

IAGA Lifetime Achievement Award for former Chairman of AGCC, John Godfrey



John Godfrey, former Chairman of the Alderney Gambling Control Commission, received the first ever Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Association of Gaming Advisors (IAGA) at its annual conference held in Philadelphia last week.

The IAGA lifetime achievement award is given in recognition of an individual who, throughout a life's work, has made an exceptional contribution to the world of gaming, such as to have achieved substantial and beneficial change. The award is not limited by jurisdiction, sector or profession, nor is it restricted to members of IAGA but is open to all but with a very high bar and will not be awarded automatically every year, only in years when an individual has made the appropriate contribution which is recognised internationally.

John was appointed as the AGCC's first chairman in May 2000 and set in train the introduction of legislation to permit internet gaming, serving three terms of office until his retirement this year. The legislation and regulatory system which John, ably assisted by his fellow commissioners, officers and staff, developed has been admired and copied in other jurisdictions, not least in Great Britain.

John's career in gaming began much earlier with the establishment of the Gaming Board of Great Britain, the UK's first gaming regulatory authority, with which he served as consulting accountant from its inception in 1970 until 1999. He served in a similar role with the Gaming Board of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas from 1977 and has consulted on gaming matters to various other British Commonwealth countries from time to time during his career.

He was also a consultant to the Royal Commission of Gambling from 1975 to 1977.

Even at the beginning of his working career John demonstrated unusual dexterity qualifying as a solicitor and practising for two years with City firm Freshfields, before then qualifying as a chartered accountant and joining the firm Dixon Wilson in 1970.

He has been well known as an expert witness acting for the Metropolitan Police for more than twenty years in proceedings relating to London casino licences, and he has also appeared before the New Jersey Casino Commission.

For many years John has been an active member of IAGA's sister organisation, the International Association of Gaming Regulators, chairing the eGambling Working Group from its inception until 2007.

The AGCC believes that there could be no more fitting first recipient of IAGA's Lifetime Achievement Award.

