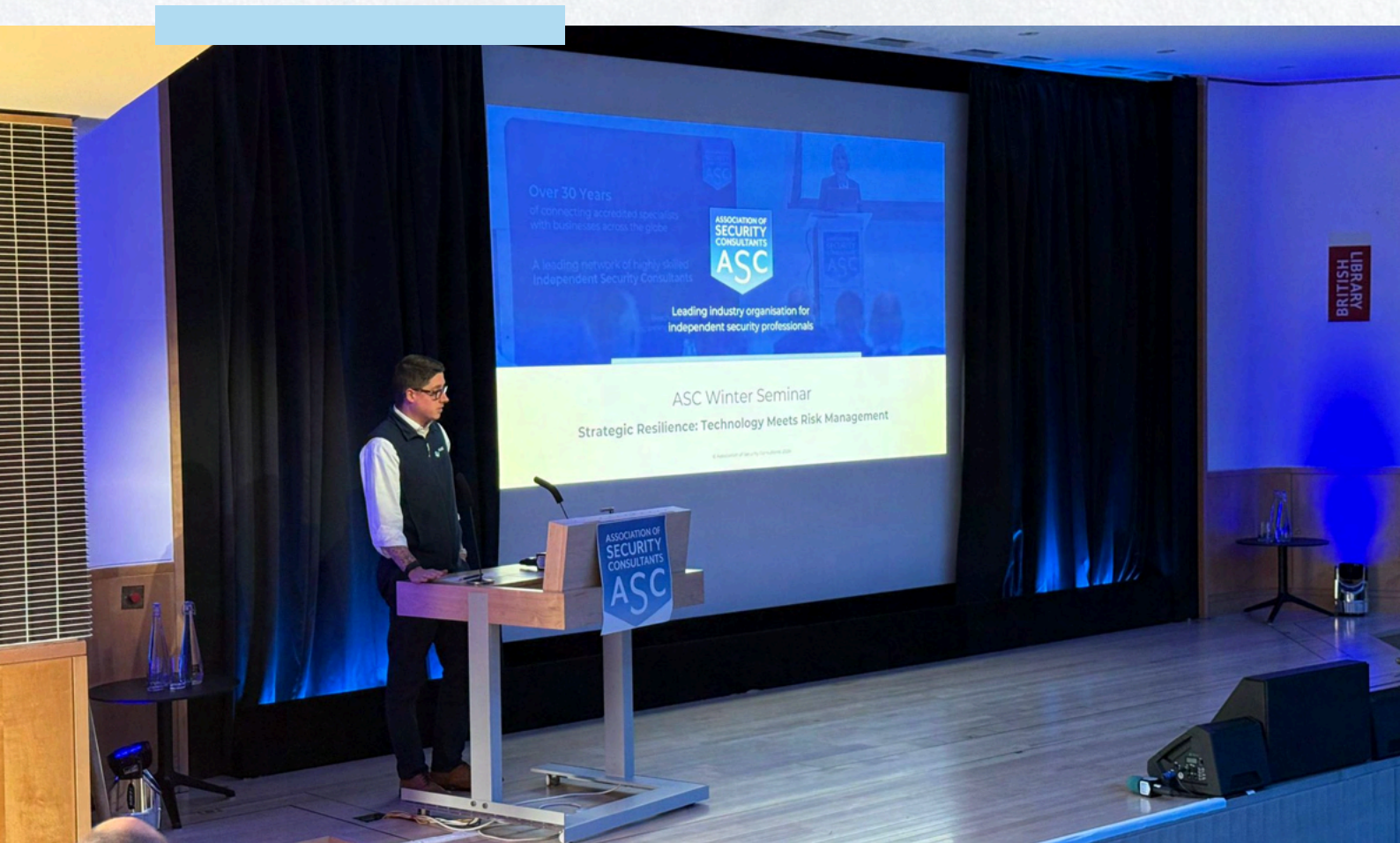


March 2026



# The Sentinel

Your Monthly Bulletin from the ASC



**Delivering**

**Insights, Updates, and Opportunities.**

# Introduction

Setting Benchmarks,  
**Leading Progress.**

## Simon Crane

ASC Chair



The ASC has built a strong reputation over many years as the home of independent, trusted security expertise, driven by the strength and depth of its member network. Stepping into the role of Chair is therefore both a privilege and a huge responsibility, one I approach with a deep respect for this legacy and the foundations that have been established.

