



June 2025

# McLarens People

Sharing news from McLarens UK & Ireland with colleagues and clients



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Certification**

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## Welcome

Better never stops. This phrase resonated with me at a recent roundtable with group of client partners. Perfection of course is unattainable, but we continuously strive for betterment in all that we do, analysing current state whilst looking forward in a progressive way; our people, our environment, our expertise, our delivery – innovating and tackling the big issues that keep our clients awake at night in what is the most challenging risk environment of our lifetimes.

And the external validation of what we do we see day in day out with valuable feedback at multiple levels, but it was most pleasing to pick up Loss Adjuster of the Year for the second consecutive year at the British Claims Awards 2025. Truly wonderful to have this industry recognition of the effort that is put in by so many within our business...better never stops!

It is of course conference season, and in a break with tradition, we took this year's McLarens UK Technical Conference to Leeds in what was another tremendously successful couple of days of technical content, business updates and most importantly camaraderie. The Conference was coupled with the Annual McLarens Values Awards, and my congratulations to our eight award winners and all nominated in what was by far the most competitive year.

We saw the usual McLarens presence at BIBA, AIRMIC and ALARM, and just delivered, our now annual European Real Estate Conference in London, welcoming our friends and colleagues from across Europe to share with our clients some of the many challenges of managing a pan-European portfolio. And over the last quarter we hosted many technical events on some of the most topical subjects; from getting deep into the impact of the US tariffs, to tackling the complexities of DSU claims, to the intricacies of managing PV and Terrorism claims.

We have also of course had a bit of fun along the way, McLarens style!

Please enjoy this latest edition of McLarens People which includes a new EMEA feature, and whatever your plans, have a wonderful summer!



**Steven Wallace ACII FCILA**  
Managing Director

 [steven.wallace@mcclarens.com](mailto:steven.wallace@mcclarens.com)

## Real Estate European Conference

Our annual European Real estate conference was a huge success, with over 50 clients in attendance and our partners/teams across 18 different countries!



The sessions weren't just educational also opened up conversations that would not have happened over a phone call or a Teams meeting. It allowed our clients and partners to speak freely and openly about the challenges they face in this market and encouraged friendships to form.

Head of Real Estate, [Vicky Jewell](#) said 'These events build trust and confidence in us, not just as professionals, but personally too! A huge thank you to everyone to helped made the day possible and all our speakers!'

## Steven Wallace - 2025 Insurance

### Post Power List

[Steven Wallace](#) has been included (#36) on the [2025 Insurance Post Power List](#)!

This recognition underscores Steven's exceptional leadership, influence, and the significant impact he continues to make in the insurance claims industry.



## DSU Webinar

Over 130 people attended our webinar prepared in collaboration with Rimkus, which gave insight into DSU Claims and the Financial Fallout of Project Delays.

Project delays due to Damage can lead to significant financial losses, therefore Delay in Start-Up (DSU) insurance is a critical safeguard in construction projects. The webinar explored how Delay in construction and infrastructure projects are assessed under a DSU policy and the financial losses covered in DSU claims. [Mark Simmons](#), [Richard Parkinson](#) and [Chantel Russell](#) (Rimkus) discussed key considerations in DSU claims.



## Young Members Ball Manchester

We hosted a table at the CII Young Members ball attended by [Tom Frain](#), [Mia Okoli](#), [Danielle Holmes](#), and Alex Denby.

Our guests were [Alex Hoshy](#) of [D2 Corporate Solutions](#), [Jordan Cotrell](#) of [Brawdla](#) and Tom Yoxall of [Riverside Housing](#).



Loss Adjuster, Tom Frain said that 'Despite the surprise heatwave in Manchester making the Tux a little uncomfortable, it was a brilliant event with lots of networking and speeches!'

## Style in the City

On Friday 20th June it was the 13th annual Style in the City fashion show. The theme this year was Circus/Greatest Showman and team McLarens certainly went to town!

What made this year's event even more special is our very own [Cassie Watts](#) was the headline act singing a medley from The Greatest Showman, and [Kieran McGuire](#) was the king of strut in the fashion show. A big shout out to all our guests and the effort they also went to, to dress for the occasion!



## ALARM Conference

We attended the [ALARM \( Association of Local Authority Risk Managers \)](#) Conference in Manchester recently on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June.

