

# **Society of Editors**

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**Annual report  
and accounts  
1999-2000**

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**Notice of AGM**

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# **Society of Editors**

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**Society of Editors**  
*Annual Report and Accounts 1999-2000*

The Society of Editors was formed by a merger of the Guild of Editors and the Association of British Editors in April 1999.

It has nearly 500 members made up of editors, managing editors, editorial directors, training editors, editors-in-chief and deputy editors in national, regional and local newspapers, magazines, radio, television and new media, media lawyers and academics in journalism education.

Its members are as different as the publications and programmes they create and the communities and audiences they serve.

**But they share the values that matter:**

- **The promotion of press and broadcasting freedom and the public's right to know**
- **The universal right to freedom of expression**
- **The vitality of the news media in a democratic society**
- **The commitment to high editorial standards**

These values give the society an integrity from which it derives authority to influence debate on press and broadcasting freedom, ethics and the culture and business of news media.

To keep up to date with the Society's work visit our website

**[www.ukeditors.com](http://www.ukeditors.com)**

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### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

And so the second year of our new organisation has drawn to an end. And so the activities of the Government over the past 12 months have proved, once again, the absolute need for an organisation like ours to exist.

Any newly-formed grouping like ours should really use its second year to consolidate. Although we have done that, it has tended to be over-shadowed by the necessity to lobby hard on a whole range of issues that have dominated the media in the last year.

If there were any thoughts that this Labour Government would grasp the concept of openness and transparency - as the Party said it would do in Opposition - they were dispelled by the Queen's Speech in the autumn of 1999.

A packed programme of possibly twice as many bills than could be granted real care and attention offered the prospect of bad legislation - and that's what we got.

The Local Government Act, the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act and the Prevention of Terrorism Act were all rushed through. Although the various ministers gave us a hearing, they offered little evidence of listening.

Like many previous Acts of Parliament, their sentiments may have been correct, but in the end the final result was flawed.

As I write, the Freedom of Information legislation is holed-up somewhere in the parliamentary process. It may well fall because of pressure of time. As it stands, it is a long way from the almost utopian vision offered by David Clarke's White Paper of three years ago, despite the various changes made throughout the lobbying process by Jack Straw and his colleagues.

The main concern from our point of view - and, more importantly, the point of view of the general public - is that so many members of the Government indicated so much incredulity at our arguments.

If Mr Blair and friends appeared out of touch in the early autumn over fuel prices and taxation, then their attitude towards the state of local government, the rights of people to know what is going on in the running of their

country and the need for a genuinely free and open media were positively alarming.

As well, of course, we now face the introduction of the Human Rights Act. Clearly, there are different views on the impact this will have on the media. Are the two hefty articles on freedom of expression and the right to privacy on a mighty collision course? We need to examine how the media industry - national print, regional print, broadcasting and new media - can work together by creating a fighting fund to establish case law.

Some observers say we are offered enormous opportunities by this new Act, others are rubbing their hands with glee at the prospect of finally bringing in privacy legislation into the UK.

So we have the legacy of all this legislation and we must now work with it.

This means that the membership of this organisation must work together as it has never had to before - it must also work with others like it has never had to before - to ensure that our goal of acting as agents of information for the population of the UK and elsewhere is not weakened.

However, it has not been all bad news. The judgement by Lord Justice Judge in the Appeal Court over the Shayler case was truly monumental. This laid the foundation, hopefully, of some new thinking from the judiciary.

It is very arguable that our policy over recent months of talking openly and positively to senior judges is helping produce a much better understanding of what we seek to achieve.

The new guide to reporting restrictions in the Crown Court published in the summer was also the result of this.

Our executive director Bob Satchwell and chief legal adviser Santha Rasaiah worked long and hard to reach agreement on this ground-breaking document. And if there was one single reason to confirm the necessity of the Society of Editors, it was with the publication of this guide.

Thanks also need to go to Philip Graf, who has been instrumental in not only persuading editors in Trinity Mirror of the need to better

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relations with the judges, but has also been the catalyst in ensuring that the right relationships have been struck.

We have also made headway with the Association of Chief Police Officers and their various guidelines. It has not been easy and often the mighty battalions of the chief constables combined with data protection legislation seemed insurmountable.

But, ironically, the intervention of Data Protection Registrar Elizabeth France - after she had heard some reasonably disturbing views at our spring seminar - has perhaps borne fruit.

However, the fact is that many chief constables still view the day-to-day role of press and broadcasters as only being helpful when they want help. Much work remains to be done on building relations both at national and at local level - between Acpo and society officers and individual chief constables and editors - if genuine changes in attitudes (and thence information flow) are to come about.

It is to be hoped that Acpo has witnessed the positive dialogue that has taken place between ourselves and the judiciary, that I referred to above, as well as consistent communication with Elizabeth France - and understands the mutually beneficial results that have occurred. But I suspect that it will be a case of watch this space.

However, the goal of building proper working relationships at all levels of the police service must remain a high priority for the society.

As the year went on, so the baggage carried from our two former founding organisations disappeared.

The new board - drawn from every aspect of the society's wide membership - quickly established itself as a major driving force. My thanks go to them for all their help and advice. In particular, I would like to thank retiring past president Geoff Elliott for his counsel and wish him well as he moves into academia.

Bob Satchwell, the key appointment made last year, has striven all year to balance the sometimes conflicting demands of different sectors of the society, while getting to grips with the huge amount of lobbying needed and keeping administration of the organisation in good order.

His first-class assistants Sophie Dukan and David Fulford-Brown have supported him admirably and kept him organised as he has energetically chased around the country on our behalf.

We welcomed two new chairs to our main committees - Phil Harding at Parliamentary and Legal and Peter Cole at Training. Their appointments are crucial to the future well-being of the society.

Both are genuine heavyweights - in their specialities in particular and the industry in general - and their roles in the coming months need major support from the membership at large.

