

Bulletin No. 15July, 1968Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will take place on Monday, 30 September, 1968, at 6 p.m. Formal notice of the meeting, including the venue, will be given later in accordance with the Rules of the Constitution, but in the meantime members may like to note the date in their diaries. Members are free to raise any matter they wish for discussion at the A.G.M., provided notice is given to the Hon. Secretary before 31 July.

As is customary, we shall invite a speaker to address the meeting after the business session, and details of the speaker and his subject will be announced nearer the date.

Reports of Meetings

Recent meetings of the Association have included an address entitled "A Critical Look at the Motor Car Policy" by Mr. G. L. Bateson (Co-operative), and one on "Tax and Duty after the Budget" by Professor G. S. A. Wheatcroft. The text of these addresses is included in this issue of the Bulletin.

On 11 June Mr. E. W. Eveleigh, Q.C., Recorder of Oxford, addressed the Association on some of the implications of the new Acts concerning criminal law and criminal justice. It is hoped to be able to provide some notes of this talk in a later issue of the Bulletin.

An enjoyable luncheon was held at the Law Society on 20 June, at which we welcomed several guests and were entertained to a witty review of the legal profession in Australia by Mr. P. C. Wickens, the Actuary of the City Mutual Life Assurance Society of Sydney.

Forthcoming Meetings

Your Committee is at present arranging the programme for the next session, and dates of the meetings, together with subjects and speakers, will be announced in the September issue.

The General Council of the Bar

The following is an extract from the 1967 Annual Statement of the General Council of the Bar, just issued:

"MEMBERSHIP OF INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

The Council expressed the opinion that there is no objection to a practising barrister being a member of the British Insurance Law Association."

We reported this in Bulletin No. 13, and we repeat it now that the Statement has been published.

The Insurance Institute of London

The Insurance Institute of London has arranged a comprehensive programme of lectures for the 1968-69 session. We give below those which may be of particular interest to our members:

Tuesday, 12 November, 1968 (Caxton Hall, 5.30 - 6.30 p.m.)

"Life Assurance - Impact of Recent Legislation" -
M. Paterson, M.A. (Antony Gibbs (Life & Pensions))

Monday, 18 November, 1968 (Conference Hall, 20 Aldermanbury,
5.30 - 6.30 p.m.)

"The Industry of Personal Injury Litigation" - Rt. Hon.
Lord Justice Winn, P.C., C.B., O.B.E. (A Lord Justice of
Appeal)

Wednesday, 22 January, 1969 (Council Chamber, 20 Aldermanbury,
5.30 - 6.30 p.m.)

"Contributory Negligence and Volenti as applied to
Employees" - O. B. Popplewell, B.A., LL.B. (Counsel)

Monday, 3 February, 1969 (Conference Hall, 20 Aldermanbury,
5.30 - 6.30 p.m.)

"Estate Duty" - Professor G. S. A. Wheatcroft, J.P.,
M.A.(Oxon.), F.T.I.I. (Professor of English Law,
University of London)

Monday, 24 February, 1969 (Conference Hall, 20 Aldermanbury,
5.30 - 6.30 p.m.)

"Compensation regardless of fault - should it apply to
road accidents?" - O. S. Masefield, M.B.E. (Chairman, A.O.A.)

Members of this Association who are not members of the Insurance Institute of London would be welcomed as guests at these meetings.

Trial of Personal Injury Cases

The 11th Annual Report of "Justice", published July, 1968, states that the new Standing Committee on Civil Justice has submitted answers to some of the Working Papers produced by the Winn Committee. The following is an extract from the Report:

"Working Paper No. 3 covered the question of the appropriate courts for the hearing of personal injuries cases, and our Committee strongly opposed the transfer of such cases to the county courts or any other changes which would tend to debase the quality of justice, even though it remained costly. We stressed that the rewards of those who conducted litigation must be such as to attract and retain personnel of the highest quality and that reforms should therefore be aimed at reducing the man-hours required for the necessary work. We further pointed out that the geographical location of the majority of solicitors, counsel and expert witnesses involved in accident cases would mean an immense increase in travelling time if they were transferred to the 400 county courts.

"Our Memorandum went on to recommend that a small team of business efficiency experts should be brought in to take a wholly fresh look at legal procedures with a view to streamlining them and eliminating all the archaic regulations and requirements that now consume so much time and money.

"The reply to Working Paper No. 4 re-affirmed the JUSTICE recommendation for a two-stage trial and argued the case for split costs, on the grounds that it was unjust that a plaintiff who had succeeded on the contested issue of liability should have to pay all the costs if the award was below the amount paid into the court by the defendant."

Membership Subscriptions

The Hon. Treasurer reports that there are still some membership renewal subscriptions outstanding for the current year. These became due on 1 March, and it would be appreciated if members would kindly forward their subscriptions to Mr. R. A. Sims, Hon. Treasurer, "Magnolia", West Hill Road, Hoddesdon, Herts. The annual subscription is £2. 5s. 0d., or £2 by banker's order.