Firstly, I want to acknowledge the work Gary Thomas has done in leading the Association as the former Chair. Having worked closely with him over the past few years, I've seen the consistency and clarity he brought to the position. I'm pleased that the ASC will continue to benefit from his experience as he moves into the role of COO.

The reality is that the global security landscape is becoming more complex by the day. Threats are no longer confined to a single domain, and the lines between physical, personnel, cyber and organisational risk are increasingly blurred. In that environment, the value of clear, unbiased advice becomes even more important to cut through the chatter. What makes the ASC stand out is the independence of its members, and it's something we must continue to protect and promote as a defining strength.

Looking ahead, I see a real opportunity to further raise the profile of security consultancy within the industry, government and with end users. There is still much more we can do to ensure that organisations fully understand the value of engaging independent consultants to provide their security solutions. Alongside that, I want to encourage even greater collaboration within our membership, creating more opportunities to share insights combined with best practice across the network.

Let's take a look back at March.

**Hope you enjoy this edition of The Sentinel.**

# Hear from our Board:

## Nigel Cook

ASC Director & Treasurer



As we move towards the end of the financial year, I want to take a moment to update you on the financial health of our association and the work your membership continues to make possible. Strong governance and transparent stewardship remain at the heart of our strategic approach, and those values are reflected in the Board's recent decision to appoint a Chief Operating Officer to strengthen operational delivery and long-term planning.

Over recent months we have focused on tightening our financial processes and improving forecasting, with the aim of ensuring that as much of our income as possible can be focused towards supporting the membership, and associated membership benefits.

Whilst we seek and pursue opportunities to diversify our income streams association membership continues to grow. Your membership fees are, and will remain the backbone of our association's financial stability, and we remain committed to using those finances responsibly and with clear accountability.

Looking ahead, we will continue to explore new partnerships and sponsorship opportunities to diversify revenue, with the aim of maintaining as much downward pressure on membership costs as we can. As always, our aim will continue to be the strengthening of the association's resilience whilst expanding the resources available to you, its membership.

Both personally and on behalf of the Board, I thank you for your continued trust and engagement. Together, we are building a more capable, connected, and forward-thinking association, whose influence continues to grow within the security industry and beyond.



The Association of Security Consultants (ASC) is undergoing a transformative phase, with a renewed emphasis on enhancing standards, education, Continuous Professional Development (CPD), and, most crucially, demonstrating competence. This commitment to excellence is now more robust than ever, setting the stage for even greater achievements.

At the heart of this evolution is the ASC's dedication to keeping its members informed about critical developments. From emerging threats and sector advancements to legislative changes, the ASC is your go-to source for essential information. This commitment was vividly showcased at the recent winter seminar, where attendees were privileged to hear from the **2025 Mike Cahalane MASC and Imbert Award winners, Dan Gillis and James Mortlock**. Their presentations not only highlighted their award-winning projects but also expanded the knowledge and understanding of the audience on diverse topics.

# Sentinel Scholarly

## Celebrating Achievement, Promoting Learning

The seminar series promises to continue this trend, with upcoming sessions featuring entries from other finalists. These sessions will delve into a wide array of subjects, both real-world and academic, that are directly relevant to the activities of security practitioners. This exchange of ideas and insights is invaluable for those striving to stay ahead in the ever-evolving field of security consultancy.

The ASC also invites its members to share their own experiences and projects. If you have undertaken activities that could guide others or are involved in research and development that enhances client security and risk metrics, then we to hear from you! Soon, applications will open for this year's **Mike Cahalane RISC and MASC awards**, offering a further platform for recognition and the opportunity to inspire others.

Helping tackle new and diverse challenges, the ASC is poised to reach greater heights collectively. With a strong focus on innovation and collaboration, the future is bright for security practitioners with consultants at the core.



## IMBERT AWARD



# ASC News and Updates

## ASC Leadership Updates

Guiding the Association into Its Next Chapter



**Simon Crane** - ASC Chair

“

The ASC has an important role in championing **independent security consultancy** and supporting the professionals who deliver trusted advice across the sector. I'm honoured to take on the role of **Chair** and look forward to working with the Board, our new COO and our members to continue developing the Association.



**Lee Doddridge** - ASC Vice Chair

“

The ASC community brings together a wealth of expertise and experience across the security profession. I am delighted to take on the role of **Vice Chair** and support the continued development of the Association, in **strengthening engagement** with members and **developing events** and **initiatives** that bring our community together.