The P&L committee had a huge workload this year, yet there seems no reason to believe that it will be any less in the coming 12 months. Phil and Santha Rasaiah have proved a formidable team - one that is taken seriously by both the media industry and Government civil servants.

The training committee has no less a task. Much of the year was taken up in observing the fall-out from the setting-up of the new publishing national training organisation to go alongside the group already established for broadcasters. But at last there seems to be a move forward.

The society has amongst its members the very best trainers in the industry and we must ensure that their voice, as well as that of the whole organisation, is heard clearly and loudly. The fight we endured in ensuring that an editor's view was heard at the very top of the NTO did not bode well initially, but we must be positive as we enter the new year.

New members have come on board over the last 12 months but we still need more. The secure finances we need to enable us to go forward with confidence are still not in place - and they will only come when we have sufficient membership to finance our activities.

The regions, too, need to become more active. Some are meeting on a regular basis and, more importantly, achieving results - but there are some that are worryingly supine.

Our proposed new vice-president Liz Page is very keen to re-invigorate the regions, as I have been over the years, and it is a process that must be supported seriously. Too many of

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our members are happy just to pay their fees - which we are, of course, happy to receive - but there are still too few members taking active roles in what remains essentially a volunteer organisation.

The activities of both government and non-governmental bodies over the last 12 months is proof that any relaxation on our part will result in fewer freedoms, a slowing of the move to transparency and a general tightening of information streams.

The United Kingdom remains far too secretive and our industry is not always that good at presenting its case. We have worked well with the Press Complaints Commission in recent years to see off the threat of formal statutory intervention - but we all know that politicians are always happy to threaten David Mellor's last-chance saloon.

The society next year will be in the more-than-capable hands of Ed Curran, who will face a challenging time as the new legislation I have talked about above comes into play.

If AGM approves, his deputy will be Liz Page who will eventually become our organisation's first woman president - an excellent achievement so early in our new life.

I wish them well for the future. Theirs will not be an easy task and I wish them every support from the organisation as a whole.

Last year Geoff Elliott, in his annual report, said that we were well placed to fight on the many fronts that were opening up to us. That remains the case but we cannot be complacent about the task ahead.

I thank all those who have supported me so keenly in my year in office - both in the society as a whole and in Wales in particular.

My colleagues at Western Mail & Echo Limited and those who work for me on The Western Mail, in particular, have been kindly understanding of my many absences and I do thank them.

**Neil Fowler**  
**President**  
**Editor, The Western Mail**

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### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The society has not been sitting on the laurels of its successful launch, broadening of its membership base, first spring seminar and annual conference in Portsmouth. It has built on those achievements in a hugely busy and sometimes frenetic year of lobbying and campaigning.

The voice of editors has certainly been raised and heard in the corridors of Westminster, Whitehall and elsewhere.

Calls to meet with government ministers, senior judges, the police – both at Acpo and in individual chief constables' offices around the country – and other organisations, have inevitably interfered with the day-to-day management of the society. The interruptions, along with those by newspapers, magazines, radio and television, have, however, been welcome and valuable.

They reflect the growing realisation that there is one organisation representing the interests of editors in all sections of the media, although sometimes we still have to explain the breadth of our membership and what we are about.

In essence we stand up for the freedom of the media. We support passionately self regulation of the press and fight for the right of editors in print, broadcasting and electronic media to report and comment unfettered by over-bearing statutory controls. Related to that is our concern to maintain editorial standards and to remind the world at large that against a background of huge and increasing commercial competition, editors strive to satisfy the public's right to know what is done in their name and with their money.

Appreciation of the society's work and growing profile is reflected in its expanded membership. Growth has been particularly strong in broadcasting and lately in new media. We have several new academic members and a new section for media lawyers is attracting support from in-house and commercial lawyers. This initiative attracted adverse comment from one or two long serving members but these new members work closely with editors and share similar concerns as media law and regulation becomes increasingly complex.

Unless membership is extended and expanded within the overall objectives of the society we shall never realise our long term aim of self

sufficiency. To that end there are still many potential members out there. If existing members could commit to recruiting one new member our finances could be assured and the board's ambition to maintain or, better still, reduce individual subscriptions, could be achieved.

It is also helpful if members pay annual subscriptions on time to maintain cash flow. Every reminder letter costs money. The continued support of emeritus members in retirement is also much appreciated.

One or two members in the society's traditional membership sector of regional and local newspapers appear to have questioned the value of membership. While the structure of the society has changed from the old Guild of Editors most of our work has reflected their interests especially. If councils were to meet in secret or the police stopped provided names and addresses, the life blood of local newspapers would be threatened. Their sales and therefore their bottom lines would be affected. The annual cost of supporting the society is surely a valuable investment.

As one member wrote after the new guidelines on reporting restrictions in the Crown Court were issued to judges and editors, that initiative by the society alone was worth the annual subscription. We are now embarking on a similar exercise for magistrates. Arguments over reporting restrictions are one of the biggest unnecessary invasions into editors' time and their companies' bank accounts.

The society has a loud voice but it has only a small central office. Those scarce resources are inevitably concentrated on national issues that affect the whole of the membership. That said, we are glad to support editors with advice from a distance and by attendance at local meetings whenever possible. In the regions, however, members do need to pick up the cudgels themselves. That is why the board gave special responsibility to Liz Page to rekindle regional activity. She will continue with that task when, hopefully, she is confirmed as vice president by the AGM at Cardiff.

Some regions are more active than others. Scotland, for example, has taken the lead in establishing a new training forum north of the border. The North West staged a successful weekend conference, the North East meets regularly as do Yorkshire and Wales. West country editors had to postpone their seminar

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because of the fuel crisis. There has also been a change of emphasis at meetings. Editors gather together with society back up to talk to chief constables, for example. That is as good, if not more effective use of busy people's time, as old style quarterly lunch meetings.

The time and effort given by emeritus members such as Donald Fullarton in Scotland and Gordon Maxwell in the North West as regional secretaries is much appreciated. The creation of the society with amended rules has allowed them to play a more active part once again.

