

March 2009



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Amongst our contributors...



**EMCC 16th Annual Conference
26-28 November 2009**

Bookings now being taken.

**Book before 6th June to benefit from
substantial Early Bird Discounts!**

Please forward this newsletter to colleagues who may be interested in the EMCC.

Notice:

EMCC exists to promote good practice and the expectation of good practice in the mentoring and coaching across Europe.

EMCC communicates to members through three channels: a discussion forum, e-journal and newsletter. Newsletter editor: Allan Lawton EMCC.editor.newsletter@emccouncil.org

EMCC is a non-profit organisation established in Zurich and governed by Article 60 of the Swiss Civil Code.

Website: www.emccouncil.org



The Future's Bright

By Petr Necas

Dear Colleagues

I am pleased and honoured to use this opportunity to wish you an outstanding year 2009! It is great to have some space

to share a few thoughts with you here...

We face a very unusual year, I think, both from the global perspective as well as from the perspective of our work in EMCC. It will be very demanding indeed and will give us enough opportunities to act towards our mission to „cultivate the coaching/mentoring environment“...

A newly old team took over the leadership as the Executive Board, some of the members are very well known for all of you, some are new in that kind of position and will introduce themselves as well as their understanding of their mission in EMCC in this newsletter. They are:

- **Julie Hay** (UK) as Past-President
- **Irena Sobolewska** (UK) as General Secretary
- **Alexander Vreede** (The Netherlands) as Treasurer
- **Alex Engel** (The Netherlands) as Vice-president Co-operation and Relations
- **Lise Lewis** (UK) as Vice-president Strategic Co-ordination,
- **Ruud de Sera** (Sweden) as Vice-president Communications.

I am proud of this team of great personalities, who all bring their qualities and a huge amount of voluntarily invested time to serve our purposes and bring quality in the coaching/mentoring world.

Besides our Executive Board, our traditional system of chairs of individual committees, as well as our Ambassadors, leaders of taskforces and members of the Council will continue to contribute substantially.

I believe, we should think globally (European) and act locally. Your input at national level is in no case less important than our supporting role in our European structures!

The world of coaching and mentoring is also getting more and more complex also at the international level. We are keeping in touch with all the important world's bodies and are working on defining how we can co-exist and co-operate meaningfully. Among others, we will continue building on the basis of great relationship with the leadership of ICF, EFMD, COMENSA and GCC.....

I have received a very positive response, from you the members, to my "vision statements" at diverse occasions, especially in the course of our conference in Prague, and, I think, we definitely should (and will) focus on these key areas (the sequence is not related to priority):

Growth

EMCC Brand

Members' Benefits incl. EQA, EIA)

Operational Excellence/Professionalism

Financial Stability

Therefore, it is appropriate to define our action plan for 2009 on the basis of these key areas. This is happening right now, I am sure, you will see the impact of our focus in many aspects very soon: be it in our PR activities, as well as in launching the EQA across Europe and designing and launching our long awaited individual accreditation system (EIA), in the design and functionality of our webpage, including the new very helpful modules which will be launched soon: Professional Register, Research Exchange, Library and Calendar of Events.

In all of our approaches, be it at national or European level, we will have to handle different tasks. We should always keep in mind, that all of them are handled with respect to these principles: Fair-Play, Transparency, Oneness, Flexibility and, above all, let us use our Common Sense!

As some of you may know, we had a very good meeting concerning individual accreditation in March in Amsterdam. It is great to see, how much there is in common and how we can really create a great working atmosphere having a very diverse and colourful team put together from members of the following nations: English, Dutch, French, Swiss and Czech Republic! My belief now is that we need to keep the momentum and the spirit to have one EIA ready for pan-European launch 1st June... I am pretty sure, with that spirit, we can master anything!