There was some very good interaction with existing Clients, including [Zurich](#), [Gallagher](#), [Marsh](#), [AON](#), and [RMP](#), as well as the Risk Managers for a number of Local Authorities.

The humid weather in Manchester meant that the McLarens battery powered fans were snapped up on the first day!

The Risk Awards Dinner on the Monday Evening was also well attended, and despite a long evening, [Duncan Hamilton](#) and [Natasha Howles](#) then gave an excellent presentation to the Conference the following day on Subsidence and Tree Root Liability.



## BIBA client dinner and conference activity

The sun was shining in Manchester for the annual BIBA conference and the event which gets bigger every year didn't disappoint. We kicked proceedings off in our usual style, with a private dining event for valued clients, a great opportunity to thank them for trusting us with their work throughout the year.

The following days in the conference proper provided the perfect platform for meaningful client interaction and a bit of fun too. Our stand attraction was called The Cyclone, an interactive game which certainly drew a crowd and encouraged some competitiveness.

[Samantha Lydon](#) of Empower Development topped the leaderboard at the end of the conference and she was over the moon with her prize of vouchers for The Ivy.



## British Claims Awards

We were delighted and honoured to have received the 'Loss Adjuster of the Year' award at the British Claims Awards for the second year in succession.

This industry recognition is a testament to the hard work, innovative spirit and dedication of the entire McLarens team.

In announcing us as winners, the judges said that 'The winner of this award has gone beyond traditional expectations, developing innovative products that enhanced service efficiencies not just for insurers, but for policyholders too.'

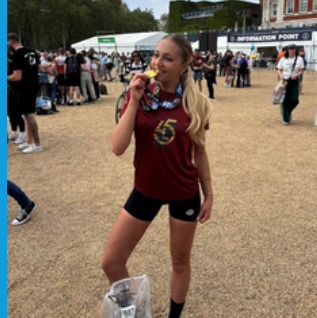


## London Marathon 2025 - Raising money for MACS

McLarens majestic marketer [Isobel Clarke](#) successfully completed the 2025 London Marathon in an impressive 3 hours and 34 minutes.

Isobel raised a remarkable £2,321 for [MACS \(Microphthalmia, Anophthalmia, and Coloboma Support\)](#) — a charity dedicated to supporting children born without eyes or with underdeveloped eyes.

In spite of the warm conditions across the 26.2-mile route, Isobel's perseverance paid off with a finish time that qualifies her for the 2026 'Good for Age' ballot. Well Done Isobel!



## Dispute Resolution Webinar

Earlier in 2025, we had a formal product launch with an expert panel discussion. To raise awareness internally, in late May 2025, [Alex Wakefield](#) hosted a lunchtime webinar, where the [Dispute Resolution](#) product was presented to the UK and Ireland businesses.

This session offered a briefing into the background of the service, key features, personnel, and a discussion on the type of experience necessary to take part. This session was designed to allow our colleagues to spread the word amongst their contacts about our directory, and to ask for those with experience to join the growing list of those with the skill to contribute.

We know that we are in a unique position where the skills in our businesses can be deployed in this interesting and challenging field. With our global reach, and unparalleled expertise, this new product has fantastic potential.



## Forensic Accounting Panel Session

We were pleased to host our annual Forensic Accounting event in London, featuring an engaging and insightful panel discussion from [John Farrell](#), [Kennedys](#), [Nigel Ward](#), [Aviva](#), [Marcus Reath](#), [McLarens](#) and [Louise Butcher](#), [McLarens](#).

The panel brought together industry leaders from across the legal, insurance, and forensic accounting sectors and explored how shifting global tariffs are affecting the claims landscape and what can be done to stay ahead of the curve.

Their diverse viewpoints led to a dynamic and thought-provoking discussion on how to approach claims in an ever-changing global tariff landscape.



## Teddy Trust

At our recent McLarens UK conference, we proudly supported [The Teddy Trust](#), a small UK charity that sends donated teddy bears to children affected by war, abuse, or trauma. These bears offer simple yet powerful comfort to those who have lost so much.

Thanks to generous funds raised from our "guess the baby" competition, we raised £497.18 and collected 17 teddy bears. Every donation helps, with funds going directly toward shipping bears to children in need.

The support didn't stop there as one colleague has already involved their child's school, gathering more bears and funds. It's a heartwarming example of how small acts can spark wider kindness.

Thank you to everyone who contributed, we look forward to making an even bigger impact next time.