The message from head office and from Liz Page is: "Find ways raising the issues and the profile of the society for yourselves. We will be there to support you."

Some of the society's increased activity is ongoing, long term and behind the scenes but it will bear fruit. The benefits of closer liaison with the police and judges are already self evident. Work with the Media Emergencies Forum, chaired by Mike Granatt, head of the Government Communications and Information Service, will help all of the media in reporting major accidents, disasters and other incidents. That will be spotlighted in one of the sessions at the annual conference.

But more activity costs money. Some of that is being raised from new sources. The web site at [www.ukeditors.com](http://www.ukeditors.com) is not only a highly effective method of communication with members, the media and the public, it is also beginning to attract advertising income. So far it is small beer but the site attracts 16,000 page impressions per month - a significant figure for such a specialist site. It is an attractive medium for organisations that wish to speak to an audience of powerful opinion formers. Its effectiveness is a tribute to the work of our treasurer Graham Cole who designed and maintains it. It is updated frequently using software that enables remote access. Further developments are planned.

Sales of Harry Evans *Essential English*, the textbook updated by Crawford Gillan, have been steady and make a small but significant contribution to funds. Part of the cost of reprinting the newspaper and magazine industry's Code of Practice in wallet-size format has also been recouped.

The continued support of Unisys underpins our work. During this year PR Newswire has also come on board. We are grateful to them

and other partners who support our annual conference and seminars.

None of this could be achieved without the sterling efforts of Sophie Dukan our administrator and David Fulford-Brown our membership officer. Their hours are part-time, their commitment is not.

I must congratulate the officers of the society on their achievements recorded elsewhere in this report and thank them for their support.

As our second president, Neil Fowler has secured and polished Geoff Elliott's creation. Ed Curran will take the batten on bringing with him the experience of making especially difficult editorial decisions in Belfast. Phil Harding was an inspired appointment as chairman of the Parliamentary and Legal committee. He replaced Nick Carter who resigned after filling the role so well. Phil will lead us in new and continuing campaigns along with Santha Rasaiah and Catherine Courtney, our legal advisers at the Newspaper Society.

Peter Cole brought renewed vigour to the society's work on training to follow on from Mike Woods's sterling efforts. Graham Cole is the safe pair of hands to manage our finances. Keith Sutton and Alan Powell, his successor as editor of Briefing, have kept members in touch with our activities. Alan was co-opted to the board to fill a casual vacancy. He won the next highest number of votes in the election for board members last autumn. All of the board members, chosen by the membership in the society's first elections, have given generously of their time and wise counsel.

Geoff Elliott leaves the board at the AGM. The speed and depth of change he instigated belies the fact that he was elected vice president of the old Guild less than three years ago. He has also retired from the P&L committee after 20 years.

I must also record our gratitude to the many and varied supporters from outside. Not least are the teams at *Press Gazette* and [holdthefrontpage.co.uk](http://holdthefrontpage.co.uk) that report our campaigns and record our successes, and our landlords at the University Centre in Cambridge.

**Bob Satchwell**  
**Director**

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### PARLIAMENTARY AND LEGAL COMMITTEE

When John Philpot Curran wrote in 1798 that “the condition upon which God hath given liberty to man is eternal vigilance”, I very much doubt whether he had in mind either the present-day media or the Blair government’s legislative programme. Yet Curran’s words seem remarkably prescient when applied to the events of the last twelve months.

It has been a year which has seen another raft of new Bills, White Papers, Codes of Practice and Guidelines. Few have been about the media, journalism or reporting at all. But often such bills have had a sub-clause or an appendix tucked away at the back, as a piece of so-called “administrative tidying-up” with considerable implications for the freedom of the media. This has been a year of careful reading and extensive lobbying.

The role of the Society of Editors has been crucial. The vigorous and forthright campaigning style of our director, Bob Satchwell, ably supported by Santha Rasaiah and Catherine Courtney, has meant that the society has now very much established itself as a voice to be listened to.

Our lobbying has had some notable successes, notably over the Local Government Act, but there have been some failures too. (Though the battle over the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act may not yet be over).

The much-heralded Freedom of Information Bill did turn out to be the timid mouse we feared it might be. Some later amendments did improve the Bill but the exemptions still available to Whitehall departments are sweeping. We now have to see whether we can give this mouse some teeth. What we heard from Elizabeth France in her speech at the society’s spring seminar was encouraging. If she carries out her new role as Information Commissioner with the same fervour and firmness as she has applied to data protection, then we may be in for a regime of greater openness after all. What is essential is that all editors and journalists now push the opportunities under this Bill to the limit. We need doggedly to use every means available to get at official information and, when that fails, we need to let the public know what information is being withheld from them for no good reason. The campaign has only just begun.

It has been a mixed year in the courts. Diverse perverse judges have continued to issue reporting bans which have been ill- conceived and restrictive. I am glad to say that court reporters are now getting quicker at challenging on the day and editors often meet with success when they challenge these bans in the higher courts. The society’s recent agreement on a new set of guidelines with Lord Justices Judge and Kay represents a considerable step forward in establishing a better framework and is a big achievement.

Two recent court decisions have seen important victories for the freedom of the media. The decision not to order the *Observer* and the *Guardian* to hand over documents in the Shayler case marked an important statement by the judiciary on the rights of freedom of expression. While it was a case that should never have been brought in the first place, the judgement has set some important benchmarks for future cases.

The second case worth highlighting is the action brought by several newspapers and the BBC to get the Harold Shipman Inquiry held in public. This was also an important case to win and the judgement sets an important future precedent for openness in such inquiries.

The European Convention on Human Rights is incorporated into law in England and Wales this October. (It is of course already current in Scots law). It will be interesting to see what impact this has on the courts – especially clauses 10 and 8 dealing respectively with freedom of expression and privacy. It certainly is beginning to look as though some judges are eager to anticipate these changes; the early portents are promising for freedom of expression.

