



## Christopher Butterworth

*Consultant Mediator*



### In Brief

Solicitor	Computers/IT
Chartered Arbitrator	Agricultural disputes
	Partnership/company
	Intellectual property
	Contract disputes
	Professional negligence

### Mediation Experience

Acted as Mediator in variety of Mediations  
Represented clients in several Mediations, and  
Been a party in a Mediation

Also ...

I come from a farming background, and have acted for farmers and agricultural businesses for many years, and I live in the country.

I am a trustee of a number of trusts and of a charity.

I have been a member of the national committees of legal software User Groups

### Some cases mediated...

#### Professional negligence

Solicitors / SIF

Negligence relating to agricultural advice  
Negligence relating to commercial advice  
Negligence relating to £3.5 m development deal

Accountants

Three Party dispute between plc and international accountancy practice re negligent tax advice

#### IT, Intellectual Property and Computer industry

Dispute between consultant and purchaser of system, advised by 'claims experts'  
Dispute over IP rights to educational software and breach of contract  
Alleged wrongful termination of software sales and marketing agreement  
Software licensing dispute  
Copyright claim against trade association (half day)



#### Partnership disputes &/or dissolution

Solicitors  
(Enforced) retirement of a senior partner  
Dissolution of a practice  
Accountants  
Three party (+PII insurers) dispute family partnership, Ltd company and allegedly negligent accountants

#### Commercial

Dispute between partners in nursing home business  
Dispute between partners in a health club, with commercial and property issues  
Dispute over valuation and financial issues two years after dissolution of engineering partnership

#### Farming

Post dissolution disputes in family farming partnership after a divorce, including personal and children issues

#### Company / Commercial

Dispute between directors / shareholders in private limited company  
Alleged breach of contract for services in entertainment industry  
Contractual dispute between two trade associations (2 days)  
Building dispute over alleged improper disposal of toxic waste  
Three party engineering dispute in food industry – national company, contractor and sub-contractor

#### Professional Background...

Hands on business experience

Managing Partner of a firm of solicitors in Harrogate, which involves a practical and robust understanding of fundamental business processes and management issues.  
I have had substantial experience of purchasing, installing and operation of IT since the early 1970s; this has involved being trained in a wide range of systems and applications software, over the years. I have a good understanding of IT fundamentals, contracting and current issues, including the operation of networked PCs.  
I have been a Director of a variety of Limited Companies.

#### Farmers and farming industry

Supply dispute in pig industry  
Cattle feed and growth dispute  
Alleged supply of diseased pigs  
Four party dispute relating to supply of agricultural equipment  
Live poultry supply agreement  
Dispute over land rights, AIACS, quotas, contract farming etc.

Property rights / Landlord and Tenant

Student letting dispute (half day – Court referral scheme)

*All the above Mediations, except one, have resulted in a signed binding settlement agreement. However I do not consider that settlement of a dispute on the day of a mediation must be achieved at any cost, I am conscious that in a minority of cases a failure to settle will inevitably be the right outcome.*



Responsible for administration and systems since 1980s

Substantial practical experience of accounting, financial issues, selection and installation of IT systems etc.

Former Head of Litigation Department and currently Member of Commercial Team

Extremely wide range of civil litigation experience including personal injury work for insurers and claimants, commercial disputes, negligence claims, farming disputes, heavy debt collection and enforcement, emergency procedures etc. Also employment work. Over more recent years dealing with commercial contractual work and business disputes, often with an IT or partnership bias.

Managing Partner since 1994

I have gained a very broad experience of a wide range of civil contentious and commercial matters over 30 years of professional practice; including Commercial Contracts, Partnership, Building Disputes, Personal Injury Litigation, Agricultural and IT law etc. I have acquired very robust and practical experience of commercial and civil disputes, and their resolution

## Why choose consensus mediation...?

Our role ensures that...

- Mediators remain wholly impartial and focused on the dispute because we handle all the fee negotiations, contracts, documents and logistics;
- Mediators do not become disqualified from acting (even by perception) because of previous direct or frequent instructions from one party or solicitor;
- Clients and their solicitors can concentrate on the case while we sort out all the administration and logistics.

We quote an inclusive fee for the mediator's time and the administration of the entire mediation process. Consensus Mediation does not charge for "overtime" or for any other hidden extras.

For an informal discussion call one of our Case Managers now on **0844 561 1763**