

**British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies**

**Annual General Meeting  
St Hugh's College, Oxford  
5<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

**1. Members Present and Apologies for Absence**

1.1 For members present, see Appendix A. There were apologies for absence from Gavin Budge (Executive Secretary); Chris Mounsey (Journal Editor); Daniel Cook (Communications Officer) and Susan Whyman.

1.2 In the absence of the Executive Secretary minutes were taken for this meeting by Debbie Welham (Ordinary Member) and the meeting procedures were managed by Michael Burden (President).

**2. Minutes of the Last Annual General Meeting (5<sup>th</sup> January 2010, St Hugh's College, Oxford)**

2.1 These were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

**3. Matters Arising**

3.1 There were no matters arising

**4. Officers' Reports**

4a. President

MB explained to the members that Brian Norman had been unable to continue in the role as Treasurer owing to ill health, and announced that Brycchan Carey had accepted the Treasurer position MB expressed thanks to Brycchan for doing so.

Prizes

Digital Prize last year was won by the Electronic Enlightenment Project, this year's winner to be announced at the reception following the AGM. President's Prize for best paper delivered by a Post Graduate at the 2010 conference was split between two winners. The Teaching Prize will be awarded for the first time in 2011, will be announced on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011. MB offered apologies for the confusing deadline information that had appeared on the website for this prize.

Focus on our interaction with other societies, which is a long term and continual process which we believe is having positive results. Committee member Andreas Mueller has taken on the role of Associates Officer.

Society is also developing schemes of Joint Prizes and Fellowships.

The Bodleian Research centre for the History of the Book. Offering a joint prize. Closes on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011 and is advertised on the TLS website.

Besterman Centre – offering a Post Graduate Travel Scholarship which will be offered for the first time in 2012.

The strategy that we are adopting is to set up a number of partnerships rather than a larger single partnership or award.

The Journal (JECS), is receiving a good flow of high quality subscriptions. Our strategy is to increase the word count in the journal. In future some reviews will be online only but will continue to be linked with the paper copy of the journal. There will not be an extra number of the journal on an ongoing basis because of the cost of doing so.

In conclusion the Society is in good health.

MB invited feedback and questions. None were put forward.

#### 4b. Executive Secretary

No report.

#### 4c. Treasurer

Financial Accounts Statement was circulated at this meeting.

BC offered thanks to Brian Norman the outgoing Treasurer. Brian had handed over the Society's accounts in very good order which has made the transition easier.

A variety of activities have come out of the learning curve for the new treasurer: contact with Charities Commission; changes in the procedures of document and information storage; the introduction of electronic banking and other efficiencies for the society.

BC opening a new bank account with the Cooperative Bank – both ethical and higher interest rate.

Setting up online payment for conference registration.

Negotiation with the accountants to invest reserves in a higher interest account.

Annual Accounts once agreed by the AGM are now posted as a pdf file on the Society's website.

Looking at the Society's Balance sheet. Balance of £90,051, increase from 84,081. Increase is due to the money from Wiley for the journal which is now without historical encumbrances of past payments owed by the society to Wiley and the transition of membership fees. We expect this level of payment from Wiley (approximately £12,000) every year. The money listed for 'Animals' is because the Society was in receipt of a grant to spend on this edition. Tracker account balance is now at £92,000 instead of £77,000 because electronic banking makes the movement of funds easier and it is our policy to keep money in the highest interest account. Assets from the deposit account have been moved and the account closed because this account could only be managed by Brian Norman.

Deferred incomes, e.g. advance payments for Conference received in 2010, are counted as 2011 money.

Restricted funds are those that we can only spend on fixed things. Mason lecture is a bi-annual expenditure and has some increase. The Prize and Fellowships fund is a fund that we are building to make it a fund that will pay the prizes and fellowships from interest alone. A long way to go and donations to that fund are welcome.

BC has received an email to notify him of an error in spelling of the name of a person on the accounts document, and so move to accept the accounts as amended.

Questions raised by the membership:

When the society moves to e-payments will cheques still be accepted.