Perhaps our biggest failure this year has been the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act. This blandly titled piece of legislation could have a considerable impact on the work of protection of journalistic sources. At first sight it is only another piece of “tidying up” (aah that phrase again!) which merely brings the legislation on phone tapping up to date with the challenges of the Internet age. Criminals are increasingly using the Internet as a means of communication, the argument runs, so what could possibly be wrong with allowing the police and other agencies to have the same rights on the Internet as with phone-tapping? Put that way it all sounds innocent enough except again, as with so many pieces of

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legislation at present, the principle appears indisputable, virtuous even, until you get to the detail. Then you discover that the degree of interception allowed for under this Act will actually be considerably greater than under the old phone-tapping Act. But these arguments fell on ministerial deaf ears and the Act is now law.

But elsewhere – on the Terrorism Act and especially on the Local Government Act - our arguments did make a difference. On the Terrorism Act, while we had limited success on the new and wider definition of terrorism, we did eventually extract from the minister a statement in the Lords that nothing in this Act was intended to change the balance of freedom of expression needed for the media to report on terrorist matters. Such parliamentary statements of intent can be very useful in fighting court cases in the future.

Perhaps we won so much on the Local Government Act because, in its original form, this was a breath-taking piece of legislation which would have left local councils almost totally free from external scrutiny. The original plan was for the new cabinet-style executive meetings to be held in private. Decisions taken in secret would be checked by an ill-defined scrutiny committee, but only weeks or months after the event. And the argument for this? “That it would be impossible to attract high calibre councillors in the future if they had to put up with too much public scrutiny”. As Richard Littlejohn might say: “You couldn’t make it up.”

And finally, the long-running saga of the Data Protection Act, the police and road traffic victims: no report from the P&L Committee would be complete without this. At the society’s spring seminar, Elizabeth France, (this time wearing her other data protection hat), offered to meet the two warring sides. That meeting took place in July and, was very positive. We now hope that promising initiative can be built on.

A busy year, a mixed year but certainly a year in which the constant vigilance of the Society of Editors has been essential.

**Phil Harding**  
**Chairman**  
**Controller, Editorial Policy, BBC**

### **TRAINING COMMITTEE**

The first full year of the society meant new beginnings in many areas, and that included the training committee. For several years, under the chairmanship of first Crawford Gillan and then Mike Woods, the old Guild’s Editorial Training Committee had sought to address the fragmentation of training in the newspaper industry, the emergence of NVQs as a rival to the NCTJ’s National Certificate, with the (sometimes financial) support of government, the development of in-house training schemes by many of the larger publishers and the ascendancy of further and higher education institutions as the main providers of pre-entry training. ‘Green’ and then ‘White’ papers were published and well received, as the Guild recommended a broader training curriculum to the industry and suggested that a likely route to this was through the revision of the NVQs, then under way.

But while the debate was thorough and informed, other forces were in play, and frustration grew. Mike Woods was deeply involved in the NVQ revision, and tried valiantly to insinuate into that exercise many of the conclusions reached by the Guild’s Editorial Training Committee. But there was resistance, particularly to the idea of proper examinations in areas such as law.

The new beginning represented by the formation of the Society of Editors provided a chance to take stock, not a very exciting undertaking compared with what had come before, but a necessary one. A new chairman was elected, and in a year of insufficient activity, caused as much as anything by the move of that chairman to a new job, two themes dominated: addressing the fundamental question of how much influence the society could realistically have over a still fragmented training map, and where that influence should be applied; and coming to terms with the political issues surrounding training, the emergence of a number of bodies, possibly representing different interests, and how they inter-related.

It was encouraging that so many high profile and influential Society members were prepared to serve on the reconstituted Editorial Training Committee. It was also encouraging to welcome strong representation from the training/education sector, both from the public and private sector. The committee is truly

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representative. It has produced, after much discussion, a training strategy that was adopted with enthusiasm by the society's board. The committee's future work will be in line with that strategy.

The committee has also sought to come to terms with the plethora of organisations to which it must relate. A new National Training Organisation (NTO) has been set up, with the Newspaper Society as the lead body. The Society of Editors and its training committee were unhappy that membership of the NTO excluded it, and argued for this situation to be altered. This has now been rectified by the appointment of Neil Fowler. The society is represented on the Journalism Forum, which advises the NTO. It is in friendly dialogue with both the NCTJ and the Association of Journalism Educators.

It is considering, from the point of view of editors and others who employ journalists, the relative merits of the NVQ and the NCE, and is gathering information. It is concerned about recruitment and pay for trainees. It is discussing the different training requirements for newspapers, broadcast and periodicals.

In a sense, a frustrating sense, it has been an agenda-setting year. The year ahead should see the training committee working to that agenda.

**Peter Cole**  
**Chairman**

### **Training Strategy**

1. **Mission statement:** To promote the Society of Editors as the single most influential independent authoritative voice on journalism education and training.
2. **Objectives:**
  - a) To campaign on fundamental issues of editorial education and training across all sectors of the media for pre entry, post entry and career development.
  - b) To influence industry training representative bodies and institutions through membership and lobbying.
  - c) To forge closer links between those who train and those who employ journalists.
  - d) To develop the use of society members as a pool of expertise and knowledge available to training organisations, FE and HE establishments and companies to enhance their delivery.

3. **Curriculum development:** To promote guidelines and seek to influence what journalists should know and how they should be required to demonstrate their knowledge, aptitude and skills, both pre and post entry.
4. **Partnerships:** To seek partnerships with all those involved in journalism training and education in order to influence standards of entry, training, assessment and qualifications.
5. **Accreditation of courses:** To establish the SoE as an approving if not accrediting organisation.
6. **Careers advice:** To provide advice on careers in journalism across all sectors of the media at pre and post entry.

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### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The financial objectives of the society remain as they were last year, to become self-sufficient and to be in a position to maintain attractive membership subscription rates. The budget for the year 1999-2000 forecast a neutral out-turn without reducing activity.