## Navigating the complex landscape of political violence & terrorism claims

During a London market breakfast briefing event, colleagues from our EMEA region unlocked the intricacies of handling political violence & terrorism claims, the challenges and loss adjusting techniques adopted to navigate cultural sensitivity and changing political outlooks.

Thank you to our superb host [Alistair Jacob](#) and stellar line up of panelists from McLarens, [Pranod Joshi](#), [Joe Jarvis](#), [Dave Watts](#) and [Peter Kazan](#). We're looking forward to the upcoming Autumn webinar series and a further in person event to hear more about this captivating subject.



## CII Future Leaders Nature Summit

[Blue Newton](#) attended the CII Future Leaders Nature Summit in Kinlochmoidart, Scotland, a unique programme focused on the intersection of insurance, sustainability, and biodiversity.

Set in a stunning natural environment, the summit brought together rising talent from across the London market including Marsh, Willis, AXA XL, QBE, Fidelis, Convex, and Lloyd's. The agenda combined morning fieldwork, afternoon workshops, and evening networking sessions.

Key discussions explored how insurance can support a sustainable future — from integrating biodiversity into risk frameworks to de-risking carbon credits and developing innovative climate risk financing solutions. The group also examined ESG initiatives and how biodiversity net gain and carbon credit mechanisms could be better aligned.

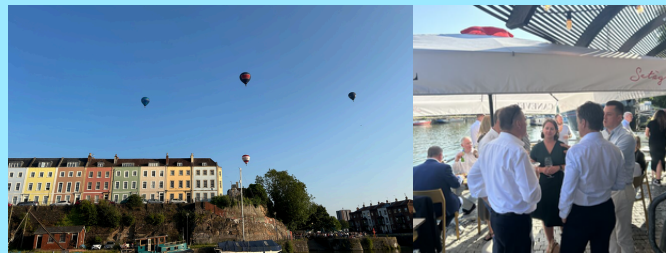
Blue stated that 'It was an inspiring and hands-on experience, offering real-world insights into how the insurance industry can lead in climate resilience and sustainable innovation.'



## Bristol Office Launch

We were delighted to welcome brokers and insurers from across Bristol to our launch event, celebrating the opening of our new office in the city.

Set against the backdrop of a beautiful riverside venue and blessed with blue skies, the event created a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere. Guests enjoyed great conversations, refreshments, and saw a stunning display of hot air balloons drifting over the river.



## LBIA dinner

The [London Business Interruption Association \(LBIA\)](#) returned to its pre-Covid vibrancy in April 2025, with McLarens proudly hosting two tables of guests. It was a fantastic evening, marking the end of [Louise Butcher's](#) first year as LBIA President.

Entertainment was provided by magician turned comedian Ben Hanlin, who was a hit with the audience. The event also raised over £4,000 for Louise's chosen charity, [Unique](#), which supports individuals with rare chromosome disorders.



## Airmic Conference Activity

We returned to the [Airmic \(Association for Insurance & Risk\)](#) conference 2025, this time in Liverpool, from 9 - 11 June 2025!

Our cross-disciplinary team combined global insight and regional knowledge to support the evolving needs of our clients. And prospective clients discovered how McLarens can assist them in delivering market-leading expertise across our specialty lines including Major Loss, TPA, and Forensic Accountancy.

You can discover more [here](#)



## Aviva Supplier Day

We were delighted to attend the recent [Aviva Supplier Day](#), where we had a fantastic time connecting with the [Aviva Claims and Supply Chain](#) teams, as well as fellow suppliers and industry peers.

Head of UK Business Development, [Nicola Cattan](#) said 'The event was a valuable opportunity to build relationships, share ideas, and gain meaningful insight into [Aviva's](#) strategy. We came away with a clearer understanding of their direction and a renewed sense of collaboration for the future.'



## Ladies of Insurance Lunch Glasgow

The Ladies of Insurance Lunch in Glasgow is an annual networking and fundraising event for women across the Insurance sector, including Brokers, Solicitors, Loss Adjusters, Insurers, and Claims Management companies. Each year features a fun theme, with 2025's being Hollywood Glamour—and plenty of sequins!

McLarens were proud to secure a table for the second year running, joined by some of our valued Brokers and Clients including [Lycetts](#), [CNA Hardy](#), [Kelvin Smith](#), [Squared Brokers](#), [AJG & Allianz](#).

