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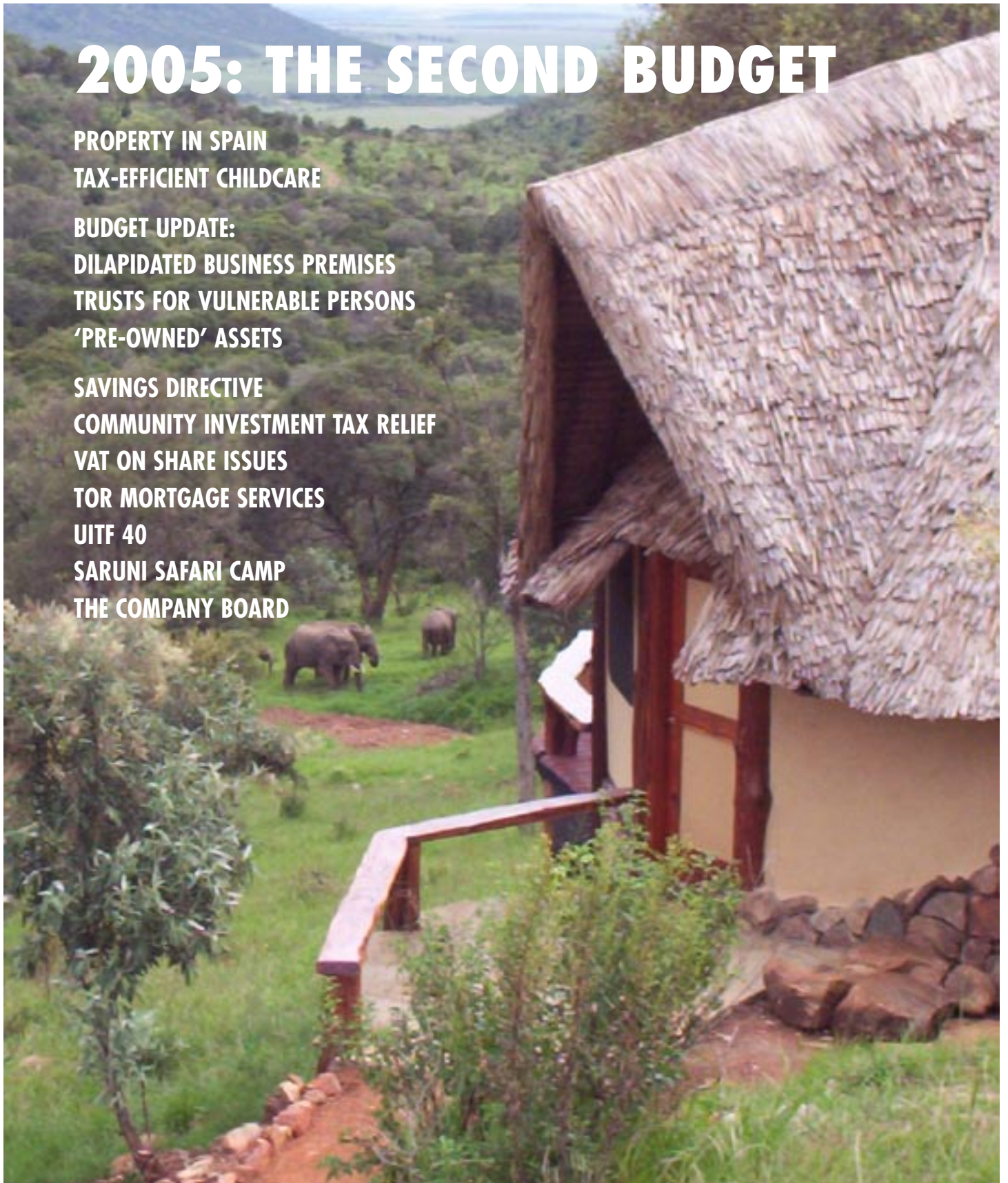
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If you have any suggestions for topics you would like to see covered in *Shipshape*, or have any comment about the content or presentation of the newsletter, please contact Stuart Dey at our London office.

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Managing partner John McCuin confidently predicts a second Budget in 2005 and considers the issues.



## 2005: The Second Budget

I am writing this before the General Election. By the time you read it we shall all know where the country's political future lies for the next few years.

