

# Network News

December 2024

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## Russell Bedford CEO 'End of Year' video

As the year draws to a close, we share with you CEO Stephen Hamlet's end-of-year video message, highlighting the incredible achievements of 2024.

From our magnificent conferences held all around the world, to our 'Russell Bedford Cares' initiatives and much more, 2024 has been a year of growth, connection, and impact.

[Watch the video](#) to reflect on our journey and join us in looking forward to an even more successful 2025.



## Canterbury firm Burgess Hodgson joins Russell Bedford International



Russell Bedford International, a leading global network of professional services firms, is pleased to welcome Burgess Hodgson LLP as its newest member firm in Canterbury, Kent, UK.

Founded in 1938 as Burgess & Burgess and rebranded as Burgess Hodgson in 1970, this full-service accountancy firm brings decades of expertise to the global network.

With 19 partners and a team of around 180 professionals, Burgess Hodgson LLP has grown significantly to become one of the UK's Top 80 chartered accounting firms. They have a portfolio of over 5,000 clients across the UK and internationally, covering diverse industries such as agriculture, charities, manufacturing, property, healthcare, retail, sports, and entertainment.

Their services include audit, tax, payroll, corporate finance, financial reporting, forensic accounting, providing a comprehensive suite of solutions to meet the needs of both UK-based and international clients.

Stephen Hamlet, CEO of Russell Bedford International said, "We are delighted to add to our presence in the UK with the addition of Burgess Hodgson to the network. The firm is a perfect fit for our ever-expanding group as we look to provide further support for their clients with global ambitions, as well as strengthen their practice by connecting with our firms worldwide."

Colin Reid, Managing Partner at Burgess Hodgson said, "We are excited to join Russell Bedford International and look forward to better serving our client base with accessible and good quality international advice from like-minded firms."



## Taking you further day 2024



On 3 December 2024, Russell Bedford International celebrated its 6th annual taking you further day, a day where members across the network come together to recognise our core values of Connectivity, Collaboration, Positive Impact, and Excellence.

Leading up to and on the day, teams from around the world took part in various activities, from team-building and social events to charitable donations.

The Russell Bedford International Central Office in London, in collaboration with member firm Lubbock Fine, kicked off the festivities with a team breakfast followed by fun activities including word searches, true-or-false quizzes, and a "guess the flag" challenge.



The celebrations culminated in our Virtual Party call where members from around the world gathered to share their experiences and highlight their activities from the day.

## Highlights from the Virtual Party

- **Lubbock Fine, London**

Laurence Newman, Partner at Lubbock Fine, kicked off the presentations, sharing highlights from their December mince pie baking competition, their taking you further breakfast, and their year-round support for charities such as Brain Tumour Research, Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, and Pancreatic Cancer UK.



- **Russell Bedford Mexico, S. C.**

Alfonso Milla, Marketing Manager at Russell Bedford Mexico, S. C., presented a video showcasing their participation in the traditional annual Mexican Day of the Dead festival.





- **Russell Bedford SBR, Jakarta**

Ryan Adi Raharja, Senior Auditor at Russell Bedford SBR, highlighted a team-building trip where they focused on recharging, reconnecting, and restarting through outdoor games and activities.



- **Russell Bedford RRC CPA Group, PSC, Puerto Rico**

Sergio Banchs Acevedo, Auditor at RRC CPA Group, PSC, shared details of their professional development session on effective communication which was followed by a fun team bowling party.



- Russell Bedford Brasil

Paula Guzzon, Partner at Russell Bedford Brasil's office in Cuiabá, showcased a video featuring recent activities, including the Pink October campaign for breast cancer awareness, a Halloween convention, relief efforts for the flood victims in Rio Grande do Sul, donation of school supplies to a social initiative benefitting 120 underprivileged children as well as their 15th year anniversary.



