

IP Inclusive annual meeting 22.4.26 IP Futures update



Apr 2026 – From Junior to Expert, Building a Career in IP (Taylor Wessing, London)

Our most recent event was kindly hosted by Taylor Wessing in their London Office. The event brought together a panel of IP professionals ranging from just qualified right through to established Partner level, expertly moderated by Fionnula Richardson. The focus was on how to build your career in IP and the panel shared their insights. Some of the key takeaways for me were that business development isn't something you switch on and off when you're 'doing BD', it's something that should feed into everything you do as an IP professional. As one panellist put it, building genuine relationships with your clients matters just as much as knowing the law. Clients want to feel like there's a real person at the end of the phone and that they can come to you when they have a problem! After the panel, we were treated to drinks and nibbles which served as the perfect catalyst for attendees to practice making those relationships. I am also quite certain it was the first IP Futures event to feature Octopus canapes but that is by the by!

Mar 2026 - A joint coffee date from Women in IP and IP Futures

Women in IP and IP Futures joined forces for a relaxed, online coffee date designed to share experiences and build connections across firms, career stages, and practice areas. In small groups, we explored how you can be intentional when interacting with others externally and internally (think about all those coffee date interactions) and different forms of self-promotion. At the end of the session, we all came back together to share any tips we've learned from each other.

Nov 2025 – Voices from the Top, Insights from Women in IP and their journey to leadership (Simmons & Simmons, London)

Simmons & Simmons were our excellent hosts for this event, which was run in collaboration with Women in IP. The event featured an engaging panel discussion, featuring six incredibly accomplished women from both in-house and private practice backgrounds. As always at IP Inclusive events, while this discussion was women-led, the event welcomed all professionals looking to advance their careers and explore different journeys to success in IP. Our panellists shared their unique journeys through training, career progression, and advancement to leadership positions. We were certainly lucky to benefit from their valuable insights and it's always reassuring to hear how even the most successful IP professionals experienced some potholes in their career journey. On a slightly whimsical note, one attendee personally asked me to pass on her compliments on the quality of the biscuits!

Sept 2025 - Networking – The Theory and the Practice (Pinsent Masons, Edinburgh)

This Scottish event was small but mighty and provided an all-important opportunity for Scottish based IP professionals to expand their peer networks. Attendees enjoyed a relaxed atmosphere with drinks and flexed their networking muscles. This was a repeat event from one that Pinsent Masons hosted previously in London, and IP Futures is committed to running more events outside of London for all UK IP professionals.

June 2025 – IP Futures Summer Social (Abel & Imray, London)

We invited IP Inclusive supporters to join us at Abel & Imray’s London Office for our 2025 summer social for some fun and relaxed networking, drinks and (most importantly) some delicious pizza! It was wonderful to see the office completely packed with IP professionals from all backgrounds. We were particularly pleased to get such positive feedback from those who were seeking to enter the profession, that the event helped them make some contacts and get some proper feedback on what the IP profession is really like.

...And in the pipeline...

Our next event is pencilled in for the last week of August 2026 and is in collaboration with IP Out. Fi and I had a meeting with Kevin Rich two weeks ago to get the ball rolling on that. The plan is to locate this event in Manchester (we are looking for a host firm currently) and run it as a hybrid event. It will again have a panel discussion and networking format, focusing on advice for making career moves. More details to follow. 😊

Chris Lindsay

[IP Futures](#) committee co-lead