Sincerely yours

Petr Necas
EMCC President

[EMCC.President\(at\)emccouncil.org](mailto:EMCC.President(at)emccouncil.org)

Introducing the new Vice-Presidents

Meet [Alex Engel](#)

EMCC Vice-President

Co-operation and Relations



Alex started his career in coaching in 1993. By that time he was partner in a recruitment firm and got involved in an outplacement project. Since that project he has been in love with supporting people in change and personal growth. He has

studied the profession of coaching ever since and is now studying at Alba University to get his Master of Coaching science in 2009. In 2001 he decided to end his recruiting activities and changed fulltime to coaching. At that time there was no professional organisation for coaches in Holland, so he decided to start the Dutch coaching association NOBCO, which now has around 1,600 associated coaches. In 2007 Alex encouraged the other NOBCO board members to investigate joining with the EMCC. In November 2008 this was finalised with the signing of NL's affiliation contract. To get the most out of the affiliation for all parties he decided to reply positively to a request to him to become EMCC Vice-president. In this role Alex is mainly responsible for external relationships and is also involved in setting up the EMCC European Individual Accreditation (EIA) system.

[Lise Lewis](#) – wanting to make a difference!

**EMCC Vice-President
Strategic Co-ordination**



About me as a coach mentor:

My overall purpose is to contribute to society through practising and encouraging others to adopt coach mentoring skills in their everyday conversations and to respect the values and beliefs of others. As an executive coach I help people learn, develop, be the best they want to be and to gain personal fulfilment. In practice, I apply an evolutionary and person-centred approach focusing on how strengths can become a resource for development.

My focus as an EMCC Vice-President

Knowledge management, encouraging working partnerships, sharing work across and between committees, project planning and making best use of our valuable voluntary resources encapsulates how I plan to contribute to supporting EMCC development and our VP team work together. Examples of actions to achieve this and related to committee and task force working are:

- Gaining a position statement on all activities – this will identify current projects, focus direction and align work to EMCC values and strategies
- Adding value to the coaching and mentoring industry through supporting committees and task forces to produce achievable Business Plans for developing existing and new products and services which promote quality professional standards
- Delivering committee and task force activities through encouraging efficient use of available resources. We want to align these activities to your needs as members and also to the development of the coach mentoring profession. Help us to help you – we welcome feedback on benefits you want from your EMCC membership. We also encourage and appreciate offers of volunteering to help us achieve these.



After the success of the last EMCC Conference in Prague in December 2008, we are looking forward to our 16th conference on 26 - 28 November 2009 in the Netherlands.

With the aim of keeping our members at the leading edge in new ideas and developments in the field, we have selected speakers who combine excellence of delivery with proposals that contribute fresh and different perspectives on coaching and mentoring.

European Individual Accreditation

By Eric Parsloe

“We have decided to create one European Individual Accreditation system which will allow local adjustments. It has similarities with the ICF system but not identical. Transition rules from others systems will be developed”.

Michel Moral.

At a meeting in Amsterdam in January, convened by new EMCC President Petr Necas and chaired by the Swiss Chair of the EMCC Standards Committee Christoph Epprecht, EMCC representatives from Holland, France and the UK addressed the challenge of European Individual Accreditation. The meeting drew on practical experiences in countries, of current EMCC Standards operational policies and projects and the learning from current pilots, committing to the following by June 1st 2009:

- A single EMCC *competence framework* with the 4 sections and 11 or 12 *core competences* building incrementally to 48 *competence headings* against which all EMCC *qualification awards and accreditations* would be assessed using, when appropriate, the concept of ‘*equivalence*’*.
- Each competence heading will have *capability indicators* (previously called standards) for guidance on interpretation by applicants and during assessments
- Four levels of qualifications and accreditation for professional coaches and mentors and a single new level for manager-as-coach ‘lite’. These levels will be Foundation, Intermediate, Practitioner and Master Practitioner
- A single set of policy and administrative documents in English with translations into local languages, where appropriate, by each EMCC country.

