

THE OXFORD UNION SOCIETY
REPORT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER TO STANDING COMMITTEE
TRINITY TERM MMV

1. Introduction

As required by Standing Order D1(f) the Returning Officer must present a report to the Standing Committee detailing his term in office; this document constitutes such a report for the purposes of Standing Order D1(f).

2. Hilary Term 2005 Main Elections

2.1. In the Society's main elections for Hilary Term 2005 the number of names on the sign down sheets was 1621. The number of votes found in the ballot box and deemed valid was 1625. The number of ballots declared void in their entirety was 6. Therefore the number of votes counted in the election was 1619. There was a margin of error of somewhat less than a quarter of one per cent. The results of the election in full are appended to this report (Appendix A).

2.2. Election Tribunals

2.2.1. An Election Tribunal was held in 8th Week, consisting of Simon Bowmer (ex-Returning Officer), Nick Mason (ex-President) and Matthew Gullick (ex-Returning Officer). I must thank these members for their time and patience during what was an extremely tedious process.

2.2.2. The Tribunal met to consider one allegation of electoral malpractice under Rule 33(a)(i)(20) and two allegations of innocent interference under Rules 33(b)(ix)(1) and (2).

2.2.3. The Tribunal decided to dismiss all three allegations.

2.3. Election Income and Expenditure

2.3.1. A breakdown of all the income and expenditure involving the election is appended to this report (Appendix B).

2.3.2. Elections are fundamental to ensuring that the administration of the Society is as accountable and transparent as possible, and as such they are a necessary cost that the Society must be willing to bear. However, it should be noted that election expenditure still outweighs income by a considerable amount. Whilst this point has been debated many times before, I would urge the Standing Committee to consider raising the

nomination fees for various offices and committee positions in order to bring in a small amount of extra revenue.

3. Election of CCC and Elections for other Committees

- 3.1. A successful election took place in 1st week for the Chairman of the Consultative Committee. The sole candidate, Mr. David Green (Lincoln College) was duly elected.
- 3.2. A successful election was held to fill one vacancy on the Finance Committee. The election took place in 2nd Week Consultative Committee and the sole candidate, Mr. Edward Mason (Junior Ex-Standing Committee, Trinity College) was duly elected.
- 3.3. Nominations opened on Friday of 0th Week for an election to take place in 1st Week for four vacancies on the Wines and Spirits Committee. I received no nominations by the deadline and so nominations were reopened *mutatis mutandis* and a successful election was held in 2nd Week Consultative Committee in which the successful candidates were Karl-Morritz Hermann (Somerville College), Andrew Grey (Ex-CCC, St Peter's College) and Janet Scott (Worcester College).

4. Appointment of Deputy Returning Officers

Following the ratification by the Standing Committee of the shortlist in 2nd Week a number of objections to certain names on the shortlist were received and upheld by the President, the CCC and myself under Rule 32(a)(vi). The consequence of this is that the number of Deputy Returning Officers has fallen below eight, and I am obliged under Rule 32(c) to appoint (with the consent of the Standing Committee) further DROs to bring the number to at least eight. I intend to do this later at today's Standing Committee.

5. Disciplinary Matters

- 5.1. I have carried out all of my disciplinary duties with great enthusiasm. I have followed the record system instituted by my predecessor, Mr. Alex Young (Senior Ex-Returning Officer, Oriel College) and found it to be an effective method of keeping a record of fines imposed by the Society. However, I would advise my successor to review the manner in which the Society imposes fines on members. Both staff and officers should make themselves fully aware of the offences for which, and in what circumstances, they can impose fines and the proper procedures for this. In this way, I think any *ultra vires* fines can be avoided.
- 5.2. I have thankfully not had to convene any Senior Disciplinary Committees this term.

