

BIOGRAPHY FOR JOHN HEWISON



Practicing Solicitor

Qualified April 1973

Mediation Experience

Having spent 5 years as head of Company/ Commercial at Manchester Solicitors George Davies and then 6 years as Managing Partner John turned his skills in people management to mediation. He trained with CEDR and was accredited in 2002. Since that time John has relinquished his role as Managing Partner of George Davies moving now to the position of Senior Partner and has spent an increasing amount of time working in mediation.

His experience is very broad and can best be described as anything having a commercial flavour to it. Examples of more recent mediations include:

- £1.75m chemical works dispute between contractor and sub-contractor.
- Three party shareholder dispute covering bank guarantee, unfair prejudice and disputed officer resignations and appointments.
- Landlord & Tenant dispute between development company landlord wanting possession and business tenant looking for compensation. Mediation whilst interim injunction in place.
- Construction dispute between main contractor and sub-contractor over cost of works.
- Property investment partnership disputing distribution of assets on dissolution.
- Breach of contract claim by main contractor against leisure club client.
- Sale of goods/misrepresentation litigation between supplier and commercial customer
- Neighbour dispute regarding possessory title to land and rights of way and access.
- Professional negligence action against solicitors in respect of an inheritance scheme

- Action for specific performance by a builder against the vendor of three housing plots
- Professional negligence action against accountants and tax experts in respect of a tax scheme

Personal Style

John is generally facilitative in nature as a mediator with a good eye for the real issues, but is not afraid to be firm if necessary to make progress. Coming from a commercial rather than litigious background he has always had the view that clients are better having their destiny in their own hands than in the hands of the Courts.

In the words of a co-mediator in a complex mediation involving a company in administration “John is an experienced commercial lawyer well used to negotiation as demonstrated throughout the day. His overall contribution to the mediation was invaluable”.

John has a particular specialisation in sports work for which the firm of George Davies is listed in the 2005 Chambers UK Guide to the Legal Profession in which it says “The incredibly smart John Hewison is thought to be the driving force behind this practice” and in the 2006 Guide he is described as “a smart and tenacious opponent with great market knowledge”.

Professional Background

Having studied at Manchester Grammar School and Nottingham University John trained as a solicitor and has been in private practise throughout his working life. His roles as Managing Partner and now Senior Partner have involved him in considerable use of interpersonal skills.

For several years he has been a director of a house building company and of a financial services company. For 10 years he was the owner of a country pub in the Yorkshire Dales and has direct hands on experience of running licensed premises.

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Biography Current 1st January 2007

