

**ADR<sup>2</sup> COMMENTARY – JANUARY 2014****Ram – Dam - Mad - no - ADR – THAT’S IT**

You may have noticed from our recent postscripts that we have been loading the offices with support staff. This has enabled me to travel back in time to my Newsletter produced in April 2006 following exit from University and pupillage with the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. In it I commented on the reforms suggested by Lord Wolfe and their impact on the Civil Procedure Rules. Fast forward to 2013 and we have the Jackson reforms. What started in 2006 was a movement away from the Courts and a move towards alternative means of settling disputes. A similar message comes from the Jackson reforms.

I said in 2006 I did not want to miss out on the movement and so, at that stage, devised a cunning plan – as Baldrick would say. OK, it has taken longer than I expected but today I can tell you the plan becomes a reality. I therefore introduce you a new division.

Those with a keen eye will notice this newsletter is not produced on DeVarga letterhead but one called ADR<sup>2</sup>. The plan was simple in its idea. In 2006 and now, Courts are doing all they can to persuade parties at litigation to settle their differences without going to the Courts. Some of the decisions coming from the benches “encourage” this by way of suggesting cost sanctions against a party who refuses to attempt to settle by alternative means. So how about a platform supported by three individuals each with skills in dispute resolution but holding different but complementary qualifications and experience and who can offer the alternative platforms. Step forward ADR<sup>2</sup>.

It is the brainchild of three people. I can do no better than introduce Roger Dyer, Adrian Gibbs and myself. ADR stands for Alternative Dispute Resolution. Whilst the name may appear obvious it came about as a result of playing around with the initials of Roger, Adrian and myself. Unable to see any use for the letter M other than perhaps dam, ram or mad (words not entirely appropriate to getting parties to settle disputes), it was decided to forget me and go for ADR.

So I bring to you today three individuals - one an architect and barrister, one a construction lawyer and advocate, with me coming up the rear – so to speak. Our website is alive and can be seen at [www.adr2.co.uk](http://www.adr2.co.uk)

This brings an exciting chapter into the future of dispute resolution and the alternatives available to you and/or your clients. We have offices in Surrey, Hampshire and Warwickshire. Collectively we bring just on 150 years’ experience to the table. Roger pushed up the average. So if you need assistance call ADR<sup>2</sup>.

**Matthew S Martin**  
**Chartered Arbitrator**  
**Chartered Surveyor**