6. Other Duties

6.1. Reorganisation of Records and Archives

During the Easter vacation I spent a considerable amount of time in the Society's buildings organising the records and archives of "RO World". Prior to this reorganisation, the archives were, to say the least, chaotic. I have instituted both a simple and effective system for the proper filing of Reports of Senior Disciplinary Committees, Disciplinary Appeals Committees, Election Tribunals, Appellate Boards and Formal Interpretations issued by persons or bodies empowered to do so under Rule 67(e). I would remind my successors that it is incumbent upon both them and the Society to maintain an accurate and up-to-date archive.

6.2. OPBM Reports

All those required to do so submitted OPBM reports to me five days prior to the Ordinary Private Business Meeting and I was therefore not required to fine any officer under Standing Order D1(a).

6.3. Copies of the Rules

6.3.1. I have tried exceptionally hard to make up-to-date and accurate copies of the Rules, Standing Orders and Special Schedules of the Society available. In 7th Week of Hilary Term 2005 I printed and bound 11 copies (including copies for each officer), alas all but two have gone missing. This includes copies meant only for use in the General Office. I must stress that the Rules are quite clear that copies of the Rules for the General Office are not to be removed from the General Office. These are to be made available for the inspection of members in the office only. In order to prevent such incidents of theft in the future, I recommend that a Standing Order be passed imposing a fine of £10 on any member who removes an office copy of the Rules, Standing Orders and Special Schedules of the Society from the General Office.

6.3.2. Following the abundant and in my opinion, very wise rule changes proposed by the Treasurer and passed by the House, it is my opinion that the Rules have been amended significantly enough to merit new copies being sent to the Copyright Libraries as per S.15 of the Copyright Act 1911. I will be carrying out this task in the next few days.

7. Conclusion

In conclusion, I hope that this report provides an accurate account of my term as Returning Officer and that the information and recommendations contained herein will prove useful to future holders of this most noble and illustrious office. I would like to congratulate the President and the Standing Committee on what has thus far

been an exciting and enjoyable term, the remainder of which will, I'm sure be a great success. I also wish the President-elect and the Treasurer-elect good luck with their preparations for Michaelmas Term 2005.

Finally, I must give my most sincere and humble thanks to the following people:

My Deputy Returning Officers (past and present): Dan Johnson (Ex-CCC, CCC), Chris Hallebro, Sinead Mandlik, Ellie Cumbo, Anjool Malde (Ex-Standing Committee, St Peter's), Chris Howarth, Rachel McCann, Stephen Whittaker, Oli Munn (Ex-Secretary's Committee, Lincoln), Ed Mason (Jnr. Ex-Standing Committee, Trinity) and David Green (CCC, Lincoln).

The Returning Officer's Assistants (past and present): Joanne Joyce (Ex-Standing Committee, St Hilda's), Timothy Ayles (Senior Ex-Standing Committee, Trinity), Timothy Bennett, Stephen Longden, Matt Gater, the ever lovely Laura Callaghan-Pace (Ex-Secretary's Committee, St Hilda's), the equally lovely Suraya Jina (Ex-Secretary's Committee, Keble), Craig Aston, Sarah Reardon (Ex-CCC, Keble), Michael Dowling (then Treasurer-elect, Mansfield), Richard Tydeman (then President-elect, Christ Church), Jo Lee Morrison (First Lady, Christ Church), Christos Karaolis (Ex-Secretary, Trinity), Julia Buckley (Ex-Secretary's Committee, Christ Church), Dan Novak and Timothy Stafford.

Union Staff: The Bursar (sorry about the table in the Goodman Library), the Steward, Lynne and Helen for all their assistance and patience.

A special mention must, of course, go to Mr. Matthew Richardson (Senior Ex-Librarian, St Peter's College) – despite your best efforts; you remain a man of transparent integrity without a stain on your character.

