

PRESIDENTS ANNUAL REPORT

AGM, 4th February 2010, President: Mr C J Haworth BSc (Hons) FRICS

I am pleased to report that the Association has had a very active and busy year.

This brief report summarises the BPAA 'Events' which have taken place, together with the principle 'business' issues with which the association has been engaged.

Events Programme

1. Annual Boules Tournament – Goldney Hall, Thursday 9th July 2009.

Event organiser: Guy Mansfield.

Event sponsor: Beach Baker Recruitment.

Event Summary: 30 teams entered together with supporters circa 200 attendees, very well run and thoroughly enjoyable event (full report in Newsletter).

2. BPAA/FBE Summer Cocktail Party – Jacks Brasserie (Harbourside), 16th July 2009.

Event organiser: joint committee effort.

Event Summary: Approximately 200 attendees, successful event dampened only by very poor weather but most enjoyable quality event providing good alternative to traditional Summer Ball in prevailing economic conditions.

3. Annual Tennis Tournament – Coombe Dingle Sports Centre, 10th September 2009.

Event organiser: Andrew Hardwick/Will Meadows.

Event Summary: 9 firms represented, excellent tennis conditions, super atmosphere with good natured competition and camaraderie (full report in Newsletter).

4. Annual Golf Tournament - Mendip Spring Golf Club, 24th September 2009.

Event organiser: Jason Herbert.

Event sponsor: Utopia (office fit out specialists).

Event Summary: 48 entrants enjoyed fine golf conditions followed by dinner. Very successful and well organised event (full report in Newsletter).

5. BPAA Property Quiz Night – The Mud Dock Café, 11th November 2009.

Event organiser: Ed Vanstone.

Event sponsor: Cubex.

Event Summary: 20 teams battled it out for the title of "most intelligent property professionals". The event was won by Bevan Brittan (lawyers) but property agents, Williams Gunter Hardwick came a close second. An excellent inaugural event which is sure to be repeated in the future (full report in Newsletter).

6. AGM & Dinner – The Grand Thistle Hotel, 4th February 2010.

Event organiser: Andrew Capes.

Event sponsor: The Estates Gazette.

Event Summary: A full capacity of 455 tickets sold. Guest speaker, adventurer, explorer and sailing legend Pete Goss.

7. Lunch Programme

BPAA Property Industry lunches were less numerous than in recent years but on Thursday 19th November 2009 a presentation on the Severn Barrage was given by Candida Whitmill. The event organisers were Richard Howell/Paddy Sykes.

Event Summary: Approximately 60 members attended and regarded the presentation and subsequent debate as very informative. The talk was followed by a buffet lunch and networking.

BPAA Business Highlights

1. Membership

The committee decided to reduce subscription fees by 40% for 2009/2010 to reflect prevailing economic conditions. This has resulted in our numbers remaining at roughly the same level as 2008/2009, which is regarded as a good result given the number of agents leaving the industry last year.

2. Bristol Property Awards Dinners

The Western Daily Press Property Award Dinner was abandoned.

Insider Magazine approached the Bristol Property Agents Association to advise that they were continuing with their dinner and seeking the BPAA support which was declined in accordance with previous membership sentiment. Insider Magazine were focusing their awards dinner more widely on the industry in general (as opposed to 'Agents') and intended to continue with the promotion of their event.

3. BPAA New Website 2009/2010

A new website has been developed and implemented under the watchful eye of PR Officer, Catherine Collis. The website has contained regular updates and information regarding the BPAA its events and relevant issues. All agree it is a significant improvement on previous attempts. We benefitted from website designer, Kubiak providing a website for approximately 25% of the normal cost as they had developed it for an alternative client who had not proceeded.

4. BPAA Planning Sub Committee

The committee met regularly (bi-monthly) with senior officers of Bristol City Council to discuss a range of issues which included:

- Employment land provision (impending shortage)
- Introduction of residents parking zones and impact on business
- South Bristol Planning Initiative
- The emerging Local Development Framework
- Presentations by the BPAA on prevailing market conditions and development considerations.

5. BPAA Presentations to Bristol City Council Planning Committee Members and Officers

The BPAA were invited to make formal presentations to Councillors (in particular planning committee members) followed by informal discussions about the impact the recession was having on property values, development potential and viability and each of the key market sectors. The Association was represented by represented by Chris Haworth, Nick Seary, Andrew Batchelor, George Cardale and Andrew Hardwick. The presentation was delivered on two separate occasions, followed by lively and constructive discussions between the BPAA representative members and senior officers.

6. Bristol City Council's Local Development Framework

- BPAA made formal representations to each stage of the emerging LDF.
- BPAA representatives attended a number of community involvement events to represent member's interests.

7. Invest In Bristol Initiative

BPAA joined Bristol City Council at two, London based, exhibitions/conferences where the latter had purchased 'stand' space. BPAA members helped man the stand and attend the conference showing the united 'face' of Bristol to potential inward investors.

8. Residential Agents Initiative

A Group of the main residential agents entered into a dialogue with the BPAA seeking an umbrella organisation under which they could operate in order to undertake various initiatives. The committee strongly encouraged what they regarded as a revived relationship with more residential agents. This has resulted in approximately 30 new residential agent members joining the BPAA, widening the Association's representation. It is intended that the committee will continue with this initiative and it will be pursued by my successor, perhaps resulting in a sub-committee to deal with specific 'residential' initiatives referred to.

9. Annual Newsletter

Now published and in the process of circulation. PDF copy available on the Web site and hard copy available from either myself Andrew Batchelor or any committee member.

Conclusion

I would like to formally record my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the whole of the committee for their hard work and commitment. I would particularly like to thank:

1. Sarah Ogden, the Associations secretary, without whose help and guidance my job would have been significantly more onerous.
2. Andrew Capes who has now been the treasurer of the Association for several years, a job which he does with smooth efficiency and effectiveness and especially for his efforts in organising the Annual Dinner, a task which he excels at – requiring a lot of unseen hard work.
3. Martin Booth. As membership secretary for administering the membership and most of our electronic circulations.
4. All of the event organisers, I hope they got as much out of their efforts as did all of those that attended the events.
5. Tony Watts for his invaluable help in preparing the Annual newsletter.
6. This year we had three committee members "step down":
Nick Seary (immediate past president)
Ed Vanstone
Tom Gibbon
I would like to record the Associations thanks for each of their contributions whilst serving, and a personal thanks to Nick Seary for his support, guidance and helpful advice throughout my year of office.

Finally, I am delighted to confirm that Doug Wood of Woods Estate Agents has accepted the Associations invitation to become Junior Vice President and Jayne Rixon of Burston Cook was elected to Senior Vice President at the AGM. I would like to take this opportunity to wish our new President Andrew Batchelor of Hartnell Taylor Cook and the Committee every success in 2010/2011.