

## Comment

### **A word from the chief executive**

#### **APIL is working to make a difference – and here's how**

As we are almost halfway through the year, I take this opportunity to talk to you about our vital campaigns, consumer awareness programme and our lobbying activity.

The fights we face and the issues confronting us are still more often than not of “David & Goliath” stature. APIL’s approach does pay dividends – we are targeted in our approach, prioritising issues and identifying individuals who we know are the right people to talk to. This takes time, but is an essential approach for an association which has a small staff team and willing volunteers.

#### **Current key priorities: Coroners, workplace compensation (ELIB) third party capture, Lord Justice Jackson’s review of costs, referral fees and advertising**

Most recently, APIL has been contacted by the office of Lord Bach (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Justice) as a result of our correspondence to him, and he is keen to meet with us to discuss the difficulties currently faced by bereaved families at inquests and the difficulties of obtaining legal aid. We will pursue the meeting, while liaising with peers to gain support for APIL’s recent proposed amendment to the Coroners and Justice Bill. We cannot and will not let up on our work, as this Bill takes its course through the two houses. APIL is being heard, as the number of mentions we have received in Parliament demonstrates.

Members are once again being consulted on APIL’s next steps in its decade-long campaign for a fund of last resort for those who cannot trace their ELI policies, supported by a compulsory central database of insurance policies. We are working with parliamentarians and other campaigners to demonstrate that the ABI’s voluntary code is not fit for purpose and is failing injured people – we will continue our work and fight on.

In a recent BBC interview, Justin Jacobs from the ABI told listeners, when asked about third party capture “insurers are paying the right compensation quickly”. We all know that isn’t true and we will continue to counter such mis-information. In the same interview, Justin Jacobs mentioned another of the ABI’s research reports which he said showed “... in 100,000 motor claims, it made no difference to the level of compensation, if a lawyer was involved”. The insurer’s game remains to cut costs and increase bottom line profits. Countering mis-information is an ongoing battle for us, and we will not let big business go unchallenged.

“Not another review!” was the cry for many in APIL when the Master of the Rolls told us about the planned review led by Lord Justice Jackson. This brought for us another huge tranche of work. Obviously, we had to respond and the time and effort has once again paid dividends. References to APIL’s position and evidence can be found throughout the voluminous document.

Now we need to do more, and the executive committee and APIL staff are committed to presenting Sir Rupert with another thoughtful, helpful, clear and strong response.

Moving on to the activity which has become a commonplace phrase - third party capture. Since first hearing from members, APIL has pushed hard on this over the last couple of years, sending evidence to the FSA and gaining national press coverage about some despicable behaviour which must be outlawed through proper regulation. We are now working to rally support from a growing number of MPs and we won’t let this one rest until we see some changes. Case studies really are the key here, which only you can provide.

And, finally, referral fees and advertising– the debate goes on and concerns for us are still there regarding the potential harm they may cause to the public, conflict of interest worries and the general image issues for personal injury law and potential limits to access to justice. Our debate at this year’s annual conference generated familiar arguments, and in my view, an overall worry about the general image problems they bring about for personal injury claims. Next steps for APIL are being discussed with APIL’s executive committee.

### **We will do more - please help us.**

We do listen to you, and the evidence and input you provide is vital. “Have your say” on Jackson’s review is the call from my recent letter to each APIL member. The time given us for our response is short, but we will consider all views and comments submitted.

I urge you to become part of **APIL Voice** [www.apil.org.uk/apilvoice](http://www.apil.org.uk/apilvoice) - our new online panel to gauge opinion and gain facts from you quickly to ensure our voice to all our key audiences remains authoritative and listened to.

Denise Kitchener  
Chief Executive

## **Campaigns**

### **Ministry of Justice applies gagging order to claims process negotiators**

As reported in the *Weekly News* email, a mediation process, held by the Civil Justice Council (CJC) which aimed to resolve remaining issues in the development of the new claims process, finished earlier this month.

The mediation was called by the Ministry of Justice, which has banned APIL and other participants from discussing details of the broad agreement reached until those details can be considered by ministers.

It is inevitable in this climate that rumours will abound in the press and elsewhere. We do very much appreciate the need for our members to see the full detail of the agreement.