In the final analysis this was not achieved and reserves had to be reduced by about £23,000 overall. This was entirely due to the disparity between projected membership subscriptions and the actual numbers. In fact, the final reduction in reserves represents a recovery during the year – a recovery brought about by additional sponsorship and partnership arrangements, good housekeeping, new revenue streams and a modest rise in membership.

The continuing reduction in conference income which we have seen over the past few years added to our predicament. I have observed before to the board that it appears conference revenues and attendance is in inverse proportion to the strength of the programme. There is room for optimism, though, in that the pre-booking for Cardiff has outstripped anything we have seen before.

The Warwick seminar, despite its strong programme, was far from a financial success and it is clear that the spring “event” will require new thinking.

But, there was an upside. The society has:

- Economised further in the administration
- Found new income streams
- Found new strategic partners
- Signed new members

The management, under Bob Satchwell, has continued to economise wherever possible while expanding activity. Book sales from Harry Evans' *Essential English* have been healthy and copies are still available at a reduced rate through the society. The sales of the book combine the necessary aims of the society to generate modest income while providing excellent value for money for members.

Unisys has continued to support the society with a generous partnership deal.

This year saw a new partnership venture involving PR Newswire Europe. Its activities in fulfilment, printing and mailing provided a partnership “in kind” by producing and posting Briefing this year. They have also sponsored the website to promote their expanding “journalist-facing” services.

The website traffic has steadily increased through the year and the site is now seen as a revenue source in the coming year.

Next year will not be an easy one and, to be uncharacteristically pessimistic, if the budget is not met we may be forced into reviewing subscriptions for the first time in the society's brief history.

The budget for 2000/2001 is again “neutral”, but it is based on the actual subscription income of last year so it should not have the unexpected pitfalls of last year's. The budget provides for some economies and some new revenue.

Of course, in the end, it is only by attracting membership that the society can exist and expand.

**Graham Cole**  
**Treasurer**

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### **DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2000**

The directors present their report together with the audited accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2000.

#### **Principal Activities and Review of Business**

The society operates as a company limited by guarantee. Its principal activity during the year was to represent newspaper editors and their counterparts in broadcasting as a professional association.

#### **Results and Dividends**

The results for the year are set out in the profit and loss account on page 14.

#### **Directors**

The directors who served during the year are as stated below:

N Fowler	C Robertson
R E Satchwell	J Harrison (resigned 7/11/1999)
G J Cole	J Griffith (resigned 7/11/1999)
N J Carter (resigned 7/11/1999)	R Thompson (resigned 7/11/1999)
G C Elliott	P J Preston (resigned 2/10/1999)
M G Woods (resigned 6/11/1999)	R J Allan (appointed 7/11/1999)
K O Sutton	D Gledhill (appointed 7/11/1999)
D W Melloy (resigned 7/11/1999)	P J Potts (appointed 7/11/1999)
I M Beales (resigned 7/11/1999)	E M Page (appointed 7/11/1999)
P Cole (appointed 7/11/1999)	E R Curran (appointed 7/11/1999)
P D Harding (appointed 7/11/1999)	A A Powell (appointed 11/1/2000)

#### **Directors' Responsibilities**

Company law requires the directors to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs and of the profit or loss for that year. In preparing these accounts the directors are required to:

Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

Prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This report was approved by the board on \_\_\_\_\_, and signed on its behalf .

**R E Satchwell**  
**Secretary**

# Society of Editors

## Annual Report and Accounts 1999-2000

### AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF SOCIETY OF EDITORS (BY GUARANTEE)

We have audited the accounts on pages 14 to 18 which have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on page 16.

#### Respective Responsibilities of Directors and Auditors

As described on page 1 the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those accounts and report our opinion to you.

#### Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the accounts. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the accounts, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the accounts are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of the information in the accounts.

#### Opinion

In our opinion the accounts give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2000 and of its loss for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

**MacIntyre Hudson**  
**Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors**  
**Greenwood House**  
**4/7 Salisbury Court**  
**London**  
**EC4Y 8BT**  
**Date:**

### PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2000

	Notes	2000 £	1999 £
<b>TURNOVER</b>	2	<b>134,712</b>	<i>144,917</i>
Administrative Expenses		<b>169,298</b>	<i>170,533</i>
<b>OPERATING LOSS</b>	3	<b>(34,586)</b>	<i>(25,616)</i>
Interest Receivable	4	<b>5,062</b>	<i>4,504</i>
<b>LOSS ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION</b>		<b>(29,524)</b>	<i>(21,112)</i>
Tax on loss on ordinary activities	6	<b>886</b>	<i>935</i>
<b>LOSS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR</b>	10	<b>(30,410)</b>	<i>(22,047)</i>

All amounts relate to continuing activities.  
There were no recognised gains or losses for 2000 or 1999 other than those included in the profit and loss account.

**Society of Editors**  
*Annual Report and Accounts 1999-2000*

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2000

	Notes	£	2000 £	£	1999 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>					
Tangible assets	7		<u>1</u>		<u>340</u>
			1		340
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Debtors	8	2,235		4,266	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>75,364</u>		<u>105,150</u>	
		77,599		109,416	
<b>Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year</b>					
	9	<u>4,772</u>		<u>6,518</u>	
<b>Net Current Assets</b>			<u>72,827</u>		<u>102,898</u>
<b>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities</b>			<u>72,828</u>		<u>103,238</u>
<b>Capital and Reserves</b>					
Conference funds	10		133,469		124,467
Accumulated reserve	10		<u>(60,641)</u>		<u>(21,229)</u>
<b>Shareholders' Funds</b>			<u>72,828</u>		<u>103,238</u>

These accounts were approved by the board on

and signed on its behalf.

**N. Fowler**  
Director

# Society of Editors

## Annual Report and Accounts 1999-2000

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2000

### 1 Accounting Policies

#### Basis of Accounting

The Accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The company has taken advantage of the exemptions in Financial Reporting Standard No 1 from the requirement to produce a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is a small company.

