

## Issue 70 Summer 2021

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SOLAS President Lynne Alexander

**Dear Members** 

What six months it has been! The resilience of everyone I know whether personal or work based, has been admirable and very encouraging, and as we slowly come out to what I feel is going to be the new "normal" I have no doubt there will still be many changes to come.

I am delighted with the results of the exams held remotely so far and want to give my thanks to the Education Board, the lecturers and the students for all their hard work. Whether it be changes in logistics or methods, all have done their best to deliver and receive the course without compromise of the content in conditions that we never imagined, and feedback has been inspiring.

Remote CPD sessions provided by the branches have seen increased attendance which was an unforeseen bonus of this method of delivery and our tester Seminar in March ended up being so oversubscribed that a second one was held which was also fully booked. More thanks go to the organisers of these events and the speakers who succeeded regardless of any technical hitches along the way. We will continue to hold these remotely but as restrictions allow, we hope to introduce some face-to-face events too.

We are making preparations to welcome you to Dundee for the National AGM on 5/6 November 2021, as long as guidelines allow this to proceed, and there are further details about this further down the newsletter. It was so disappointing that I couldn't meet you all as President last year and I am looking forward to making up for that this year in my home branch.

It's never been so important to make the effort to keep in touch and support each other, so if possible (and appropriate), join meetings early,

join in with the banter and if you need help, don't be afraid to ask – whether it be your employers, colleagues, friends, family, neighbours ...... the list goes on, and legal professionals and their families also have access to Lawcare <u>www.lawcare.org.uk</u> or call 0800 279 6888.

Kind regards

Lynne Alexander President of SOLAS



Administrator

**Dear Member** 

I hope you are all well and enjoying the good weather we have been having.

I am sure there will be many of you out there who are in the same position as myself at the moment and finding themselves being football widows. The one good thing for me is that I find myself having time to go for walks in the sunshine which I find very relaxing and allows me to wind down.

Although things are getting better, there is still a long way to go before we will reach a normal working environment, and who knows what the new normal will be. It all presents challenges for us all and we have to make the most of it and keep going.

Further in this newsletter you will find information regarding the Private Client seminar which will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> September. This will be a 2 hour seminar for CPD purposes and will count towards the required 5 hours structured needed to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021. I look forward to seeing many of you on screen as once again this will be delivered using the GoTo Meeting platform. General Council very much hope to be able to reinstate face-to-face seminars as soon as possible. Going forward in an effort to try and meet the needs of all SOLAS members consideration is being given to providing a blend of online and face to face seminars.

General Council are always open to any ideas for topics, which you would like us to cover. Please feel free to contact me if you have any suggestions.

Finally, please also get in touch if you have any queries regarding your membership or CPD and I will try my best to help.

Kind regards Dorothy Nícholson



## **Branch Reports**

## Aberdeen

Our AGM was held by webinar on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021, the numbers were very disappointing with only 8 members joining in , I thought many more people would have taken the opportunity to join in from the comfort of their own home. We did have a member from Buckie who attended her first AGM because it was by webinar and she usually can't make the journey to Aberdeen to attend.

Carol Baxter resigned as President; we would like to thank Carol for doing a sterling job during her many years of service. Wilma McPherson has very kindly taken on the role and we wish Wilma all the best in her new role.

We had 4 students do the Cashroom module by webinar and all passed with Distinction. We have had very positive feedback regarding the classes and the students have done very well. If you have any work colleagues who would like to do their SOLAS qualification we would love to welcome them to our online classes.

CPD this year is being done by webinar and we are very grateful to Dundee Branch inviting us to join their talks. The March seminar was also done by webinar and was so well attended that it had to be run over 2 days to accommodate the number of people wanting to join in. The Private Client seminar in September will be done this way too.

Save the Date of 5/6<sup>th</sup> November 2021 for Dundee Branch Annual Dinner followed by the AGM, we hope it can go ahead this year, but we will keep you posted. The event going ahead will depend on COVID restrictions, wouldn't it be nice to never have to use that phrase ever again.

Hope we can meet up in person again soon

Joyce Forbes, Secretary



## **Branch Reports Continued**

## Dundee

Dundee Branch held its annual AGM by GoToMeeting on 22 May at 11:00 am. We had 11 attendees, 7 of whom are on the Committee. This was a disappointing turn out considering we have 105 "active" members.

