

## First Branch meeting

Held via Microsoft Teams at 5 PM on 1 July 2020

Those Present: Andrew Brenton ACI Arb, Simon Yates FCI Arb, Sam O'Callaghan, Andrew Hughes MCI Arb, Julian Thorpe ACI Arb.

Apologies for Absence:

Sam Martin ACI Arb

Marion Smith QC FCI Arb – Region Trustee

### Out-going Chair and previous branch

Attendees gave brief introductions of their current professional status and work in the local area.

Julian proposed Simon Yates as Chair and this was seconded by Sam O'Callaghan.

Following this there were a number of proposals and offers to take roles, there were no objections in the meeting and the Committee is confirmed as follows.

Simon Yates FCI Arb	Chair
Julian Thorpe ACI Arb	Vice Chair
Sam O'Callaghan	Public Relations
Andrew Hughes MCI Arb	Honorary Secretary
Sam Martin ACI Arb	Honorary Treasurer

Andrew Brenton ACI Arb confirmed his proposal to be a Committee Member, this was accepted.

The purpose of the Branch is to promote ADR and the settlement of disputes by means other than litigation in the region and encourage new membership at all levels. It is important as part of our time as the committee that we reach out to local businesses, organisations, HE and Universities, the Public Sector and the wider community to make them aware of the CI Arb and ADR. The Branches exist to share ideas and information with each other as well as providing a platform for networking, training and workshops.

### Trustee

Marion Smith QC FCI Arb is the Region Trustee as sent her apologies for not being able to attend. Unfortunately, the Branch did send the invite at short notice. Simon and Julian will endeavour to contact Marion next week.

### Financials

Further detail regarding this will be shared in due course after the Trustee has been contacted.

## **Any other business**

It was noted that our region covers the whole of Wales and an effort will have to be made to reach out to Wrexham, for example, north Wales and other areas. The Committee are aware the Branch covers a wider area than Cardiff. Andrew Hughes asked about the number of members in Wales. Simon stated that we have been unable to obtain any information regarding a list of current membership. Recent discussions with the Institute have unfortunately been confusing, with the Institute unable to confirm the level of membership in the Region and a reluctance to give details to the Branch due to the Data Protection Act. Hopefully this will be resolved in further communication with Catherine Dixon.

Simon asked the attendees to open discussion regarding ideas and plans moving forward.

Julian will distribute a list of the Committee Members and contact details.

A general thank you was expressed to all those who attended the meeting, it has been a long road for some to get the branch active again. We are looking forward to working together with a positive way forward, with communication; shared ideas and collaboration at the heart of the Committee

## **Next meeting**

To be confirmed