The MoJ has been reminded repeatedly of our commitment to keeping members updated on all developments as fully and as soon as possible. Officials have therefore been asked to expedite the paperwork with ministers and will be pressed on this on a regular basis, and in terms.

Members will be fully updated on developments as soon as the MoJ indicates we may do so.

## **Coroners and Justice Bill finally reaches House of Lords**

After a lightening trip through the House of Commons then the disappointment of postponement due to Lord Mandelson's Post Office Bill, the Coroners and Justice Bill was finally debated for the first time in the House of Lords on 18 May.

During the second reading debate, where peers discussed the general principles of the Bill, the issue of extending legal aid for bereaved people was raised by peers on all sides of the House, before the Bill passed second reading without a vote.

Since then APIL has been working with key peers to table a formal amendment on this issue and has been thanked, on the floor of the House, by Lord Thomas of Gresford, for the information the association has provided. Lord Alton of Liverpool also quoted from an article from *The Times*, in which APIL president John McQuater expressed his 'extreme disappointment' that ministers had not accepted amendments on legal aid in the Commons.

Committee stage in the House of Lords takes a different approach from the Commons, with amendments often tabled to initiate debate with the Government on an issue, with more detailed amendments tabled for report stage. Even so, a number of peers spoke about the need for more bereaved families to obtain legal aid, although some were unsure about the approach of making it available as a matter of course.

Lord Pannick, a cross bench peer and high profile human rights lawyer, said that he sympathised with the need for legal aid, and called on the Government to make legal aid available 'where an inquest raises difficult questions of fact or law involving the possibility of state responsibility'. Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde, with whom APIL met prior to committee stage, said she supported 'the intentions behind the amendment', and recognised that there was a need for bereaved families to be represented when the state is represented. Baroness Butler-Sloss said that although she would support an increased legal aid budget for inquests, she appreciated that the legal aid budget was under considerable strain.

Responding for the Government, Lord Bach said that he thought the most sensible way forward was to review the situation in light of proposed changes to the system. He said he did not support legal aid being granted as a matter of course, but conceded that if he had a 'bottomless pit of money' he would like to 'extend legal aid in many cases.'

Lord Thomas concluded by withdrawing the amendment and promising to come back to the issue at report stage. APIL will continue to work with him in the meantime. Lord Bach has agreed to meet us to discuss these issues.

## **MPs' attention finally captured by insurers' behaviour?**

Calls for regulation of the insurance industry in relation to the way it treats injured people finally appear to have caught the imagination of MPs at Westminster. After campaigning on the issue for some time, a meeting has now been held with Linda Riordan, who was named Road Safety Parliamentarian of the Year in 2008.

Following the meeting APIL drafted an early day motion (EDM), which was laid by Linda at the start of May, and which has since attracted the support of almost 30 MPs from across the House of Commons. The EDM also generated interest from the press, with articles included in Post magazine and the Law Society Gazette.

The EDM is our best opportunity yet to raise awareness of the issue among more MPs, and generate pressure on the FSA to regulate this practice.

We plan to continue to work closely with Ms Riordan on this issue, and have also drafted a parliamentary question, which is due to be tabled in time for the next question time of the new department for Business, Innovation and Skills. There are also plans to apply for an adjournment debate, either in the House of Commons or Westminster Hall. Members will be kept abreast of developments through the usual channels.

A number of members have already written to their local MPs to urge them to sign the EDM, and this tactic could be a big boost to the campaign. Any members wishing to get involved and contact their MP should contact Russell Whiting, parliamentary officer, in the APIL office.

## **HSE grilled by Work and Pensions Select Committee**

The often uneasy relationship between the Health and Safety Executive and the Work and Pensions Select Committee was there for all to see earlier this month, when Judith Hackitt and Geoffrey Podger (chair and chief executive of the HSE respectively) took part in a one off evidence session before the committee.

Many of the early exchanges revolved around the impact of the recession on health and safety. Ms Hackitt said the HSE was hearing that businesses are attempting to cut back on health and safety, as a way of cutting costs. She later added that companies making statements like 'safety is our number one priority' are less than helpful, when it is obvious that it is not the case. She added that as businesses aim to make money, health and safety probably should not be their priority, but should always be a 'core value'.

