

CONSULTANCY GROUP

Report of the Committee for 2007/2008

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 Group represents an important group of RSC members, many of whom have a direct interface with the public; those who do not have many links with industries. Consequently, the Group plays an important part in fulfilling the RSC's role. Representation to the RSC has been made concerning proposed changes in the authorisation of RTA analysts and the possible demise of the RTA booklet, in which analysts and expert consultants in the field are listed. For anyone involved with the legislation, the booklet provides a public service as a point of access to the relevant expertise.

The Group has continued to promote the interests of consultants in its support of the efforts of the RSC in arranging discounted professional indemnity insurance for RSC members. We are gratified that this is now in place. Hopefully the arrangement will benefit the substantial numbers of consultants who, apparently, have not protected themselves and their businesses in this way. The importance of this topic to consultants justified it being the topic of the 17th AGM meeting to be held in May 2008.

On Tuesday 15 May, 2007 the 16th Annual General Meeting of the RSC Consultancy Group was held with an ordinary meeting of the Group was held on the topic of 'What IT can do for me.' The sessions dealing with computer security and the virtual library were particularly relevant to the needs of consultants.

Discussions have taken place about promoting links with the RSC Industry and Technology forum (ITF) which has about 12000 members with about 3000 of them being retired. Some of the members are consultants and so may have an interest in the Consultancy Group activities. The Committee also continues to be represented on the Joint Consultants Forum (JCF), which has links with similar groups from other professional bodies; members of the CG can attend JCF meetings, and meetings organised by JCF members (such as the IoP), at preferential rates.

Further changes have been made to the requirements for a listing in the RSC Directory of Consulting Practices. New entrants are now required to be members of the Consultancy Group. A listing remains free of charge. (http://www.chemsoc.org/networks/dcp_index.htm). The Committee also reminds members that the revised Guide to Consultants is free to members of the RSC.

A regular email alert is now 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 (cglist@rsc.org).

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

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

Receipts and Payments 1 January 2007 - 31 December 2007

Group Name: Consultancy Group

<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Key</u>	£	£
Interest: Business Reserve Account	1	0.00	
Interest: Current Account	1	0.00	
Interest: RSC Deposit Account	1	506.04	
Subscriptions	2	0.00	
Grants	3	1255.00	
Meetings and Conferences	4	510.00	
Other	5	0.00	
Total Income		<u><u>£2,271.04</u></u>	

Payments

Meetings & Conferences	6		540.85
Donations	7		0.00
Committee Travel	8		634.25
Stationery/Postage	8		11.40
Committee Lunches at RSC	8		435.36
Data Protection Registrar	8		0.00
Audit	8		0.00
Other Expenditure	9		0.00

Total Payments £1,621.86

Surplus/(Deficit) for the year £649.18

Balance Sheet

Balance at 1st January 2007		9562.34
Surplus (Deficit) for 2007	10	649.18
Balance at 31st December 2007		<u><u>£10,211.52</u></u>

Balance Represented by Deposits in the Bank

Balance in Business Reserve Account		0.00
Balance in Current Account		462.39
Balance in RSC Deposit Account		9,749.13
Balance as at 31st December 2007		<u><u>£10,211.52</u></u>

Hon. Treasurer



4 January 2008

Chairman



14 January 2008

Auditor



9 January 2008