#### Turnover

Turnover represents the total invoice value, excluding value added tax, of conference fees and subscription fee income received, together with ancillary income as disclosed in Note 2. The society invoice fees to its members on an annual basis as at 1 July each year. Amounts invoiced but unpaid at 30 June 2000 are not included within the financial statements to the extent that membership of the society is dependent on payment.

#### Depreciation

The company's policy is to write off the cost of office equipment for individual items costing less than £1,000. Expenditure in excess of this amount is capitalised and written off over its useful life. Depreciation is provided using the following rates and bases to write off the tangible assets over their estimated useful lives:-

Computer equipment 33% Straight line

#### Taxation

The company's liability for corporation tax is limited to 20% of the gross income received from bank deposit accounts.

### 2 Turnover

Turnover relates to the following activities.

	2000	1999
	£	£
Subscriptions	59,513	54,860
Conference income	53,308	62,385
Sponsorship	15,750	25,000
Seminars	3,546	1,172
Appeals income	-	1,500
Book sales and other income	2,595	-
	134,712	144,917

### 3 Operating Loss

	2000	1999
	£	£
<i>The operating loss is arrived at after charging or crediting:</i>		
Depreciation of owned assets	339	1,681
Auditors' remuneration	2,944	2,368
	2,944	2,368

**Society of Editors**  
*Annual Report and Accounts 1999-2000*

<b>4</b>	<b>Interest Receivable</b>	<b>2000</b>	<i>1999</i>
		£	£
	Bank interest receivable	<u>5,062</u>	<u>4,504</u>
		<u><b>5,062</b></u>	<u><b>4,504</b></u>
<b>5</b>	<b>Directors and Employees</b>		
	Staff costs were as follows:	<b>2000</b>	<i>1999</i>
		£	£
	Wages and salaries	<b>4,787</b>	<i>4,833</i>
	Social security costs	<u>349</u>	<u>415</u>
		<u><b>5,136</b></u>	<u><i>5,248</i></u>
	The average number of employees, excluding directors, during the year was as follows:		
		<b>2000</b>	<i>1999</i>
		Number	Number
	Administration	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
		<u><b>1</b></u>	<u><i>1</i></u>
<b>6</b>	<b>Taxation</b>	<b>2000</b>	<i>1999</i>
		£	£
	Based on the loss for the year		
	UK corporation tax at 20%	<u>886</u>	<u>935</u>
		<u><b>886</b></u>	<u><i>935</i></u>
<b>7</b>	<b>Tangible Fixed Assets</b>		
		<b>Computer</b>	<b>Total</b>
		<b>Equipment</b>	
	<b>Cost</b>	£	£
	At 1 <sup>st</sup> July 1999	5,044	5,044
	<b>At 30<sup>th</sup> June 2000</b>	<u><b>5,044</b></u>	<u><b>5,044</b></u>
	<b>Depreciation</b>		
	At 1 <sup>st</sup> July 1999	4,704	4,704
	Charge for the year	<u>339</u>	<u>339</u>
	<b>At 30<sup>th</sup> June 2000</b>	<u><b>5,043</b></u>	<u><b>5,043</b></u>
	<b>Net Book Value</b>		
	<b>At 30<sup>th</sup> June 2000</b>	<u><b>1</b></u>	<u><b>1</b></u>
	<i>At 30<sup>th</sup> June 1999</i>	<u>340</u>	<u>340</u>
<b>8</b>	<b>Debtors</b>	<b>2000</b>	<i>1999</i>
		£	£
	Other debtors	<u>2,235</u>	<u>4,266</u>
		<u><b>2,235</b></u>	<u><i>4,266</i></u>

**Society of Editors**  
*Annual Report and Accounts 1999-2000*

<b>9</b>	<b>Creditors: Amounts Falling due Within One Year</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>1999</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Corporation tax	886	935
	Accruals and deferred income	3,886	5,583
		<u>4,772</u>	<u>6,518</u>
<b>10</b>	<b>Reserves</b>	<b>Conference Funds</b>	<b>Accumulated reserve</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	At 1 <sup>st</sup> July 1999	124,467	(21,229)
	Loss for the year	-	(30,410)
	Transfer between reserves	9,002	(9,002)
	<b>At 30<sup>th</sup> June 2000</b>	<u><b>133,469</b></u>	<u><b>(60,641)</b></u>

**11 Share Capital**

The Society of Editors is a company limited by guarantee. Every member of the society undertakes to contribute to the assets of the society in the event of it being wound up while they are a member or within one year after they cease to be a member. The amount will not exceed £1 for every full member and 25 pence for every other member.

**12 Transactions with Directors**

During the year, the company paid The Satchwell Partnership, whose partner is also the company secretary and one of the directors of the Society of Editors a sum of £25,313 (1999:12,500) in relation to consultancy fees for the year.

# Society of Editors

## Annual Report and Accounts 1999-2000

DETAILED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2000

	2000		1999	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Turnover</b>				
Subscription	59,513		54,860	
Conference income	53,308		62,385	
Sponsorship	15,750		25,000	
Seminars	3,546		1,172	
Appeals income	-		1,500	
Book sales and other income	2,595		-	
		134,712	-	144,917
 <b>Other income</b>				
Bank deposit interest		5,062		4,504
		139,774		149,421
 <b>Administration expenses</b>				
Wages and salaries	5,136		5,248	
Conference expenses	44,306		45,508	
National Secretariat fees	37,344		43,246	
Meeting expenses	12,598		12,145	
Journalists' presentation award	-		575	
Honorarium fees	2,020		1,000	
Guild journal expenses	2,006		3,035	
Marketing and promotion	2,791		3,625	
Rent	7,875		8,458	
Operations	18,855		13,295	
Audit and accountancy	3,694		3,718	
Parliamentary legal fees	28,286		29,000	
Legal and professional	4,048		-	
Depreciation	339		1,681	
		169,298	170,534	
<b>Loss for the year</b>	£	(29,524)	£	(21,113)