Oliver Heald, a Conservative who is often critical of the HSE, raised concerns that the number of prosecutions brought against individuals continues to fall. Mr Podger said the fall could be attributed to the fact that more people are willing to fight a charge, rather than plead guilty, and he added that this has had a serious impact on the workload of staff at the

HSE.

There was praise for the Health and Safety (Offences) Act, which was passed by Parliament last year. Mr Podger confirmed that the HSE would expect higher fines and more prison sentences for breaches of health and safety, now that the Act has come into force. The committee reiterated that Parliament takes the issue of health and safety extremely seriously, as illustrated by the ease of the passage of the Bill.

There was also discussion about statutory health and safety duties for company directors. The HSE confirmed that the evaluation of the impact of voluntary guidance issued to directors is due in early 2010. Terry Rooney, chairman of the select committee and long-time campaigner for statutory duties, argued that as the voluntary approach had not worked for 35 years, it would never work. Ms Hackitt stated that the HSE's preferred route is 'non-prescriptive' guidance or legislation.

### **Government plans to amend Animals Act through the back door**

Plans have been announced to introduce an amendment to the Animals Act 1971 to clarify the application of strict liability to people who keep animals.

The changes are largely based on the Animals Act (Amendment) Bill, which was introduced into the House of Commons as a Private Members' Bill in 2008 by Stephen Crabb MP. On that occasion the Bill was talked out by Andrew Dismore MP, but the Government now plans to implement the changes without parliamentary debate.

The reason for the proposed change is the judgment in the Case of *Mirvahedy v Henley*, where the keepers of the animal were found to be liable for injuries sustained by a motorist after their horse had escaped from a field. This was because, although the owners had taken reasonable care to ensure the horse was secure, the horse had a propensity to escape, about which the keepers were aware. The Government said that, since the judgment, insurance premiums for riding schools and others who keep animals have increased to an unsustainable level.

A consultation paper on the issue was published in March, and APIL has responded by arguing that the proposed changes would create confusion around the wording of the Act, as the current wording has been clarified through years of case law. We also argued that the changes would not guarantee a reduction in insurance premiums, and the opaque wording could even mean that insurance premiums go up, as insurers will be unsure of the amount of litigation which may be brought until the wording is clarified.

If the changes are implemented, the number of occasions where strict liability can be applied to those who keep animals will be reduced, and some injured people will be left without compensation. The Government proposes to introduce the changes using a legislative reform order, which means that there would be no opportunity for parliamentary debate. The date for implementation is 1 October.

### **Wrongful Death Bill kicked into long grass in Scottish Parliament**

Ever since the Scottish Law Commission published its report on damages for wrongful

death last year, political momentum behind the issue has been growing. This culminated in a proposal submitted by Bill Butler MSP to introduce a Damages (Scotland) Bill, which would have implemented the commission's recommendations.

The system for introducing a members' Bill in the Scottish Parliament demands that the relevant committee must be satisfied that a full consultation has taken place before the Bill can be debated by MPs.

Mr Butler took his proposal to the Justice Committee of the Scottish Parliament on 2 June, arguing that, in his opinion, full consultation had already taken place through the the Law Commission's consultation on damages for wrongful death in August 2007. The consultation resulted in a draft Bill which formed the basis of his proposal.

Despite general consensus between committee members that the Damages (Scotland) Act 1972 was outdated and reform would be of benefit, there was less agreement on whether this was the right way to achieve the needed reform.

After nearly two hours of discussion, the committee voted by a majority of five to three against allowing the Bill to progress, which puts it very much on the back burner for the foreseeable future.

## **APIL Voice – one prize down and one more to go!**

Helping APIL in its campaign work has paid off in spades for Grant Evatt of Blake Laphorn.

Grant was automatically entered into a prize draw when he volunteered to be part of APIL Voice – the association's new online members' panel – and has won a place at our 2010 annual conference.

We're very grateful to all those members who have signed up so far. Confirmation of registration on the panel will be sent out shortly, and the first short survey will be sent out in the next month.

But it's not too late for those who are not yet involved and are interested in joining this new initiative. Those who sign up by the end of June will be entered into a prize draw for a free place on an APIL training course.

Registering for APIL Voice only takes a few moments. Log on to the members' area of the website, click on 'APIL Voice', and answer a few initial questions to register.