Ella Dunn intimated her retiral from the Committee and we will be very sad to see her go. Ella has been a long-time member of SOLAS and the Committee and her support for our branch has been invaluable. We thank her for her time on the Committee and wish her well on her next great adventure.

We have been providing online CPD meetings for our members which have been very well attended and we find this to be very encouraging. We have had three and are planning to have two more before the end of the year. We also encourage our members to take advantage of the online National Seminars. If anyone is struggling to get their 5 hours structured CPD please let me know and I will try to help you, don't wait until it is time to renew your membership and then panic!

We are hoping that with the slow easing of restrictions we will be able to hold the National AGM which was postponed from last year and look forward to showing off our hospitality after last year's cancellation.

Dundee Branch is in need of new committee members and I would encourage any of our members to get in touch with me to intimate their interest. The commitment is not huge, 4 meetings a year which are currently being held by GoToMeeting and the occasional email interaction outwith the committee meetings. The Committee represents you and we would be very grateful for your input!

Take care and keep well! Nikki



**Dundee Continued** 

Current Dundee Committee Members:

Nikki Scott – President and Secretary Natasha Mitchell – Diploma and Syllabus Secretary Clare McLaren – Treasurer Lynne Alexander – Minute Secretary Wendy Mitchell – Member Heather Davidson – Member Tracey McCardle – Member Pauline Easley – Member Your name here! – Member

# SAVE THE DATE!! Annual AGM & Dinner

All being well, Dundee Branch are hosting the National AGM at the Apex Hotel, City Quay, Dundee on 6<sup>th</sup> November at 10:30 am with a social evening on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November from 7:00 pm which will include Dinner, DJ, Dancing and a Raffle. We are really looking forward to welcoming you all and invitations will be emailed when we are certain the event will go ahead.



## **Branch Reports Continued**

## Edinburgh

The Edinburgh Branch ceased holding face to face seminars in March 2020 but started holding online seminars in November 2020 with an 'AML update' by Alex White from the Law Society. It was opened to all members of SOLAS and was very well attended.

Given the popularity, further online seminars were scheduled via Go To Meeting and took place from January 2021 when Sarah-Jane Macdonald and Katie McCormack from Gillespie Macandrew addressed us on 'Changes in the pipeline' – and they have offered to return to talk about changes which result from the consultations which have been underway – which I am sure will be popular with members who enjoyed their presentation in.

In February2021, Brian Glass from Choose Life returned to give a talk about resilience and mental health. Again, this was well attended, and Brian focused on things we could do to develop resilience in the face of the COVID pandemic, working from home and home schooling. Our March seminar was just after the budget and Phillip Bald gave a presentation on Capital Gains Tax updates, although the changes were not as major as feared, it was a very useful evening and well attended by members.

In April, after our online AGM, Richard Murray addressed us on 'Proving the tenor of a Will' which was of great interest to members.

Our May seminar from Dale Ross of Blackadders on Deeds of Variation brought this session to a close, and we look forward to picking up on more topics of interest after the summer.

As always, we would be pleased if members would let us know if there are any topics they would be interested to hear about, or speakers they can recommend.



**Edinburgh Continued** 

Our online seminars have been very popular, members from other branches have joined us and we have had guest attendances by non SOLAS members. As we have all become more used to the video conferencing format, there has been more interaction with the speakers and although a worthwhile rapport is evolving, it is not quite the same as catching up with colleagues and SOLAS friends at our face-to-face events.

Lastly, the Edinburgh Committee is looking for some new faces to join them. The commitment is not onerous – short committee meetings are held after some of our seminars and a few emails are exchanged each month. The main roles of president, secretary, education, and treasurer are filled, but some new ideas and fresh input would be very welcome. If you would like to be part of the committee, please just let me know if you would like to join our next meeting and see if the committee is for you.

Best wishes Tracey Edinburgh Branch The Society of Law Accountants in Scotland



## **Branch Reports Continued**

## Glasgow

### **Committee and Branch CPD News**

The Glasgow Branch held its first Online AGM on Tuesday 20th April 2021. The member turnout was fantastic with 80+ members in attendance!

CPD events are also still being held online and again the turnout for these has also been fantastic with 80+ members in attendance.