Project leader: Christoph Epprecht

[EMCC.Chair.Standards\(at\)emccouncil.org](mailto:EMCC.Chair.Standards(at)emccouncil.org)

Existing EQA Graduates

The EQA is an award to *training providers* and *education institutions* who in turn produced graduates of these programmes who hold *EQA qualifications*. These graduates could in the future be applicants for the *European Individual Accreditation* (previously called Individual Accreditation). These candidates could be exempt from certain aspects of the European Accreditation process as they would already have demonstrated their competence against the EQA framework. However, if there was any uncertainty about their current competence there could be an ‘interview’ stage in the process where competence to continue to practice could be assessed again.



Recognition

There is high appreciation for the hard work of our members in all the countries and appreciation that there will be additional learning from the further evaluations and country discussions before the June 1st launch date.

[Eric Parsloe](#) is a Life Honorary Vice-President of EMCC UK and a member of the EMCC Standards Committee.

* which could interpreted as ‘pragmatic common sense.’

A thought from our President

Just an interesting memory of mine: one of the first Latin words, I learned at school was the ‘minister’, meaning ‘servant’ or ‘the one who serves’, which is a total contradiction to what (at least in my country) the ministers think they are authorised to do. They prefer reign and control... the president is the ‘primus inter pares’ amongst the ministers (I know, it is not exactly the democratic system, we have, but let us take it just as an attitude) therefore, he should be the one who serves the most. This exactly is my attitude and approach: I have no intention to rule, I am here to serve, to enable, to help and to support, and if I have to use my formal ‘power’ then just and only for the purposes mentioned.

Petr Necas

EMCC President

[EMCC.President\(at\)emccouncil.org](mailto:EMCC.President(at)emccouncil.org)

The Benefit of Coaching in times of Economic Crisis

By Daphne Rohr, Marketing committee, Switzerland

Workshops, 2nd March 2009, Zurich



30 Members and Non-members gathered in Zurich to discuss the contribution Coaching and Mentoring can make to the present economic crisis.

Three workshops were facilitated by the leading professionals Bob Garvey and Paul Stokes, both respectively Professor and Senior Lecturer at Sheffield Hallam University, and Bruce Harkness, Vice President L&D with Mövenpick Hotels.

The discussion first evolved around the theme of a crisis, i.e. a situation out of normality: Do we have an economic crisis, are societies and systems collapsing? What does that mean to the company, what options does an organization have? How does a crisis influence us as Coaches and how are we handling it? Several times, the role of the media came up and with it the question to what degree we let ourselves be influenced by headlines and so-called 'bad' news and pictures.



Moving on to specific topics, the findings were that now is a great time to coach and prepare employees to be future leaders. Training and development programmes might be slowed down, Coaching and Mentoring stay. Looking at the Coach's level, it was felt that the most important issue is how we as Coaches cope with a crisis and understand one's own perception. By providing stability to both Organizations and Coachees, we can give clients the safe space they need to look at their feelings and emotions in times of economic crisis.

Introducing the new Treasurer

By Alexander Vreede

I am Dutch and live in The Netherlands where I have a private practice in personal coaching and mediation. From January I am also the new Treasurer of EMCC, having taken over this job from Julie Hay and Irena Sobolewska who have jointly been managing EMCC finances.

In my new role I will be setting up a budget for 2009 and keeping to it, chasing payments overdue, proposing a new system for the affiliation fees from EMCC countries, setting up a new policy for expense payments to whoever is doing jobs for EMCC and – last but not least – setting up a system for credit card and debit card payments through the EMCC website.



Fortunately I will not be doing this on my own. The Executive Board has set up a Finance Committee consisting of all the country treasurers thus giving me short lines to all countries. And Irena Sobolewska and Sarah Rhoads have been towers of strength helping me work through all the yet unfamiliar financial documents and materials of EMCC Europe. So there is hope that I may succeed in doing what our new President has asked me to do: setting up a well functioning and transparent financial system giving EMCC EU a sound financial base. But it will still be a hard – if you want "onerous" – job to take care of in these financially difficult times. So please cooperate with me if I ask for your help. We (EMCC and I and maybe you too) may really need it!