**Society of Editors**  
***Annual Report and Accounts 1999-2000***

NOTES TO THE PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2000

- 1 Sponsorship**  
This is in respect of the sponsorship income from Unisys and PR Newswire.
- 2 Seminars**  
This relates to income received from the Warwick Seminar.
- 3 Wages and Salaries**  
This is represented by a salary paid to Ruth Bell-Pellegrini for July and August 1999 and to Fiona Snell for September to November 1999 for the general running and administration of the office.
- 4 Secretariat**  
The sum of £37,344 includes fees from Robert Satchwell in the sum of £25,313 who is the company secretary.
- 5 Rent**  
This represents payments to University Centre in Cambridge.
- 6 Operations**  
This includes, printing, stationery, telephone, catering, insurance, postage, bank charges and sundry expenses.
- 7 Audit and Accountancy**  
Audit fees for 2000 is budgeted at £1,750. Accountancy fees include payments to Eye Tech Media, a company providing book-keeping services and also costs in respect of running the company payroll.
- 8 Parliamentary legal fees**  
The Newspaper Society has charged the society £28,286 for the provision of legal expertise.

# Society of Editors

## *Annual Report and Accounts 1999-2000*

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE SOCIETY**

- 1 To defend and promote the freedom of the media and to champion the universal right to freedom of expression.
- 2 To represent members' interests in all matters of editorial and professional concern and interest.
- 3 To monitor legislation on matters affecting the news media either directly or indirectly and to make appropriate representations to parliaments, regional assemblies, the European Commission and Parliament and other organisations and authorities at all levels of government and public life.
- 4 To interpret legislation and advisory notices to other organisations.
- 5 To provide a forum for discussion of the practical problems of editorship and to promote the objectives of the Company.
- 6 To provide access to a network of professional contacts.
- 7 To offer advice to members on issues of practical and ethical concern and to support other bodies in promoting standards in journalism, the independence of the media and self-regulation.
- 8 To help improve the quality of journalism through the active support of education and training.
- 9 To represent the UK's senior journalists internationally, assisting editors abroad to establish independence and ethical standards.

### **GOVERNING BODY**

The society is managed by a board of directors elected by the membership and administered by an executive director and treasurer. An Advisory Council made up of senior figures in the industry offers advice and support.

### **COMMITTEE AND EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION**

The society's two standing committees – Parliamentary and Legal and Training – draw up policy guidelines and report to the board through their chairmen. Working parties and think tanks are set up as required. The society welcomes any time members can give to support its work.

Society members serve on key industry bodies including the Press Complaints Commission, the Editors' Code Committee, Defence Advisory Notices Committee, the government's Media Emergencies Forum, the National Council for the Training of Journalists, regional training advisory committees, the National Qualifications Council and the National Training Organisation of the Newspaper and Magazine Industry.

The society works closely with other industry organisations and the Newspaper Society's government and regulatory affairs team provides legal and research support. The society supports the work of the Campaign for Freedom of Information.

The society also co-operates with the Central Office of Information and the Thompson Foundation and other organisations by briefing visiting groups of editors from around the world. The society maintains links with the Government Information and Communications Service, the Association of Police Public Relations Officers, the Data Protection Commissioner and other public organisations. It regularly submits evidence and comments to parliamentary committees and the Competition Commission.

### **INTERNATIONAL LINKS**

The society has active links with FIEJ (International Federation of Newspaper Publishers) and is an associate member of World Editors Forum.

The society has long-standing relationships with the Commonwealth Press Union and ISWNE (International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors) covering the US and Canada. Their David Greenslade Bursary enables a member to visit North America.

# Society of Editors

## *Annual Report and Accounts 1999-2000*

### **SOCIETY OFFICIALS**

#### **President**

Geoff Elliott (until 7.11.99)  
Neil Fowler (from 7.11.99)

#### **Vice President**

Neil Fowler (until 7.11.99)  
Ed Curran (from 7.11.99)

#### **Immediate Past President**

Geoff Elliott (from 7.11.99)

#### **Treasurer**

Graham Cole (from 1.11.98)

#### **Chairman, Editorial Training Committee**

Mike Woods (until 7.11.99)  
Peter Cole (from 7.11.99)

#### **Chairman, Parliamentary & Legal Committee**

Nick Carter (until 7.11.99)  
Phil Harding (from 7.11.99)

#### **Editor, Briefing**

Keith Sutton (until end of April 00)  
Alan Powell (from May 00)

#### **Executive Director & Company Secretary**

Robert Satchwell (from 1.1.99)

#### **Administrator**

Ruth Bell-Pellegrini (from 1.2.99 - 27.8.99)  
Fiona Snell (From 1.9.99 to 1.11.99)  
Sophie Dukan (from 13.9.99)

#### **Membership officer**

David Fulford Brown (from 1.2.00)

#### **Board (formed on 7.11.00)**

Neil Fowler, Ed Curran, Geoff Elliott, Ranald Allan, Peter Cole, David Gledhill, Phil Harding, Liz Page, Paul Potts, Alan Powell, Chris Robertson, Keith Sutton, Bob Satchwell, Graham Cole.

#### **Advisory Council**

Paul Dacre, Alec Davidson, Bill Emmott, James Evans, Philip Graf, Les Hinton, Freddy Johnston, Clive Jones, Chris Oakley and Richard Tait.

