



CBA CHAIRMANS REPORT MAY 2012.

We last met on 24 April, immediately after the Newcastle Spring Conference. We meet this evening with the Annual Dinner fresh in our minds.

Much has happened in between. Allow me to mark the significant events:

25th April I attended the first evening of the Kalisher communications skills course for selected students and pupils.

26th April saw one of several meetings with Mark Borkowski: on which more later.

27th April to Broadcasting House to record a piece for Radio 4 on releasing restrained assets to pay defence fees and thereby release cases from legal aid.

1st and 2nd May, in Cardiff to meet the south Wales Bar and to meet the Counsel General of the Welsh Parliament. We have since established a Working Party on the consultation for a separate legal jurisdiction for Wales.

8th May, our Old Bailey lecture by David Ormerod.

9th May National Heads of Chambers meeting. More to follow on this. Also on 9th May, screening of the One Show piece on silks.

15th May Officers meeting. See our Treasurers report for his view on instructing further media/PR help, which was the main discussion at this meeting.

18th May Dinner. Coverage of my speech, trailed the day before, by Today, Radio 5 Live, Guardian, Times, Telegraph, New Statesman, Law Society Gazette and more.

20th May Kalisher Fundraising Evening at Middle Temple.

Those are the headlines. Where are we now? I would like to spend time this evening reflecting on the following:

1. The outcomes of the Heads of Chambers meeting. The strongest views were reserved for Plea Only Advocates. We must consider our approach.
2. The question of engaging Mark Borkowski, to drive our public messaging, and to capitalise on signs of genuine media engagement in the issues surrounding, and the survival of, the criminal Bar.
3. Our overall strategy for the immediate future, following my speech to the Dinner.