Alexander Vreede
EMCC Treasurer

[EMCC.Treasurer\(at\)emccouncil.org](mailto:EMCC.Treasurer(at)emccouncil.org)



Highlights from December 2008

Stefanie Reissner - introducing the concepts of narrative and storytelling as tools to support the coaching process.

Jenni Jones - a study concerned with investigating the characteristics of effective mentors, from the viewpoint of the mentees within an educational environment.

Rose Doyle - presents the results of a study set in the Irish health services from a coachee perspective on what made the coaching process effective.

Robert Hall - understanding the influence of Positive Psychology on coaching.

Professional Skills Section

As with the Reviewed Section, we have a mixture of papers from both a research perspective as well as accounts of personal experience.

Personal account of **Daniel Doherty's** experiences of mentoring and the learning which resulted from the experience.

Joanne Boyle on the role MBTI has played on her style and overall effectiveness of her coaching practice.

Personal account of **Lise Lewis** following her attendance at the Global Coaching Convention (GCC) held in Dublin earlier in 2008.

Andy Rankin investigates the case for focusing on meaning and purpose in the workplace.

Lena Börjeson on the need to develop the 55+ workforce through coaching

Steve Nicklen, exploring Leadership Development. Extracts from the e-journal are available to all to read on our website. The full e-journal is only available to members, or those who have subscribed to the e-journal directly. To see view the e-journal click [here](#) then log in as a member in the panel to the right of the website page.

The e-journal editor is Angelique du Toit
[EMCC.Editor.E-journal\(at\)emccouncil.org](mailto:EMCC.Editor.E-journal(at)emccouncil.org)

Introducing the new Chair of Research Committee

By Lars Häsänen

As a newly appointed head of research committee I would like to see a research conference in mentoring and coaching taking place within the next two years. I believe that the field would gain much from having the research community involved and contributing with findings and knowledge.



Further, under the leadership of Professor Clutterbuck a mentoring survey is taking place which is a joint EMCC and EFMD (European Federation of Management Development) effort. It was over ten years ago a last survey was done and the aim of this project is to benchmark how the mentoring programs have evolved during the decade.

We have other smaller projects in the loop as well; one of them is a Continued Personnel Development Plan (CPD) which could help facilitate self-learning. The basic idea is members could each year reflect on their own experiences and make an assessment of their own skills against EMCC competence framework."

Lars Hasanen
EMCC Research Committee Chair
[EMCC.Chair.Research\(at\)emccouncil.org](mailto:EMCC.Chair.Research(at)emccouncil.org)

Sir John Whitmore comes to Switzerland



One-day workshop about "The Future of Coaching", at May 15th

Find out more at

www.emccouncil.org/ch

The world is facing challenging times. The paradigm of profit maximisation has failed and nevertheless has the world in its grip, the "me enterprise" is still very much alive. Coaching might just be the answer.

I met Sir John Whitmore in the town of Mechelen, squeezed between Antwerp and Brussels, in Belgium, my home country. Despite having met him several times before, a close encounter with one of the pioneers of the coaching industry is still magical. From race car driving through to inner game, performance and transpersonal coaching, John embodies personal growth and transformation like no one else. The very first time I met John at the EMCC conference in Zurich, I became curious about who the man behind the reputation was.