Despite not knowing the election result, I am going to make one confident prediction: we shall have another Budget this year.

The present Government announced in parliament, during the second reading of the Finance Bill, that it was their "full intention to introduce a second Finance Bill after the election".

If one of the current opposition parties wins this election there will also be a second Budget and new Finance Bill this year. This is traditional, and it is entirely understandable that a new Government would wish to make an early start on its own economic policy. When the Labour Government came to power in May 1997, Chancellor Gordon Brown introduced his own first Budget on 2 July.

### First Budget 2005

The inevitability of a second Budget this year, whichever party is in power, makes the Government's treatment of the first Finance Bill, resulting from the first Budget, even more shameful.

As we note in our Budget Update on page four of this issue, the Finance Bill was rushed through all its stages in parliament in just one day. Admittedly the Bill had been reduced somewhat from its original length, but it was still a hefty chunk of legislation, and it has become law without proper debate.

Imperfect tax law can lead all too easily to unintended consequences; it was in his first Budget, in July 1997, that Chancellor Gordon Brown

announced his annual £5 billion raid on pension funds that has contributed so significantly to the pensions crisis.

All that was needed in the first Finance Bill this year was the renewal of the basic taxes which give the Government its income. All other measures should have been deferred until either a new Labour Government could return to them and expose them to proper parliamentary scrutiny, or a different Government could decide whether to re-introduce them.

### Second Budget 2005

Whoever is responsible for the second Budget this year will need remarkable financial management skills to tackle the problems that loom ahead.

Standard & Poor's, the ratings agency, warned in March that Western governments in general were failing to plan sufficiently for rising expenditure, for example greater pension and healthcare costs, on their ageing populations.

In the UK the national debt is now 34% of GDP and, according to Standard & Poor's, it could rise to an alarming 150% by 2050 if nothing is done to reverse the current trend. And these figures do not include the Government's increasing off-balance-sheet liabilities for Private Finance Initiatives.

On the taxation front, the proportion of national wealth taken by the Government has risen from 37.1% in 1997 to a projected 40.5% next year. Tax Freedom Day – when we all start earning for ourselves instead of earning to pay our taxes – will be on 31 May this year, three days later than last year.

Something must be done, and someone will have to do it.

*“the  
Finance Bill  
was rushed  
through in just  
one day”*



# Property in Spain

With the help of our AGN member firm in Spain, AGN Satorra y Planas, we identify some of the key Spanish tax issues to be taken into account if you own, or are thinking of buying, property in Spain.

## **Purchase**

If the property is being sold for the first time by the developer, VAT at 7% will be added to the purchase price. In addition, there are purchase taxes of between 6% and 7% on all properties.

## **Ownership**

If the property is held in your own name, any rental income you receive is subject to 25% tax in Spain. However, even if it is not let, the Spanish tax authorities treat between 1.1% and 2% of the official registered value (the 'cadastral' value, which is not necessarily the full market value) each year as rental income, also taxed at 25%.

In addition Spain has an annual wealth tax, at from 0.4% to 2.5%. This is

generally based on the property's acquisition cost, less mortgages.

Properties held through non-Spanish resident companies are subject to a 3% annual tax on the official registered value, unless the company is resident in a country (such as the UK) with a double tax treaty with Spain, which includes an exchange information clause.

Companies based in tax havens are most unlikely to benefit from this exemption as, even if there is a double tax treaty, it is unlikely to include the relevant clause.

## **Disposal**

Unless it was owned continuously for the ten years to 31 December 1996, the gain on a sale of Spanish property is subject to tax at up to 35%. The purchaser has to withhold 5% of the purchase price and pay this to the tax authorities on account of the vendor's actual tax liability on the gain.

It used to be common for buyers to understate the purchase price of properties in Spain, to save some transfer taxes, but this of course resulted in an increased taxable gain on sale!

There are also special rules designed to tax those who sell their shares in a non-Spanish resident company owning property in Spain.

## **Inheritance**

Spain's succession law is very different from the UK's, where you are free to leave your assets to whomever you like. But the Spanish Civil Code governs the disposition of property on death by reference to the nationality of the deceased. So the Spanish succession laws do not apply to British Nationals.

Spanish taxes on inheritances take into account the relationship of the beneficiary with the deceased and vary from 7.35% to 36%. Unlike the UK, there is no special exemption for property left to a surviving spouse.