It is brilliant to see so many of our members and amazing to see everyone.

The committee has been in discussions about returning CPD Events to the RFPG. If this is the case, then it is the intention that the CPD would also be streamed online so that we accommodate for ALL members. We welcome members feedback on this.

The Glasgow Branch Committee is currently working hard organising the 2021-2022 syllabus. Some suggestions were provided at the AGM and are outlined below:

- Gains Tax on the disposal of heritable property in Executries
- Debt Recovery and Sheriff Officers
- Intellectual Property
- Wills, POA's, and Trusts
- AML

We will confirm the CPD dates and speakers in due course by email to all Glasgow Branch Members when the syllabus is finalised.

Glasgow Branch currently has 200+ Members. If the dates or CPD topics do not suit you, please let us know. If you would like something



**Glasgow Continued** 

covered in CPD the Committee will do it's very best to allocate a speaker.

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

Please contact <u>GlasgowBranch@solas.org.uk</u> to inform us of any changes.

Did you know that SOLAS has social media.....we are on Facebook.

Please follow us to see updates on Branch News, CPD and Events.

f <u>https://www.facebook.com/The-Society-of-Law-Accountants-in-</u> Scotland-105274097859005







"Save the Date"

Tuesday 26th October 2021

The Royal Faculty of Procurators, 12 Nelson Mandela Square, Glasgow, G2 IBT

All Members welcome. Come and celebrate the success of our New Members. This is a great event to network with a free glass of bubbly and buffet provided. Details to be confirmed in due course by email to all Glasgow Branch Members



**Glasgow Continued** 

### We Want You

Would you like to join the Glasgow Branch Committee?

This is a fantastic way to be part of SOLAS and contribute to an organisation which is run by you the Members. Get something back from your membership and get involved with a network of like-minded colleagues.

We hold 4 online Committee meetings per year and host 8 Events per year.

As part of the Committee, you help the branch to organise CPD Events, AGM, Graduation Ceremony, Student Meet and Greet etc.

If you are enthusiastic and have new ideas of how to introduce exciting changes to the Branch and SOLAS please join or team.

We want our Members to get the very best of their membership and would like to introduce Social Events/Nights etc. for Members to attend, network and meet up with friends and colleges however we need you, our Members, to get involved.

If anyone is interested in joining the committee, or has any new suggestions for the branch please contact us at <u>GlasgowBranch@solas.org.uk</u>

We are here for you.

We hope to see everyone soon.



## **Glasgow Continued**





## **Branch Reports Continued**

### Inverness

Inverness Branch has been inactive the past year due to the pandemic. We did, however, hold our AGM via video link on 28<sup>th</sup> May and office bearers are staying on. It was a quick meeting as there was not much to discuss. It was the usual members who attended. We discussed the need to engage our new younger members to attend and the difficulty in obtaining relevant topics for CPD and how to make the CPD more attractive, which we are investigating. We are planning a social event for past and present members. There are two students doing the SOLAS 3 modules course, one from Middleton Ross, Dingwall, one from MacPhee & Partners, Fort William.



### CPD

General Council have reinstated the CPD requirements for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021.

As well as the National seminars all branches are holding their normal monthly seminars by GoTo Meeting until it is possible to hold them in person once more. Therefore, the normal 5 hours structured CPD will be required to be completed by all members. You will find below the CPD Form for 2021. Please do not use an old form. Please note that any outstanding subs as at 31<sup>st</sup> December will automatically incur a £10 late fee.

Should you have any questions regarding the completion of CPD please contact the Administrator by phone or drop an email and she will be happy to help where she can.

## **Requirements for CPD**

### STRUCTURED CPD

The participation in training or study of subjects, allowable for all **STRUCTURED CPD** hours, must be for the purpose of <u>directly</u> 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,



### CPD Continued

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 <u>direct</u> relationship to the technical skills required to carry out the professional duties of the member of SOLAS.

### UNSTRUCTURED CPD

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.

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; -The Administrator, Dorothy Nicholson, 17 Raith Gardens, Kirkcaldy, KY2 5NJ

### All Forms must be returned by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021 Please Note - No reminder will be issued as it is your responsibility to return your form and pay subs by 30th November 2021

CPD Year 01.11.2020 to 31.10.2021

Firm's Name

.....

