

SCALANEWS



THE NEWSLETTER FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY CONSTRUCTION PROFESSIONALS

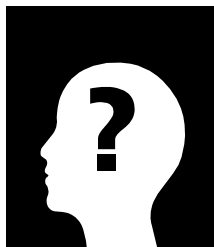
A NEW YEAR A NEW SCALA



ALAN TYLER
PRESIDENT OF SCALA



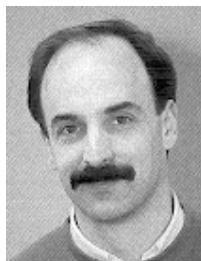
ROB TATE
VICE PRESIDENT
CHAIRMAN OF
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE



IAN VINCENT
CHAIRMAN OF
PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE



EDEN LEE
IMMEDIATE PAST
PRESIDENT



IAN ATKINSON
HONORARY TREASURER
CHAIRMAN OF
HOUSING COMMITTEE



DAVID KIMMINS
FINANCE MANAGER



BERNARD WYLD
COMPANY SECRETARY
AND ADMINISTRATOR



STEVE GEORGE
HONORARY SECRETARY

Alan Tyler, our President, and all the SCALA team wish members and readers of SCALANEWS a happy and prosperous New Year. The team, now including Bernard Wyld as Company Secretary and David Kimmins as Financial Manager, will continue to keep members fully informed on architectural and construction issues. SCALANEWS is a key part of this process and we hope you will find the new articles and features of interest and value. Photos of Rob Tate and Ian Vincent are not available for this edition but signed copies will be available soon for those who cannot wait a couple of months!

Produced and edited by Bernard Wyld at 6 Aldwick Avenue, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO21 3AQ
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Your guide to **SCALANEWS**



SCALAFEATURE

Signifies a feature article on an item of topical interest or a special event such as the 1996 SCALA Conference included in this issue



SCALAECHANGE

The information exchange marketplace where problems can be aired and advice sought from fellow professionals in the industry



SCALADIARY

A reference list of dates for future SCALA meetings and events including those for the regions and associated organisations



SCALAINFO

A summary of SCALA council and committee meetings keeping members and readers up to date on current issues



SCALANET

Your 24 hr. contact point on the Internet for the full range of SCALA services and information sources



SCALAWAG

A section devoted to members no longer in direct local authority employment or retired. Please submit articles and news for the next issue.



- P1 A NEW YEAR A NEW SCALA
- P3 FEATURE ARTICLE - 1996 SCALA CONFERENCE
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- P5 SCALA EXCHANGE - The marketplace for information
SCALANET - The member service to be available 24hrs/day
- P6 SCALA INFO - A summary of council & committee meetings
SCALAFASH - New regulations for white collar CCT



I hope that you like the style and content of SCALANEWS which if successful will be published five times a year, about a month prior to each Council meeting. Let me know what you think and send me comments and articles for the next issue. **Please note the new roles and contact points listed below.**

Ed

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SCALA CONFERENCE

The conference was held last September in the intellectually and architecturally stimulating environment of Cambridge, at New Hall College. The programme included a wide variety of speakers on subjects ranging from the progressive work of Fosters' to Latham, High Performance Buildings and Motivating Your Team together with a panel discussion on The Role and Influence of the Designer Post-Reorganisation. The title of 'The Challenge of Change' was addressed by two keynote speeches given by Brian Briscoe, Chief Executive of the Local Government Association, and Sir Michael Latham, formerly Chairman of the Construction Industry Board.

The Local Government Association replaces the separate associations for metropolitan authorities, county and district councils. The aim of the organisation is to provide a strong united voice for local government at a time when it is having to meet the major challenges of reorganisation, compulsory competitive tendering and budget cuts with only 15% of income derived from local sources. It is a delicate balancing act for the new association, with a number of pressure groups legitimately pursuing matters of concern to them, but it has a brief to present a common voice for local government particularly in the following areas- local public services, community leadership, local strategies, partnership/ contracts and democratic renewal. By speaking for all councils in England and Wales it will have a powerful voice which will be able to protect local democracy, maintain local services and help ensure that local discretion and choice is retained in the face of greater centralisation. The long term strategy is to enhance local democracy by improving relations with the government and Europe which will both preserve and enhance the roles of local authorities.