- Russell Bedford Monterrey, Mexico

Silvia Leal, Translator at Russell Bedford Monterrey, sent through a video highlighting their anniversary party, which was complete with balloons, lot of food and cakes, and a live music band.



- Russell Bedford Querétaro, Mexico

Roberto Cruz, Partner at Russell Bedford Querétaro, shared details of their support for the animal shelter Huellitas Seguras, which provides veterinary care and safe housing for abandoned animals.





Following the team presentations the winner of the taking you further day quiz, which tested our members' knowledge of the network, was revealed. Congratulations to John Donnelly from Russell Bedford Dubai, who answered all questions correctly and won a donation to a charity of his choice.



We extend a huge thank you to all those who took part in the taking you further virtual party. While we couldn't feature all our teams during the call, we appreciate each and every activity carried out worldwide leading up to and on the day.

For those of you who were unable to join the virtual party, you can view the recording [here](#). Keep an eye out for upcoming taking you further day news.

To see more activities that were carried out by our teams globally, keep an eye out for our upcoming brochure and video reel.

See you again next year for an even bigger celebration in 2025!

## Young Partners & Managers Conference 2024

The Russell Bedford International Young Partners & Managers Conference 2024 in Naples, Italy was a fantastic success. Delegates from across the globe gathered to share knowledge, form connections, and explore the advantages of being part of a global network, all while enjoying the culture of this historic city.



The conference kicked off with a fantastic welcome dinner at the Pizzeria Trattoria Casa Reale di Lino Ranieri. It was a wonderful opportunity for young partners and managers from across Russell Bedford International to strengthen relationships and learn more about our firms.



Day one featured a full agenda beginning with introductions and ice breakers, followed by an overview of the Russell Bedford International network presented by CEO Stephen Hamlet. Highlights also included discussions on the current challenges in the accountancy profession and an introduction to negotiation skills presented by professional development trainer Angus Farr.





To conclude the day, delegates enjoyed a delightful evening at La Locanda Del Cerriglio, where they shared a wonderful dinner and built on their relationships.



Day two continued with more insightful sessions, focusing on overcoming unconscious bias in accountancy and developing expert coaching skills for managers led by Angus Farr. These sessions provided actionable insights for personal and professional growth, with additional networking opportunities built in to allow delegates to exchange ideas and take away valuable learnings back to their firms.



Reflecting on the event, CEO Stephen Hamlet said "It's been another fantastic Young Partners & Managers Conference. We're delighted that our young partners, managers, and new members of Russell Bedford International experienced what it truly means to be part of a leading global network. The connections made and knowledge gained will undoubtedly contribute to the success of our teams worldwide."



A huge thank you goes out to our delegates, speakers and everyone who contributed to making this year's event a success.

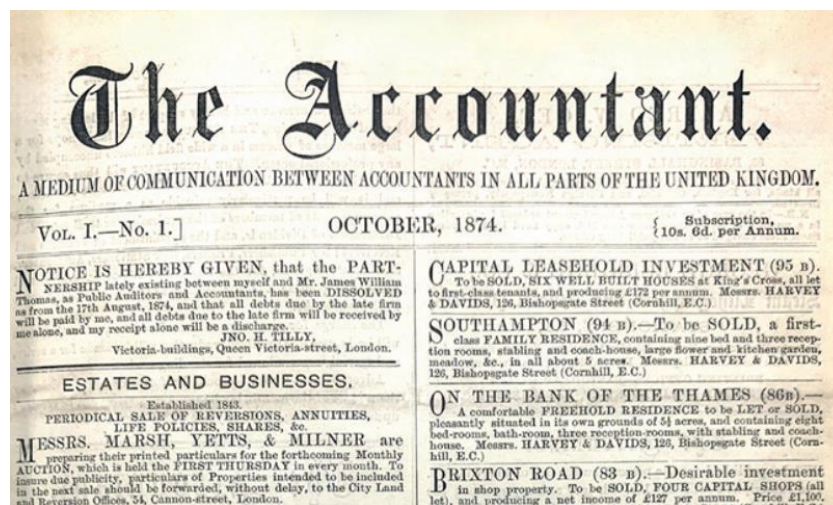
Russell Bedford International members can visit the event page for speaker presentations, photos and additional resources from this year's conference: [Young Partners & Managers Conference 2024](#).