From being a young man, blessed with a first class education, he choose to no longer be on the payroll of fame and fortune, or fast cars and capitalism, but instead went on a quest which took him to California where he ventured into humanistic psychology and laid the foundations of inner game and performance coaching. Back in Europe John was invited to take coaching into the corporate arena and has been a strong supporter of the industry ever since. Today John wishes the impact of coaching to be even more significant. He is doing leading edge work in the public sector around transforming education, works closely with the film industry to increase awareness and when we met just came back from Israel. A man with a mission. Would the financial crisis have been so deep had organisations and leaders fully embraced the principles of coaching ? For John there is hope in the middle of the crisis. Hope for coaches to engage with organisations embracing a transpersonal coaching perspective. For the coaching profession to mature and coaching to become so embedded in life that is a natural way of being.

Transpersonal coaching, says John, is the way forward. It builds on humanist principles where the key is increasing awareness, and adds the components of will and intentionality. The impact of increased awareness on performance is known, adding intentionality or direction, also known as goals, to the equation makes the impact much more powerful. Sounds simple ? Unless coaches are connected to their inner self and their values, they cannot help others uncover what lies within. Traditionally values were passed on from one generation through the next, from grandparents, parents and religion – all external agents. What coaching does is to connect us to the values that are at our core. Values we are all too often not aligned with as fear gets in the way. Taking a transpersonal perspective on life will enable us to care and interact on a much broader level, beyond the individual. The timing has never been more right for humanity to change paradigms.

John believes the time has come for coaching to step up to the challenge and accelerated transformation. Transformation in terms of the way we do business and take care of our environment is badly needed. We need to act now, or do we want to wait for humanity to arise from the ashes like the fabled Phoenix ? The challenge is on.

Join John and the EMCC in Zurich on 15 May 2009.

For more information please go to www.emccouncil.org/ch

Inge Simons



Behind the scenes at the 15th Annual EMCC Conference Prague 2008

By Sarah Rhoads

3 days, over 250 delegates, representing 31 countries, 34 speakers covering 47 presentations, 6 sponsors, 2 hotels utilising 200 bedrooms and 11 meeting rooms, 1 gala dinner, 9 trams and 27 specific individual dietary requirements, 8 auxiliary meetings, 1 General Assembly, 6 Committee Meetings, 2 Council Meetings, an outgoing President and an incoming President the opportunity for disaster was immense – as it turned out, the EMCC 15th Annual Coaching and Mentoring Conference was THE ‘Premier European Annual Event for anyone involved in ‘the business’ and was the best yet for EMCC.



....and to say that the Admin team slept well in the run up and particularly during the event would be a lie!

With the project being entrusted to us, in August 2008, we had no more than 4 months to prepare and deliver, and deliver we did – the evaluation feedback bears the results.

End at 3am, start at 4am

So what did it take? Long working days, during which we still had our 'day jobs' providing administrative and member service support for EMCC and EMCC UK, late nights – often until 3am and early mornings the earliest of which started at 4am and the most important ingredient – TEAMWORK! Our team of 2 x Sarah's (Sarah Rhoads and Sarah Lester), 1 x Jane, 1 x Debbie and 1 x Sorrell worked tirelessly under the leadership and guidance of Irena (of whom there can be only 1)!

And then we arrived on-site!

The long hours didn't stop - we worked until 5am on the opening day to ensure that the conference opened on time and we were ready to receive the delegate body. We would hope that whilst under the surface we were sprinting, on the surface we appeared calm, measured and professional. The long hours and late nights continued, but yes, whilst you were at the Gala dinner, we could be found briefly in the bar recovering! Jane arrived a non-smoker, quickly became a 30 a day girl, and then promptly gave up on return home!



Our special thanks must go to David Selucky and his team from the Czech Republic without whom we may not have slept and undoubtedly the event would not have been the success it was.

We met some interesting delegates, some challenging delegates, some tired delegates, but above all we met over 250 very grateful and appreciative delegates. It was a real pleasure to meet you all, many of whom we had only ever spoken with over the phone, and an honour to be a part of something very special.

Thank you for the opportunity – we look forward to seeing you in The Netherlands at the 16th Conference. The project has begun.....