BC – cheques being phased out and so we will be happy to design systems to continue to accept cheques as long as to do so is not too unwieldy for the short amount of time that cheques will still be in use.

Have Accounts been audited.

BC, Yes and signed off, by Reeves. They were signed off with no recommendations made for changes.

It was requested that the Society do not withdraw cheque payments if cheques are not phased out. BC agreed.

### **The Accounts were accepted as amended.**

Thanks were expressed by Past President Penelope J. Corfield to BC as she had been in place when Brian Norman was unable to continue as Treasurer and so asked Brycchan to take on such a large extra responsibility.

#### 4d. Journal Editor

No Report. (Key items were covered in President's Report 4a.)

#### 4e. Conference Organisers

Jeremy Gregory.

2010 Time and Space a success. Emails received by JG to express that conference had been enjoyable. Society and St Hugh's coped well despite the snow, though we were very sorry not to be able to hear Penelope Corfield's closing plenary as we chose to end the conference early to assist with delegates' travel in the poor weather.

2011 underway.

2012 theme will be Landscapes and Environments. Call for Papers is circulating now and will be on the website shortly. The conference will be organised by Corinna Wagner.

Debbie Welham (post graduate and early career scholar conferences)

2010 Conference kindly hosted by the University of Worcester. Another very good conference of around 50 attendees. Thanks to Sharon Young who was the onsite organiser.

It has been decided in discussion with the committee that we will run PG events annually rather than bi-annually.

The next event will be a day meeting in Cambridge on 6<sup>th</sup> July, Charlotte Roberts is the main contact for that conference. Then in early July 2012 we have been invited to host a 2 day conference at the University of Salamanca. Thereafter the 2 day conferences will be in the UK every year.

### **5. Election of officers**

Only one committee vacancy for Ordinary Member election this year. Debbie Welham had been nominated for the Ordinary Member post by Brycchan Carey, seconded by John Dunkley. Since there was no other candidate for the posts, she was considered as having been elected unopposed.

### **6. Constitutional Amendments**

The amendments were circulated at the meeting.

In the absence of the Executive Secretary the President offered the explanation of the amendments being proposed.

Changes are to appointed posts and to the terms of office of elected posts. To ensure that there is both change (new members) of the committee and also that we protect the institutional memory of the Society. This was particularly highlighted by Brian Norman's illness.

Alterations are that appointed posts are currently open ended. The amendments propose to make them a 5 year term. The elected posts of Treasurer and Executive Secretary now have five-year terms, and can't be held for two consecutive terms.

The appointed posts of Journal Editor and Reviews Editor now have five-year terms, and can't be held for two consecutive terms.

All other appointed posts (including the Post Graduate and Early Career Scholar Representative) now have two-year terms, and can be held for a maximum of three consecutive terms.

The amendments also include a new Sub Committee which includes Treasurer and Past President to ensure that all posts are filled and elections are properly carried out.

As the Executive Secretary could not be present at the AGM the President asked members of the Executive Committee to confirm to the membership present that the description he had offered was properly reflective of the changes being proposed.

BC expressed that all the details of the changes had been thoroughly scrutinised by the Executive Committee. MB's presentation of them was accurate.

### **The constitutional Amendments as circulated were Accepted.**

#### **7. Members Comments**

None received.

#### **8. AOB**

Penelope Corfield. We remain anxious to improve international links. Three members of BSECS – Penelope Corfield, John Dunkley and Gavin Budge – all up for ISECS election. Would like to encourage BSECS members to participate in the voting process – only around 8% of our members voted in the last ISECS elections.

Votes do not take place at the ISECS meeting but can be done online at the ISECS website and also by post to via the Voltaire Foundation.

Close.