The tax must be paid before the new owner(s) can register the property, so it can be difficult for a new owner to raise a mortgage to pay the tax.

*Remember that there are also UK tax implications if you own property in Spain. Your usual AGN Shipleys contact can help you with these, and can introduce you to our colleagues in AGN Satorra y Planas if you need help with Spanish taxes.*

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## Tax-efficient Childcare

From 6 April 2005 the tax and NIC treatment of employer-provided childcare becomes much more tax-efficient.

From that date employers may give their employees, in a scheme for which all employees are eligible, up to £50 a week of qualifying childcare free of both tax and NIC. This can be either in the form of childcare vouchers or by the employer contracting with an approved or registered childminder or nursery.

Previously, childcare vouchers were exempt from NIC, without limit. So there will be some for whom the new

tax freedom is less valuable than the previous NIC exemption.

Nevertheless, the new arrangements are spurring many more employers to offer this facility – normally of course instead of salary – often by way of a 'salary sacrifice'.

A child qualifies up to 1 September following his or her 15th birthday, or 1 September following the child's 16th birthday if disabled.

## **Potential pitfalls**

Although the exemption from tax and NIC seems to make the new childcare arrangements an irresistible alternative

to salary which is taxable and NICable, some employees will find themselves worse off.

Those in receipt of tax credits may be disadvantaged, and need to consider the effect in case this is so.

If pensionable earnings are based solely on the salary as such, there will be a reduction in potential pension benefits and death in service insurance cover. The state second pension may be less as a result of the reduction in NIC.

*More information is available from your usual AGN Shipleys contact.*

# BUDGET UPDATE

The Budget on 16 March was followed within a week by a huge Finance Bill, boasting 172 clauses and 20 schedules, spread over 341 pages in two volumes. Then the General Election was called, and the Government issued a replacement Finance Bill on 6 April, 'reduced' to a mere 106 clauses and 11 schedules in 203 pages. This was rushed through all its stages to receive Royal Assent on 7 April, with little or no opportunity for any scrutiny.

This inevitably left behind a number of proposals, no doubt to be revived if (as will be known by the time you read this) a Labour government is re-elected. These include most of the anti-avoidance proposals (but those affecting film schemes went through), all the VAT proposals, those affecting Gift Aid and Admissions (but these were not to apply until April 2006, anyway) and those affecting the location of assets for capital gains tax.

The Budget was in any case notable in postponing almost all of the reform of trust taxation that had been expected to apply from April 2005, and the further reform of corporation tax anticipated following the Pre-Budget Report in December 2004. Such apparent procrastination is actually a welcome sign that the consultation process is being taken seriously by the Government.

## Dilapidated Business Premises

The Finance Act 2005 includes the promised legislation affording 100% tax relief (the business premises renovation allowance) for capital expenditure on the conversion or renovation of certain business premises in disadvantaged areas which become 'qualifying business premises', but only on expenditure incurred on or after a date which is yet to be announced, and before the fifth anniversary of that date.

To qualify for the 100% relief on capital expenditure incurred in the conversion or renovation, the buildings

must have remained unused for at least a year preceding the date the work began, have last been used for a trade, profession or vocation, or as an office, and not as a dwelling.

To be 'qualifying business premises' following the work, the property must be used, or available and suitable for letting for use, for the purposes of a trade, profession or vocation or as an office, and not as a dwelling.

A disadvantaged area is one designated by Treasury regulations or, in the absence of such regulations, one designated as such for SDLT.

## Trusts for Vulnerable Persons

The one aspect of the reform of trust taxation which has been implemented by the Finance Act 2005 is to afford the chance to elect to change the tax liabilities of UK resident trusts for 'vulnerable' beneficiaries to what they would be if the income and gains were to have arisen to the beneficiary if he were resident and domiciled in the UK (even where he is not).

A 'vulnerable person' is (a) someone under 18 at least one of whose parents has died or (b) a disabled person, being someone in receipt of attendance allowance or a disability living allowance at the highest or middle rate, or who by reason of mental disorder is incapable of managing his affairs.

The election, which is irrevocable and has to be made jointly by the trustees and the beneficiary, can apply from 6 April 2004. An election for 2004/05 has to be made by 31 January 2007.