APIL Voice is an online members' panel which will be used to gather the views of members to help us develop and deliver hard-hitting policies which help injured people. Our panel will have a real opportunity to become directly involved in the association's vital campaign work, personally influence APIL's policies and procedures, and provide input into APIL's response documents.

Members of the online panel will be contacted periodically and asked a couple of short questions aimed at obtaining opinions on crucial issues quickly and easily. The panel will then hear directly from us about how the information gathered is to be used.

## News

### **APIL highlights European ‘compensation trap’**

APIL has warned of a ‘compensation trap’ following a European Commission consultation paper about the way compensation is paid to tourists in Europe.

In a national press release, the association said tourists who book trips independently rather than opting for package deals could be seriously under-compensated if they are injured while abroad. APIL is now calling on the EC to allow people to claim compensation in their own country, rather than the country in which the injury took place.

APIL president John McQuater said people should be allowed to seek compensation in the country in which they live.

“Tourists on package holidays are protected by the package tour regulations, but those who book their own flights and accommodation, for example, are at risk of being under-compensated should they be injured. In fact anyone travelling independently, including students travelling during gap years, is at risk,” he said.

“Unless the EC decides to change the law, there is a real danger that people could lose out on the compensation they need to get their lives back together again, once they return home.”

### **Asbestos warning in domestic DIY**

APIL has welcomed a new report from UCATT, the construction union, calling for increased awareness of the dangers of asbestos in the home.

The report, *As Safe As Houses?* makes a raft of safety recommendations and points out that more could be done to manage asbestos safely. It also notes that the risk of exposure is still high because of a lack of information available to those who need it most.

APIL president, John McQuater, said “Our members see the appalling results of exposure to asbestos all the time, and we wholeheartedly support the call for more information to be available.”

With around 4000 people a year dying as a result of inhaling the killer dust, the safety message is more important than ever.

“One of our particular areas of concern has been the need for people to be aware of asbestos as they renovate their homes. This is particularly relevant now, of course, because in a credit crunch people are more likely to be improving their homes rather than moving,” said John.

APIL and UCATT are not alone in their quest to protect people from asbestos. The Mirror has launched its own ‘Asbestos Timebomb’ campaign, demanding compensation for all pleural plaques victims and a register of all asbestos surveys done on public buildings. On

Monday (15 June) an article appeared in print and online where the key points of *As Safe As Houses?* were highlighted.

## **BBC exposes third party capture at its worst**

An expose of insurers' bad behaviour was broadcast on national television and radio this month, as a victim of third party capture spoke out about her experience.

BBC Breakfast News and BBC Radio 4's Money Box programme both ran a story about an RTA victim who was harassed by insurance company, Quinn, following the accident. An ex-Quinn employee also gave a damning account of his time working as a claims handler with the company, making it clear that saving money was the top priority when dealing with injured claimants.

Justin Jacobs of the Association of British Insurers was interviewed live on Money Box, and attempted to defend the insurance industry's corner. He said legal advice makes no difference to the amount of compensation a claimant receives, although the interviewer rebutted this by quoting a case in which damages had increased substantially after a lawyer was appointed.

As mentioned previously in this issue, we need more evidence of insurers' unacceptable behaviour, especially cases which demonstrate that this is not exclusive to RTA cases. Examples of EL and PL cases are needed urgently while the debate is still newsworthy. If you think you can help. Please contact Lisa Wardle, APIL's press & PR Officer, on 0115 9388715, or email: [lisa.wardle@apil.org.uk](mailto:lisa.wardle@apil.org.uk).

## **Information exchange**

### **APIL web forum**

Popular discussion topics on the APIL web forum this month:

Members discuss Lord Justice Jackson's report on civil litigation costs:

<http://www.apil.org.uk/membersforum/forums/thread/24961.aspx>

What constitutes work equipment after *Smith v Northamptonshire CC*?

<http://www.apil.org.uk/membersforum/forums/thread/25393.aspx>

Are you obliged to provide referral fee information to third parties:

<http://www.apil.org.uk/membersforum/forums/thread/25962.aspx>

Are you getting paid costs for attending infant approval hearings?

<http://www.apil.org.uk/membersforum/forums/thread/25288.aspx>

DAS terms of appointment – are they too onerous?

