

Co-operative Opportunities: Three Short Papers

The following three papers were presented on 1st March 2001 to a Seminar on "Co-operative Opportunities" organised by Cobbetts, Solicitors, of Manchester for a range of participants from the co-operative movement. Ian Snaith and Roger Jones analysed the historical development of industrial and provident society law to question perceptions of, respectively, the "bona fide Co-operative"/"benefit of the community" dichotomy and the constitutional role of employees and consumers as stakeholders in co-operatives. Cliff Mills addressed the implications both of those arguments and of the failure of company structures in areas ripe for co-operative or mutual development. All three papers relate those issues to the implementation of the recommendations of the Co-operative Commission in their 2001 Report.