Appendix A

Members present at meeting

## Committee –

Michael Burden; Penelope J. Corfield; Pamela Clemit; M.O. Grenby; John Dunkley; Frank O’Gorman; Gary Day; Brycchan Carey; Charlotte Roberts; Sharon Young; Debbie Welham; Corinna Wagner; Jeremy Gregory

## Society Members -

Conrad Brunstrom

Karl Leydecker

David Shuttleton

Robert Craig

Charlotte M. Craig

Sean Creighton

David Fairer

Clare Brant

Neil Howe

Michele Cohen

Moira Goff

Alexander Huber

Moyra Haslett

(Simon O’Sullivan was present and spoke but did not sign the attendance register)

## Appendix B

### Constitutional Amendments

## Current version of Section 3.1

### 3 Officers

3.1 The Society has the following officers:

A president

A vice-president

An executive secretary

An administrative secretary

A treasurer

All officers are elected members of the committee with voting rights.

## New version of Section 3.1

### 3 Officers

3.1 The Society has the following officers:

A president

A vice-president

An executive secretary

A treasurer

All officers are elected members of the committee with voting rights. Officers act as trustees of the Society.

## Current version of Section 3.2

3.2 The posts of president and vice-president are tenable for two years. The President's term of office can be extended once by a further year, subject to the agreement of the Executive Committee and ratification at the Annual General Meeting at the beginning of the year in which it is proposed to extend it; in this case the term of office of the Vice-President will automatically also be extended for a further year. In normal circumstances, the office of president is not directly elected, but filled by the previous year's vice-president. Where this is impossible, the same procedure is followed as for other officers, who are elected on an annual basis through a remotely conducted voting contest. All officers apart from the President are eligible for re-election. A former President is ineligible for re-election to the posts of Vice-President or President for a period of five years at the end of the two years term of office.

## New version of Section 3.2

3.2 The posts of president, vice-president and past president are tenable for two years. The posts of executive secretary and treasurer are tenable for five years. In normal circumstances, the office of president is not directly elected, but filled by the previous year's vice-president. Where this is impossible, the same procedure is followed as for other officers, who are elected through a remotely conducted voting contest, held annually. The office of past president is not directly elected, but is filled by the previous president. Officers cannot hold the same office for two consecutive terms, but may have their term extended once by a further year, subject to the agreement of the Executive Committee and ratification at the Annual General Meeting at the beginning of the year in which it is proposed to extend it. When the term of the President is extended in this way, the term of office of the Vice-President will automatically also be extended for a further year, but not the term of office of the Past President. A former President is ineligible for re-election to the posts of Vice-President or President for a period of five years at the end of their term of office.

## Current version of Section 3.3

### 3.3 Roles of officers

3.3.1 The President's role is to preside at meetings of the Executive Committee, to preside at the Business Meeting of the Society at the Annual Meeting and to formulate policies and projects for presentation to the Executive Committee in accord with the Society's aims.

3.3.2 The Vice-President's role is to assist the President in carrying out the above functions, and to succeed to the office of President at the end of the year's term of office.

3.3.3 The Treasurer's role is to administer the financial affairs of the Society. It shall be the Treasurer's duty, under the direction of the Executive Committee: to be responsible for the receipt and disbursement of the monies of the Society in a manner consonant with the Society's purposes and interests, to arrange for the safekeeping of the assets of the Society and to do so in the most advantageous and secure means possible. The Treasurer shall report to the members of the Society at General Meetings and by means of an abridged report distributed either on paper or by electronic means. The Treasurer shall cooperate in an annual audit of the Society's affairs. A competent auditor shall be appointed by the Executive Committee for that task

3.3.4 The Executive Secretary's role is to oversee the implementation of policies decided on by the Executive Committee, to administer the day-to-day business of the Society and to be responsible for the continuing operations of the Society, to coordinate the election process and make arrangements for meetings of the Executive Committee, to participate in the formulation of policies and projects for submission to the Executive Committee, to assist the President in preparing for meetings of the Executive Committee and to superintend any processes of scrutiny or peer review that may be required in the context of the Society's administrative affairs.

3.3.5 The Administrative Secretary's role is to oversee the affairs of the Society, to take overall responsibility for updating the Society's website, to obtain permission for the use by the Society of any reproductions, to organise the circulation of publicity

for the Society, to update the membership database, to field inquiries from members about matters relating to their subscriptions, and to administer any processes of scrutiny or peer review that may be required in the context of the Society's administrative affairs

## New version of Section 3.3

### 3.3 Roles of officers

3.3.1 The President's role is to preside at meetings of the Executive Committee, to preside at the Business Meeting of the Society at the Annual Meeting and to formulate policies and projects for presentation to the Executive Committee in accord with the Society's aims.