<http://www.apil.org.uk/membersforum/forums/thread/17128.aspx>

Insurers offering 'free' credit hire cars:

<http://www.apil.org.uk/membersforum/forums/thread/23698.aspx>

Log on to <http://www.apil.org.uk/membersforum/forums/default.aspx> to have your say

## Web statistics for May 2009

Most visited pages on the APIL website:

1. Members forum - 80,976 hits (7% increase\*)
2. Members home page - 16,440 hits (7% decrease\*)
3. Experts search - 11,553 hits (9% decrease\*)
4. Lawyers search - 9,628 hits (19% increase\*)
5. Public homepage - 10,095 hits (20% increase\*)

\*Compared with May 2008

## Membership

### Accreditation

For guidance and support with your applications, please don't hesitate to ring our dedicated helplines direct on:

0115 938 8723 - Marlene

0115 938 8716 - Sharon

0115 938 8720 – Michelle

Over 3,000 accredited lawyer searches are carried out per month on the PEOPLE First website at [www.apil.org.uk](http://www.apil.org.uk).

## Round-up of recent regional and special interest group meetings

### Spinal cord injury

The meeting was held at The Spinal Injuries Association, Milton Keynes. A tour of the SIA headquarters took place before a presentation by Paul Smith, executive director of the SIA, and Jonathan Fogerty, training project officer. Nigel Godsmark QC, 7 Bedford Row, also presented on "good news/bad news": catastrophic injury care funding after Peters v East Midlands SHA/interim payments after Cobham v Eeles.

Mr Godsmark acted for the claimant in Peters which has produced welcome news in relation to the funding of care packages. He discussed all issues relating to Peters including the best way of funding care where there is a large element of contributory

negligence. He also addressed the issues in relation to the funding of care and accommodation following Cobham v Eeles.

A presentation by Mr Godsmark can be found at <http://files.apil.org.uk/members/pdf/sigreg/presentations/2375Presentation1.pdf>

### **North East**

David Dobbin, Northern Dispute Resolutions, presented on “Mediation – Now”. This was followed by an update on the activities of APIL’s executive committee by Denise Kitchener, APIL chief executive.

### **East Anglia/costs & funding**

Gary Barker, Rodney Warren & Co, presented on “a discussion of costs problems and solutions” followed by a costs update. An update on the claims process was given by APIL president John McQuater; followed by the EC update.

### **Brain Injury/South of England**

Those who attended this visit and tour of Glenside Manor, Salisbury (neuro-rehabilitation hospital) were among the first to see how the new facilities are being used. Glenside Hospital is the only one of its kind in the South of England and has specialist teams working with neuro-assessment, neuro-behaviour and intensive rehabilitation wards.

Attendees received a tour of the wards, physiotherapy suite, hydro pool and site and also met with the brain rehabilitation team.

### **International/West Midlands**

Sarah Prager, 1 Chancery Lane, gave an update on “tour operator case law” while Alberto Cedillo, Alberto Perez Cedillo Spanish Lawyers & Solicitors, spoke on “European update - the state of personal injury and civil law in Europe”. This was followed by an update on the activities of APIL’s executive committee by Neil Sugarman, GLP Solicitors.

[Minutes](#) and the presentation by [Sarah Prager](#) can now be viewed from this meeting.

### **Procedure/North West**

DJ Gosnell, Manchester County Court, presented on “good practice – a judicial view”, followed by Richard Hartley QC, One Brick Court, on “strategic application of protocol and procedure: good practice and bad practice – counsel’s perspective”. This was followed by an update on the activities of APIL’s executive committee by David Bott, Bott & Co.

Minutes and presentations\* for past meetings can be found on the APIL website: [www.apil.org.uk/members](http://www.apil.org.uk/members) under ‘groups’.

\*subject to availability

## **Forthcoming regional and special interest group meetings**

### **24 June – Child abuse SIG meeting (rearranged due to tube strike)**

“Social Services Negligence cases”

Speakers: Neil Sheldon, counsel at 1 Crown Office Row, presenting on “child abuse and public enquiries”; Patrick Ayre, social worker, Patrick Ayre & Associates, presenting on

“Part 8 reviews”; Charlotte Collier, child care solicitor, Atkins Hope, presenting on “threshold criteria”; Jonathan Wheeler, Bolt Burdon Kemp and APIL EC officer - update on the activities of APIL’s executive committee.

