

Society of Editors

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**Annual report and
accounts
2001-2002**

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Notice of AGM

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Society of Editors
Annual Report and Accounts 2001-2002

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.societyofeditors.org

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Society of Editors

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The past, present and the future will come together in York this October for our annual conference. The past, in the shape of the city's wonderful heritage and ancient architecture, provides a rich backdrop to the present - the cutting edge debates on issues that really matter to all of us in the media, right here, right now.

This merging of past and present also illustrates the development of the Society of Editors over the last year. The brave new venture of a combined organisation to represent the interests of editors across regional, national broadcasting and electronic media sprung from the fine traditions of the Guild of Editors and the Association of British Editors.

It was never going to be a simple merger. The fledgling society was forced to find its feet while pressing ahead with campaigns on vital issues such as freedom of information, government lobbying and training. This fledgling had to grow up very quickly indeed.

Not least because, initially, we faced some serious financial difficulties. That these have been alleviated, thanks to a surplus from last year's unforgettable Belfast conference, the generosity of some national newspaper groups and the relationship that continues with the Newspaper Society in its support of the Parliamentary and Legal committee, has been one of this year's key achievements.

Of course membership subscriptions still make up the majority of our funding. Financial director Graham Cole, who has staged a remarkable comeback from a heart attack, has started to look cautiously optimistic about the society's financial future. But the society continues to punch way above its financial weight and we need all the support we can get if our work is to thrive and the board can continue to concentrate on its core work.

And what vital work it is. The society exists to promote the ties that bind us as editors - to fight for freedom of expression and, on a practical level, to be at the heart of the decision making process on matters that will affect our ability to report and to comment.

With ever-increasing pressures on the media - and with the restrictive legislators and their shackles hovering in the background - we need more than ever to have a strong, united voice, one that will be heard where it really matters.

The society has gone some way to developing that voice over the last 12 months. Our seemingly tireless executive director, Bob Satchwell, has represented the society and been at the heart of forming policies on subjects as diverse as the Government's media emergencies procedures to media plans for the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations. Opportunities for lobbying have been seized, whether at a reception with Home Secretary David Blunkett or at Newspaper Society lunches with key figures such as Culture Secretary Tessa Jowell or Labour Party Chairman Charles Clarke.

The Society of Editors itself has hosted lunches with Alastair Campbell and former Lord Chancellor's Department minister Michael Wills to promote our views. The parliamentary and legal committee, so ably chaired by Robin Esser, has tackled a host of issues. Especially notable has been the proposed legislation on payments to witnesses. The society has lobbied strongly and successfully for strengthening the existing self-regulatory system instead.

The training committee, under Peter Cole's leadership, continues to thrive. A survey of training for seniors has been carried out and the results promise to make a fascinating session at the conference in York.

Membership continues to grow, thanks to the broad, media-wide appeal of the society's work and the efforts made by many to enlist new recruits. We are making efforts to encourage ethnic diversity following comments at last year's conference about the overwhelming number of white male faces which made up the vast majority of the delegates.

The number of women members has grown to 14 per cent of our total membership over the last year. And the board has now gained a second female member, Hannah Walker, editor of the South London Press.

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Our internet service has grown and developed, as befits a modern organisation. Treasurer Graham Cole is also responsible for the development of the society's website and he has accounted for improvements which now attract an impressive 1,000 page impressions a day.

Meanwhile, the picture remains patchy regarding regional activity. Scotland, Wales, the North West, Yorkshire, Northern and the West Country are active and effective. Scotland holds its own successful annual seminar in September. Other regions still need further encouragement.

As the society moves forward into its fifth year, tribute must be paid to the board, whose membership is changing as terms of office draw to a close. Immediate past president Ed Curran, along with Chris Robertson, will be leaving at the AGM. The board has formally thanked Ed for his lasting contribution, not least with the Belfast conference, and Chris for his valuable broadcasting perspective and guidance. I should like to add my own thanks and appreciation for the huge support I have received from all members of the board throughout the year.

Thanks too must go to Bob Satchwell, whose energy, experience, drive and dogged persistence in promoting the society's work has been an inspiration. Bob's back-up team of Lyn Beasant and David Fulford-Brown, although part time, has provided an efficient and effective administration service, for which thanks are also due.