3.3.2 The Vice-President's role is to assist the President in carrying out the above functions, and to succeed to the office of President at the end of the year's term of office.

3.3.3 The Treasurer's role is to administer the financial affairs of the Society. It shall be the Treasurer's duty, under the direction of the Executive Committee: to be responsible for the receipt and disbursement of the monies of the Society in a manner consonant with the Society's purposes and interests, to arrange for the safekeeping of the assets of the Society and to do so in the most advantageous and secure means possible. The Treasurer shall report to the members of the Society at General Meetings and by means of an abridged report distributed either on paper or by electronic means. The Treasurer shall cooperate in an annual audit of the Society's affairs. A competent auditor shall be appointed by the Executive Committee for that task

3.3.4 The Executive Secretary's role is to oversee the implementation of policies decided on by the Executive Committee, to administer the day-to-day business of the Society and to be responsible for the continuing operations of the Society, to coordinate the election process and make arrangements for meetings of the Executive Committee, to participate in the formulation of policies and projects for submission to the Executive Committee, to assist the President in preparing for meetings of the Executive Committee and to superintend any processes of scrutiny or peer review that may be required in the context of the Society's administrative affairs.

## Current version of Section 4.1

### 4 Executive Committee

#### 4.1 Membership

4.1.1 The Executive Committee consists of the Officers, the immediate past president (*ex officio*), the Editor of The British Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies (*ex officio*), the Conference Secretary (*ex officio*), the Web Editor (*ex officio*), the Student Representatives (*ex officio*) and of six ordinary members appointed through election. No member of the Committee shall be under the age of eighteen years.

4.1.2 All members of the Committee have equal voting rights, subject to quoracy requirements. The President has a casting vote.

4.1.3 All *ex officio* members of the Committee shall be members of the Society in good standing. *Ex officio* members have voting rights, but their presence at a meeting does not by itself fulfil quoracy requirements.

4.1.4 The election of ordinary members and Officers shall take place through consultation of the membership by postal or electronic means in accordance with the procedures set out below. These procedures shall be overseen by the Executive Secretary. Elections shall take place annually.

4.1.5 Ordinary members shall hold office for not more than three years. If a situation should arise where adhering to the three-year term of office would result in more than one ordinary member having to retire in any one year, then ordinary members may extend their term for one year, subject to prior ratification at the AGM; this may be done no more than three years in

succession. They are not eligible for re-election as ordinary members for a period of three years after their term of office has expired, but may be elected as Officers of the Society during that period.

4.1.6 Ordinary members shall hold office for not more than three years, and at least two of them shall retire each year. If a situation should arise where adhering to the three-year term of office would result in more than two ordinary members having to retire in any one year, then ordinary members may extend their term for one year, subject to prior ratification at the AGM. They are not eligible for re-election as ordinary members for a period of three years after their term of office has expired, but may be elected as Officers of the Society during that period.

4.1.7 The Executive Committee shall have power to create not more than three new ex officio committee posts between General Meetings.

4.1.8 Ex officio members of the committee are not subject to election, but the General Meeting subsequent to their joining the Executive Committee must ratify their appointment, whether to existing or newly created ex officio posts.

## New version of Section 4.1

### 4 Executive Committee

#### 4.1 Membership

4.1.1 The Executive Committee consists of the Officers, the immediate Past President, six elected Ordinary Members, and holders of appointed posts, which may include, but are not limited to, the posts of Editor of the Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies, the Journal General Reviews Editor the Conference Academic Programme Coordinator, the Conference Venue Organiser, the Communications Officer, and the Postgraduate and Early Career Scholars Representatives. No member of the Committee shall be under the age of eighteen years.

4.1.2 All members of the Committee have equal voting rights, subject to quoracy requirements. The President has a casting vote.