Branch: - .....

Please mark type of membership and also payment method

Membership: Full / Associate Cheque £40 attached or BACS Payment

#### PERSONAL RECORD OF CPD UNDERTAKEN

#### A) STRUCTURED – Must be related to SOLAS Exam Subjects i.e: Cashroom, Executry Administration, Trust Accounting, Taxation, Feeing & Investment Conferences, Seminars (SOLAS National and Branch, Law Society, In-house, etc), Workshops, Further Education Personal Training etc.

				CPD
Date	Activity	Organiser	Contact Address	Hours



### The Society of Law Accountants in Scotland

#### B) UNSTRUCTURED - Group Meetings; Discussion Groups – In-house or within other offices. Reading – Textbooks, Financial or Business papers, Seminar Notes etc.

			CPD
Date	Activity	Details	Hours

#### **BASIC REQUIREMENT**

	Requirement	Actual
CPD Hours		
Structured	5	
Unstructured	5	
Total	10	

#### I certify the above to be a complete CPD record

### Signed Date

If for any reason you have difficulty meeting the CPD requirements, please indicate on the form and return it to the administrator with a written explanation of your reasons. Thereafter the form will be forwarded to General Council who will consider each case on its own merits and you will be informed of Council's decision in due course.

#### 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

#### Cheque

Cheque payable to SOLAS



Post to: Dorothy Nicholson, SOLAS Administrator,

17 Raith Gardens, Kirkcaldy, KY2 5NJ

If paying by cheque, please enclose with completed CPD form.

#### If paying by BACS please email form to both

General Treasurer: treasurer@solas.org.uk

Administrator: <u>administrator@solas.org.uk</u> 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 or Cheque payment, all membership numbers and names must be advised on remittance slip.

Name

SOLAS membership number



## Seminars

Following the success of the March seminar there will be a Private Client seminar on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September which will once again be delivered using GoTo Meeting.

Members of Gillespie Macandrew's Private Client team are delighted to be delivering a session to SOLAS on the need to plan for the unexpected covering topics such as contentious Wills and Trusts and later life planning. If nothing else, COVID has taught us not to put things off. No matter your age, it is important to know if anything happens to you that your loved ones are protected.

Agnes Mallon, a Partner and Co-head of the Private Client Team heads up their Contentious Wills and Trusts Team which is made up of solicitors from both the Private Client and Dispute Resolution teams. Agnes is supported on such matters by Associate Sarah-Jane Macdonald who regularly works with trustees and executors when issues arise in the process of estate or trust administration with a view to resolving disputes. With a strong technical base, they provide practical advice to clients on the options open to them at a difficult time.

Partner Lianne Lodge specialises in providing tailored and practical advice to clients of advancing age and has done so for a number of years. She is known for her approachable, caring and straightforward manner providing expert tailored advice.

Look out for the email with the booking form in early August. Please note that the March seminar sold out within hours. With numbers being restricted to 140 I would urge you to get your booking form in as early as possible. Places will be allocated on a first come basis. This will be a 2-hour seminar for CPD purposes at a cost of £35 for members and £55 for non-members which is very good value for money.



# SOLAS Evening Course

To say that for the past year we have lived through unprecedented times would be somewhat of an understatement. Although not operating as business as usual we did however manage with only slight time delays to successfully complete the 2019/2020 course session and commence the 2020/2021 course session along with relative examinations.

For many years SOLAS has delivered its evening courses on a classroom basis. Being similar to many other educational courses when the pandemic hit, we were faced with the difficult choice of whether to simply cancel or try and put in place an alternative method of delivery which was fair to both the student and lecturer. We were also anxious not to in any way diminish the value of the SOLAS professional qualification.

After much careful consideration it was decided that we should proceed on the basis of live two-hour classes using the GoTo Meeting platform. The question of sitting the actual examination "from home" appeared at first to be less straight forward. However fortunately by using the same GoTo Meeting platform along with the students opening their examination papers from a specially sealed envelope in front of an onscreen invigilator we were able as far as possible to ensure that the usual examination conditions were being adhered to. Again, in front of the invigilator on completion of the examination the student was instructed to seal their completed paper.