So much for the past and the present. But what of the future?

As we move on to the York conference, the challenges facing the society remain as great as ever. At the time of writing, the media is assailed with threats of contempt action over the difficult reporting issues surrounding the deaths of 10-year-olds Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman. Journalists are under pressure as never before over the protection of sources and the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act will bring its own challenges. And public interest in the media and the way it operates has never been greater. How we, as editors and media leaders, respond to these challenges is more crucial than ever.

Our conference will draw on the experience of its members as it debates the issues of the future. We hope for wise words and lively opinion. Both of which we will find in our new president, Jonathan Grun, editor of the Press Association and a man whom I am sure will be an able champion to take the society forward.

The fledgling has spread its wings. Now it is ready to fly.

Liz Page
Editor, *Evening Press*, York

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This was the year the society came of age.

Press Gazette summed up the 2001 annual conference as: "A high society bash." Geoff Elliott, first president of the society as the Guild of Editors merged with the Association of British Editors was quoted: "This is what we had in mind when we made our plans," he said.

He was speaking about the hugely successful Belfast event but his comment related to all of the society's achievements that have been built upon during the year. Indeed, at the conference, *2001 – A Media Odyssey* – all sectors of the media came together as it was always envisaged.

It started with that doyen of editors, Ben Bradlee, editor of the Washington Post at the time of the Watergate scandal, delivering the Society of Editors lecture in the magnificent surroundings of the Northern Ireland parliament at Stormont. Traditional Irish hospitality flowed late into the night in the contrasting environment of Fibber Magee's.

That is one of the pubs across the road from the conference hotel – the Europa – where many editors had lodged as they honed their reporting skills covering the troubles. But it was much more than a trip down memory lane, pleasant as that was in itself. First on was the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, one of two cabinet ministers to address the conference. They shared the platform over the two days with editors, reporters, broadcasters and experts who flew in from every corner of the media. They gave their perspective on newspapers, TV and radio and new media, playing their part in, as Press Gazette put it, galvanising the media like never before.

Breaking news in the shape of the IRA making its historic announcement about decommissioning of weapons, added to the occasion. And it set the scene for a spellbinding speech by Ronnie Flanagan, then chief constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary at the annual dinner.

Delegates from the top of the UK's biggest media operations to tiny weeklies swapped opinions until late into the night.

Editors rose to applaud Ben Bradlee and Bill Deedes as they accepted Fellowships of the society during the annual dinner. They demonstrated their editorial skills with brevity as they accepted their honours. "Journalists are not used to praise. I am lost for words," said Deedes. "Thank you Ed Curran and thank you President Nixon," said Bradlee.

The conference demonstrated that however fiercely they compete, through the society, editors can present a united front on the issues that affect them all.

As Liz Page took over the presidential reins from Ed Curran she was entitled to ask how she might possibly follow that. The answer is of course that you cannot. Belfast is unique. Then so is York and Liz's year of office will be crowned by her own special event.

Planning for that was made easier as a result of the financial benefits flowing from the success in Belfast. They came not only from the conference itself but in increased membership and interest in our activities. The generosity of national newspaper groups – Trinity Mirror, the Guardian and Observer, News International and, for a second year, Associated Newspapers – also gave us time to plan.

Make no mistake, the society remains underfunded for the agenda and workload that it sets itself. However, the board has at last had time to devote more energy to issues other than finance.

The society's main focus remains lobbying and campaigning on parliamentary and legal matters. The whirlwind of previous years has persisted. There can be no relaxation of the vigilance required to resist those who threaten the media's freedom to report and the wider public right to free expression. Those threats come from a wide variety of sources with an equally wide range of reasoning, some well meaning, others pernicious and dangerous in themselves. Fortunately we have the benefit of the great experience and valuable leadership of Robin Esser as chairman of the P&L committee. We are also fortunate to retain the support and wise counsel of Santha Rasaiah, Catherine Courtney and the team at the Newspaper Society. The committee's deliberations, influence and successes are recorded elsewhere.