It is difficult to open any construction publication without reading of progress on 'Constructing the Team', the report published in July, 1994, by the committee chaired by Sir Michael Latham. The

report was a joint government/industry initiative with two aims- to reduce conflict and litigation and also to improve the productivity and competitiveness of the industry. The main recommendations were:

- to publish a construction procurement strategy Code of Practice

- to publish a checklist guide on briefing

- to promote a mechanism for selecting consultants on quality as well as price

To facilitate this a Construction Clients Forum was set up in August, 1994, and the government undertook to become a best practice client with documents published in 1995 which are listed at the end of this report. The Forum comprised 13 organisations none of which directly represented construction professionals who were involved at working group level. The recommendations are in the three main areas of industry, contracts and legislation with the latter forming part 2 of the Housing, Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act which introduces these mandatory provisions:

- to refer disputes to adjudication (currently in conflict with the 1996 Arbitration Act)

- to provide a statutory right to interim payments

- to incorporate a clear cut payments mechanism

- to restrict a clients right to withhold payment

- to give a contractor the right to suspend work if payment is not forthcoming

- to ensure payment to a contractor is not conditional on receipt of payment from a third party

The legislation only applies to written contracts and excludes contracts with private householders, PFI, supply only contracts and the process engineering industry. It includes architectural design or surveying work and associated professional advice together with painting / decorating and mechanical / electrical work. The Secretary of State accepts that the Act cannot cover the many and varied situations that arise

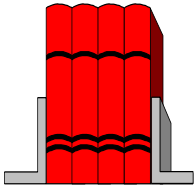
under a construction contract and will be publishing a Scheme for Construction Contracts which will be compulsory in situations of non-compliance and also sweep up matters not specifically covered by the legislation. The Construction Industry Board have published the following eight reports with a further five to be published over the next few months:

- Selecting consultants for the team: balancing quality and price
- Training the team
- Constructing a better image
- Tomorrow's team: women and men in

construction

- Educating the professional team
- Towards a 30% productivity improvement in construction
- Framework for a national register of consultants
- Framework for a national register of contractors

Many thanks to Alan Tyler and his team for organising an excellent conference. We look forward to this year's conference which will be on the function of property post local government reorganisation.



The Construction Industry Board reports are available individually or in a boxed set at a total cost of £62 from Thomas Telford Publishing, 1 Heron Quay, London E14 4JD tel: 0171 987 6999 or fax: 0171 538 4101.

Recent government publications encouraging *best practice* are:

- May 1995- *Ministry of Defence: Management of the Capital Works Programme* a National Audit Office report on the MOD's capital works programme
- May 1995- *Setting New Standards: A Strategy for Government Procurement* a government white paper on procurement
- Nov.1995- *Construction Procurement by Government* a report commissioned by Sir Peter Levene, the PM's advisor on efficiency
- Nov.1995- *Construction Quality: A Strategy for Quality in Construction* a consultation document issued by the Gov/Industry Quality Liaison Group

Book list



SCALADIARY

FEB

- 14 - CIPFA/SCALA CAS Workshop-Glasgow
- 19 - CIPFA/SCALA CAS Workshop-Perth
- 28 - SCALA Professional Affairs Committee, Policy Committee and Council at RIBA

MAR

- 11 - CIPFA/SCALA CAS Workshop-Exeter
- 13 - CIPFA/SCALA CAS Workshop-Coventry and SCALA Technical Committee at RIBA
- 18 - CIPFA/SCALA CAS Workshop-Builth Wells
- 20 - CIPFA/SCALA CAS Workshop-Durham
- 21 - Joint meeting of Sussex Housing+Building Forum and Southern Construction Forum in Worthing to be attended by the President

APRIL

- 4 - SCALA Housing Committee-Tower Hamlets HAT
- 8 - CIPFA CAS C+PS Conference in London: 'Construction at the Crossroads'
- 25 - SCALA Professional Affairs Committee, Policy Committee and Council at RIBA

MAY

- 2 - SCALA Technical Committee at RIBA
- 13 - RIBA Conference in Oxford: 'Procurement of high quality arch. in the public sector'
- 16 - SCALA Housing Committee

JUNE

- 12 - SCALA Technical Committee at RIBA
- 27 - SCALA Professional Affairs Committee, Policy Committee and Council at RIBA

JULY

- 18 - SCALA Housing Committee

For information on the CIPFA/SCALA Client Advisory Service workshops on CCT for Construction and Property Services contact Ed. or CAS direct on 0171 895 8823

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SCALA EXCHANGE

SCALA Yearbook- 1997 edition

The yearbook is an important promotional tool for public sector architects. It is distributed to all the chief executives of local authorities in the country and used by many SCALA members to promote their services in their own authorities. Last year was the first time we had worked with Lansdowne Publishing Partnership (LPP) and reaction to the quality of last years edition has been very favourable. Subject to final agreement LPP will be publishing the 1997 edition. SCALA will retain complete editorial control but LPP will be responsible for collecting material and details of schemes from members. You are likely to be contacted in the next couple of months for scheme submissions and please respond positively. Quality will be the main criterion but we also need recent schemes as LPP had real problems last year trying to raise advertising on older schemes. With a good response from members we can build on the success of last year and ensure an even bigger and better one this year. For more information please contact David Kimmins- Tel: 0115 9846784

CDM Regulations

The Health and Safety Executive has the right to visit LA offices unannounced to check compliance as they have done a number of times in the private sector. It is believed that one LA office has been visited in this way- can you let me know of any instances and I will pass on the information through this column. Also don't forget the SCALA Guide to the CDM Regs. to keep you on the straight and narrow. Many thanks- Ed.



