOLAS Education Fund**

BACS details – 83-47-00 10432819

Signature.....

Date.....

Please send completed form and cheque to:

Shirley Sargent

SOLAS Education Administrator - Erindale, Balloan, Conon Bridge IV7 8HU



Deadline dates for enrolment are as follows:

Cashroom Accounting 28/7/23, Executries 13/10/23, Feeing 2/2/24

Please note that if you withdraw from the course before the session commences, a refund of fees will only be given if written notification has been received 7 days prior to date of first class. GDPR, Data Protection Act 2018. For information about how we use your personal data see our [privacy policy at www.solas.org.uk](http://www.solas.org.uk)

Terms and Conditions

Respect and Integrity

Given that students are working toward a professional qualification and may be representing their firm, it is expected that students behave in a respectful and considerate manner toward their lecturer and fellow students.

Attendance. If classes are missed, then it is the student's responsibility to catch up in their own time. It would not normally be expected that students miss three classes consecutively. In the event that they do, consideration will require to be given to whether the student can continue to attend classes.

Funding

If an employer is funding the course, then all correspondence will be sent to the Firm's address.

Please note: If a course is funded by an employer; The Lecturer, Area Organiser or Education Board reserve the right to inform the employer if the Terms and Conditions are not adhered to.

The Lecturer reserves the right to remove disruptive students from the course if they fail to meet the expected standards. If a lecturer removes a student from a class for any reason, they will advise the Education Board of this.

If students are experiencing issues which cannot be resolved by their lecturer, they should contact their Area Organiser.

I consent to the Society of Law Accountants in Scotland using my contact details for the purpose of my SOLAS module application in accordance with the Society of Law Accountants in Scotland Privacy Policy. (Please tick box)

I confirm that I have read and agree to the Terms and Conditions. (Please tick box)

May 2023





SAVE THE DATE



Glasgow Branch Annual Dinner and AGM



“Save the Date”

Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th November 2023
Raddison Blu Hotel Glasgow

All Members welcome. Come and celebrate with a fabulous night of food, drink, and dancing.

This is a great event to meet up with friends, colleagues, and network.

Complementary drinks, member gifts, games, prizes and dance the night away.

Details to be confirmed in due course.





Branch Reports

Aberdeen

Firstly, can I apologise for omitting Magdalena Goracy off the list of students who passed their SOLAS exams last year, Magdalena is based up north and was unable to join our graduation dinner, Magdalena has now joined SOLAS and we extend a warm welcome to our branch.

We held our AGM on 26th April 2023 in person and by Microsoft Teams after a very enjoyable CPD talk , “ Where there’s a Will, there’s a biscuit tin” given by the very talented Craig Pike, Head of Private Client at Ledingham Chalmers, Aberdeen . As I have said before geography plays a big part in our branch but with CPD now available on Microsoft Teams we are definitely seeing more people attend these sessions. CPD meetings continue to be provided by all 4 branches and you can join in any branch CPD meetings. If anyone has any suggestions for topics or speakers that could provide a talk, please let me know.

We need 2 new committee members. This is not an onerous task with only about 4 meetings a year which are being held by Microsoft Teams. Anyone interested please contact me.

Your branch is here to work for you, please help by supporting us.

Kind regards,
Joyce Forbes
Aberdeen Branch Secretary



Branch Reports Continued

Dundee

Dundee Branch held their AGM via TEAMS on 24th May at 6:00pm. Attendance was disappointing as we had sent out a survey asking when members would prefer to attend and the response was overwhelmingly in favour of a week-night meeting. We accommodated this and still had only the usual few members attending. It was agreed by the members who attended the meeting that we will look to arrange an evening social event to which all of Dundee Branch will be invited. If any member has an idea for a night out, please feel free to contact Nikki.

We would like to see some of our new members take on roles with the Committee and, in fact, it is imperative that we get some younger members on the Committee if we want Dundee Branch to continue. As Committee members have retired, no one has come forward to take their place(s) and we cannot maintain the Committee, or indeed the Branch, with only a few active members. Please consider doing your part to keep Dundee Branch thriving. You can contact anyone on the Committee to get involved.

Nikki Scott,
President and Secretary of Dundee Branch



Branch Reports Continued

Edinburgh

Edinburgh Branch have had a busy few months since the last newsletter. As well as members participating in the online evening seminars held by other branches, Edinburgh has also hosted Ian Burrell, the Managing Director of Savendale on 7th June to talk about Bonds of Caution and other Bonds. It was very interesting to hear more about the relationship between Savendale and the underwriting insurance companies and to hear Ian's update on Bonds of Caution for Executries, Guardianships and the other insurance products available like Missing Beneficiary Insurance, Missing Wills and other solutions. We had hosted Sarah Lonie from Anderson Strathern to talk about avoiding issues in executries in November 2022, an thought-provoking talk which was also well attended.

