



JOHN HEWISON

Consultant partner, George Davies Solicitors LLP, Manchester

Professional background

Current:

- Consultant partner at Manchester-based commercial law firm, George Davies Solicitors.
- Specialist areas of practise – commercial contract disputes, with particular experience in sports work.

Previous:

- Studied at Manchester Grammar School and Nottingham University, before training as a solicitor. John has remained in private practice throughout his working life.
- Five years as head of company/commercial at George Davies, followed by six years as managing partner. Now acting as consultant partner at the firm.
- 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.

ADR/Mediation experience

- Trained with CEDR and was accredited in 2002.
- 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. A £1.75m chemical works dispute between contractor and sub-contractor.
 2. A three-party shareholder dispute covering bank guarantee, unfair prejudice and disputed officer resignations and appointments.
 3. A landlord and tenant dispute between development company/landlord seeking possession and a business tenant looking for compensation.

4. A construction dispute between main contractor and sub-contractor over cost of works.
5. A property investment partnership dispute.
6. Sale of goods/misrepresentation.
7. Neighbour dispute.
8. Professional negligence actions against (1) solicitors and (2) accountants.
9. Action for specific performance by a builder against the vendor of three housing plots

Other information

John is generally facilitative in nature as a mediator, with a good eye for the real issues. 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 is described in the 2005 Chambers UK Guide to the Legal Profession as being “incredibly smart and thought to be the driving force behind this practice” (George Davies Solicitors) and, in the 2006 Guide, as “a smart and tenacious opponent with great market knowledge”.