After a delicious two-course lunch (with a splash of prosecco!), the day carried on with games, networking, fundraising and dancing. A different local charity is chosen each year, and thanks to the generosity of attendees, an incredible amount is always raised.



## McLarens UK Conference 2025: The Highlight of the UK Calendar

In sunny Leeds, we hosted an incredible two-day event that brought our UK team together to share knowledge, celebrate achievements, and look ahead to FY26 and beyond.

With thought-provoking sessions, delivered with the signature McLarens blend of expertise and humour, covering everything from Product Recall to Large Losses, Peri menopause, ESG, Subsidence, and the future of McLarens, we proudly showcased the collaboration that drives our business forward.

An evening of dinner, drinks and entertainment was topped off with our annual McLarens Values Awards ceremony. Congratulations to all our worthy winners:

- Teamwork – [Kerry Smith](#)
- Thought Leadership – [Alex Wakefield](#)
- Accountability – [Tom Spencer](#)
- Respect – [Simon Bradd](#)
- Knowledge – [Catherine Pembroke](#)
- Excellence – [Mike Hurry](#)
- Trevor Latimer Award – [Caroline McDonald](#)
- Special Recognition – [Brian Gibson](#)



## Epsom Race Day

The weather held up for a superb day of racing at Epsom on Ladies Day, and we took full advantage by hosting guests for a wonderful day of networking.

Clients from [AXA XL](#), [Brown & Brown](#), [Marriot](#), [Uber](#), [Liberty](#), [HDI](#), [Meader Risk](#), [Howden](#), [Kerry London](#) and [Clear Group](#) were in attendance and enjoyed the day filled with top-class racing and entertainment.





**UAE Client event**



**CII Future Leaders Nature Summit**



**Style in the City**



**ALARM Conference**



**Alecto Event**



**Ladies of Insurance Lunch**



**BIBA Conference**



**Real Estate Conference**

## FOCUS ON: CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING



**Mark Simmons**  
Head of Construction & Engineering

Loss team and is quickly becoming the go-to choice for major losses. [Mark Savage](#) has recently handled a series of non-negligent claim notifications and is known for his engaging training on cases where recklessness was the root cause.

The team specialises in Contractors All Risks (CAR) claims, working with clients ranging from top-tier contractors on multibillion-dollar projects to sole traders. Many of these claims involve design issues, defects, and multiple parties.

[Adrian Symons](#), [Dan Burns](#), [Eden Fox](#), and industry veteran [Dave Raward](#) lead the plant and engineering offering. They've recently secured key nominations on high-profile projects like HS2 and with firms such as [Volker](#) and [Vinci](#).

Team members work closely with the Major & Complex Loss and Forensic Accounting teams. We're also pleased to welcome [Sophia Tinson](#) and [Holly Weedon](#), who add further strength to the team.

The Construction & Engineering team is a 14 strong group of specialists: chartered engineers, chartered surveyors, crane & plant engineers and qualified adjusters. With backgrounds from leading contractors ([Damian Wilkinson](#) and [Nathan Scott](#)), consultancies, and the engineering sector, the team brings extensive industry expertise.

[Nigel Collins](#) leads McLarens' specialist cyber and technology offering. [Blue Newton](#), recognised as a leading adjuster in the waste recycling sector, works closely with the Major & Complex

## 10 QUESTIONS WITH: BLUE NEWTON



**Blue Newton**  
Executive Manager-  
Construction & Engineering

**5. What is your favourite tippie?**  
A nice cold Guinness.

**6. If you could invite anyone to dinner (dead or alive), who would they be?**  
Joe Marler, his dry humour would make for an entertaining evening.

**7. Do you have any hobbies?**  
I've played rugby most of my life whilst currently doing a bit of CrossFit and running as well.

**8. What essential ingredients make for a great weekend?**  
Normally there is some form of sport involved whether that be participating or watching, followed by good food, a few drinks and catching up with friends.

**9. What's your go-to takeaway food?**  
You can't beat a Nando's.

**10. What is your favourite book?**  
I'm currently reading Rob Burrows autobiography – Too Many Reasons to Live.

**1. Describe your home office**  
Very minimalistic, I like a clear and tidy space to work in.

**2. What can you see from your window right now?**  
My neighbours Alaskan Malamute's napping in the early morning sun. Long may the good weather continue.

