

## Newsletter Spring 2008

### Trench & Associates and Royds LLP hold successful joint seminar in Dubai



Burj Al Arab, Dubai

Royds LLP and Trench & Associates held a successful series of seminars on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February in Trench & Associates' base, Dubai.

The venue for the seminars was the newly opened and prestigious Capital Club in the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC). The seminars were held on an outside terrace at the Capital Club overlooking the skyscrapers of the business district of Dubai and so gave the delegates from Royds the novel experience of attending an outside event in February without either getting wet or frostbite! The DIFC has been conceived by the Government of Dubai with a view to creating a regional capital market, offering investors and issuers of capital world class regulation and business standards.

The speakers at the seminars were Cynthia Trench and Philip Corfield-Smith of Trench & Associates and Jim Sawer, who heads the

Private Client Department at Royds. Jim was accompanied at the seminars by John North and Vivien Davies who are partners respectively in the Corporate Commercial and Dispute Resolution departments at Royds. The final speaker at the seminars was Judy Healy from the Dubai Real Estate Regulation Authority who spoke on recent changes to the regulation of estate agency businesses in Dubai and, in particular, the effect that these changes would have on purchasers of property in Dubai. Topics discussed by Cynthia, Philip and Jim ranged over a wide range of issues from the application of Sharia law and property law and investment in Dubai to issues on UK tax for expatriates and non-domiciles. The event was attended by a broad range of clients and contacts of Trench & Associates and also Dubai based clients of Royds. Attendees included representatives from HSBC International, Dubai based property construction companies and other multinational companies



Cynthia Trench enjoying a game of snooker with John North, Jim Sawer and Vivien Davies

Following the formal parts of the seminars, informal workshops were held over drinks and refreshments which gave the opportunity to

socialise and to deal with specific enquiries raised by those attending.

The event was regarded as an enjoyable and successful event by those attending and Trench & Associates and Royds regard it as an example which will hopefully lead to further co-operation between firms in Interleges. Royds would like, in particular, to thank Cynthia Trench and her colleagues for all the work they put into organising this event which ensured that it was such a success.

Royds and Trench & Associates are particularly pleased that following the seminars, they have been invited to repeat the event by HSBC International in Dubai on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2008 when the audience will consist of established clients and contacts of HSBC International in the Dubai area.

By John North, Royds LLP  
Main Interleges contact at Royds, and Executive Committee member



**John North and colleague Jim Sawer**

## **Interleges Executive Committee meet in Paris**

The members of the Executive Committee met in Paris in early February for their third meeting since the AGM in Puerto Vallarta, to discuss various matters arising from previous Executive Committee meetings and the AGM, to up-date one another on the on-going recruitment of new members for the network and to go over the final draft of plans for the next Interleges AGM.



**The Interleges Executive Committee:  
Paul Keane, Salim and Nawal El Meouchi,  
Stefano de Bosio, John North, Annalisa Gordon  
and Miriam Weski**

The 2008 Interleges AGM is being kindly hosted by Interleges Vice-President and member for Italy, Stefano de Bosio and takes place from Thursday 22 May – Sunday 25 May 2008 near Rome, Italy. A full report of the AGM will take centre stage in the Interleges Summer Newsletter.

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## **Winner of the Stephen Rayner Award 2008**

In 2006 Interleges founded The Stephen Rayner Award in memory of its co-founder Stephen

Rayner of London. Now in its third year, this award has become an established annual event focussing on international commercial law and international dispute resolution, and striving to further the rule of law.

**Contract law is at the heart of international commerce. Is the Common Frame of Reference on contract law proposed by the European Commission an inspired idea or a distraction?**

Following some excellent quality submissions to this question, the Stephen Rayner Award judges – **Dr. Arthur Appleton**, Counsel White and Case International Trade LLP, **Massimo Vittori**, Secretary General of Organisation for an International Geographical Indications Network (OriGIn), **Salim El Meouchi**, President of Interleges, **Stefano de Bosio**, Vice-President of Interleges and **Paul Keane**, Interleges Executive Committee member- have awarded first place to Katherine Lim who is currently studying Law at BPP Law School in London.

Interleges is thrilled that Katherine will be attending the final evening of the Interleges AGM in Rome to collect her award.



**Winner of the SRA 2008: Katherine Lim**

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## In the last Newsletter we asked you to...

**Describe in 5 lines...**

**How is the development of e-disclosure (Electronic Disclosure) affecting litigation in your jurisdiction?**

**Brendan Herbert of Royds LLP answers:**

Disclosure of electronic documents has been a part of the Civil Procedure Rules for a little over 2 years.

The most significant practical consequence of its arrival are the updated disclosure statements which require that a party searches for documents on a variety of electronic devices, such as PC's PDA's, Databases, servers and the like, which has had the consequence of focusing the mind on what additional information may be available for disclosure.

However, the procedure and mechanics of disclosure have changed little. There are now a number of organisations that supply high tech bespoke disclosure software and systems which work by digitising and uploading all documents to a separate server, and the disclosure documents can then be ordered, labelled and even searched by reference to keywords. This procedure comes with a significant price-tag, and our experience is that while useful, the old fashioned approach of assimilating paper copies of disclosure documents into files, and then assembling these papers into chronological order is the most cost effective and efficient way of carrying on proceedings.

Approaching disclosure in this manner ensures that every single page of disclosure is considered, and the very act of compiling the disclosure files is of great advantage in achieving a clear understanding of the issues in the case. Therefore time spent on the disclosure process pays dividends when producing witness statements and trial bundles, making work done on these tasks more efficient.

Large volumes of disclosure files are of course unwieldy, and we therefore use technology as the final, and not the first step in the disclosure process. The completed files can then be scanned to a CD in pdf format, and thus easily stored, distributed and accessed. The cost of this process is only marginally higher than the photocopying that would inevitably be involved in producing duplicated disclosure bundles, and of course, once scanned, any number of copies can be produced for the price of a blank CD. This scanning can also be upgraded to allow the pdf copies to be fully searchable.

In reality, the best approach to disclosure is dependent on the nature of the dispute and the volume of documents involved. In a very large, specialised piece of litigation, with a large number of electronic documents involved, an outsourced fully searchable system would be best. However, this will only hold for a minority of cases, and the general rule would be to approach disclosure in the traditional manner, whilst considering electronic style documents, and then utilise available technology to facilitate the storage and dissemination of the disclosure papers.

By Brendan Herbert, Royds LLP

**The Interleges Spring 2008 Newsletter was edited by Annalisa Gordon, Interleges Administrator, May 2008.**

Please e-mail Annalisa on **administrator@interleges.com** with any pieces of News you would like to see in the next edition of the Interleges Newsletter, which will be distributed in July 2008.