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Membership continues to grow and we are grateful for the understanding that has meant that the higher than usual increase in annual subscriptions that was necessary to maintain our funds has not had a noticeably adverse effect. That said, there is still further potential to extend and expand membership. That is actively pursued but we feel entitled to ask if some parts of the industry and some individuals are doing enough to support a cause that serves all editors.

The society has an increasing influence on training matters largely because of the efforts of Professor Peter Cole. His committee's surveys and discussions add weight to the work of other organisations focused on the future.

Despite its outward persona, the society is still administered on a shoestring. Our plea for extra support has been generously answered from some quarters with gratitude but we still need further help in cash or kind. In short, to steal a phrase from General Kitchener, the society needs YOU.

Of course, we appreciate the financial pressures on the industry but we ask for a tiny share of its wealth. If we do not maintain our vigilance and win the fight for freedom to report, the industry will be left with nothing to tell its audiences and platforms for revenue creation will be undermined. It is a commercial battle as much as a matter of ethics. It concerns the bottom line as much as editorial freedom.

We are fortunate to have the continued support of sponsors for our conferences and the valuable donation of printing and distribution services by PR Newswire. Long may that continue. We rely on newspaper groups to encourage membership and editors representing all media sectors to give freely of their time to the board and committees.

Liz Page's determination has helped us make the most of our improved financial stability. Ed Curran's presidency will long be remembered for his leadership as well as his record-breaking conference. Liz will hand over to Jonathan Grun who as editor at the Press Association has a finger in every media pie. His customer list mirrors the society's membership.

All of the board deserve thanks for their dedication to our objectives, as do the many members who play a role in our committees and regional organisations. They are only as effective as their members make them. We are fortunate that Keith Sutton and David Gledhill are standing for re-election for a further three years.

Alan Powell continues to edit *Briefing* that keeps members in touch each month. Lyn Beasant has already sharpened our administration. David Fulford-Brown maintains his battle with our ageing technology and the mobility of members to maintain our all-important membership database and our other, small but important revenue streams.

We benefit from the wisdom of members of our Advisory Council whenever we need it. It is always given freely and their support frequently manifests itself in more tangible forms.

We are indebted to many other allies. Philippa Kennedy and her team at *Press Gazette* have been especially supportive over the year. *holdthefrontpage.co.uk* continues to report our campaigns and record our successes and we are grateful to our landlords, the University Centre in Cambridge. Our other friends within and without the industry are valuable indeed. We continue to work alongside David Newell at the NS and Steve Oram at the NPA and colleagues at the PCC.

Finally, however, the greatest tribute in the fight to reinforce the citizen's right to know and the right to free expression must go to our members. Day in and day out they pit their skills and their courage against those who seek to deceive and control the public. The society's task is to remind a sceptical public that the media is not about sales figures, ratings or ad revenues alone. It is about fighting their battles and giving them a voice.

Bob Satchwell
Executive Director

PARLIAMENTARY AND LEGAL COMMITTEE

The work of the Parliamentary and Legal Committee is the sum of the efforts of all its members working tirelessly in the interests of the society and the freedom of the press. Those efforts never cease and I am hugely grateful to each and everyone. Our meetings thus represent merely the tip of the iceberg.

Every member has made a major contribution over the last year but I must mention the importance of the input from Santha Rasaiah, Catherine Courtney and the legal team at the Newspaper Society, the analytical and timely advice from Ian Beales and the energetic hard work of our director, Bob Satchwell.

In July 2001 we met Elizabeth Neville, Chair of the ACPO Media Advisory Group, for ongoing discussions about media relations with the police and, in particular, relationships between local editors and their Chief Constables - a theme to which I will return.

In October 2001 the committee held a lunch Meeting with Lord Goldsmith QC Attorney General. Topics discussed included: The Attorney General's role in the authorisation of criminal prosecutions and instigation of civil legal action against the media, the first year of implementation of the Human Rights Act and press freedom, and open justice. The discussions included privacy, protection of sources, lack of safeguards in recent legislation which seem to allow police and other authorities access to journalistic material, telephone and e-mail contents and contact details, and criminal offences penalising refusal to disclose information.