## Gary Thomas

Appointed as the first Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the ASC



“

I am thrilled to take on the **COO** role at such an exciting time for the ASC. Having been involved with the Association for many years, I've seen the positive impact it has in supporting **independent security consultants** and advancing professional development. I'm proud to have been part of the ASC for many years and look forward to using that experience to strengthen the Association and expand the work we do for the security community.


# Upcoming Events


01



The ASC is proud to partner with The Security Event as an Official Event Partner. Recognised as a key meeting point for the UK security sector, the exhibition provides a platform for collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and industry progression.

Through our participation, we continue to strengthen the voice of independent security consultancy within wider conversations shaping the profession.

 28th - 30th April 2026

 NEC Birmingham

[Register Now](#)


02



## Security Consultancy of the Year Award

The FSM Awards recognise people and organisations doing great work in the fire and security sectors. It celebrates those helping create safer environments.

The ASC is proud to support the awards and will present the Consultancy of the Year Award, recognising outstanding achievement, innovation, and commitment to excellence within the consultancy sector

 2nd July 2026

 Coventry Building Society Arena

[Register Now](#)



# Upcoming Events



## 03 | Spring Seminar 2026

The ASC Spring Seminar is just around the corner, bringing together professionals from across the security and risk sector for a morning of insight and meaningful discussion.

The seminar will feature expert speakers and panel sessions exploring current issues, practical challenges, and emerging developments shaping the profession.

 20th May 2026


 The British Library, London


[More Info](#)

## 04 | The ASC AGM 2026

The ASC Annual General Meeting is an important event in the Association's calendar. It gives members a chance to hear updates, look back on the past year, and see what's ahead.

This year, the AGM will also include the election of the Independent Registrant Member to the ASC Board of Directors. Eligible members are encouraged to consider standing for election and take an active role in supporting the work and direction of the Association.

 10th June, 2026

 Union Jack Club, London

[More Info](#)



# Upcoming Events

## 05 | Archery & CPD 2026

The bow is more than a weapon — it's a symbol of **precision and discipline.**

We're heading to Wye Valley Archery on 15th May for an ASC networking and CPD event with a difference.

Expect a fun mix of challenge, teamwork, and great conversation at one of the UK's leading 3D archery centres. Whether you're a complete beginner or already comfortable with a bow, you'll be supported throughout the session with expert guidance.



 15th May 2026

 Wye Valley Archery Centre

Members Only event

Price: **£10.00** (Excl. VAT)

Contact [lee@ascuk.org](mailto:lee@ascuk.org) to book a place.

### Important:

- Sturdy footwear (ideally walking shoes/boots)
- No shorts or hoodies
- Long hair must be tied back
- Remove chest piercings before arrival – bow strings and metal don't mix!



# Upcoming Events

## 06 | SJUK LEADERS IN SECURITY



In this environment, the role of consultancy is more important than ever, bringing independent thinking and practical insight to complex challenges. The ASC is proud to support this conversation as the Intellectual Partner of the SJUK Leaders in Security Conference.

If you are attending the Conference, we look forward to connecting with you and continuing the conversation on how consultancy supports and strengthens the profession.

 24th June 2026

 Hilton Deansgate, Manchester

[Register Now](#)

## 07 | ConSeC 2026

Conference of Security Consultants

For over three decades, ConSeC has stood as a cornerstone event within the UK security industry, and its 32nd edition reinforces that position with renewed relevance.

ConSeC has consistently brought together leading independent experts, senior practitioners, and decision-makers to engage in meaningful dialogue around the most pressing challenges in security, and this year we are coming in even stronger.

Delegates in attendance

**250+**

Organisations represented

**25+**

Expert speakers and contributors

**33+**

[Stay tuned for more](#)