[Flyer](#)

### **25 June – London meeting**

Speakers:

Phil Bowden FALCD and David Wilson McI Arb, Masters LLP will be presenting on “Mock detailed assessment and tips for maximising recovery of costs”; Jonathan Wheeler, Bolt Burdon Kemp, APIL EC officer - update on the activities of APIL’s executive committee.

[Flyer](#)

### **26 June – Military SIG meeting**

Speakers:

Mike Rawlinson QC, and Andrew Buckham, Irwin Mitchell, will present on “military inquests – issues and practical solutions when dealing with the MoD”; David Urpeth, Irwin Mitchell, will present on “coroners rules – overview and update on the new legislation”.

Lorraine Gwinnutt, head of communications, APIL will give the update on the activities of APIL’s executive committee.

[Flyer](#)

### **7 July – Wales meeting**

Details to follow shortly

### **9 July – South East meeting**

Speakers:

Philip Hesketh, PI Mediation Services, will present on “everything you wanted to know about mediating PI claims but were afraid to ask”; Linda Nelson, 9, Gough Square, will give an update on Part 36 offers; this will be followed by an update on the activities of APIL’s executive committee - speaker to be confirmed.

For further information on SIG and regional group activity, please contact membership assistant, Neil O’Mahoney, at: [neil.omahoney@apil.org.uk](mailto:neil.omahoney@apil.org.uk).

## **Current membership levels**

Membership levels are slightly lower than usual as we are still processing renewals.

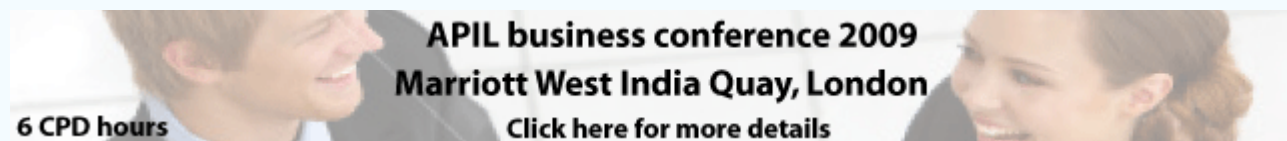
Practitioners	3815
Non-practitioners	21
Paralegals	160
Students	27
Academics	13
Overseas	72
Total	4120
Litigators	408
Senior litigators	686

Fellows	152
Senior fellows	12

Total	1258
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% accredited – 31.55%  
Corporate accredited firms - 247  
In-house accredited firms – 52

## Events



### **APIL charity golf day 2009** *(in aid of the Child Brain Injury Trust)*

APIL recently returned to the Marriott Forest of Arden Hotel and Country Club in Meriden, West Midlands for the 10<sup>th</sup> annual charity golf day. 19 teams, comprising members, experts and advertisers, braved the heavy showers to try the championship Arden Course, which is recognised as one of the premier golf destinations in the UK.

The sole sponsor for this year's event was Compass Costs Consultants which chose the Child Brain Injury Trust as its nominated charity to receive the £1,027 proceeds of the day. CBIT is a UK-wide charity offering support, information and training on childhood acquired brain injury and Compass' choice reflects the volume of work the firm undertakes with clients who suffer brain injuries and cerebral palsy.

The day began with a shotgun start at 10am and despite the weather growing gradually worse throughout the day, the players still enjoyed making their way around the 18 holes.



*The winning team, with Carley Rolfe from Compass (from left): Mike Cutler, Carley Rolfe, Simon Margolis, Donald Fowler, Andrew Greenwood.*



*Individual winner, Donald Fowler from Premex, with Carley Rolfe from Compass.*

As the afternoon progressed, the very wet score cards began to come in and as our 'golf professionals' calculated the scores, everybody had chance to dry off and chat about the highs and lows of the course...and about the angry duck who sat waiting for his next victim at the half-way house.