4.1.3 All holders of appointed posts on the Committee shall be members of the Society in good standing. Holders of appointed posts have voting rights, but their presence at a meeting does not by itself fulfil quoracy requirements.

4.1.4 The Executive Committee has four formal Subcommittees: the Finance Subcommittee, the Publications Subcommittee, the Conference Subcommittee and the Officers' Subcommittee. Members of the Executive Committee may be invited to sit on a Subcommittee in a personal capacity. In addition to the President, Vice-President and Executive Secretary, who sit on all Subcommittees, membership of Subcommittees includes holders of the following posts:

#### Finance Subcommittee

Treasurer

Past President

Communications Officer

#### Publications Subcommittee

Editor of the Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies

Journal General Reviews Editor

Past President

Communications Officer

#### Conference Subcommittee

Treasurer

Conference Academic Programme Coordinator

Conference Venue Organiser



## Officers' Subcommittee

Treasurer

Past President

4.1.5 Subcommittees may take decisions on behalf of the Executive Committee, subject to the same quoracy requirements that apply to meetings of the Executive Committee. The Finance Subcommittee has a remit for the financial affairs of the Society, the Publications Subcommittee for the Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies, the Society's website, and any other publications in print or electronic form, and the Conference Subcommittee for the Annual Conference, the Postgraduate and Early Career Conference, and any other events sponsored by the Society. The remit of the Officer's Subcommittee is the administration of the Executive Committee itself, including the creation and abolition of appointed posts, and appointment of holders of appointed posts.

4.1.6 The election of Ordinary Members and Officers shall take place through consultation of the membership by postal or electronic means in accordance with the procedures set out below. These procedures shall be overseen by the Executive Secretary. Elections shall take place annually.

4.1.7 Ordinary Members shall hold office for not more than three years. If a situation should arise where adhering to the three-year term of office would result in more than one ordinary member having to retire in any one year, then ordinary members may extend their term for one year, subject to prior ratification at the AGM; this may be done no more than three years in succession. They are not eligible for re-election as ordinary members for a period of three years after their term of office has expired, but may be elected as Officers of the Society during that period.

4.1.8 The Executive Committee shall have power to create not more than three appointed posts on the committee between General Meetings.

4.1.9 Appointed posts on the committee are not subject to election, but the subsequent General Meeting must ratify any appointments, whether to existing or newly created posts.

4.1.8 All appointed posts on the committee, apart from the Editor of the Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies and the Journal General Reviews Editor, are subject to a term of two years. Holders of all appointed posts apart from Journal Editor and Reviews Editor may be reappointed to those posts a maximum of three times by the Executive Committee, subject to ratification by the General Meeting. The posts of Journal Editor and Reviews Editor are subject to a term of five years, and cannot be held for two consecutive terms. The term for the posts of Journal Editor and Reviews Editor may, however, be extended once by a further year, subject to the agreement of the Executive Committee and ratification at the Annual General Meeting at the beginning of the year in which it is proposed to extend it.

## Current version of Section 4.2

### 4.2 Meetings

4.2.1 The Executive Committee shall meet at least two times a year, once at the time of the Annual Meeting of the Society and at such other times as it may determine, or at the call of the President, or, if the President is unable to act, at the call of the Vice-President, or, if both are unable to act, at the call of the Executive Secretary, or at the written request of at least four voting members of the Executive Committee directed to the Executive Secretary.

4.2.2 Meetings of the Executive Committee can only be held at a venue, time and date agreed by the President, Vice-President or Executive Secretary, of which reasonable steps have been taken to notify all committee members. Meetings are only quorate when six committee members are present, of whom at least two are elected members. Non-quorate meetings may engage in discussion of Society policies, but may not take decisions which involve financial expenditure or constitutional changes. All meetings of the Executive Committee must be minuted, and the minutes circulated to all committee members. Minutes of each meeting must be agreed to be an accurate record, normally at the next meeting of the Executive Committee

4.2.3 Elected members of the Executive Committee members are required to attend its meetings. In the event of non-attendance at two meetings successively without due reason or notice members are liable to be removed from the Executive Committee by a vote of members present; this vote is subject to quoracy requirements. When travelling expenses for Executive Committee members are paid, such expenses will only be paid for travel within the UK.