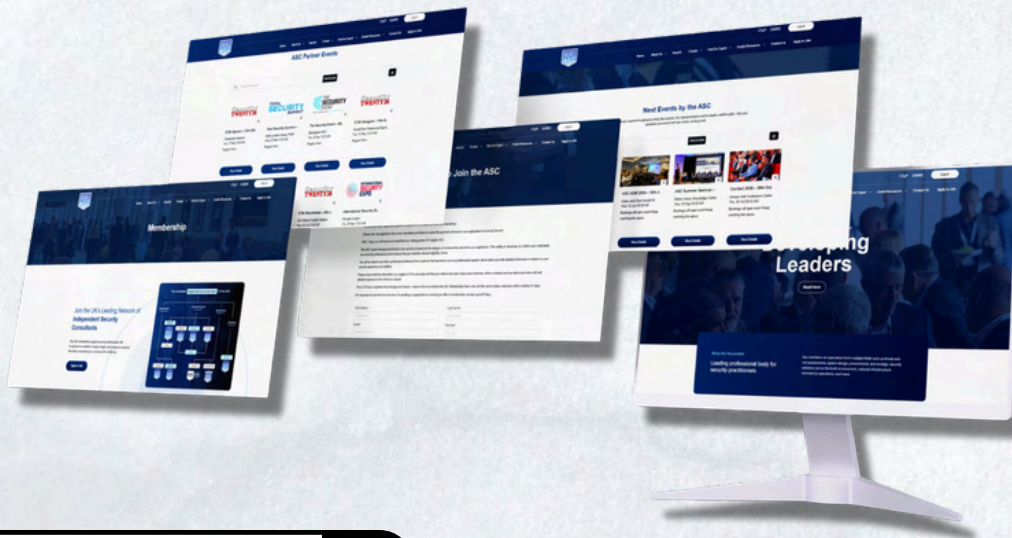
 29th Oct, 2026

 Hinxton Hall Conference Centre

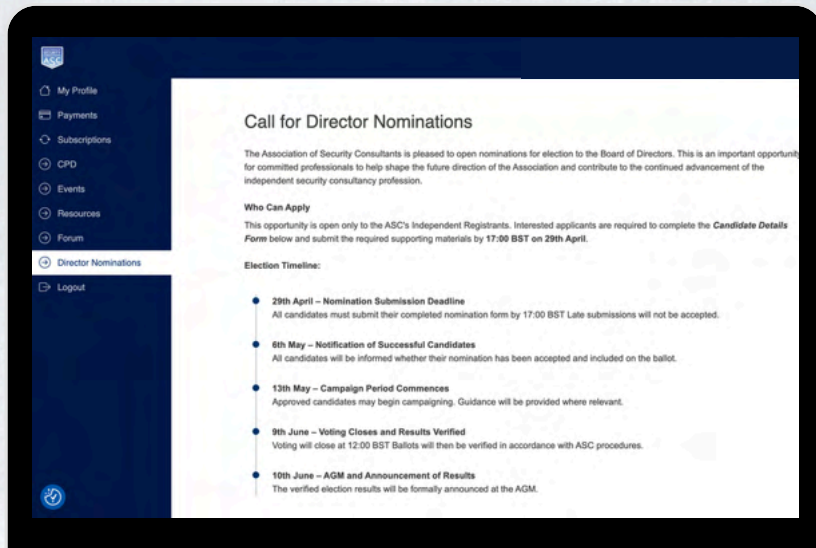
# Spotlight

## Say hello to our new website!

We are proud to announce the launch of the new Association of Security Consultants website, a major step forward in how we connect with our members, partners, and the wider security consulting community.



[www.ascuk.org](http://www.ascuk.org)



## Invitation to Apply: the ASC Board

This is an important opportunity for committed professionals to help shape the future direction of the Association and contribute to the continued advancement of the independent security consultancy profession.

**Nominations open only to Independent Registrants**

All members will be invited to begin voting from 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

Keep an eye on your inbox — more details are coming your way shortly!



## Honouring the legacy of

### Di Thomas

The ASC community was deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Di Thomas. She was part of the very foundation of what the security community is today, and her passion for recognition and progress in the profession has left a lasting mark on so many of us.

Those who knew Di will remember not only her professionalism and commitment, but also her warmth, humour, and kindness. She cared deeply about the profession and the people within it, and her impact will be remembered by many across the security community.

Di Thomas was a dedicated and widely respected member of the security profession, and someone who played an important role in shaping what The Security Institute is today. As Project and Register Manager, she was instrumental in the development and management of the Register of Chartered Security Professionals and was a strong supporter of continuing professional development across the industry.

*We extend our heartfelt condolences to her family, friends, and colleagues. Her influence will be felt for years to come.*

# Onwards & Upwards

This edition of The Sentinel reflects the shared knowledge, experience, and commitment that continues to shape our Association.

We look forward to connecting with many of you at the upcoming events, as we continue to learn from one another, build stronger relationships, and contribute to the growth of the profession.

Stay connected and help us shape the future of security.



Visit our website

Follow our journey