**3. What is your favourite travel destination?**  
I would have to say New Zealand, the contrast in landscapes between beaches, mountains, waterfalls and glaciers was stunning and means there's lots to explore and do.

**4. What is your favourite food?**  
Italian or Mexican, it's a tough call between those two.

# Spotlight on EMEA

## CILA Dubai Claims Professionals Conference

[Mahesh Ganesan](#) was involved in organising the CILA (Middle East) Claims Professional Conference 2025 held in Dubai. The event was a success and Mahesh hosted a session jointly with [Hawkins](#) on Contractors Plant & Machinery claims.



## McLarens Saudi Arabia- Jeddah Office Move

McLaren's [KSA Head office](#) has been relocated to a more modern and centrally located space in Al Basateen District, along King Abdulaziz Road "one of the city's most important commercial arteries in Jeddah".

The new location offers significantly improved access to the airport and key active areas of the city. It's also worth noting that King Abdulaziz Road is home to many of the Kingdom's major insurance companies, which further strengthens our strategic position and accessibility within the market.



## Collaborative Client Evening in the UAE

We were proud to recently host our first-ever client event in Dubai, bringing together clients and industry colleagues from [McLarens](#), [Lloyd Warwick](#) and [McLarens Aviation](#).

Held at the Sunken Garden bar at the Ritz Carlton, the venue set the tone for a relaxed evening of conversation, drinks and canapés. It was a lively night with strong engagement and positive energy throughout.

Regional leaders [Malcolm Addy](#) (McLarens), [David Hitchen](#) (McLarens Aviation) and [Stephen O'Reilly](#) (LWI) were on hand to welcome guests and connect with new and familiar faces.

Our presence in the UAE and wider GCC has grown significantly, and the event was a proud moment to showcase the depth of expertise across our global specialty units.

We look forward to building on these relationships and continuing to support our clients across the region.



## Alecto Client Event

On 20<sup>th</sup> May, [Steven Wallace](#) and [Neil Baldwin](#) had the pleasure of attending the [Alecto Consulting](#) (McLarens Belgian affiliate) summer party market event at the Rooftop Bar Gaston in Ghent.

Neil Baldwin said, 'It was a pleasure spending time with [Ruth Saeys](#), [Bart Hertegonne](#), their team, and their local market. We enjoyed their hospitality, the sunshine and the introduction to Delirium beer!'



## Day of Collaboration in Riyadh

[Matt Rooney ACA, CVA](#) and [Louise Butcher](#) recently attended a lively technical business interruption session hosted by [Ahmed Almalki](#), [Omar Sindi](#) and [Mahesh Ganesan](#) from our Dubai office.

[Louise](#) said that there was 'Fantastic engagement all round as we

tackled key topics such as Increased Costs of Working, Contingent BI and strategies for managing future risks. Exciting discussions throughout the day!'





# Market Insights

Looking at the hot topics ongoing and coming up in the market.



Click on the links to find out more.

## McLarens Secures Planet Mark Certification

### For Second Year

McLarens has retained its Planet Mark Business Certification for the second consecutive year, recognising the business' efforts in carbon footprint measurement and reduction, and underlining its commitment to sustainability. McLarens has also unveiled its first ever Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Impact Report,



[Read full article](#)

## McLarens Publishes Its First ESG Impact Report!

We're so proud to share our first Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Impact Report, highlighting the positive steps we are taking to build a socially responsible business with respect to environment, people, communities and governance.



[Read full article](#)

## Did you miss...



(Click on the titles to view article)

Post 13th June 2025

[Blog: Do real estate claims need a rethink?](#)

Post 2nd June 2025

[Diary of an Insurer: Gary Clift of McLarens](#)

Post 31st May 2025

[Insurance sector 24 mile challenge in the Cotswolds](#)

Post 19th May 2025

[McLarens appoints chief information officer to oversee digital transformation](#)

Post 16th May 2025

[McLarens aims for net zero by 2050](#)

Post 13th May 2025

[Steven Wallace, McLarens](#)

Post 13th May 2025

[Music equipment theft under the mic-roscope as claims severity escalates](#)

Post 13th May 2025

[Insurance industry's most powerful players revealed](#)

Post 4th April 2025

[Insurance moves: Arch Insurance, Howden, SRG, Brit Group and McLarens](#)

Post 2nd April 2025

[McLarens changes top team to 'maintain' growth](#)