4.2.4 The Executive Committee shall have power to create sub-committees, whose membership may include non-members of the Executive Committee. Meetings of sub-committees need not be minuted, but must be reported back to meetings of the full committee. The only function a sub-committee can undertake is discussion of Society policies; they are not vested with any of the powers of a quorate Executive Committee meeting.

4.2.5 The Executive Committee shall have power to appoint consultants, in areas where specialist expertise is needed. They are not required to be members of the Society, nor of the Executive Committee, unless elected in the usual way. However, they may be required to attend meetings of the Committee, or sub-committees, as necessary, and may be paid for their services to the Society.

4.2.6 The Executive Committee shall define the duties of all standing and ad hoc committees and of the additional positions it creates, and the Executive Secretary shall inform the members of the Society of the actions of the Executive Committee and of those of any sub-committee through a bulletin or by any other appropriate means.

## New version of Section 4.2

### 4.2 Meetings

4.2.1 The Executive Committee shall meet at least two times a year, once at the time of the Annual Meeting of the Society and at such other times as it may determine, or at the call of the President, or, if the President is unable to act, at the call of the Vice-President, or, if both are unable to act, at the call of the Executive Secretary, or at the written request of at least four voting members of the Executive Committee directed to the Executive Secretary.

4.2.2 Meetings of the Executive Committee can only be held at a venue, time and date agreed by the President, Vice-President or Executive Secretary, of which reasonable steps have been taken to notify all committee members. Meetings are only quorate when six committee members are present, of whom at least two are elected members. Non-quorate meetings may engage in discussion of Society policies, but may not take decisions which involve financial expenditure. All meetings of the Executive Committee and Subcommittees must be minuted, and the minutes circulated to all members of the committee, or relevant subcommittee. Minutes of each meeting must be agreed to be an accurate record, normally at the next meeting of the Executive Committee or relevant subcommittee.

4.2.3 Elected members of the Executive Committee members are required to attend its meetings. In the event of non-attendance at two meetings successively without due reason or notice members are liable to be removed from the Executive Committee. When travelling expenses for Executive Committee members are paid, such expenses will only be paid for claims related to travel within the UK, in accordance with a formal expenses policy drawn up by the Treasurer.

4.2.4 The Executive Committee shall have power to create working parties, whose membership may include non-members of the Executive Committee. Meetings of working parties need not be minuted, but must be reported back to meetings of a Subcommittee, or the full Executive Committee. The only function a working party can undertake is discussion of Society policies; they are not vested with any of the powers of a quorate Executive Committee meeting.

4.2.5 The Executive Committee shall have power to appoint consultants, in areas where specialist expertise is needed. They are not required to be members of the Society, nor of the Executive Committee, unless elected in the usual way. However, they may be required to attend meetings of the Committee, or Subcommittees, as necessary, and may be paid for their services to the Society.

4.2.6 The Executive Committee shall define the duties of all working parties and appointed posts it creates, and the Executive Secretary shall inform the members of the Society of the actions of the Executive Committee and of those of any Subcommittee through a bulletin or by any other appropriate means.

## Current version of Section 6

### 6 Elections

6.1 Officers and ordinary members of the Executive Committee are elected by a majority of Society members who choose to participate in the voting process, through votes cast through postal or electronic means. Vacancies in elected positions occurring between elections may be filled by decision of the Executive Committee; appointed holders of these positions must stand for election at the next available opportunity.

#### 6.2 Election procedure

6.2.1 At least two month's written notice must have been given before voting in an election is scheduled to begin. The period in which votes are received must be no shorter than one month.

6.2.2 Candidates for election must be fully paid-up members of the Society (ie who have paid their subscription fees for the year in which the election takes place, and have no outstanding subscription fees for other years). Eligibility to vote is restricted to members of the Society in good standing (ie who have paid their subscription fees for the year previous to that in which the election takes place, and who have no fees outstanding for previous years).

