



National Group Activity Report 2019

AIPPI United Kingdom

Activity Report 2019

Changes to membership numbers:

We ended the year 2019 with UK membership numbers having exceeded 500 for the first time (membership count 531). The numbers usually drop as we approach the renewals cut-off, but rise again over the year with late renewals and new members.

The high membership count for 2019 was no doubt related to the Congress coming to London. But this is not the whole story. Approximately 45 individuals joined and registered for the Congress. We believe that members also join in order to participate in the very active programme of events.

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.

At the end of 2019 AIPPI United Kingdom Council comprised:

Three officers:

Sara Ashby (President) (replacing Justin Watts, effective from London Congress),
Dominic Adair (Secretary) (replacing Sara Ashby, effective from London Congress),
James Short (Treasurer) (replacing Michelle Pratt, effective from London Congress).

Seven Vice-Presidents:

Christopher Morcom QC, Ian Karet, Nicola Dagg, Trevor Cook, Stephen Jones, Justin Watts, Claire Baldock

Fifteen Ordinary Council members:

Michelle Pratt, Jane Mutimear, Paul Harris, Ashley Roughton, Peter Finnie, John Brunner, Richard Vary, Jan Vleck, Kerry Tomlinson, James Tumbridge, Daniel Brook, Calum Smyth, Jonathan Moss, Nick Cunningham, Annsley Ward

Two co-opted Council members:

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 2019 were 15 January, 20 March, 23 May, 23 July, 11 September and 21 November.

Interaction with local and regional IP authorities:

We submitted the resolutions adopted at the London Congress to the UK 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 (of over 500) in 2019 included 24 in-house counsel, and 179 younger members i.e. those born in or after 1984. 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. A significant number of younger members participated in working on the questions in 2019.

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 the UK IPO in 2019 to discuss co-working and to present the Resolutions passed in Congress.

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.

Our events in 2019 were:

- 1) 12 February 2019 - **AIPPI London Study Questions Workshop**
- 2) 14 March 2019 - **AI Generated Innovation.**

- 3) 2 April - **SPC Event.**
- 4) 4 April - **Rapid Response: *Actavis v ICOS (tadalafil)* UKSC Judgment.**
- 5) 8 May - **Are you sitting comfortably....? A soft IP storybook on the Byzantine World of Trade Marks with Benet Brandreth QC**
- 6) 9 July - **AIPPI UK Annual Summer Party 2019**
- 7) 6 November - **Disclosure Pilot Scheme: navigating the impossible**
- 8) 14 November - **Rapid Response: *Shanks v Unilever* UKSC Judgment**
- 9) 19 December - **Are you sitting comfortably....? Patent Roundup 2019 - Andrew Lykiardopoulos QC**

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 between 10 and 20 members. A junior member(s) 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 sometimes release a draft prior to final approval.

The contributions and national leadership on the London Congress questions were as follows:

Plausibility:

Question leaders: Annsley Merelle Ward, Jan Vleck

Contributors: Claire Baldock, Thomas Brazier, Daniel Brook, Christopher de Mauny, Stephen Jones, Carissa Kendall Windless, Tom Mitcheson, Jin Ooi, Claire Phipps-Jones, Katie Rooth, David Rose, Christopher Sharp, Justin Watts, Andrew Wells, Elizabeth Wright

Consumer Survey Evidence:

Question leader: James Tumbridge

Contributors: John Lambert, Edward Cronan, Samantha Carter, Joanne Gibbs, Simon Casinader, Tommy Chen, Christopher Morcom, David Pountney

Copyright in artificially generate works:

Question leaders: Trevor Cook, Eleonora Rosati

Contributors: Sarah Blair, Toby Bond, Robert Bychan, Lucy Flascher, Andrew Forbes, Toby Headdon, Sarah Hopton, Alexandra Mazulanik, Peter Pereira, Susanna Read, Simon Taor, Alex Woolgar

IP damages for acts other than sales:

Question leaders: Richard Vary, Jonathan Moss

Contributors: Charlotte Blythe, Chatherine Bonner, Tom Edwards, Krishna Kakkaiyadi, Daniel Lim, Roland Mallison, Kirsteen McKwen, Alic Stagg, David Webb, Shohta Ueno

Collection of membership dues and payment process:

The Treasurer sends out renewal notices early in the New Year. Members who do not renew straight away are sent reminders on a number of occasions. We email members about events regularly through the year and keep track of members' movements as best we can and follow up auto responses from member email accounts which said they have moved, trying not to 'lose' members when they forget to update their contact details.

Participation in AIPPI Annual Congress:

The UK delegation at the London Congress numbered 249, including many Council members, and 65 'young' members. We are active participants at the Study Question working committee meetings and at ExCo, often supplying chairs and secretaries for plenary sessions and chairs and panellists 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:

In 2019 there was at least one UK representative on almost 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.