Edinburgh also hosted a face to face AGM in April at the Law Society offices in Edinburgh. The AGM was preceded by snacks, wine and soft drinks and followed by a talk from Christine Reid, former lecturer in Fee-ing for the Edinburgh Branch. Christine reminded us of the important principles to consider when fee-ing files and there was a good discussion afterwards which was enjoyed by the members who attended. Disappointingly, a talk hosted by one of the other branches which had been postponed earlier in the year had been re-scheduled for that night, and the committee wonder if attendance was low at the AGM because of the interest in the other webinar. However, the AGM and Seminar led by Christine was enjoyed by the members who were able to attend and there was much discussion on the merits of attending seminars face to face again, particularly after such a long break due to COVID restrictions. The AGM and seminar were followed by a lovely meal at West End Brasserie which was attended by the committee, guests and some members. The AGM was notable as it was an opportunity for the committee to give our thanks to Linda Trotter upon her retirement from the Edinburgh Committee. Linda has been our Vice President for six years and a member of the committee for many years before that and we will miss her contribution a great deal, but wish her all the best in her retirement. Natalie presented Linda with a gift from the Edinburgh Branch and recorded our appreciation of Linda's many years of service as she steps away to take a well-earned rest.

Mandy has agreed to step up to the Vice President Role, and the committee is hopeful that Melissa Blackwood will join the Edinburgh Committee in the next few months. I had also asked for help with the work in the Secretarial role and Paul McRobb has kindly agreed to take over the running of the seminars going forward, leaving me able to concentrate on the other secretarial tasks and correspondence.

Edinburgh and the other committees are going to continue to work together arranging seminars to be held online allowing members to join from all parts of the country conveniently via Teams and for speakers lists to be pooled hoping to maximise a wide range of topics for CPD. Each Branch will continue to hold their Annual General Meetings individually, and face to face, where possible and these will include a seminar. The full programme of seminars will be noted on the SOLAS website, but please do email us on EdinburghBranch@SOLAS.org.uk if you have any questions, and we will continue to email members with a link to the talks and the slides/handouts (if any) after the event.

The Edinburgh Committee hopes to host a new students' reception before the next SOLAS course starts in September and is looking forward to the Graduation Ceremony later this year. We are anticipating a chance to celebrate the success of the students who have worked so hard to pass their exams and welcome more members to the organisation and Edinburgh Branch.

As usual, I would like to ask if you have any ideas for seminars please email me on EdinburghBranch@SOLAS.org.uk so we can continue to find speakers of interest to our members. And if anyone is interested in joining the Edinburgh Committee do get in touch via email. It is not an onerous position, we hold a short meeting (less than half an hour) from time to time and exchange a few emails each month. Having new committee members gives us fresh perspective and ideas and I'd like to encourage any member who is interested to join us for one meeting as a trial.

With best wishes for a lovely summer to you all from me and the rest of the Edinburgh Committee,

Tracey O'Brien



Branch Reports Continued



Gillian Gray, Glasgow President

SOLAS Glasgow Branch

Committee News

There has been a few changes in the Glasgow Branch Committee.

New Secretary – Karen Whitelaw

New Class Organiser – David Hamilton

New Committee Members - Jade Blair and Deborah Jaconelli

Resignation – Shirley Green

Glasgow Branch would like to thank Kirsteen Conway (previous secretary) and Eileen Hastie (previous class organiser) for all their hard work and dedication to SOLAS throughout the years.

Many thanks to Karen Whitelaw and David Hamilton for filling these positions.

Glasgow Branch are pleased to welcome Jade Blair of Hamilton Mullen Law Accounts and Deborah Jaconelli of Friends Legal to the Committee. It's fantastic to have two new members on board and we're sure that both will have plenty to bring to the Committee.

The Committee would like to say a special thanks to Shirley Green who is stepping down from the Committee. Shirley has been on the Committee for many years and has held positions such as Secretary, President, and Executry Lecturer for SOLAS. She will be sorely missed.

Branch CPD News

Glasgow Branch held its 65th AGM on Thursday 27th April 2023 at Glasgow Caledonian University.

CPD events continue to be held online per MS Teams, at members request. The turnout for these has been fantastic. It is brilliant to see so many of our members online.

The syllabus can be found on the SOLAS website.

Glasgow Branch will continue to confirm CPD dates and speakers by email to all Glasgow Branch Members.

If you have any CPD requests please let us know and we will endeavour to find a speaker.

Please ensure your contact details are up to date to keep informed of all Branch News and Updates.

Please contact GlasgowBranch@solas.org.uk to inform us of any changes.

