

# Another Fine Conference

Carol McLachlan, our Vice President and Chair of Learning and Professional Development reports on our very successful 2016 Annual Conference



Where were you on 19 October? If you weren't at the Radisson Blu, Old Hall Street, Liverpool, then you missed a highly exhilarating event in the Liverpool society's calendar! If you were, then thank you for joining us at our Annual conference – and thank you also, for your great feedback!

Save the date! On the back of such a well-received event, we bagged the venue and secured the date for 2017. So get a placeholder in your diary for 11 October 2017 at the Radisson Blu.

For the very first time, we designed the conference as a joint venture with our CIOT colleagues and pioneered a strong tax agenda. And you liked it! Despite the tantalizing distractions of the magnificent views of the Mersey river-scape, our speakers kept you regaled throughout the day with an agenda rich in technical, innovative and inspiring material. But it wasn't all tax...

Our keynote speaker, Martin Robert Hall set the tone as he opened the conference with a rousing, motivational session around performance psychology in practice. Extolled by none other than Sir Alex Ferguson himself, Martin uses his background in sports science and psychology to draw parallels with achieving high performance in the business world.

He was a tough act to follow but Graham Bloor (Edge Hill University) brought us down to earth with a quick fire round-up of the Financial Reporting scene. Despite the dryness of the topic, Graham kept us wide awake as he shared an unbelievable wealth of need- to-knows on new UK GAAP and the latest IFRS developments.

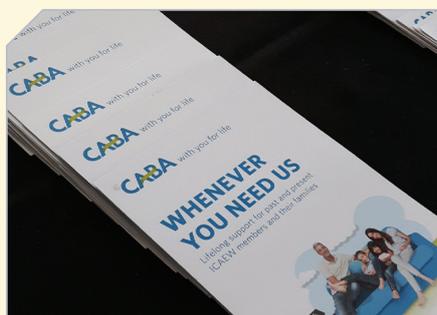
And in her own inimitable style, Bernadette Worthington (Weightmans)

completed the morning sessions with a carefully selected update on legal hot topics, chosen for their particular relevance to our members. From the Apprenticeship Levy and the Modern Slavery Act to a summary of recent case law, Ms Worthington packs a potent legal punch – and makes us laugh too – what more could we ask!

Lunch was early, to sustain us for a taxing (!) afternoon. We had some great feedback – not just on the food itself but on the opportunity to change environment, appreciate the civilities of the Radisson Blu's fine restaurant and to network with fellow delegates.

Before we hit the tax agenda, hard – we welcomed Mark Taylor, ICAEW IT Faculty for a sobering run-down on cyber security. And then it was straight onto T.A.X. kicking off with our guest speaker from HMRC.

Julian Hatt, Head of Stakeholder Engagement, Making Tax Digital brought us bang up to date on the much touted MTD agenda. By 2020 HMRC will have moved to a fully digital tax system and is already well on the way to becoming one of the most digitally advanced tax authorities in the world. Julian filled us



in on the story so far, developments in the offing and presented a fascinating roadmap of the Digital Account journey.

Tax Planning and Tax Investigations were skilfully navigated by our own local experts, respectively, Rob Adams (Grant Thornton) and Andy Walker (RSM). On behalf of the LSCA committee and our members, I would like to express our thanks to these large firms for sharing so generously their specialist knowledge, and particularly to Rob and Andy for their highly professional and well-received contributions.

And then the finale. The redoubtable, Marion Hodgkiss (Kaplan Leadership & Development) gave us her all on Topical Tax Tips. Marion knows what we need to know, we know that Marion knows what we need to know, so she can send us on our way to keep us tax cognisant until her next vital update in May (yes, you can get your name down now!)

And it's not too early to reserve the date for this year's conference – same place, Radisson Blu, same time – autumn (11 October 2017 to be precise) and expect a similar array of formidable, topical speakers. Open to members of LSCA, CIOT and their guests, at a cracking value for money early bird price, this is bound to be popular again – so save your place now by emailing Alex Pilkington at [alex.pilkington@icaew.com](mailto:alex.pilkington@icaew.com)

Wishing you all the best for 2017, health, happiness and exhilarating professional development!



**Carol McLachlan**

Chair, LSCA Learning & Professional Development

e: [info@theaccountantscoach.com](mailto:info@theaccountantscoach.com)