Overall, we are delighted to say that all went well with thirty-one students passing all three examinations during 2020 including five who gained distinction in all subjects. That gave the said successful students the opportunity if they wished and if they met the criteria to apply for membership of The Society of Law Accountants in Scotland allowing them to use the professional qualification SLA. More than two thirds of students applied and were approved for membership in February 2021.



**Evening Course Continued** 

You will find a list of the students who were admitted as Associate Members of our Society later in this newsletter.

Lecturers along with their students were invited to give their feedback which in the main it must be said has been very encouraging. In particular the students were very positive with many saying that it fitted in well with family/ home life and avoided additional travelling throughout the winter months. Taking the foregoing into account courses for the present time will be delivered in the same manner.

Enrolment for session 2021/22 has now opened with courses running from August to April. Further information is available on our website <u>www.solas.org.uk</u> or by contacting Dorothy Nicholson at <u>administrator@solas.org.uk</u>

For those who may know someone who wishes to apply you will find an enrolment form below or can be found on the SOLAS web site <a href="https://www.solas.org.uk/evening-course">https://www.solas.org.uk/evening-course</a>



### SOLAS EVENING COURSE SESSION 2021/22 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 wish to attend classes. Please note that all classes will be delivered by webinar for 2021/2022

Module	Cost	Area
Cashroom accounting	£400	Aberdeen/Dundee/Edinburgh/Glasgow Inverness
(classes start w/c 30 <sup>th</sup> August 2021)		
Executries	£400	Aberdeen/Dundee/Edinburgh/Glasgow Inverness
(classes start w/c 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2021)		
Feeing	£200	Aberdeen/Dundee/Edinburgh/Glasgow
(classes start w/c 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2022)		
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

Signature..... Please send completed form and cheque to: Dorothy Nicholson SOLAS Education Administrator 17 Raith Gardens Kirkcaldy KY2 5NJ Date.....

Deadline dates for enrolment are as follows: Cashroom Accounting 30/7/21, Executries 15/10/21, Feeing 4/2/22 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. <u>GDPR, Data Protection Act 2018. For information</u> about how we use your personal data see our privacy policy at www.solas.org.u



Terms and Conditions

**Respect and Integrity** 

Given that students are working towards a professional qualification and may be representing their firm, it is expected that students behave in a respectful and considerate manner towards 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)

April 2021



### New Members Admitted

I am delighted to be able to advise that after a delay to the 2019/2020 SOLAS evening classes the undernoted students where finally admitted to the society as Associate Members at the General Council meeting held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

Aberdeen	
Christy Mair	
Dundee	
Elizabeth Gordon	Gillian McDonlad
Nicola McKay	Kayleigh McNairn
Nicole Whitton	Angela Wilkie
Edinburgh	
Afsha Ali	Joanna Czarnecka
Julie Ferguson	Michelle Harkin
James McIntosh	Clair Thomson
Catherine Waugh	
Glasgow	
Emma Leus	Suzanne MacDonald
Nicole Morgan	Kirsten Neilson
Sharon Nelson	Maureen Paterson
Erin Ramsay	



### **SOLAS Office Bearers**

Lynne Alexander, President MHA Henderson Logie Dundee

Lindsay Murray, General Secretary Brodies LLP Edinburgh Natalie Cooke, Vice-President The Law Society of Scotland

Gillian Gray, General Treasurer The Law Society of Scotland

**General Council Members** 

Aberdeen Blair Chalmers, Andersonbain Joyce Forbes, The Law Practice Jenny Hiscox, Andersonbain

<u>Edinburgh</u> Gillian Forsyth, Murray Beith Murray

Inverness Lisa McIntyre, Macleod & MacCallum

Branch Secretaries Aberdeen Joyce Forbes, The Law Practice, Dundee Nikki Scott, Blackadders, Edinburgh Tracey O'Brien, Anderson Strathern, Glasgow Kirsteen Conway, McClure Solicitors, Inverness Jodie McCormack, Craigwood & Co Solas Administrator Mrs Dorothy Nicholson 17 Raith Gardens, Kirkcaldy, KY2 5NJ Tel: 01592 260021 Dundee Heather Davidson, Rollos Law LLP Nikki Scott, Blackadders

<u>Glasgow</u> Carrie McQueen Noreen Hope, Milne Craig David Hamilton, Hamilton Mullan

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