The NS, NPA, and the society attended a meeting with the Lord Chancellor's Department's ministerial team, Baroness Scotland QC, Michael Wills MP and Rosie Winterton MP, in October 2001 following government re-organisation and the transfer of responsibilities for human rights, freedom of information, data protection from the Home Office to the Lord Chancellor's Department. Issues discussed were: press freedom, defamation law reform, open justice, open government.

RIP Act

It became clear that the Home Office was intending to widen the powers given to authorities to inspect journalists' records to an unacceptably large number of authorities

including local authorities and health trusts. A series of lobbying initiatives took place, including the opportunity to speak directly to the Home Secretary at a reception which had been arranged by the society for him to meet regional editors and address their concerns on a wide range of issues. The Home Secretary withdrew the proposals, promising to think again about the whole issue.

FoI

We continued to work with the Campaign for Freedom of Information and indeed the government on implementation of the Act. Santha Rasaiah particularly has been involved in this. The society has supported her efforts, encouraging regional editors to play a part in the drafting of publication schemes by public bodies. The society took part more recently in a Northcliffe editors' seminar on FoI. The main message from the society was that editors had a vital role. Unless editors explained the legislation to their readers the public would not know what they did not know.

Payments to witnesses

The committee held a lunch meeting with Michael Wills MP, the then parliamentary secretary in the Lord Chancellor's Department. The main topic was the LCD's proposals to legislate about payments to witnesses. This was an opportunity to open up a dialogue that eventually proved fruitful.

Editors have always recognised the importance of the administration of justice. In face of the threat of new laws that could have led to editors being jailed, the society with other media organisations successfully argued that the law would not work. Self regulation and revisions to the Editors' Code and clearer statements from the PCC would be better. The society's stance has been that it is better to stop it rather than deal with it through the law after the event. Editors are more likely to follow a code to which they have voluntarily signed up

The Lord Chancellor has given the industry an opportunity to toughen self regulation. This is something that will occupy our minds for the rest of this year. The society has a special contribution to make as it has members in all sectors of the media and the Lord Chancellor expects codes for broadcasters to mirror any changes in the print industry's code. There is still concern about the need for a public interest defence and inevitably we shall be

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calling on the wisdom of Ian Beales as we examine how we can resolve matters to everyone's satisfaction.

Media Emergencies

The society has played a leading role in the drawing up of a report on how the government should deal with the media in the event of major emergency such as the attack on New York in September 2001. The report is particularly valuable because it recognises the importance of the flow of information to the public via the media. It makes recommendations for accreditation arrangements, including more widespread use of the press card scheme, and the provision of media facilities. This work is on going and it will have benefits in relationships between the emergency services, government and the media in less dramatic emergencies. The proposals include the creation of a standing committee of editors to be consulted in the event of a major incident.

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act review

The society participated mainly to ensure that however worthy reform might be, it should not impinge on the media's ability to report.

Open justice

The society has continued to monitor the use of reporting restrictions in the courts. Editors have successfully challenged reporting bans, quoting the guidelines drawn up with the Judicial Studies Board. They have proved valuable in many instances and the society is maintaining close contact with senior judges to report back on the effectiveness of the guidelines. It is valuable to receive examples of good and poor practice to help take our discussions forward.

The Muslim Community

The society was represented at meetings with the Muslim community and media regulators in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on New York. With others, we successfully argued that existing codes of practice already adequately dealt with reporting ethnic and religious minorities. We encouraged community leaders to draw attention to the availability of those codes.

Financial reporting

The society is keeping a close watch on new European directives that could have serious implications for financial reporting.

The society argues that codes of practice are already powerful in this area and they are effective. However this matter has shown how we are comparatively weak when it comes to lobbying on the European scene and amply demonstrates the danger of European legislation creeping in to Britain by the back door.

Police

We keep in close contact with ACPO and other police organisations. We have advised editors and written to chief constables particularly when data protection and human rights legislation appears to be misused in an attempt to block the flow of information. We have had talks with the Home Secretary and we are currently seeking examples of best practice.

Directors' addresses

The society made representations to ensure that the home addresses of company directors would only be kept secret where there was a real threat to their lives or well being.

Competition Commission

The society submitted comments to the Competition Commission examining the merger of regional newspaper titles when it was suggested that editors in some regional groups in effect had no editorial freedom and were subject to management orders. The society had no evidence, in the form of complaints from members, that this was the case.

