

## **From the President**

Following this year's Conference I am privileged to have been elected and installed as your President for the next two years. Let me first thank John Fergie, your immediate past President, for all the work he has done for the Society over the past two years and also thanks to both John and Brian Kirkham for making this year's Conference such a success. During networking after the Conference I found delegates that attended expressing how "relevant" and "on the nail" the topics were.

Just a quick introduction for those of you who didn't get to read the last issue of SCQS News. I started my career with the West Riding County Architects Department, more years ago than I care to remember! Post qualification my career turned to private practice, following which I had a ten year spell in contracting and then returned to local authority. I am currently the Director of Quantity Surveying for the NPS Group in Castleford, West Yorkshire.

What with the CSR, the demise of local authority budgets and construction professionals, awaiting the outcome of the James Review these are certainly challenging times for Society members. So what's different? When haven't there been challenging times over the last 20 years?

Nevertheless my glass remains half full and now that the dead hand of BSF has loosened its grip this is encouraging new solutions to flourish. We have to remain relevant by adapting our skills to the current national and local situation, whether it is Total Place; affordable homes; new funding models; carbon agenda; Free Schools or PFI.

For public sector QS a tighter fiscal situation can only be good news. The QS can now exert itself as Cost Cost Cost becomes the most important word within the Coalition.

**Jonathan J Bemrose MRICS**

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