

# **REPORT OF CICM EAST OF ENGLAND BRANCH AGM, PERFORMANCE STANDARDS TALK BY HQ, AND MARKET INSOLVENCY UPDATE**

## **15<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

**by Richard Brown FCICM Branch Vice Chairman and Secretary**

Prior to the AGM there were two presentations.

Jules Eames, CICM's Content & Resource Manager, talked through the CICM Professional Standards - what they are and how they can support members, recommending that everyone should look at, and use, the Business Skills, Behaviours, and Personal Skills detailed on the Professional Standards section of the CICM website.

Steve Walsh, RSM Creditor Solutions LLP Director, covered a wide range of subjects and statistics in his Market Insolvency update - including the changes to Debt Relief Orders, why many IVAs were not fit for purpose, Corporate insolvencies, the October 2024 Budget, and the review of CVLs.

Atul Vadher, Branch Chairman, thanked both Jules and Steve for their informative, thought provoking, presentations.

Atul welcomed Neil Jinks, Chair of the CICM Executive Council, to the meeting and the AGM.

In his Chairman's report Atul said that in 2024 the Branch held twelve "themed" virtual committee meetings, including support and reflection for "9/11" and "Remembrance Day", favourite books, places visited and Christmas cracker jokes, quick draw, movie quiz and Tension board game.

There had also been three well attended webinars "*Demystifying the impact of AI on Credit and Collections*," an insightful and informative presentation by Invevo's Jamie Wroe and Daniel Gregory.

"*B2B E-Commerce -The New Gold Rush*", by Efcis's Andy Moylan. Staggeringly this market is expected to reach \$20.9 trillion by 2027.

"*The Whacky World of Credit Data*" by Tim Wendholt of Corporate CPR moderated by Steve Walsh, helping credit managers sharpen their skills in analysing and utilising credit data.

Unfortunately other planned events had to be postponed or cancelled.

During the year Andy Jarman joined the committee and Sean Frisby had stepped down. Atul thanked him for his support.

In 2025 we aimed to continue holding our monthly "Themed Branch meetings," focused on planning, wellbeing, and events, as well as delivering free of charge physical and virtual events for our members and prospective members while surpassing the number of events we held in 2024.

We would continue to increase and deliver useful information on our Branch LinkedIn group. - in 2024 we posted 86 articles - and look to introduce face to face roundtable events for meaningful discussions on key credit topics.

Atul took the opportunity to thank the Committee members for all their drive and dedication in making these events happen, and for sharing their expertise in all things credit, but mostly for supporting and bringing the fun factor in giving back to the industry.

At the 2024 British Credit Awards Branch Committee members had won Credit Collection Team of the Year, Credit Risk Team of the Year, and Katherine Bailey was the Credit Professional of the Year.

The AGM re-elected Katherine Bailey, Richard Brown, Daniel Gregory, Andy Jarman, Naimesh Khetia, Andy Moylan, Lee Tyers, Steve Walsh, Atul Vadher and Lorna Westgarth-Pearce. They were joined by new member Karen Elliott and all were elected to posts

Atul Vadher thanked everyone who attended.

Richard Brown FCICM

CICM East of England Branch Vice Chairman and Secretary

(489 words excluding title and author)