SCALANET

Members and readers will soon be able to send messages to David Kimmins and myself by E-mail and also download information direct from the SCALA website which will contain this newsletter and much more besides. Let me have your ideas as to how you see this operating which I hope to have up and running soon- Ed

SCALA and the LGA

You will have read in the feature article of the role of the Local Government Association and the need to influence events on behalf of architects and others in the construction industry. Alan Tyler has asked me to let you know of his work through the Federation of Property Societies, the umbrella organisation which expresses our views to SOLACE and the LGA. Your views are important and SCALA needs to hear them either through your region or committee or direct to Alan (tel: 01992 515003).

Construction problems- artificial slates

Artificial slate products have come on the market to fill the gap left when asbestos based products were banned. They are made of powdered slate bonded with resin and cast in a mould to replicate the appearance of natural slate. If anyone has had adverse experience with this type of slate please contact David Roe at Dorset County Council- Tel: 01305 225227

Experience of Arts Lottery Fund

I have been asked by a member to gather comments on the use of design advisers who give advice on specific aspects of schemes at the bid stage, such as urban design. The Arts Council, through David Rock their architectural adviser (tel: 0171 222 3909), will provide a list of private consultants to carry out this work but do not apparently permit local authorities to do this work, even if they have staff with the necessary experience. Please let me know of your own experiences and comments- Ed.

Professional indemnity and ARCUK

You may well have read in the trade press of David Yorke's work in preparation for the new regulatory body and his efforts to persuade them against mandatory PI insurance. This is made more difficult by the fact that there may be a majority of lay members on the new council but is helped by the fact that he now has considerable clout as RIBA Vice President Practice. Congratulations to David, who has also been seeking information from the private sector on packaging and experiences of CCT and would be very happy to be contacted on all such issues (tel:



SCALAI NFO

COUNCIL

Rob Tate, Vice President, has been asked to take a further look at membership classifications following the changes made at the 1995 AGM. The President felt that members wanted a more flexible approach and a wider membership not just for architects. He asked that regions discuss this with the Convenors providing feedback.

The appointment of the new Company Secretary and the new Finance Manager was confirmed for the next two years and thanks given to Steve Mitchell for his past service.

Ian Vincent is now the link with the Institute of Clerks of Works and is to set up a meeting in the New Year.

The President recently visited the Yorks. & Humberside Region, also the recently revitalised South West Region convened by Ian Cook.

Council were delighted to hear that the Association of London Borough Architects (ALBA) wish to become the London Region of SCALA and that the Consortium of Local Authorities Wales (CLAW) have named Mark Davies of Camarthenshire CBC (Tel:01554 742158) as their representative on Council.

The following new members were welcomed into SCALA:

FULL

Mr. Michael Bonnick-Cherwell DC
Mr. A. M. Brown-Torbay BC
Mr. A. R. Russell-Regional Architect for the Gov. Office for London

ASSOCIATE

Mr. B. G. Wright-Stoke on Trent CC

AFFILIATE

Mr. J. R. Giacomelli of W. S. Atkins

HONORARY

Mr. Eden Lee-Immediate Past President
RETIRED

Messrs. Clive Waterman and Bernard Wyld

PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE

The joint CIPFA/SCALA Client Advisory Service for Construction and Property Services CCT now has over 140 members which should mean an increase in income for SCALA.

The committee will pass on PFI and CCT info. to members as it becomes available and has responded to the DoE on the latest proposed changes to the CCT Regs.

Research is taking place into benchmarking which may take a higher profile in the event of a Labour government.

Representatives are being sought to support Roger Cheney on the Local Authorities Contracts Panel together with info. on the levels of Public Liability Insurance carried by authorities.

Liaison is taking place with John Bowler of South Gloucs. and David Roe of Dorset on a wide ranging briefing brochure which will assist members in new councils in particular and emphasise the support available from SCALA.

Contact Ian Vincent Tel: 01327 71100

TECHNICAL

The Maintenance Return is to be published shortly in conjunction with the RIBA. The value of this document will be built on by having the Study Day based on the condition of LA building stock.

The conference title is proposed as 'The Function of Property post Local Government Reorganisation' which should place SCALA at the centre of the property debate.

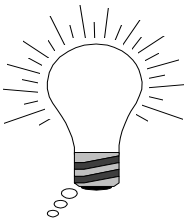
Contact Rob Tate Tel: 0181 982 7011

HOUSING

A review of the committee's future is taking place and a new programme of meetings is being prepared.

It is currently concerned with the RIBA 2000 homes initiative and investigating the limitations on housing design in the new century. The committee is also looking at opportunities to sponsor housing research in schools of architecture and hopes to be able to report positively to Council on this initiative.

Contact Ian Atkinson Tel: 0114 273 6192



SCALAFLASH

NEW REGS. FOR WHITE COLLAR CCT

As this newsletter went to press the new regs. were published coming into force in just over a years time. Those authorities currently working to 1.10.97 or earlier may be able to justify a delay in the timetable to at least this date or 1.4.98.