



aat



A collage of images from the AAT Annual Conference 2015, featuring a man speaking into a microphone, a group of people seated at a table, and hands writing on a document, all set against a background of green and white triangles.

AAT Annual Conference

15-16 May 2015, Birmingham

Conference programme

Book your place at aatconference.co.uk



Friday 15 May

From 10:00 Annual General Meeting registration

11:00-12:30 Annual General Meeting

From 11:00 Annual Conference registration and exhibition opens

12:00-13:30 Lunch

13:30-13:45 Welcome and introduction

13:45-14:30 Keynote speech:

**Doing business ethically: the professional's contribution -
Philippa Foster Back, Director, Institute of Business Ethics**

Learn how to avoid and highlight malpractice and check you're working at high standards.

What is business ethics? And what is your responsibility as a professional? Philippa will give you the practical tips needed to ensure that you and your firm operate your business ethically and retain the trust acquired from your clients and or work colleagues. As reputation hits can be hard to recover from without a foundation of trust, this session will also cover how to avoid and highlight malpractice and ensure you're working at the highest standards.

14:30-15:40 Choose one of the following sessions:

1. Tax Simplification: taking stock of progress - John Whiting, Director of Tax, Office of Tax Simplification

Join the discussion on what should happen next with the Tax Simplification system.

The current mandate of the Office of Tax Simplification expires with the next election in May. This session will review the current state of play on the OTS's recommendations arising from its reports on Employee Benefits & Expenses, Partnerships, Penalties and UK Competitiveness, including developments in the 18 March Budget and subsequent Finance Bill/Act. John will also outline the OTS's conclusions and recommendations on Employment Status, and give you the opportunity to voice your opinion on what should happen next with Tax Simplification in an audience discussion.

2. New charity SORPs - John Selwood, Chartered Accountant and Independent Training Consultant

If you work for a charity, it's essential you're up to speed on the latest regulations.

The impact of New UK GAAP has given rise to two new Charity SORPs, one for small charities and one for the rest. Regardless of which one applies to you, there are likely to be many significant differences for all charities, which include; changes to the Trustees Annual Report, a new layout for the Statement of Financial Activities, a new cashflow statement, new disclosures, changes to accounting for grants and changes to accounting for donated goods and services.

3. Influencing decision makers - Sonia Saxton, Director, Saxton Partners

Learn how to influence a decision, ask for a pay rise or negotiate with a business partner.

Sonia Saxton, an entrepreneur and international behavioural expert, will teach you how to influence decision makers. Whether the decision maker is a line manager or a client, you will come away from the session with the confidence and practical tools to you need to turn “no” into “yes”. The session will be highly interactive and will include a Q&A workshop.

4. Workplace pensions: an update from the Regulator - Charles Counsell, The Pensions Regulator

Discover the tools and information available to help you manage your auto enrolment duties.

If you want to learn the tools and information available to help you manage your auto enrolment duties, then this is the session for you. During this session, Charles will also provide you with an update on the progress with automatic enrolment and what to expect going forward.

15:40-16:00 Refreshment break

16:00-17:10 Choose one of the following sessions:

1. Agent strategy - Theresa Middleton, Director of Business Customer and Strategy, HMRC

Look out for information on what is certain to be an engaging and thought provoking session.

2. Accounting standards update - Steve Collings, Audit and Technical Director, Leavitt Walmsley Associates

Back by popular demand, AAT member and accounting expert, Steve Collings will be tackling recent accounting standards changes.

Understand the recent developments within the accounting profession and how they will affect your clients. This session will also look at the significant changes on the horizon for small companies, for example, the proposals for the small companies' financial reporting regime, recent updates to FRS 102 and new disclosure requirements.

3. From bean counter to business partner - Andi Lonnen, former Commercial Financial Director

Learn about the commercial skills that make a highly successful business professional.

Would you like to add more value to your organisation by becoming more commercially aware? Do you know what the skills of a highly commercial professional are? This highly constructive and interactive 90 minute workshop addresses these issues and also covers effective tools, techniques and tips to enable you to start immediately adding more value to your organisation.



4. Access to finance for SMEs to enable growth - Gaynor Dykes, Business Growth Service Regional Manager, Grant Thornton UK

Is your business being held back or struggling to grow?

The government-backed Business Growth Service helps organisations to achieve their next phase of growth and break down the barriers that are holding them back. Gaynor will explain how you and your business can find new connections, routes to build a successful growth strategy, funding and how to harness the power of your people. Business Growth Service will also be exhibiting at the Conference.

19:15 Drinks reception and dinner

Saturday 16 May

From 07:00 Breakfast for residential delegates

08:30 Registration, information desk and exhibition opens

08:50-09:45 Keynote speech:

Cyber crime – are you prepared?

Rik Ferguson, Director of Security Research & Communications, Trend Micro

Is your intellectual capital, ideas and client data at risk of being stolen?

