

THE COMMITTEE AND THE CONSTITUTION

Faced with the responsibility of producing, at short notice, another Newsletter, and this without the amount of material available last time, and without any justification for repeating the CIELT space-occupying notice, I have been obliged to saturate you all with page after page of my particular brand of prose - an offering that is not to everyone's taste. To dilute it just a little it seemed a good idea to print here the proposed new Constitution. When the Society began in the late seventies there was no Constitution. One had been written out but according to the Minutes it was never ratified. We put this right in October 1988 but recent events have necessitated some changes to that document and this new version will be put to the vote, God willing, at the AGM this year. To this end I was prepared to give it all to you now, but have been asked not to do so. I am required only to give the changes, so here goes.

"Clause 4. A Library shall be formed consisting of books, slides and photographic material and maintained at a suitable centre as soon as possible". This library is at present under my care as 'The Archives'. The present Constitution obliges me to make any of it available to any Member at any time. I could not possibly cope with this and the Society could not bear the postal charges that a flood of requests would mean. The new wording will make it a matter of the Archives Keeper's discretion, treating each request on its merits.

"Clause 5. Group. An educational establishment, library, or similar body may join the Society by paying a group membership. In this case it receives one copy of Newsletters and other correspondence to Members, and one person, but only one, may vote at a Society meeting". The present Constitution implies that every Member of the group should get the mailings, which is impractical, and it says that only one Member of the group can attend the meetings, and this makes them worse off than an ordinary guest. At present we have no such groups and I personally would prefer to be without the complications they involve.

"Clause 5 ... subscription are due on first of January each year and the Secretary shall have the discretion, in consultation with at least one of the Society's officers, to delete from the Membership list the name of any Member who is in arrears." The current Constitution has too complicated a reminder system. In my present position it is too restricting and it has become clear that we must have the power to exclude undesirables. I would also like to see it in black and white that, under certain circumstances, we can refuse to accept a subscription.

"Clause 9. The AGM ... shall be held before the end of November..." Currently this is October but has often been disobeyed owing to difficulties with Speakers' engagement diaries.

The present Committee consists of:

1. PRESIDENT. Lady Ryder of Warsaw, C.M.G., O.B.E.
2. CHAIRMAN. Rodney Hoare
3. VICE CHAIRMAN AND NEWSLETTER EDITOR. Ian Wilson
4. TREASURER/SECRETARY/ARCHIVE KEEPER Michael Clift
5. PUBLICITY OFFICER Ian Dickinson

Miss Susan Black, Miss Gresham-Wells, Mrs Gwen Tyrer, Professor Paul Nicholls, Michael Pendsay, Bill Sinclair, Martin Smith