Other organisations

Society members sit on other bodies such as the Press and Broadcasting Defence Advisory Committee, the Press Complaints Commission, the Editors' Code Committee and the Commonwealth Press Union. The society also played a part in planning the media arrangements for the Queen's Golden Jubilee. The society joined with other media organisations in marking World Press Freedom Day. Planning has already started for next year. Through Santha Rasaiah the society also maintains close contacts with media lawyers and other media organisations in the UK and in Europe. The society is also represented by editors at NS lunches for key figures in government and other organisations.

Robin Esser

Executive Managing Editor *Daily Mail*

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TRAINING COMMITTEE

The committee has met regularly through the year, and has made a point of keeping abreast of the several elements of training and training politics represented by a number of organisations. The president made clear her commitment to training at the start of her term of office, and demonstrated that through her regular attendance at committee meetings and her engagement in its discussions. Although on occasions it must have seemed to committee members (and indeed to the chair!) that training politics was dominating training itself, that seems to be the current way of things, and nothing gets simpler.

However the Society of Editors training committee has consistently taken the view that while fragmentation is probably undesirable, it would make an effort to view and consider training in the broad, and to spend a certain amount of its time taking account of activities of the National Training Organisation, the Journalism Forum, and the NCTJ. Joanne Butcher, chief executive of the NTO, has attended all our meetings and is a member of our committee. Mike Woods, also a member of our committee, is on the NCTJ board and chairs their newspaper journalism panel. He has been responsible for the development of the NCTJ's new logbook for the NCE, and the Society of Editors training committee has had some input into that debate.

Inevitably the NCE versus NVQ debate has continued, and it has been remarked that through the logbook the two forms of post-entry assessment have drawn closer together. The take-up of NVQs remains low, and is diminishing further as a result of the Johnston Press take-over of RIM. RIM had its own company post-entry diploma supported by NVQs. This is being dropped in favour of JP's existing arrangements, which involve trainees taking the NCTJ NCE.

The training committee conducted a survey into recruitment and retention of trainees, with a report and presentation to the Belfast conference last year. The main findings were:

- The majority said the number of job applications were down, some by as much as 50 per cent.
- Equal numbers said number of general job inquiries down as said unchanged.

- Half the respondents ran their own (usually group) training schemes, lasting six to 18 months.
- Most entered trainees for NCTJ NCE, while a minority used NVQs. In some cases company diplomas were also awarded.
- Pay, after completing training fell mostly in the £13,000 to £15,000 range. Three reported under £12,000, six over £15,000.
- The overwhelming number of new entrants now have degrees, many from NCTJ recognised courses. 30 respondents hired trainees with NCTJ pre-entry qualification.
- Most entrants were now in their early 20s. Teenagers mainly follow short pre-entry courses.
- Pay for trainees split fairly equally into three bands: under £10,000, £10,000 to £12,000, and £12,000 to £13,000. Four 'rogues', three of which were national organisations, pay above these bands.
- Broadcast entrants almost all had degrees. Starting pay ranged from £14,000 to £21,000. Pay on completion of training £16,000 to £25,000
- The number of applications received by broadcast organisations remained stable
- Bigger newspaper companies with proper post-entry training scheme suffered less from a decline in applications
- Graduate applicants started with substantial debt so pay is a key factor. But so is quality of training
- Editors worried that they may find it increasingly difficult to attract quality staff, and that newspaper journalism may be becoming less popular among young people

The training committee organised a further survey this year into mid-career and career development training. The results are being reported to the York conference.

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A large (and well funded) survey (sample more than 1200) was conducted by the Journalism Forum on behalf of the publishing and broadcasting NTOs, and its findings were presented at a reception in London addressed by Bob Phillis of the Guardian, Clive Jones of Carlton TV, and Ian Hargreaves, the Forum chair. It received widespread publicity, and has been considered by the society's training committee.

The training committee remains committed to its published strategy (annexed below) and will continue to work to ensure that training journalists remains a top priority for employers and other training bodies.