International cyber security expert Rik Ferguson will highlight current cyber threats, what they can mean for businesses and individuals and how you can mitigate against them. Cyber crime is increasingly in the news and is now on our Government's agenda, Rik has advised audiences around the world; hear from the expert who is regularly interviewed by the BBC, CNN, CNBC, Channel 4, Sky News and Al-Jazeera.

09:45-10:50 Choose one of the following sessions:

1. The agile accountant - Chris Paton, Managing Director, Quirk Solutions

Shell, BUPA and Heineken have all worked with Chris to deliver outstanding business results.

Chris Paton, a former lieutenant Colonel in the Royal Marines and advisor to the Cabinet Office will explain how you can influence an institutional 'can do' culture. This interactive session will also look at methods to improve the agility of the finance professional to withstand shocks and look at case studies, including how Chris used his experience in this area to lead a combat patrol in Kosovo and help a wide range of SMEs, corporates and public sector organisations develop more agile and higher performance teams.

2. Topical tax update - Chris Siddle, Tolleys

Discuss recent legislative and case law changes that will have tax planning implications.

In this session, Chris will cover a number of recent legislative and case law changes that will have tax planning implications for practitioners and your clients. A range of major taxes will be covered, making it a great opportunity to refresh your knowledge.

3. Member in practice surgery -

Tania Hayes, Head of Conduct and Compliance, AAT

Sarah Burbidge, Progression and Members In Practice Manager, AAT

Henry Cooper, AAT Past President 2012-13 and owner of BirchCooper Accounting Services

What is the one question you would like to ask other members in practice?

What is keeping you awake at night? Share your thoughts and experiences in this workshop, which will be facilitated by representatives from AAT.

10:50-11:00 Refreshment break

11:00-12:15 Choose one of the following sessions:

1. Dr Steed's tax clinic - Michael Steed, Training Consultant, Kaplan Hawksmere

Back by popular demand, ask your tax questions to Michael Steed

This session is a chance for you to ask Michel your tax queries and questions. If you select to attend this session, we will contact you in the weeks leading up to the Annual Conference so you can submit your question. There will also be a chance to ask questions on the day.

2. General Election payroll blues or celebrations? - Karen Thomson, Associate Director of Policy, Research and Strategic Visibility, CIPP

How will payroll legislation change after the election?

With the General Election all over on 7 May, (well, we hope anyway) what will the outcome be in respect of payroll legislation? This session will update you on the latest news, both in the current times and what we can expect in the future. Learn about benefits in kind – pay rolling and dispensations, lessons learned so far in respect of Shared Parental Leave and Pay, PAYE and NICs news, CIS and much more.

12:15-13:00 Lunch

13:00-14:00 Choose one of the following sessions:

1. Risky business: navigating the murky waters of Anti Money Laundering- Tania Hayes, Head of Conduct and Compliance, AAT

Make sure you avoid having your professional expertise exploited by criminals.

Directed mainly at members in practice but of interest to those in business, this session will look at the risks accountants should be alert to and steps that should be taken to minimise the risk of inadvertently being caught up in the murky underworld of serious organised crime.

Focusing on case studies, and drawing on requirements of the Money Laundering Regulations 2007 as well as the implications of the Serious Crime Bill on professional accountants, Tania will guide you on how to assess the risks facing your firm overall, as well as indicators of risky clients individually.

2. Accounting standards: looking forward to 2016 - Jenny Carter, Financial Reporting Council

An accounting and financial reporting standards update from the Financial Reporting Council.

3. The creativity of business: innovation vs. execution - Michael Jacobsen, renowned entrepreneur

Hear valuable tips on how to grow your or your employer's business.

Renowned entrepreneur Michael Jacobsen, who has founded numerous organisations including the Dirty Dancing stage show, will demonstrate how accountants and advisors can better understand the needs of entrepreneurs. By attending the session you will learn how to support and grow your employer's business (or your own) via case study examples and practical tips.

4. Employment law update - Toni Trevett, Director, CompleteHR

What are the common myths surrounding employment law?

This session aims to provide an update on recent and pending employment law news, looking at recent legislative change and key case law with a focus on demystifying some of the common myths. You will gain an overview of recent and pending legislation in 2014 and 2015, latest employment law reform proposals and an understanding of recent key case law.

14:00-14:15 Refreshment break

14:15-14:45 Keynote speech:

Account for the good - Kay Allen, Founding Director, Trading for Good

The Social Value Act is starting to influence procurement processes - learn how you can respond to these new opportunities.

Small businesses are operating in challenging economic times and in increasingly competitive markets. Measuring and promoting their social value can act as a market differentiator, help reduce costs and connect their business to a new customer base. Learn how you can help your clients and organisation to 'account for the good' that they do to help promote their business.

14:45-16:00 Panel discussion: the post-election accounting landscape

This panel session will be led by:

- Adam Harper, Director of Professional Development, AAT
- Michael Steed, Training Consultant, Kaplan Hawksmere
- Kay Allen, Founding Director, Trading for Good
- Brian Palmer, AAT Tax Technical Consultant and Owner of Palmer & Co.

16:00 Conference ends

Programme subject to change - last updated 30 March 2015.