## Russell Bedford International and founding firm Lubbock Fine featured in The Accountant's 150th Anniversary Edition

Russell Bedford International and its founding firm, Lubbock Fine, are pleased to be featured in The Accountant magazine's 150th-anniversary edition.

This milestone issue reflects on the incredible evolution of the accountancy profession, showcasing historical moments, influential players, and the global impact of networks and associations like Russell Bedford International.



Lubbock Fine, founded in 1929, played a pivotal role in establishing Russell Bedford International in 1983, creating a global network that now spans over 110 countries.



Highlighting nearly a century of innovation and collaboration, the article explores how Lubbock Fine grew from a small London practice to becoming a leader in international accountancy. This recognition marks the firm's commitment and ability in adapting to meet the needs of their clients in a fast-changing world.

Russell Bedford International members can access The Accountant magazine's 150th-anniversary edition [here](#).

## Annual Partners Meeting in Mexico



Russell Bedford México recently celebrated its Annual Partners Meeting in Aguascalientes, Mexico. This was attended by 61 partners from Mexico's 20 offices, establishing a new record number of attendees.

The meeting was important for strengthening partnerships across all our offices. The agenda covered key updates, including this year's important figures, the AQC review, activities from the six national committees, our new services, network strengths and opportunities, and the strategy for 2025.

View the event video [here](#).

## Russell Bedford España's National Convention





Russell Bedford Spain held their second National Convention from 21-22 November 2024. The convention brought together partners from all over the country for the purpose of growing and developing the national network.

The event was held at the spectacular Châteauform' Campus La Mola where teams were inspired to connect, network, and reinforce their commitment to collaborative professional success.

[Read more.](#)

## FBL S.E.N.C.R.L. and FORTIN DANSEREAU INC. join forces



The management teams of FBL LLP, our Russell Bedford member in Quebec, and FORTIN DANSEREAU have recently joined forces to allow for further expansion in the Lanaudière region.

FBL is one of the leading accounting firms in Quebec and now has ten offices in Drummondville, Montreal, Brossard, Farnham, Quebec City, Lachute, Terrebonne, Saint-Sauveur, Boisbriand and now Repentigny.

Sylvie Fortin, CPA auditor, and Luc Dansereau, CPA auditor, surrounded by their team of several professionals, will be accompanied by Marcel Bergeron and Olivier Pellerin at the helm of the Repentigny office, thus ensuring the firm's sustainability and success. With their experience and listening to their clients since 1991, Ms. Fortin and Mr. Dansereau are pleased to be able to rely on the diversity of services offered by a firm like FBL.

### About FBL

In business since 1981, FBL supports business leaders in achieving their business objectives. The passionate team, made up of 425 employees, including some twenty partners, develops creative solutions by providing strategic support and advice to its clients, particularly in terms of taxation, certification, business valuation, incorporation, business succession, financing and support in the purchase/sale of a business. FBL is one of the leading accounting firms in Quebec and is also a member of Russell Bedford International. The firm now has ten (10) offices in Drummondville, Montreal, Brossard, Farnham, Quebec City, Lachute, Terrebonne, Saint-Sauveur, Boisbriand and now Repentigny. You can get more information about [fbl.com](http://fbl.com).

## View photos from the Annual Global Conference 2024



Relive the moments and view additional photos from the Russell Bedford International 41st Annual Global Conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

View [here](#).