#### **Training Committee**

Chairman  
Mike Woods (until 7.11.99)  
Peter Cole (from 7.11.99)

#### **Vice-Chairman**

Drew Cochrane (from 1.5.93)

#### **Members**

Sean Dooley (from 7.11.99)  
Eve Fuller (from 7.11.99)  
Jock Gallagher (from 7.11.99)  
Colin Grant (from 7.11.99)  
Ian Hargreaves (from 7.11.99)  
Jackie Harrison (from 7.11.99)  
Tony Johnston (from 21.4.98)  
Doug Melloy (from 7.11.99)  
Liz Page (from 7.11.99)  
Peter Sands (from 7.11.99)  
Andrew Smith (from 7.11.99)  
Malcolm Starbrook (from 21.4.98)  
Anita Syvret (from 7.11.99)  
Rick Thompson (from 7.11.99)  
Mike Woods (from 7.11.99)

#### **Parliamentary & Legal Committee**

##### **Chairman**

Nick Carter (until 7.11.99)  
Phil Harding (from 7.11.99)

##### **Members**

Ian Beales (from 1.9.85)  
Rachael Campey (17.7.98 – 5.6.00)  
Geoff Elliott (1.4.83 – 11.7.00)  
Robin Esser (from 7.11.99)  
Alison Hastings (from 7.11.99)  
Anthony Longden (from 17.7.98)  
Doug Melloy (from 1.4.97)  
Francesca O'Brien (from 7.11.99)  
Peter Preston (from 7.11.99)  
Chris Robertson (from 7.11.99)  
John Spencer (from 9.2.00)  
Keith Sutton (from 7.11.99)  
Alan Rusbridger (from 1.12.97)

The following are ex officio members of the committees

President  
Vice President  
Immediate Past President  
Editor Briefing  
Executive Director

### **FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION**

The income of the society, whatever its source, must be applied solely in promoting the objects of the society.

# Society of Editors

## *Annual Report and Accounts 1999-2000*

### **THE SOCIETY IN THE REGIONS**

Each member of the society is assigned a region. Each regional organisation is autonomous and can decide how to organise itself so long as it signs up to the society's objectives.

Regional meetings are organised to meet the requirements of members in those regions. They are encouraged to develop a programme with the help of the executive director and head office. One of the society's directors, Liz Page, has special responsibility for the regions.

### **Regional Boundaries**

#### **East Anglia**

Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex (North) and Kettering.  
Chairman: Stuart Rawlins, Editor, Essex Chronicle  
Secretary: Colin Moule

#### **London & Home Counties**

Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Berkshire, Central London, Greater London, Surrey, Kent, West and East Sussex, Essex (South).  
Chairman: Martin Oxley, Editor, Kent and Sussex Courier Series

#### **Midlands**

Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Humberside south of River Humber, Peterborough, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Hereford and Worcester, West Midlands, Warwickshire, and Welshpool and Banbury.  
Chairman: Paul Mortimer, Editor, Staffordshire Newsletter  
Vice Chairman: John Butterworth, Weekly Series Editor, Shropshire Newspapers  
Secretary: John Connor, Executive Editor, Midlands Independent Weekly

#### **Northern**

Northumberland, Tyne & Wear, Durham,

Cleveland.

Chairman: Eve Fuller, Editor, Hexham Courant

#### **North-Western**

Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside, Cheshire, Greater Manchester and Leek.  
Chairman: Keith Sutton, Editor, Carlisle News and Star  
Secretary: Gordon Maxwell

#### **Scotland**

Chairman and treasurer: Drew Cochrane, Editor, Largs & Millport Weekly News  
Secretary: Donald Fullarton

#### **Wales**

West, Mid and South Glamorgan, Gwent, Dyfed Powys, Clwyd and Gwynedd.  
Chairman: Robin Fletcher, Editor, South Wales Echo  
Secretary: Neil Fowler, Editor, The Western Mail

#### **Wessex**

Dorset, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, parts of Somerset, Newbury, Reading, Salisbury and Wokingham.  
Chairman: Ian Murray, Editor, The Southern Daily Echo

#### **Western**

Gloucestershire, Avon, parts of Somerset, Wiltshire, Devon and Cornwall.  
Chairman: Mike Lowe, Editor, Bristol Evening Post  
Vice Chairman: Anita Syvret, Editor, Gloucestershire Echo  
Secretary: Spencer Feeney, Editor, The Citizen

#### **Yorkshire**

South, West and North Yorkshire, and Humberside north of River Humber  
Chairman: Martin Edmunds, Editor, South Yorkshire Times  
Secretary: Alan Powell, Editor, Sheffield Telegraph

# Society of Editors

www.ukeditors.com

## NOTICE OF THE SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2000 AT 11.45 AT THE HILTON HOTEL, CARDIFF

Any full or deputy member who wishes to put a resolution or raise a matter under any other business should advise the executive director by 9 October. Full and deputy members are entitled to vote and qualified members may appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his or her stead in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association. A copy is available on the website [www.ukeditors.com](http://www.ukeditors.com) or from the executive director. To be valid a proxy must be received at the society office no later than noon on Friday 13 October, 2000, or at the Hilton Hotel by 12 noon on Sunday 15 October.

Bob Satchwell  
Executive Director and Company Secretary

### AGENDA

- 1 President's opening remarks
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Minutes  
To adopt, if approved, the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 7th November, 1999
- 4 ANNUAL REPORT 1999/2000  
To receive and, if approved, adopt the Annual Report for the financial year ending 30 June, 2000.
- 5 ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2000  
To receive and, if approved, adopt the audited statement of accounts for the financial year ending 30 June, 2000.
- 6 RE-APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS  
To approve the reappointment of MacIntyre Hudson as auditors for the forthcoming year.
- 7 To approve the appointment of Edmund Curran, editor of the *Belfast Telegraph* as president for the year 2000-2001. This is the unanimous nomination of the board.
- 8 To elect Liz Page, editor of the *Evening Press*, York, as vice president. This is the unanimous nomination of the board.

# Society of Editors

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- 9 To note the reappointment by the board of Bob Satchwell as executive director and company secretary.
- 10 To note the reappointment by the board of Graham Cole as treasurer.
- 11 To note the appointment by the board of Alan Powell, editor of the *Sheffield Telegraph* as editor of *Briefing* and to confirm his appointment by the board as a director with effect from January 2000 to fill a casual vacancy. He received the next highest number of votes in the elections for the board in 1999,
- 12 To note the result of the election of one ordinary member of the board to replace Geoff Elliott who retires as immediate past president. (A report on the election will be tabled).
- 13 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**  
To note that the next annual general meeting will take place in the autumn of 2001.
- 14 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- 15 **PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS** by the incoming president Edmund Curran, Editor, *Belfast Telegraph*