

CONSULTANCY GROUP

Report of the Committee for 2008/2009

The Consultancy Group (formerly the Chemical Consultancy Forum) was established in 1990 as a professional group open to all members of the Society upon application and payment of an annual subscription. Its objectives are as follows*:

- to promote the acquisition and dissemination of the knowledge of chemistry and its application in the field of consultancy
- to uphold and advance the standards of qualification, competence and ethical conduct of those involved in the provision of consultancy services
- to serve the public interest by acting in an advisory, consultative or representative capacity in matters relating to the science and practice of chemistry in the field of consultancy
- to arrange meetings, conferences, courses of instruction, exhibitions and other functions.

The following issues have been amongst those discussed by the Consultancy Group Committee during the year.

Professional Indemnity insurance (PII)

The arrangements for favourably discounted rates to RSC members for PII were welcomed but some members reported that their fields of activity were unfortunately not covered by the scheme.

PII was also the topic of the professional meeting on the subject of 'Managing Indemnity Risks' held by the Group on Thursday 15 May 2008 at Burlington House, Piccadilly with seventeen participants.

Directory of Consulting Practice (DCP) issues

The Committee has regularly pointed out to members the benefits of membership of the CG and of inclusion in the DCP. However, tests of the DCP retrieved many 'hits' that were irrelevant. Some of these 'practices' were no longer in existence or listed several times. The Committee's concern is that there is no verification procedure. It is also not possible for those applying for inclusion to identify areas of expertise such as REACH, CHIP etc, with 'health and safety' being the sole option. This is unhelpful to both applicants and users of the DCP and the RSC has been encouraged to improve this aspect of the database.

Industry & Technology Forum (ITF)

The CG Chairman attended a meeting of the ITF and opportunities for closer liaison were evident as many ITF members were retired and operated as consultants. The CG has supplied ITF with display material for use at its events as requested.

RSC Law Group

The Law Group and CG have similar forensic interests and the CG has suggested reciprocal membership of one person on each committee.

Details of Law Group events are sent to CG members by email and Law Group meetings are also included in email alerts to members. While there is no formal liaison these links may be of some mutual benefit to members

* <http://www.rsc.org/Membership/Networking/InterestGroups/Consultancy/Objectives.asp>

RTA booklet

The Road Traffic Acts Analysts booklet, lists the names and contact details of Analytical Chemists who are members of the RSC and are equipped to undertake the analysis of blood and urine specimens to determine the alcohol content and/or undertake back-calculations of breath and blood alcohol levels at relevant times based on a disclosing drinking pattern for use in court. The CG Committee maintains its view that retaining the RTA booklet is an important public service of the RSC linked to the issue of professional competence, and follows the important principle of access to justice to all.

Joint Consultants Forum (JCF)

Currently, the JCF is an informal ("virtual") organisation with no legal entity, and is run by representatives from its member organisations and the Consultancy Group is represented on the JCF. The JCF has produced a consultation document to elicit more involvement by institutions and has also been negotiating to develop a website that will include a directory of consultants. The RSC has been kept informed about these developments and its views sought on various issues that may impinge on its charitable status.

Communications to CG members

A regular email alert is provided to all the CG members who have provided an address and an email discussion group has been established and members can sign up for this by contacting the List Manager. In addition, a Consultancy Group Discussion Board is restricted to Consultancy Group members who can register by contacting the List Manager. Further details are at:

<http://www.rsc.org/Membership/Networking/InterestGroups/Consultancy/DiscussionBoard.asp>

As always, the Committee invites members to give their views on their specific needs in the area of Chemical Consultancy.

Royal Society of Chemistry Group Account

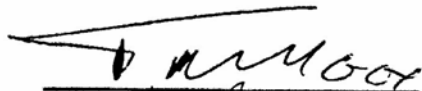
APPENDIX F

Receipts and Payments 1 January 2008 - 31 December 2008

Group Name: Consultancy Group

<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Key</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Interest: Business Reserve Account	1	0.00	
Interest: Current Account	1	0.00	
Interest: RSC Deposit Account	1	499.11	
Subscriptions	2	0.00	
Grants	3	1,360.00	
Meetings and Conferences	4	490.00	
Other	5	0.00	
Total Income		<u>£2,349.11</u>	
<u>Payments</u>			
Meetings & Conferences	6		401.81
Donations	7		0.00
Committee Travel	8		1,051.83
Stationery/Postage	8		121.88
Committee Lunches at RSC	8		486.55
Audit	8		0.00
Other Expenditure	9		0.00
Total Payments			<u>£2,062.07</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	10		<u>£287.04</u>
<u>Balance Sheet</u>			
Balance at 1st January 2008			10,211.52
Surplus (Deficit) for 2008	10		287.04
Balance at 31st December 2008			<u>£10,498.56</u>
<u>Balance Represented by Deposits in the Bank</u>			
Balance in Current Account			250.32
Balance in Business Reserve Account			0.00
Balance in RSC Deposit Account			10,248.24
Balance as at 31st December 2008			<u>£10,498.56</u>

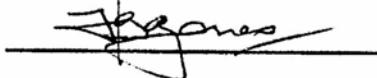
Hon. Treasurer



Chairman



Auditor



12 January 2009
7 February 2009.
19 January 2009