The effect of the election is likely to be most marked where the trust is one in which the beneficiary has an interest in possession; that is, is entitled to income as of right. There the income is already treated as his, but the capital gains are not. So the trustees would get the benefit of the beneficiary's personal exemption and possibly lower rates of tax.

In the case of an accumulation and maintenance trust, where the income would otherwise be chargeable at the higher rate (apart from the first £500 from 2005/06), although the

capital gains tax advantage also applies, the income tax advantage is not necessarily as beneficial. It will depend on the tax position as regards subsequent distributions of accumulated income.

## 'Pre-Owned' Assets

This new income tax charge, introduced by the Finance Act 2004, applies from 6 April 2005. An individual is taxable on the 'benefit' of occupying or using assets he has previously owned, or to whose purchase he has contributed, and on certain settled property, if such assets would not already be subject to inheritance tax on his death.

Those concerned will have to determine the rental value of the relevant land and the value of the relevant chattels (which values will stand for the following four years), but have to value intangible assets every year. The annual charge in respect of chattels and intangibles is – currently – to be 5% a year on the value thus determined.

An effect of the legislation that may surprise many is that it could apply as a result of cash gifts between an engaged couple, where the money was subsequently used to buy a property whose occupation they share after marriage. The donor spouse would be potentially taxable on whatever proportion of the annual rental value his or her cash gift represents of the cost of the property. In such circumstances advice should be sought urgently if an income tax liability is to be avoided.

Note that an outright pre-marital gift of property already has inheritance tax consequences.

Much more detail of this horrendous legislation is available on our website at [www.agnshipleys.com](http://www.agnshipleys.com) on the Current Issues page.

## Accrued Income Scheme

The AGN Shipleys Budget Summary incorrectly stated that the Pre-Budget Report had said that revisions to this cumbersome scheme would be in the 2005 Finance Bill. In fact they are to be made by the 2006 Finance Bill.

## Inheritance Tax

Before the Budget the Chancellor had been urged to do something dramatic about inheritance tax, because the rise in house prices now means so many more people are affected by this final tax. His muted response was to raise the nil rate band for 2005/06 by more than the rate of inflation, to £275,000, and announce further increases for the next two years. For the year to 5 April 2007 the band will be £285,000 (3.6% higher than in 2005/06), and in the year to 5 April 2008 £300,000 (a further 5.3% higher).

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## Single Payment Scheme

As from 22 March 2005 entitlements under the Single Payment Scheme (which gives income support for farmers following the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy) are added to the list of assets that qualify for capital gains tax roll-over relief. Farmers will be able to defer capital gains tax when gains arise to them on the sale of entitlements, provided that the sale proceeds are invested in a qualifying business asset used by the farmer for the purposes of a trade.

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## Community Investment Tax Relief (CITR)

This relief, introduced back in 2002, attracted little initial enthusiasm. Now that some safer investment vehicles are emerging, it might seem more attractive.

The CITR scheme encourages investment in disadvantaged communities by giving tax relief to investors who back businesses through accredited Community Development Finance Institutions (CDFIs), which specialise in investing in social and community enterprises. The scheme provides a tax incentive to individuals and companies that invest, by way of loan or by subscribing for shares. The DTI accredits CDFIs only if their main objective is to provide finance (or finance and access to business advice) for enterprises in disadvantaged communities.

The investment has to be for five years, but 25% of the amount advanced may be repaid in each of years three, four and five.

## Savings Directive

From July 2005 most EU states and certain other territories will report details of interest paid to non-resident individuals to the taxing authorities of the investor's country of residence.

Some states will instead deduct tax, initially at 15%, unless (in some cases) the investor authorises reporting. Austria, Belgium and Luxembourg will withhold tax and not offer the reporting alternative. Several non-EU states will also withhold tax, including Andorra, Guernsey, Jersey, the Isle of Man, Liechtenstein and Switzerland (all of which will offer the reporting alternative) and Monaco, which may not offer any alternative.

The main problem will be for those who are resident but not domiciled in the UK and have interest, which is not remitted to the UK, arising in an overseas state where they may suffer a withholding.

*For more information on this subject see [www.agnshipleys.com](http://www.agnshipleys.com) under Current Issues or seek guidance from your usual AGN Shipleys contact.*

There is no limit on the amount which an individual or company may invest, but there *is* a limit of £20 million on the total amount that may be invested in a CDFI under the CITR scheme (£10 million if it is a 'retail' CDFI).

