

EDITORIAL

Those of you who attended our AGM will already be aware that I have been elected to serve as Journal Editor. I am very proud to take on the editorship, particularly at the start of the new century.

I take over from Anthony Fitzsimmons, to whom BILA undoubtedly owes a debt of thanks. Anthony took over from Roger Doulton as Journal Editor in 1996 and before that served on the Editorial Committee. His tenure overlapped with some of the most interesting developments our industry has experienced, including the denouement of the Lloyd's litigation, Equitas, "Caudle, Cox and Axa", e-commerce, conditional fees, the Woolf reforms, the FSA and of course the 100th edition of the BILA Journal. Anthony can be very proud that the Journal always did these issues justice and is increasingly regarded as one of the industry's most valuable publications. He tirelessly ensured issue upon issue that it was absorbing, informative and enjoyable.

This edition of the Journal also records BILA's thanks, albeit in sad circumstances, to Gordon Shaw. Derrick Cole has written a warm and candid obituary and makes the observation, with which I am sure all of us agree, that Gordon would be very proud to see BILA flourishing into a new century.

This edition also reflects our AGM, as is customary. I have reproduced the Minutes and Berry Holding-Parsons' presentation on e-commerce which was so well received.

My planning for future issues is already underway, but BILA will only ever be as strong as its members and those who support it. The Journal unquestionably gives its contributors a trusted and far-reaching forum.

Finally, I would like to draw to your attention, if you are not already aware, that BILA has a website, which I would certainly recommend to you. The address is: www.bila.org.uk, to be entered carefully since Bruno Independent Living Aids Inc also has a website!

Omar Hameed