Professor Peter Cole
Department of Journalism Studies
University of Sheffield

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

For the last few years I have felt like the parish clerk regretfully reporting that again the annual fete failed to meet its targets because of adverse weather. This year the sun shone. Not only were we able to meet our budgeted target of transferring a substantial amount to the reserves, we were able to go further and look to funding improvements for the coming year.

Our year-end position is nothing short of remarkable and any company achieving a similar result would be basking in the glow of a share price increase. However well we have done, it has to be remembered that we were strongly advised to replenish the reserves which had been depleted by so many rainy days and we have only gone part of the way towards doing that.

The success has been due to three significant improvements in income. Our subscription income has stabilised; our partnership income has received a considerable boost; and the Belfast conference was beyond our best forecasts.

We seem to have discovered the true base membership at last – a process that has been made more complex than it should have been by problems of assessing the previous membership of our two founding organisations. This ensures better forecasting and monitoring for the future.

The improvement in our financial position has been assisted greatly by sponsorship funds forthcoming from major media groups. They are much needed and gratefully received. This continuing assistance begins to recognise, dare I say at last, the mutuality of the work of the society. In anyone's terms the society provides amazing value for money as it punches consistently above its weight on the political and legal stage.

But the third and most significant financial coup of the year was the phenomenon that was Belfast. The national conference managed to achieve half our total income for the year while costing us less than a third of our total costs.

The society's operational costs were kept under control again despite the temptation to release the tight rein in the wake of Belfast success. It was vital that we topped up our reserves to remain in good shape for the future.

Belfast marked a turning point for us in the approach to organising and funding the annual conference. It may not be possible to repeat its extraordinary success – in no small measure the result of the city's unique appeal and the support of Independent News & Media (UK), owners of the *Belfast Telegraph* – but the processes which led to financial success are now being applied to York.

I must record our appreciation for the continuing support and advice of our auditors, MacIntyre Hudson. We cannot be complacent. We rely on continuous sustenance from existing sources and we must keep striving for new ways of funding our activities.

Can the clerk find a cloud threatening to cast a shadow over the accounts and dampen the day? Hand on heart, I cannot. For the first time, I can look forward to a year in which we will re-equip our Cambridge office and will continue to make a contribution towards our steadily recovering reserves. For once those hopes are based on experience rather than desire.

Graham Cole
Treasurer

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DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2002

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.

Directors

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

N Fowler (resigned 23/10/01)	R J Allan (resigned 23/10/01)
R E Satchwell	E M Page
G J Cole	E R Curran
D Gledhill	A A Powell
K O Sutton	J D Grun
P Cole	R C Esser
C Robertson	H M Walker (appointed 21/01/02)

Statement of 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 affairs of the company 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;

State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts;

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.

By order of the Board

R E Satchwell
Secretary

Date: 18 September 2002

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

We have audited the accounts of Society of Editors (By Guarantee) for the year ended 30th June 2002, which comprise the Profit and Loss Account, the Balance Sheet and related notes, and have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies.

Respective Responsibilities of Directors and Auditors

As described in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

Our responsibility is to audit the accounts in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and United Kingdom Auditing Standards.

We report to you our opinion as to whether the accounts give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the Directors' Report is not consistent with the accounts, if the company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration and transactions with the company is not disclosed.

We read the other information contained in the Annual Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with United Kingdom 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 30th June 2002 and of its profit 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:

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PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2002

	Notes	2002 £	2001 £
Turnover	2	173,935	<i>129,078</i>
Administrative Expenses		(142,088)	<i>(155,717)</i>
Operating profit/loss	3	31,847	<i>(26,639)</i>
Interest Receivable	4	3,116	<i>3,378</i>
Profit/Loss on ordinary activities before taxation		34,963	<i>(23,261)</i>
Tax on profit/loss on ordinary activities	5	(312)	<i>(338)</i>
Profit/Loss for the financial year	9	34,651	<i>(23,599)</i>

All amounts relate to continuing activities.

There were no recognised gains or losses for 2002 or 2001 other than those included in the profit and loss account.