6.2.3 Nominations may be made by the Executive Committee or by petition to the Administrative Secretary. Nominations by petition for posts on the Executive Committee shall be made by fully paid-up members before a deadline published by the Administrative Secretary at least two months in advance. To be valid, a nomination by petition must be supported by at least six fully paid-up members of the Society and must be accompanied by a statement from the nominee (who must also be a fully paid-up member) declaring a willingness to serve if elected.

6.2.4 It is the responsibility of the Executive Committee to ensure that there is at least one nomination for every post that is to be filled.

6.2.5 Eligible voters may cast one vote for each named office for which an electoral process is being conducted, and a number of votes for ordinary committee members which corresponds to the number of ordinary committee member posts which the Administrative Secretary has announced as available. Where there is no more than one nomination for a named office, or no more candidates to become ordinary committee members than posts which have been announced as being available, then no formal election procedure will take place, the nominated candidates being deemed to have been elected by unanimous acclamation.

6.2.6 The Executive and Administrative Secretaries are responsible for the conduct of the election, including the assessment of numbers of votes cast. In the event that balloting results in a tie, it shall be broken in a manner to be determined by the Executive Committee.

6.2.7 The Executive Secretary shall announce the results of the election to the Executive Committee and at the following General Meeting.

6.2.8 Officers and elected members of the Executive Committee, including the immediate Past President, shall officially begin their term of office on the first day of January following their election.

## New version of Section 6

### 6 Elections

6.1 Officers and Ordinary Members of the Executive Committee are elected by a majority of Society members who choose to participate in the voting process, through votes cast through postal or electronic means. Vacancies in elected positions occurring between elections may be filled by decision of the Executive Committee; appointed holders of these positions must stand for election at the next available opportunity.

## 6.2 Election procedure

6.2.1 At least one month's written notice must have been given before voting in an election is scheduled to begin. The period in which votes are received must be no shorter than one month.

6.2.2 Candidates for election must be fully paid-up members of the Society (ie who have paid their subscription fees for the year in which the election takes place, and have no outstanding subscription fees for other years). Eligibility to vote is restricted to members of the Society in good standing (ie who have paid any applicable subscription fees for the year in which the election takes place).

6.2.3 Nominations may be made by the Executive Committee or by petition to the Executive Secretary. Nominations by petition for posts on the Executive Committee shall be made by fully paid-up members before a deadline published by the Executive Secretary at least one month in advance. To be valid, a nomination by petition must be supported by at least two fully paid-up members of the Society and must be accompanied by a statement from the nominee (who must also be a fully paid-up member) declaring a willingness to serve if elected.

6.2.4 It is the responsibility of the Executive Committee to ensure that there is at least one nomination for every post that is to be filled.

6.2.5 Eligible voters may cast one vote for each named Officer post for which an electoral process is being conducted, and a number of votes for Ordinary Members which corresponds to the number of Ordinary Member committee posts which the Executive Secretary has announced as available. Where there is no more than one nomination for a named Officer post, or no more candidates to become Ordinary Members than posts which have been announced as being available, then no formal election procedure will take place, the nominated candidates being deemed to have been elected by unanimous acclamation.

6.2.6 The Executive Secretary is responsible for the conduct of the election, including the assessment of numbers of votes cast. In the event that balloting results in a tie, it shall be broken in a manner to be determined by the Executive Committee.

6.2.7 The Executive Secretary shall announce the results of the election to the Executive Committee and at the following General Meeting.

6.2.8 All members of the Executive Committee shall officially begin their term of office from the Annual General Meeting at which their election is announced, or appointment ratified, or the fifteenth of January, whichever is soonest.

## Current version of Section 10

### 10 Amendments to the Constitution

10.1 The General Meeting of the Society may amend the Constitution by a majority of two-thirds of the members present and voting, provided that a quorum of thirty members be present, and that written notice of the amendment proposed has been given to all members not less than two months before the General Meeting.

## New version of Section 10

### 10 Amendments to the Constitution

10.1 The General Meeting of the Society may amend the Constitution by a majority of two-thirds of the members present and voting, provided that a quorum of thirty members be present.