

DDLS Annual Awards Dinner 2024

Oliver Maxwell, President 2023/24 hosted top table guests including Judges, Magistrates and Presidents from neighbouring local law societies together with Mark Bilton and his wife Ruth. Oliver explained in his heartfelt speech how important Mark had been in his own pursuit of a legal career and how supportive Mark had always been of local young lawyers. It was great to see so many firms including young lawyers on their tables. The age range of the guests at the dinner must have been some 55 years which makes for a lively and diverse night.

The No Limit Street Band welcomed the guests with a mellow first set and then got the dancefloor rocking after the awards giving some modern tunes an unusual slant on the brass instruments the largest of which, the band informed me, is called a sousaphone. The dancing which concluded the night (and sound effects during the evening) was expertly played by Dominic Degan from Pro Disco's and Entertainment.

We were pleased to welcome New Square Chambers who sponsored the drinks reception together with Carter Brown, Verify 365, X-Press Legal, No 36 Family and Stat Building Consultants who sponsored awards. Thank you for your support.

The President's charity this year is Enthusiasm Trust and we are grateful to Gary Parkin, a trustee of the charity, who acted as our MC on the night. He did a fantastic job and then encouraged guests to part with their cash in the charity auction. Thanks to members of DJL who sold raffle tickets on the night and to those who donated prizes and bought tickets. An amazing £2,265 was raised for the President's charity.

The Awards Dinner continues to go from strength to strength and we hope that everyone enjoyed the night. One of the sponsors commented that “there was a great atmosphere in the room” and has already booked for next year ! On which please note your diaries for Friday 21st March 2025.