The tax relief for an individual investor each year for five years is 5% of the average amount invested in that year or, if less, such amount as extinguishes the investor's income tax liability for that year. Relief for a corporate investor is 5% of the average amount invested in the accounting period in which the investment is made, and in each of the accounting periods in which the next four anniversaries of that investment fall, or, if less, such amount as extinguishes the investor's corporation tax liability for that accounting period.

Effectively, therefore, the return on the investment can be enhanced by an extra 5% p.a. tax free.

# VAT

## Share Issues

Customs & Excise, now part of HM Revenue & Customs, believe that share issues are exempt supplies so VAT on associated costs is irrecoverable.

A recent European case relating to an Austrian company, Kretztechnik, casts doubt on this belief.

The Court judgement has not yet been published, but the Opinion of the Advocate General to the Court has been issued. This states that a share issue is not a supply at all, so associated costs should be regarded as overheads and the VAT should be recoverable according to the normal partial exemption position of the business.

It must be stressed that this is only an opinion and there is no guarantee that the Court will follow it. However, it may take several months for the Court to issue its judgement. So it is worth checking your VAT records and, if appropriate, making a formal claim for recovery of VAT relating to share issues.

Please remember that the three year cap will apply, so claims should be made as soon as possible to protect eligibility in relation to VAT incurred close to the cut-off point.

VAT incurred on current and future costs should, in the interim, also be treated as recoverable but may have to be paid back, plus interest, to Customs & Excise.

We will, of course, keep you informed about the outcome of this case.

*Should you require any assistance with this or any other VAT matters please call your usual AGN Shipleys contact, or our Senior VAT Consultant Nancy Cruickshanks, telephone 020 7312 6526, e-mail [cruickshanksn@agnshipleys.com](mailto:cruickshanksn@agnshipleys.com)*



## Mortgage Services

The days when you took out a standard mortgage and stuck with the same lender until it was paid off are long gone, or should be if you want to minimise your mortgage costs.

However, the mortgage market has become fiercely competitive and incredibly confusing to the uninitiated, with many mortgage lenders, offering thousands of different mortgages. As competition heats up costs have come down and this, combined with more choice, increases the chances of finding a mortgage that suits your lifestyle and budget.

At Tor Mortgage Services we offer impartial and innovative solutions to your mortgage requirements, covering all areas of advice, and we do not charge any fees. We can arrange mortgages through all the lenders available to us at the most competitive rates, and we have access to more than 20,000 mortgage schemes including fixed, tracker, discount and offset mortgages.

### **Re-mortgaging**

There are a number of reasons why you may wish to re-mortgage, or why it could be wise to do so, and for many people the most important of these would be to improve their mortgage rate. But re-mortgaging can also help with debt consolidation, or pay for a house extension or second property purchase.

In many cases the lender will pay some or all of the costs involved, such as valuation and arrangement fees and legal costs.

### **Buy to Let**

More and more people are now looking to property as part of their pension, and using buy to let mortgages is the simplest way of acquiring a property portfolio.

Generally buy to let lending is based on the rental that the property will

achieve, and you will need to have between 15% to 25% as a deposit.

### **Lifetime Mortgages**

With the population now living longer, these are becoming much more relevant. They provide a way for people over 60 to release a lump sum or have a regular monthly income from the equity in their property without selling part of it.

The recent increases in house prices have made lifetime mortgages an integral part of many inheritance tax planning strategies.

### **Foreign Currency Mortgage**

This is a multi-currency loan that is managed on your behalf, with the objective of achieving a reduction in the debt and an interest rate saving over time.

Substantial reductions in your loan can be made when compared with a standard mortgage, but these schemes are not without risk and should be fully understood before you decide to proceed.

### **Foreign Property**

You may be considering buying a property abroad for your own use or for rental. Mortgages can be arranged in sterling on your property in the UK, in Euros against your UK property, or on the property abroad in Euros or the local currency.

### **Mortgage Management**

As part of our service we can include the management and review of all your residential and commercial mortgages on a regular basis to ensure that you always have the most suitable mortgage for your circumstances at that time.

