

## Woods Whur Gambling Seminar Biographies

6 June 2016 - 10:00 - 13:00

### Information

#### **Andrew Woods**

Andrew is a founder member of Woods Whur having specialised in licensing law since 1992. He is praised for his “Responsive and attentive service and easy-going manner”. He is a solicitor-advocate (Higher Courts All Proceedings) having attained his Higher Rights of Audience from the Solicitors Regulation Authority allowing him to represent clients in all UK courts. He represents a significant number of gambling operators and has conducted his own advocacy against QC opposition. He has represented national and international bookmakers for land based and online betting and gaming. Along with Paddy Whur he has been described as “Probably the best betting solicitors in the country” in the Legal 500.

#### **Anna Mathias**

Anna is a barrister with twenty years experience as a licensing lawyer. She practiced in chambers for ten years, was recruited by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, worked for the West End law firm Joelson Wilson before joining Woods Whur in February 2015. She is one of the most experienced lotteries sector regulatory lawyers in the UK and has been retained as advisor to the Lotteries Council and all of its members for many years. She represents a number of bingo and casino operators in the UK and acts for a wide range of online gambling operators. She is regularly quoted in specialist resources such as Gambling Compliance and the World Online Gambling Law Report and in the national press on the subject of gambling law. She is also a frequent contributor to publications such as Betting Business.

#### **Kerry Simpkin**

Kerry has been working in local government since 1998 where he started with West Sussex County Council’s Trading Standards Department dealing with Petroleum Licensing and then after a year took up a position at Crawley Borough Council as Licensing Officer which he enjoyed for a further 5 years. Kerry has worked for Westminster City Council since 2004 where he has managed Licensing and Environmental Health Teams. Kerry’s the current Licensing Team Manager for Westminster and his team is responsible for processing and determining in excess of 12,000 applications each year. Kerry has been heavily involved in gambling licensing since it transferred to local authorities in 2007. In addition to Kerry’s expertise in gambling licensing he also specialises in animal related licensing, explosives and the Licensing Act 2003. Kerry is also an experienced trainer, delivering licensing training to local authorities around the country.

#### **Paddy Whur**

Paddy is a founder member of Woods Whur and has specialised in licensing law since 1991. He is a solicitor-advocate (Higher Courts All Proceedings) having attained his Higher Rights of Audience from the Solicitors Regulation Authority, allowing him to act as advocate representing clients in all courts in the UK. He has represented national and international bookmakers for land based and online betting and gaming. He has represented all of the larger bookmakers and a number of independents. He was the lead lawyer in advising the Cyprus Government on redrafting their betting and gaming law after heading up a multidiscipline team which

conducted an over reaching review of the whole sector in Cyprus. Along with Andrew Woods he has been described as “Probably the best betting solicitors in the country” in the Legal 500 and as a “tenacious advocate” by Chambers Legal Directory.

#### **Rob Burkitt**

Rob joined the Commission 8 years ago and now leads the organisation’s work on shared regulation and better regulation. Rob’s work extends to various aspects of compliance – in particular illegal poker clubs, as well as wider policy issues including the consultation on controlling where gaming machines may be played. Prior to joining the Commission Rob worked for 15 years in the film and tv industry and 7 years establishing and managing regeneration schemes.

#### **Sheila Roberts**

Sheila qualified as an Environmental Health Officer in 1985 and took up her first post with Manchester City Council before moving to the London Borough of Redbridge in 1987 and then to Newham in 1991. She began working in the licensing field in 2001 and was the licensing lead for the 2012 Olympic Games for the Joint Local Authority Regulatory Services group for the Olympic Park. She is currently employed as a Strategic Enforcement Manager for Specialist Services in Newham with a current remit of Licensing, Food Safety, Trading Standards, Health and Safety Enforcement team and Animal Welfare. She is also the Chair of the Safety Advisory Groups for the Olympic Stadium and for Newham Events and Chairs the Licensing, Operational Planning and Safety Group for the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

With Newham’s Regeneration team , she contributed to Newham’s bid to the Casino Advisory Panel for the award of one of the 8 large casino licences and was a member of the Technical Advisory group for the first (and now largest) operational casino of the issued 2005 licences. Since 2011 she has a continuing relationship with the regulation and monitoring of the local impact of Aspers (Stratford City).