Humbly submitted,

Andrew J. Grey
Collegium Sancti Petri le Bailey
Returning Officer
Ex-Chairman, Consultative Committee
Former Acting President

Monday 9th May 2005 AD

Appendix A: Results of the Society's Main Election Hilary Term MMV

For Secretary's Committee, Trinity Term 2005

Excluded 1 st with 33 first preferences	Davidson
Excluded 2 nd with 37 first preferences	Dockrell
Excluded 3 rd with 42 first preferences	Hughes
Excluded 4 th with 47 first preferences	Gosden
Excluded 5 th with 51 first preferences	Mauritzen
Excluded 6 th with 55 first preferences	Moran
Excluded 7 th with 73 first preferences	Martin
Excluded 8 th with 66 first preferences	Treharne
RUNNER UP with 74 first preferences	Graham
ELECTED 9th with 72 first preferences	Saleh
ELECTED 8th with 74 first preferences	Robinson
ELECTED 7th with 75 first preferences	Wright
ELECTED 6th with 101 first preferences	Spooner
ELECTED 5th with 104 first preferences	Tullo
ELECTED 4th with 105 first preferences	McCluskey
ELECTED 3rd with 109 first preferences	Honsinger
ELECTED 2nd with 140 first preferences	Roos
ELECTED 1st with 155 first preferences	Dundas

For Standing Committee, Trinity Term 2005

Excluded 1 st with 52 first preferences:	Karl-Morritz Hermann, Somerville
Excluded 2 nd with 96 first preferences:	Peter Campbell, Oriel
Excluded 3 rd with 105 first preferences:	Georgie Campbell, Trinity
Excluded 4 th with 111 first preferences:	Antonia Lloyd, Somerville
Excluded 5 th with 195 first preferences:	Charlie Bullock, St Peter's
RUNNER UP with 140 first preferences:	Nussaibah Younis, Merton
ELECTED 5th with 129 first preferences:	James P. Wise, Christ Church
ELECTED 4th with 141 first preferences:	Tom Siddiqui, Queen's
ELECTED 3RD with 173 first preferences:	David Powell, Balliol
ELECTED 2nd with 178 first preferences:	Bianca Abulafia, Corpus Christi
ELECTED 1st with 191 first preferences:	Bim Afolami, University College

For Secretary, Trinity Term 2005

Excluded first with 416 first preferences:	David Powell (ex-Standing Committee, Balliol)
RUNNER UP with 471 first preferences:	David P-W (Standing Committee, SPC)
ELECTED with 491 first preferences:	Sarah Coates (Standing Committee, Oriel)

For Treasurer, Michaelmas Term 2005

RUNNER UP with 554 first preferences:	Saiyid Hamid (ex-Standing Committee, Merton)
ELECTED with 830 first preferences:	Kat Frankham (Standing Committee, SJC)

For Librarian, Trinity Term 2005

RUNNER UP with 648 first preferences:	Andy Hughes (Standing Committee, LMH)
ELECTED with 726 first preferences:	Sapana Agrawal (Secretary, SEH)

For President, Michaelmas Term 2005

RUNNER UP with 694 first preferences:
ELECTED with 811 first preferences:

Vladimir Bermant (Librarian, Balliol)
Chris Farmer (Treasurer, St Hugh's)

I hereby declare all of the above duly elected to serve in Office and on Committee.

Andrew J. Grey
Collegium Sancti Petri le Bailey
Returning Officer

Appendix B: Returning Officer's Election Account – Hilary Term MMV**EXPENDITURE**

Food and Drink	£196.10
Stationery	£255.78
Printing of Election Material	£817
Election Tribunal	£236.20
Miscellaneous Election Expenses	£310.77
TOTAL	£1,815.85

INCOME

Secretary's Committee Nominations	(£12.50)	£225
Standing Committee Nominations	(£17.50)	£192.50
Secretary Nominations	(£30)	£90
Treasurer-elect Nominations	(£30)	£60
Librarian Nominations	(£30)	£60
President-elect Nominations	(£40)	£80
TOTAL		£707.50

GRAND TOTAL (expenditure – income): £1,108.35

Andrew J. Grey
Collegium Sancti Petri le Bailey
 Returning Officer