*For further information, or a free consultation, please contact Mike Richards at Tor Mortgage Services, telephone 0207 306 0026, e-mail richardsm@tor.uk.com, or Peter Chuter at Tor (Godalming) Ltd on 01483 425206 or e-mail peter.chuter@tor-ifa.com*

*Tor Mortgage Services Limited and Tor (Godalming) Limited are appointed representatives of IN Partnership, the trading name of The On-Line Partnership Limited, which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority.*

## Charities: SORP 2005

The Charity Commission has published a new SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice) covering the impact of accounting standards, charity law, relevant company law and best practice on the preparation of charity accounts and reports.

SORP 2005 includes the increased number of accounting standards that have to be addressed, and provides more detailed guidance than the previous version issued in 2000. Recommendations concerning the Trustees' Annual Report include a number of additional disclosures.

There are significant exemptions for smaller charities from many of the SORP's recommendations.

*Full details of SORP 2005 can be found on the Charity Commission's website at [www.charity-commission.gov.uk](http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk)*

## UITF 40

A new binding statement (UITF 40) issued by the Urgent Issues Task Force for the Accounting Standards Board applies to the financial statements of suppliers of services, for accounting periods ending after 22 June 2005, no matter what the size of the business. Much of professional firms' 'work in progress', previously valued at cost, will have to be recognised as debtors, 'to reflect the seller's partial performance of its contractual obligation', valued at selling price, thus accelerating tax liabilities.

### **Example:**

The fee expected for a contractual engagement is £10,000; nothing has been billed or paid on account; but 75% of the work has been performed by the supplier's year end. The new rule means that £7,500 must be included in debtors, where, currently, the amount included might have referred only to staff costs, ignoring partners' time, most overheads and any profit margin.

*For further information please see the Current Issues page of our website at [www.agnshipleys.com](http://www.agnshipleys.com)*

# CLIENT NEWS



## CAPITALISM WITH A CONSCIENCE

The owners of the Saruni Safari Camp in Kenya have a specific vision of how to create new wealth in the developing world, and in Africa in particular. They believe that their 'profits for development' model is the effective way forward.

The Saruni project is a truly international initiative. Based in Kenya, with British and Italian shareholders, the vision for the project was conceived and constructed in the UK with technical help from AGN Shipleys. The Maasai people, whose reserve adjoins Saruni, are actively involved in contributing to its success and, consequently, expanding their own villages' economic growth and prosperity.

### *The Ultimate Safari*

Saruni offers a Safari experience in the best wildlife reserve in Africa. The Masai Mara National Reserve covers 1,672 square kilometres, and has an



abundance and variety of wild animals (including the largest population of lions in Kenya), and birds (more than 500 species), unrivalled by any other African location.



The six purpose-built luxury cottages, set in a remote valley, are grouped around Kuro House, and meals can be served in the cottages or in the communal facilities of Kuro House. All the accommodation offers excellent viewing of the many wild animals - elephants and bushbuck, baboons and impala - which come to use the local waterhole.

Guided Safaris can be undertaken in comfortable, fully-open Land Rovers, specially designed to give guests maximum visibility over the landscape and animals, or on foot for a more intimate experience of the African bush. Alfresco meals of excellent

quality are served with birdsong and the calls of the wild as a backdrop.

Saruni is a member of the Ecotourism Society of Kenya, and all its guides are members of the Kenya Professional Safari Guides Association.

### *The Maasai*

The Masai Mara is the home of the Maasai, a traditional semi-nomadic people, and their future well-being is central to the overall Saruni ethos, as low impact and sustainable tourism is emerging as a key to their future sustainability. Many of the wildlife areas around the Masai Mara National Reserve, including the area where Saruni is situated, are owned by trusts set up and managed by the Maasai people.

The 300,000 Maasai are only about 2% of the Kenyan population, but they are probably the best known tribe. Beautiful, proud and colourfully dressed, they remain close to their traditional way of life, and are not seduced by the trappings of other civilisations.

However, they are pleased to meet and offer hospitality to Saruni guests. Many of the Saruni guides are Maasai, and are keen to introduce guests to their villages and fascinating traditions.

An innovation at Saruni this year is the 'Masai Wellbeing Space', a cottage offering professional massage and beauty treatments where guests can relax and learn how the Maasai use the indigenous herbs and plants for their own wellbeing.