Sarah Rhoads
EMCC Administration
EMCC.Administrator@emccouncil.org

EMCC Website Developments



By Julie Hay

Credit Card Payments in UK

Those of you in the UK have probably realised by now that the office are taking payments by credit card. So far this is only available by telephone but we are working hard to get it set up via the website as soon as possible. After that, we will start the IT work for credit cards for EMCC itself – a bigger task because of the number of countries and currencies involved.



Calendar of Events

The final specification for the EMCC Calendar of Events was approved at Council in December so this is now being programmed. It will be open to all to display their events, and will be free for a trial period so we can monitor use – and decide what to charge – options to be considered include free to members, or not; free to non profits or not; charge at cost or generate a surplus, and so on. The Calendar will be moderated to ensure that only events related to coach/mentoring and supervision are included. The intention is to make it THE place to look for any events relating to our profession. Those looking will be able to sort on various factors, such as locations or types of events, EMCC events will be highlighted, and the list will be in date order.

Training providers will be able to show the dates of programmes also, so that potential students can see what is available.



Professional Register

This is probably the most significant website development. Again, the final specification was agreed by Council in December and the IT experts are hard at work. For members only, the Register will allow you to enter as much – or as little – information as you wish, with scope to tell potential clients about the type of services you offer, your experience, qualifications, supervision arrangements, which countries and languages you work in(or would like to!). The register will not be restricted to coaches – you will be able to list yourself by type of coach or as mentor, supervisor, consultant, scheme designer, whatever label you prefer to use, or a mixture of these.



Research Exchange

EMCC has for many years had a Policy on supporting research – there are forms on the website to download for anyone wanting to seek financial or other assistance if their research topic fits the EMCC strategic direction. The Research Exchange itself, which also got Council approval in December, will allow any researcher to enter details of what they are doing and what help they need (e.g. people to respond to surveys, access to subjects, opportunities to collaborate, etc) – and anyone else to offer to provide that support or collaboration. Anyone conducting research can use the exchange; it is not restricted to those within universities, provided their research is clearly relevant to our profession.



Bibliography

The other major website initiative currently being set up on the website is the EMCC Bibliography. The intention here is to establish a searchable database that contains as extensive a list as possible of all articles, books, disks, packages, video/audio materials, etc that relate to coach/mentoring, in as many languages as possible. People will be able to search on author names, titles, publishers, etc; there will be abstracts for key word searches, and full references to make it easy to identify sources.

Lifting the lid of EMCC Member Services



By Sarah Lester

Who are we? Sarah R, Sarah L, Jane, Anna and Sorrell

We are the first point of contact for EMCC. We're the ones who answer when you call +44 845 123 3720 or email

[EMCC.Administrator\(at\)emccouncil.org](mailto:EMCC.Administrator(at)emccouncil.org)

Since starting work with EMCC UK in April 2007, with 1 person working on average 1 hour a day, our responsibilities have grown rapidly. In June 2008 we took on complete member services support and administration for EMCC, as well as the EMCC conference. With the increase in workload we are now a resource of up to 5 people, working in an idyllic office location near Marlborough in Wiltshire in the United Kingdom – if you're ever passing our way then do call in, you would be very welcome.

So what do we do?

Some of our administrative functions for EMCC (and EMCC UK) include:

- Handling telephone and e-mail enquiries, on average 200 emails per day (and that's before we search the SPAM folder!)
- Processing all new member applications, member renewals, issuing of invoices, payments and queries for EMCC and EMCC UK
- Support for website content and management for each EMCC country administrator
- Management of all UK events from booking of venue, liaison with speakers, hospitality, compilation of delegate packs and issue of CPD certificates, processing bookings and payments and handling queries and cancellations.
- Attendance at all EMCC UK London based events to ensure the event runs smoothly.
- Processing and management of all EMCC UK Individual Accreditation enquiries
- EMCC UK Conference management and support
- EMCC Conference management and support
- Support for new EMCC country affiliation
- EMCC President's Secretariat office
- And the list goes on....

