

## BOOK REVIEW/LOOSE LEAF WORK

### GORE-BROWNE ON COMPANIES

By Alistair Alcock, Lord Millet and Michael Todd QC

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EVERY SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT IN COMPANY LAW IS COVERED IN THIS EXCELLENT LOOSE LEAF WORK

An appreciation by Phillip Taylor MBE and Elizabeth Taylor of Richmond Green Chambers

This two-volume work by Alistair Alcock, Lord Millet and Michael Todd QC is where the details of all aspects of company law are to be found in our great common law system.

In common with other publishing companies, Jordan Publishing have produced a series of fundamental loose leaf works for lawyers which concentrate on particular legal disciplines relevant for specialist Counsel.

As practitioners, we cannot do without these works to carry out our professional duties properly because they contain everything which is current about a specific aspect of law for which legal research needs to be conducted.

Most lawyers will remember from their student and early training days how much reliance can and must be placed on up to date, concise and detailed works which we need for court, for Opinions and

for drafting as well as general advice and conferences. We are pleased to say that Jordans are the consummate lead publishers in the field with their excellent reference and research material for company law.

“Gore-Browne on Companies” is therefore a world leader for Company Law. There are regular updates which form the basis for this loose leaf reference work format. There is also an online service which is particularly relevant to today’s savvy web user although we recognize that some users will have initial difficulties with the navigation of the various sites so it is a matter of getting used to the new way of doing things.

The general advice given is to practice using the site and all its sub areas either on your PC or the tablet. It is rather like getting used to a new mobile telephone hand set as they all have their different little quirks. But you will get there with a good understanding of what the online system offers quite quickly as practice makes perfect!

Can we offer a word of warning about the loose leaf works in general! Do not expect too much until you are conversant with where things are in the volumes. Remember that there is a tremendous amount of information available because this is where the law is stored and always be aware that the concept of ‘ignorance of the law is no excuse’ is one of those little legal fictions which politicians and judges love because we all know that you cannot possibly be aware of much of what in these loose leaf files which is why legal research is needed in the first place.

The other main point to be aware of is that some practitioners will assume, erroneously, that the online side of the work will offer you everything you may need for court. This, of course, is not the case. The loose leaf reference makes it easier to copy pages for court, but don’t forget that your judge may not use computers regularly (or even like them).

And then there's the court service itself which is currently being reshaped in the post 'legal aid for all' era so that these Jordans facilities will come to be accepted as a brilliant step forward because they are becoming more common place in chambers and with legal advisers, and in the courts, and for ADR including expanded video links as they come into regular usage to avoid time delays and travel costs.

The manual has two binders. Binder 1 has a table of cases etc at the beginning and then launches into the various parts which cover law and practice with specific paragraph numbering and finally an Index at the back of both binders.

Binder 2 continues the list of contents. Both binders are where you find the 'hands on' detail which you will need and thankfully it is updated very regularly as part of the service which Jordans offer. Right at the back you have the update form which allows you to manually list the changes as old loose leaf pages are removed and new ones added to reflect changes in law and practice.

Practitioners in the last few decades have found that the easiest way (for the moment) to address corporate governance issues lies with rapid access (online or paper versions) to case law authorities and both primary and secondary legislation.

You get all of this with "Gore-Browne on Companies" which remains the ultimate statement on the subject. Thank you Jordans for making our lives a lot easier explaining the intricacies of company law!