

**CoreNet
Property Week
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Q+A: Ian Smith, outgoing UK CoreNet president

After passing on the baton to new CoreNet Global UK chapter president, BA property development manager Steve Probert, earlier this summer, outgoing chief and immediate past-president Ian Smith talks to *Property Week* about his time at the helm.



What did you find most challenging?

I would say balancing the time between my day job, which is running the project management group of Global Corporate Services across EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa) at CBRE, and leading CoreNet – that's always the challenge.

But I have managed to achieve what I set out to do, including bringing the Knowledge Exchange to fruition for members. These are half-day workshops with presentations and discussions on key topics.

What advice would you give to the new president?

I now sit in an advisory capacity as immediate past-president, but the unwritten rule is to not interfere and let the new president get on. The only thing I would say is keep it fresh.

If you look at corporate real estate, the pressures that we all face just go round in cycles. It's about finding new, creative solutions and engaging with the membership to find out what they're really interested in.

What would you like to see from the organisation in the near future?

The future of CoreNet is now with the generation below me. The Young Leaders Group has been reinvigorated during my presidency, although I wasn't the creator of it. They are the future of our industry and I think it is really important that these guys come through. ■

CoreNet awards and essay competition @

PropertyWeek.com

Entry is still open for the CoreNet Young Person's Essay Award, in association with *Property Week*. The first prize is £500, with a year's free subscription to CoreNet Global UK plus a day's mentoring with a senior CoreNet board member. Entries can be submitted to essays@propertyweek.com and must be made by 19 October. For more information visit propertyweek.com


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