For further information on Saruni Safaris visit [www.sarunicamp.com](http://www.sarunicamp.com) or contact [Riccardo@sarunicamp.com](mailto:Riccardo@sarunicamp.com)

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## Businesswoman of the Year

Congratulations to Sureya Landini, Managing Director of AGN Shipleys client Blue Donkey, who has been selected as East of England Businesswoman of the Year.

Blue Donkey, based in Cambridgeshire, specialises in intelligent business-to-business telemarketing. The company was established by Sureya in 1997 and now turns over in excess of £1 million and employs more than 30 people.

Blue Donkey won the East of England Enterprise Award in 2003.





**Paul Druckman,**  
**Managing Director of Orange Consulting,**  
**considers best practice in the board room.**



## *The Company Board*

The boards of most small and medium sized companies, in my experience, are run effectively on an operational level. However, the strategic and governance areas of these boards are often a weakness. This is the result, more often than not, of a lack of clear guidance rather than any unwillingness to undertake the full range of responsibilities of the corporate board.

There has been much in the press about corporate governance in recent years – especially the Higgs Report resulting in the Combined Code on Corporate Governance. This applies to listed companies but can be used as guidance to all companies where appropriate.

I have been involved with organisations that have evaluated their procedures and protocols in light of the combined code, and found the process useful in furthering the development and efficiency of the board.

An example of this is to evaluate the performance of the board by asking the directors a series of questions, and then discussing the outcomes with a view to making improvements. Questions raised would include:

- Is the composition of the board appropriate, with the right mix of knowledge and skills to maximise performance in the light of future strategy?
- Are inside and outside the board relationships working effectively?
- Are the matters specifically reserved for the board the right ones?
- Is appropriate, timely information of the right length and quality provided

to the board, and is management responsive to requests for clarification or amplification?

■ What has been the board's contribution to the testing and development of the company's strategy and risk management?

■ Is the chairman demonstrating effective leadership of the board?

The way the board operates is another component of the combined code which can add to the questioning and improvement in smaller companies. The board's agenda should focus on strategic issues rather than simply approvals of proposals which could be delegated.

In addition, good practice dictates that the agenda and supporting papers for each meeting should be distributed to members of the board at least one week in advance of the meeting.

A publication by the International Federation of Accountants and the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants on 'enterprise governance' looked at a number of case studies and found that there were four key corporate governance issues that underpinned both success and failure. These were: culture and tone at the top; the chief executive; the board of directors; and internal controls.

The first place to start in a smaller company is with the operation of the board, and perhaps it is time your company took this initiative to help develop success for the future.

To contact Paul Druckman telephone 020 7312 0000 or e-mail [druckmanp@agnshipleys.com](mailto:druckmanp@agnshipleys.com)

## Breakfast Club

The monthly Breakfast Club at our Godalming office continues to flourish, and prompt lively and useful debate among members, as well as providing valuable networking opportunities.

Forthcoming meetings will be on 20 May, 17 June and 22 July, all at 7.30am at our Godalming office. For further details, and an invitation to a meeting, please contact Jane Whalley, telephone 01483 423607, e-mail [whalleyj@agnshipleys.com](mailto:whalleyj@agnshipleys.com)

## Marathon Man



Congratulations to Eranda Wickramasinghe, a student at our London office, who completed his fourth London Marathon in 3 hours 46 minutes 26 seconds, and raised almost £1,000 for Teardrop Relief, a charity which helps children in Sri Lanka who were orphaned by the Boxing Day tsunami.

## AGN Tax Surveys

AGN Europe's annual Tax Surveys for 2005 should all be available by the time you read this, covering salaries, corporation tax, holding companies, VAT and inheritance tax on a country-by-country basis.

*The Tax Surveys will be available on the website at [www.agn.org](http://www.agn.org)*

*For further information please contact Penny Sivers at AGN International, telephone 0208 947 4888, e-mail [psivers@agn.org](mailto:psivers@agn.org)*

**Detailed advice should be obtained before taking action, or refraining from taking action, as a result of information in this newsletter.**

*This firm (AGN Shipleys) is not authorised by the Financial Services Authority but we are able in certain circumstances to offer a limited range of investment services because we are licensed by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. We can provide these investment services if they are an incidental part of the professional services we have been engaged to provide.*