## Lubbock Fine appoints Alex Altmann to lead new German desk





We're excited to announce that Lubbock Fine has appointed Alex Altmann as Partner and head of the firm's newly launched German desk. Alex brings 18 years of expertise in advising businesses from the DACH region (Germany, Austria, and Switzerland) on expanding into the UK market. Over his career, he has helped more than 1,000 companies from various sectors, including manufacturing, construction, e-commerce, and consumer technology.

Before joining Lubbock Fine, Alex spent ten years at Blick Rothenberg, where he was Partner and led their German desk. His extensive experience and deep understanding of the UK market will be pivotal in supporting DACH-based businesses with their international expansion efforts.

At Lubbock Fine, Alex will provide advisory services to DACH firms, focusing on UK market entry and international growth strategies. The German desk will also offer outsourced tax and accounting services, including VAT advisory, payroll, and bookkeeping.

Robert Morley, COO of Lubbock Fine, commented on the appointment: "We are delighted to welcome Alex to the firm. His track record in guiding German SMEs into the UK market will be a significant asset. His expertise will be key in expanding our client base, particularly in sectors such as manufacturing and engineering."

Alex Altmann shared his excitement about the new role: "I'm thrilled to lead the new German desk at Lubbock Fine. The firm is known for its excellent client service, both in the UK and internationally. I look forward to bringing that same level of service to DACH-based clients aiming to expand into the UK."

Alex also highlights the significant trade opportunities between Germany and the UK, noting that Lubbock Fine will aim to help German businesses, not only establish themselves in the UK but also leverage the UK as a gateway for further international growth.

In addition to his role at Lubbock Fine, Alex is the founder of the German Business Hub, a business incubator for German SMEs entering the UK. He is also a board member of the British Chamber of Commerce in Germany and a GlobalScot representative for Scottish Enterprise.

This new initiative under Alex's leadership will enhance our firm's ability to serve businesses from the DACH region, offering them a comprehensive range of services and supporting their growth in the UK and beyond.

## Tribute to Method Anatoli Kashonda



Method Anatoli Kashonda, Managing Partner at Globe Accountancy Services, Tanzania, sadly passed on Saturday, 9th November 2024.

Method was a well respected member of the Accountancy profession in Tanzania and internationally. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family who are in our thoughts during this difficult time.

## Webinar Recordings

Thank you to those who attended our recent webinars. We hope you found them useful.

For members who were unable to attend, please see the links below where you will be able to access the recording for each webinar.

[IFRS Common Disclosure Problems](#)

[LinkedIn Tips and Tricks to Broaden Your Network](#)

[Being a Successful Partner or Sole Practitioner](#)

## Forthcoming conferences

For further details about upcoming Russell Bedford conferences and to register, please visit the Events page on the intranet.



### North America Conference

The 2025 Russell Bedford North America Conference will be held on 16 - 18 January in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. Please visit our members [Events Page](#) on the Intranet for details.



### Ibero-America Conference

The 2025 Russell Bedford Ibero-America Conference will be held on 27 - 30 March in La Paz, Mexico. Registration will launch in January 2025. Please visit our members [Events Page](#) on the Intranet for details.



## And finally...Thank you, Kempton!



We'd like to extend our gratitude to Kempton Bedell-Harper for his 24 years of service to Russell Bedford International.

Kempton,

Your unwavering commitment, dedication and passion has left a huge mark, not only on the network but also on everyone fortunate enough to have worked alongside you.

As you leave this chapter behind, take pride in all you have achieved and the incredible connections you have built over the years. While your presence will be deeply missed, we are excited for you to enjoy the freedom to explore new adventures and spend quality time with loved ones.

Thank you for everything you've given to this network. Congratulations on a remarkable career and best wishes for a retirement filled with joy, relaxation and fulfilment.

## Russell Bedford - key facts and figures

- **More than 40 years** of global service
- **Top 20** global accounting network
- **USD 835 million** global fee income
- **1000 partners** and over **9,900 staff**
- Some **375 offices** in more than **110 countries**

For previous editions of Network News, visit our [Network News](#) webpage.