

In his Budget of the 8th July, The Chancellor announced an increase in the rate of Insurance Premium Tax (IPT) from the present 6% to 9.5%. The increase will take effect from the 1st November 2015 on all policies incepting or renewed after that date.

This tax, first introduced in 1996, is payable by all policyholders, and is a straightforward tax – neither insurers nor brokers benefit from its collection. Requests for changes of renewal date *may* be considered on an individual basis, but any such must be compliant with HMRC's Anti-forestalling Regulations. Please note that IPT is very different from VAT. Because insurance is VAT-exempt, IPT cannot be treated as a VAT input tax.

We will continue to show the actual insurance premium on our invoices, together with the amount of IPT, any special charges, and the total due. We can usually arrange for premiums to be paid in monthly instalments, either by Direct Debit to the insurer, or by third party funders.

Even the new rate of IPT is considerably lower than IPT elsewhere in the EU, which typically is set at or close to the local VAT rate. Although there is no reason to believe that any harmonisation is in the offing, we cannot rule out a general move to bring UK IPT up towards the level of UK VAT in the future. This would bring the UK more into line with the Continent.

Accidents can come back to haunt you

One of the outcomes of the recession has been the increased level of fraudulent claims against employers and other business providers. Launching a claim for injury or damage can seem an easy way of making money for cash strapped individuals. We are constantly bombarded by advertisements from accident compensation companies telling us how easy it is to make money at no risk and little hassle.



All too simply, that niggling back pain which can easily be forgotten when there is plenty of work can become a real earner when work is not so plentiful. Employers especially in the building trades are increasingly being sued by ex employees that suddenly are unable to work because of an old injury. The same situation applies to local authorities, shopping centre owners and any business that owns or occupies an area where the public has access and where slips and trips can occur. Some desperate people feign injuries or even injure themselves deliberately to obtain compensation.

Insurers are well aware of the recession related phenomenon and are well trained to manage such claimants. However it is important that businesses safeguard themselves as much as possible by having a well documented system to record everything that happens.

Every incident, however trivial, should be recorded in an accident book and where possible witnesses names taken and recorded. The more details that are taken at the time of the incident the better. You should take pictures of the site of any accident if you can. Records should be kept as long as possible as claims can be made up to three years later.

If you have any suspicion the incident could lead to a claim, let us know immediately. The insurance industry has a number of databases that can be searched to check personal information and identify fraudsters. The sooner this is done the better.

Fraudulent claims can cost you dearly. They are time consuming and can lead to higher premiums, and in some cases, difficulty in getting cover. It is better to be prepared than to try to reconstruct an event sometime later.

Charity Skydive

On the 6th September 2015 Tania, the wife of Ault's director Alan Begley, did a skydive for the charity NICE. The staff at Aults had a day fund raising for Tania's efforts and raised £300.



NICE (National Institute for Conductive Education) is a midlands based charity insured by Aults that teaches children and adults with movement disorders, strategies to gain greater control over their movements leading to increased confidence, skills and a higher level of potential.

Karate Club Scheme

Following on from the success of our insurance scheme for Swimming Schools and Clubs we are pleased to announce that we shall shortly be launching a new scheme for Karate Clubs. The scheme will be underwritten by the Ageas Insurance Company, one of the largest insurance companies in the country. The scheme will be handled here at Ault's by Vince Parker who runs his own karate club and is a black belt, 5th Dan, himself. So not only does he have the extensive insurance knowledge to handle the scheme, but he also knows about and understands karate and the specific needs of running a club. Any enquiries or further information in respect of this new scheme should be directed to Vince Parker at Aults.



Swimtime Franchise Awards Evening

On the evening of Tuesday 8th September, the Swimtime Franchise (which is insured by Aults) held their Awards evening in Manchester which was attended by Aults Managing Director, Mark Wedgbury (right on photo) and by Aults / Swimsure staff, Vince Parker (on left) and Sharon Harrison (centre). Two of the awards, for Admin Person of the Year, and Community Fundraiser of the Year were sponsored by Aults and the presentations were made by Vince and Sharon.

BII Fun Run

On Sunday 20th September Aults Senior Claims Handler, Donna King, took part in the Birmingham Insurance Institute 5k Fun Run in Sutton Park finishing 18th out of 71 and raised funds for Acorns Children's Hospice.



MacMillan Coffee Morning

On 25th September the staff at Aults raised just over £200 for the MacMillan Cancer Support Charity.



Office space available for rent

We currently have some office space available for rent in our building. For those of you who have never visited us and don't know West Bromwich, we are situated in a town centre location just off the High Street and very close to the new "New Square" shopping centre. We are also close to the Metro station giving easy and quick access to Birmingham and Wolverhampton, and only minutes away from the M5 and M6 motorways. If anyone is interested and wants some more information just give us a call.

Puzzle Corner

I took the adjacent photograph in the Tower of London in 2013. Do you know which regiment the Guard is from ?

Entries as usual via our web site only by the 30th October. £25 worth of Marks and Spencer's vouchers will be sent to the first entry drawn out of the hat who identifies it correctly.

In our Spring 2015 newsletter we printed a photograph of part of a famous building and asked you where it was.

The answer was York Minster.

The winning entry drawn out of the hat was from a long standing personal lines client Sian Smith from Gloucestershire.

We sent her £25 of Marks and Spencer's vouchers as usual.