Other Upcoming Events

The September Private Client National Seminar is being held at Dewars in Perth this year. We would love to see many of our Glasgow Branch Members in attendance.

Glasgow Branch are hosting this year's Annual Dinner and AGM on 3-4th November 2023 at the Raddison Blu Hotel in Glasgow. This will be a fabulous night and we are looking for as many members as possible to attend the night.

Please look out for the flyer for both events and book your places.



Requirements for CPD

STRUCTURED CPD. – 5 Hours

The participation in training or study of subjects, allowable for all **STRUCTURED CPD** hours, must be for the purpose of directly enhancing the professional, technical skills of the member of SOLAS as provided for within the following conditions:-

- (a) The training or study must be relevant to the core subjects studied to gain membership of SOLAS
- (b) Or the training or study must be relevant to a professional duty considered by SOLAS General Council to be appropriate for performance by a member of SOLAS within a Legal Office, e.g. Practice Management, Office Management, Financial Accountancy, Health and Safety; this provision to be limited to a total of 2 CPD hours in any CPD year.
- (c) The following are examples of duties, which are considered by SOLAS General Council **NOT** to be allowable for CPD under provision (b) above – Estate Agency, Conveyancing.
- (d) The following will **NOT** be allowed for STRUCTURED, or for UNSTRUCTURED CPD hours – participation in training or study for the purpose of enhancing the physical wellbeing and/or personal skills of the member of SOLAS, e.g. memory enhancement, whitewater rafting, abseiling, team-building, i.e. the activity does **NOT** bear a direct relationship to the technical skills required to carry out the professional duties of the member of SOLAS.



UNSTRUCTURED CPD – 5 Hours

This consists of reading, either from textbooks, update on Law Society Accounts Rules, PAYE Guidelines, Money Laundering and financial related matters etc. Lecturers at SOLAS classes may claim unstructured hours only, for preparation of these lectures.

Branch committee meetings, General Council meetings, or attendance at Branch or National AGM do not count towards CPD.

Combinations of structured and unstructured hours are acceptable only when the full amount of structured time has been completed, e.g. if 7 hours of structured are met, 2 hours may count towards unstructured total but not vice versa.

If any member is unsure regarding the status of CPD they should contact the Administrator who will advise.



THE SOCIETY OF LAW ACCOUNTANTS IN SCOTLAND

Please return to:-
administrator@solas.org.uk

All Forms must be returned by 30th November 2023
Please Note - No reminder will be sent it is your responsibility to return your form and pay subs by 30th November 2023

CPD Year 01.11.2022 to 31.10.2023

Member's name: SOLAS Number.S0..... (Must be included)

Firm's Name
.....

Branch: -

Please mark type of membership

Membership: Full / Associate £40 paid by BACS

PERSONAL RECORD OF CPD UNDERTAKEN

A) STRUCTURED – Must be related to SOLAS Exam Subjects i.e: Cashroom, Executry Administration, Trust Accounting, Taxation, Feeing & Investment. Must include 2 hours SOLAS CPD seminar/event

Conferences, Seminars (SOLAS National and Branch, Law Society, In-house, etc), Workshops, Further Education, Personal Training etc.

Date	Activity	Organiser	Contact Address	Hours

Registered in Scotland No. 37463. Registered Office: 2nd Floor North, Saltire Court, 20 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2EN
<http://www.solas.co.uk>

THE SOCIETY OF LAW ACCOUNTANTS IN SCOTLAND



<http://www.solas.co.uk>

Payment Method:

Bank Transfer

RBS, Sort Code: 83-52-00, Account No: 10071018

Society of Law Accountants in Scotland

Quoting your membership number as a reference

Please email form to both

General Treasurer: treasurer@solas.org.uk

Administrator: administrator@solas.org.uk advising payment has been made.

Please do not send in post. Please make payment at time CPD form is submitted.

If paying multiple memberships in single BACS, all membership numbers and names must be advised on remittance slip.

Name

SOLAS membership number



SOLAS Office Bearers

Natalie Cooke, President
The Law Society of Scotland

David Hamilton, Vice-President
Hamilton Mullan Law Accountants

Lindsay Murray, General Secretary
Brodies LLP
Edinburgh

Gillian Gray, General Treasurer
The Law Society of Scotland

General Council Members

Aberdeen

Blair Chalmers, Anderson Bain
Joyce Forbes, Gilson Gray
Jenny Hiscox, Andersonbain

Dundee

Heather Davidson, Rollos Law LLP
Nikki Scott, Blackadders

Edinburgh

Gillian Forsyth, Murray Beith Murray
Paul McRobb, Your Cashier

Glasgow

Carrie McQueen
Noreen Hope, Milne Craig

Branch Secretaries

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 The Society of Law Accountants in Scotland

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