The day drew to a close with a presentation of prizes for the best three teams and three best individuals on the day. Trophies were also awarded for closest to the pin and longest drive competitions. The proud winners were:

**Team winner: Premex (team 1)**

*(Simon Marolis, Donald Fowler, Andrew Greenwood, Mike Cutler)*

**Team 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Masters Legal Services (team 1)**

*(Gerry Edwards, Terry Lee, Dominic Fairclough, Mark Bowman)*

**Team 3<sup>rd</sup> place:**

**Speed Medical**

*(Marc Pastor, Derrick Smethurst, Andrew Simcott, Phil Jackson)*

**Individual winner:**

**Donald Fowler** (Premex)

**Individual 2<sup>nd</sup> place:**

**Gerry Edwards** (Masters Legal)

**Individual 3<sup>rd</sup> place:**

**Neal Hiscocks** (M J Evans Ltd)

**Nearest the pin:**

**Paul Lloyd** (Accuro)

**Longest drive:**

**Matthew Potter** (Masters Legal - team 2)

Once again, feedback for the event has been fantastic and people are already looking forward to our very special event next year, which will take place on the **Twenty Ten Course** at the **Celtic Manor Resort** in Newport, South Wales. Next year's event will form the opening day of the APIL annual conference (and APIL's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations) and bookings are already coming in. Places are guaranteed to sell out quickly, so if you would like to attend, we would encourage you to book now to avoid disappointment.

[Please click here for further details and a booking form.](#)

APIL would like to thank Compass Costs Consultants for kindly sponsoring the event and we would also like to thank everybody who took part. We hope to see you all again next year!



**Contact at Compass Costs Consultants:**  
**Telephone:** 0151 481 4444  
**Website:** [www.compasscosts.com](http://www.compasscosts.com)

## Dates for your diary

3 July - Residential "New to PI" Conference, Nottingham - [New to PI conference](#)  
21 September – Corporate accredited firms meeting - London  
22 September - Business conference - London  
8 and 9 October – [APIL annual residential clinical negligence conference 2009](#), Midlands  
22 and 23 April 2010 - [20<sup>th</sup> anniversary annual conference and AGM](#)

**[Click here to book on-line](#)**

## Training

### The APIL certificate

**Pay for all modules in advance and attend ONE COURSE FREE!**

Gain quick entry at APIL senior litigator level

For further information please click [here](#)

### The APIL certificate in Personal Injury Law – *four years on!*

The APIL Certificate in Personal Injury Law has been running successfully for nearly four years now, with validation awarded by the College of Law in 2007. Currently, 25 delegates have completed the certificate, with a further 34 delegates part-way through the eight-modular programme.

*"Obtaining the APIL certificate in personal injury law was extremely useful to me as a day to day practitioner. Not only did it provide a very helpful refresher on the various aspects of personal injury law but it also provided very useful training from a business point of view in how to run a PI practice economically and profitably...overall the certificate has been a great use to me and is certainly a very useful asset to have on my CV."*

Andrew Stinchcombe, Bond Pearce LLP

Each of the eight modules covers a different discipline of PI litigation, with every course delivered by experienced and approachable presenters. Detailed course materials are also provided on the day as an invaluable reference tool for the future.

*“The various modules not only provided me with further knowledge, they even helped me expand on what I already knew. As a fee earner with a varied case load, the fact that different types of accidents are covered has helped me no end. I can always refer back to the course notes. I have now also been accepted as a Senior Litigator under the APIL accreditation scheme as a result of completing the certificate.”*

Rachel Flannigan, Express Solicitors

With the option of completing the certificate over a one or two year period, and with all modules running in six different locations, APIL offers fee-earners the flexibility to integrate the courses into their busy schedules.

More information on the certificate can be found by clicking on the link below:

<http://www.apil.org.uk/training/APILCertificate.aspx>

## **APIL webinars**

<a href="#">Care claims and public funding – credit or no credit</a>	25 June 2009
<a href="#">Duties of care and human rights</a>	02 July 2009
<a href="#">The uninsured drivers agreement: how to avoid the pitfalls and why major change is imminent</a>	21 September 2009
<a href="#">Pre-action protocol and the new practice direction</a>	03 November 2009

Further details on webinars including a free system test can be found at [www.apil.org.uk/webinars](http://www.apil.org.uk/webinars)

## **New conferences/update training**

20 October – [Costs and funding conference](#), London  
22 October – [Damages update conference](#), London  
4 November - [JPIL conference](#), London

[View all APIL events and training](#)