The BIG news in the UK is that we are now have the ability to take debit and credit card payments over the phone – coming to Europe soon!

So what is a typical day? - The simple answer is there isn't one.

In addition to our regular commitments and to coin a phrase we deal with anything from 'tears, tantrums, chocolates and roses'.

We've actually assisted tearful members....

In one instance we were contacted by a very concerned caller explaining that a Life Coach (not an EMCC member so we can all breathe a sigh of relief!) was taking over his sister's life, at a time when she was very vulnerable – the life coach had even moved into the house and was taking charge of financial matters! Whilst we were very careful not to provide *advice*, with the assistance of Mike Hurley, EMCC UK President, we were able to give them some *guidance* and outline a possible way forward. More importantly, we were at the end of a phone to listen and make them feel that help was available. We were the only coaching organisation they contacted who listened!

...and irate members – this on the whole is members who cannot access the member's area of the website. Can we let you into a secret here though – if you choose to call us to remind you of your password and you've previously chosen a password that is part of your anatomy, we may chuckle!

And we've been on the receiving end of many boxes of chocolates and flowers being sent in recognition and thanks for our commitment and hard work.

Each day is different and varied and it doesn't stop when we leave the office - one of the team has even been known to wake dreaming of an EMCC Member (no names mentioned to save their blushes) – which is what makes it interesting and fun.

There are truly times when we do eat, drink and sleep EMCC!

Sarah Lester
EMCC Administration

EMCC.Administrator@emccouncil.org

During his stay Prof. Clutterbuck gave some very useful advice to the EMCC Serbia President for our future activities.

Future plans

After the Conference in Prague in December we held our 2nd meeting.

As EMCC Serbia is growing very fast we will divide up tasks, form committees and select volunteers.

We will start publishing a Coaching Newsletter in Serbian in 2009 and conduct a survey on how coaching is used in companies in Serbia.

By Sladjana Milosevic

EMCC Serbia President
RS.Presednica@emccouncil.org



Country News



Luxembourg

In February, we will host a guest speaker from Canada. Jacques Limoges, university teacher and researcher from Montreal will speak on career management issues.

By Nadine Hemmer



Serbia

EMCC Ambassador visit

EMCC Ambassador Prof. David Clutterbuck, pictured right, delivered a workshop on "Advanced Techniques in Coaching and Mentoring" in Belgrade on October 21st 2008.

Participants includes around 20 members of EMCC Serbia and some guests who found this workshop very useful.



From the UK Board

The planned meeting of the EMCC UK board on 2nd February was overtaken by the catastrophic snow blizzard facing the UK, OK – if you're reading this in the rest of Europe we know we only had 20cms of snow, but in the UK that's a lot of snow! So the board met by telephone conference instead. We send our admiration to Eric Parsloe, the only board member who made it into London (on time) from deepest Oxfordshire for the board meeting only to find that no one else was there.

Apart from this significant event, highlights from EMCC UK include:

- From 9th January we have introduced the capability for our members to pay for membership, conference and events by credit card. Currently this is only available via the telephone, but the next phase will introduce online payments via our website. Members are already reporting their delight with this new introduction
- Our annual conference on 6 & 7 April is proving to be very popular. Bookings are coming in fast

- The events calendar which is available on our website www.emccouncil.org/uk is proving to be very popular. Steve Nicklen and Eric Parsloe have received enthusiastic feedback from events run in January in London. David Megginson and Jan Bowen-Nielsen have run our first regional events in Bristol. Further London events are planned once a month in London and regional events will be run quarterly in Bristol, Birmingham, North West and Oxford. We are talking to members who want to set up regional events in their area.
- The Individual Accreditation pilot is drawing to a close. All pilot applications have been received and the assessors are in the middle of assessment as we go to press!



Irena Sobolewska
Company Secretary
EMCC UK

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