National Group Activity Report 2018

AIPPI United Kingdom
Activity Report 2018

Changes to membership numbers:
We ended the year 2018 with membership numbers approaching 500. The numbers drop as we approach the renewals cut-off, but rise again over the year with late renewals and new members. They currently stand at 474. This is a substantial increase over last year.

Group officers and leadership, and Elections:
The leadership of the UK group (the “Council”) is required by the constitution of the UK Group to resign each year and stand for reappointment at the AGM. The retiring Council recommends a slate of candidates. Members are free to propose additional candidates.

The leadership of the Group is composed of three officers, 15 ordinary council members, and Vice Presidents (the number of which is not fixed). Vice Presidents have typically held a senior office in AIPPI UK or AIPPI. These are all elected at the AGM as explained above. The Council can co-opt up to 5 further council members. Council members include solicitors, barristers, patent attorneys and trade mark attorneys, and include external and in-house representation. Selection is by election from those nominated to stand. In making its nominations for position, Council typically considers ensuring a spread of representation so as to avoid over-representation in any single group, firm or interest.

AIPPI United Kingdom Council comprises:

- three officers: Justin Watts (President), Sara Ashby (Secretary), Michelle Pratt (Treasurer);
- five Vice-Presidents: Christopher Morcom QC, Ian Karet, Nicola Dagg, Trevor Cook and Stephen Jones;
- fifteen Ordinary Council members: Jane Mutimear, Paul Harris, Ashley Roughton, Peter Finnie, John Brunner, Richard Vary, Jan Vleck, Kerry Tomlinson, James Tumbridge, Daniel Brook, Calum Smyth, Claire Baldock, Jonathon Moss, Dominic Adair, Nick Cunningham;
- three co-opted Council members: Annsley Ward, Mark Ridgway, Arthur Artinian.
Frequency and location of board meetings:

Board meetings are held every two months and are located at the offices of Bird & Bird. The dates in 2018 were 18 January, 22 March, 16 May, 19 July, 18 September and 21 November.

Interaction with local and regional IP authorities:

We submitted the resolutions adopted at Cancun to the IPO, and UK submissions to the questions, in personal meetings with their head of communications. We invite IPO representatives to our meetings.

We consider whether to file amicus briefs in important IP cases but do not do so where doing so would be partisan, bearing in mind that the purpose of AIPPI is not to represent any particular side in a dispute but rather to seek improvement in the IP system.

In-house counsel and young member participation:

AIPPI UK membership in 2017 included 12 in-house counsel, and 118 younger members i.e. those born in or after 1983. Younger members are very active participants in the meetings of the national group, not least because membership for under 30’s is further subsidized by the UK Group (only £35) and meetings are free to all members. Over 20 younger members participated in working on the questions this year.

Promotion of AIPPI at universities:

AIPPI UK makes 10 places available free at its events to students in full-time education. Around half of these are taken up. We regularly have speakers at our events from academia. It would help significantly to improve take-up in universities if AIPPI membership were free to those working solely in academia.

Submitted/published opinions with regard to IP issues; Meetings with judges and/or officials of local PTO:

AIPPI UK regularly responds to government consultations, usually run by UK IPO. We met with IPO in 2018 to discuss co-working and to present the Resolution passed in Congress in 2017. We briefed UK IPO on AIPPI UK’s views on the revision of the Hague Convention and on the trade secret directive.

Training/continuing education; Activities for encouraging /promoting IP awareness; Social events for Group members:

We hold events approximately monthly, all of which are detailed on Eventbrite.co.uk and in the attached letter.

Our events in 2018 were:

1. AIPPI Cancun Study Questions Workshop 16 January.
2. Prof. Lionel Bently - IP Rights and the ‘Zone of Exclusivity’ 27 February.
3. Are you sitting comfortably...? A soft IP storybook 28 March.
5. An evening with Phil David, former General Counsel of ARM Holdings 21 June.
7. **Technical Talk: Cancer/ immune surveillance** 12 July.


9. **Rapid Response Event: Supreme Court decision in the Lyrica case** 5 December.


**Annual general meetings of the NRGs:**

We hold an AGM in September. The AGM principally deals with the corporate and governance matters, including the annual election of officers and members of the UK Council.

**Study questions:**

All members are invited to participate in the preparation of the responses to the questions. We identify the members who have actively participated on each question. We seek to ensure that the participants include a range of professions, include industry representation, and include participation at all levels of seniority. Typically the group working on the preparation of an answer will number 6-10 members. A junior member will take the lead in preparing the first draft and in coordinating comments. A senior member will lead question preparation. All completed answers are submitted to and approved by the Council before they are authorised for release to AIPPI. In view of deadlines, we normally release a draft prior to final approval.

The contributions and national leadership on questions in 2018 were as follows:

**Conflicting patent applications**

Leader Claire BALDOCK
Contributors Trevor COOK, Ed CRONIN, Matthew HOYLES, Mike JENNINGS, Oliver LAM, Rachel MUMBY, Michael NEWTON, Justin WATTS, Daniel WOOD

**Joint liability for IP infringement**

Leader Jonny MOSS
Contributors Toby BOND, Yohan LIYANAGE, Eibhlin VARDY, Alice STAGG, Daniel LIM, Mark RIDGEWAY, Simon JUPP, Dominic ADAIR, Richard VARY

**Partial designs**

Leaders Sara ASHY and Arthur ARTINIAN,
Contributors David MUSKER, Sarah BLAIR, Adrian DYKES, Jonathan PERLMUTTER, Nicholas FERRAR, Jane MUTIMEAR

**Registrability of 3D trademarks**

Leader Jan VLECK
Contributors Roland MALLINSON, Bonita TRIMMER, Nick CUNNINGHAM, Tommy CHEN, Joanne GIBBS, Justine LYNCH, Nick BOYDELL, Alex WOOLGAR, Natasha RAO

We also responded to the questionnaires on inventor remuneration, the Hague Conventions judgments project, and genetic resources.
Collection of membership dues and payment process:

The Treasurer sends out renewal notices early in the New Year. Members not renewing are chased on 2-3 occasions including in appropriate cases by a telephone call from an officer. We maintain the address list on each mailing so that movers and leavers are usually identified as the year progresses.

Participation in AIPPI Annual Congress:

The UK delegation at the Annual Congress numbered over 40, including many Council members. We are active participants at the Study Committee meetings and at ExCo, often supplying chairs and secretaries for plenary sessions and chairs and panelists for the panel sessions. We supplied in excess of 40 proposed topics for panel sessions to the programme committee.

Participation of members of the NRGs in international AIPPI Committees:

There is at least one UK representative on every AIPPI Standing Committee. We have several committees with in-house representation, and we chair or vice-chair several committees. We have an active plan for recruitment of UK members to committee vacancies.