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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH JUNE 2002

	Notes	£	2002 £	£	2001 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6		<u>1</u>		<u>1</u>
			1		1
Current assets					
Debtors	7	1,417		1,495	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>84,624</u>		<u>52,021</u>	
		86,041		53,516	
Creditors: amounts falling due					
Within one year	8	<u>(2,162)</u>		<u>(4,288)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>83,879</u>		<u>49,228</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>83,880</u>		<u>49,229</u>
Capital and reserves					
Conference funds	9		186,063		144,508
Accumulated reserve	9		<u>(102,183)</u>		<u>(95,279)</u>
Shareholders' funds	10		<u>83,880</u>		<u>49,229</u>

These accounts were approved by the board on 18 September 2002 and signed on its behalf.

E.M. Page
Director

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3	Operating profit		
	<i>The operating profit is stated after charging or crediting:</i>	2002	<i>2001</i>
		£	£
	Auditors' remuneration	<u>1,575</u>	<u>1,575</u>
4	Interest receivable	2002	<i>2001</i>
		£	£
	Bank interest receivable	<u>3,116</u>	<u>3,378</u>
5	Taxation	2002	<i>2001</i>
		£	£
	Based on the interest received for the year		
	UK corporation tax	<u>312</u>	<u>338</u>
		<u>312</u>	<u>338</u>
6	Tangible fixed assets		
		Computer Equipment	Total
	Cost	£	£
	At 1 st July 2001		
		5,044	5,044
	At 30th June 2002	<u>5,044</u>	<u>5,044</u>
	 Depreciation		
	At 1 st July 2001		
		5,043	5,043
	At 30th June 2002	<u>5,043</u>	<u>5,043</u>
	 Net Book Value		
	At 30th June 2002	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<i>At 30th June 2001</i>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
7	Debtors	2002	<i>2001</i>
		£	£
	Other debtors	<u>1,417</u>	<u>1,495</u>
		<u>1,417</u>	<u>1,495</u>

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8	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2002	<i>2001</i>
		£	
	Corporation tax	312	338
	Accruals and deferred income	1,850	3,950
		<u>2,162</u>	<u>4,288</u>
9	Reserves	Conference Funds	Accumulated reserve
		£	£
	At 1 st July 2001	144,508	(95,279)
	Profit for the year	-	34,651
	Transfers between reserves	41,555	(41,555)
	At 30th June 2002	<u>186,063</u>	<u>(102,183)</u>
10	Reconciliation of movement in shareholders' funds	2002	<i>2001</i>
		£	£
	Profit/Loss for the financial year	34,651	(23,599)
	Increase in the shareholders' funds	34,651	(23,599)
	Opening shareholders' funds	49,229	72,828
	Closing shareholders' funds	<u>83,880</u>	<u>49,229</u>
11	Contingent liability		

The directors are satisfied that a potential liability of £20,000 arising from a contract that was terminated giving six months notice with effect from July 2001 can be accommodated from the Society's reserves. The directors consider no provision for this contingent liability is required.

12 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.

13 Transactions with Directors

During the year, the company paid The Satchwell Partnership, in which a partner is also the company secretary and one of the directors of the Society of Editors a sum of £26,752 (2001: £27,730) in relation to consultancy fees for the year.

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DETAILED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2002

	2002		2001	
	£	£	£	£
Turnover				
Subscriptions	60,430		55,246	
Conference income	87,252		54,605	
Sponsorship	20,000		12,500	
Web advertising	-		2,458	
Book sales and other income	6,253		4,269	
	173,935		129,078	
Other income				
Bank deposit interest		3,116		3,378
		177,051		132,456
Administration expenses				
Conference expenses	45,697		43,566	
National Secretariat fees	43,708		45,027	
Meeting expenses	11,033		10,645	
Honorarium fees	2,137		2,075	
Marketing and promotion	2,649		2,680	
Rent	10,500		7,000	
Operations	11,191		10,527	
Audit and accountancy	6,014		4,266	
Parliamentary legal fees	9,159		29,931	
		142,088		155,717
Profit / (Loss) for the year		34,963		(23,261)

NOTES TO THE PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2002

- 1 **Sponsorship**
This is in respect of the sponsorship income from Associated Newspapers, Guardian Media Group, MGN Trinity Mirror and News International who donated £5,000 each.
- 2 **Conference income**
This income relates to the York conference.
- 3 **Secretariat**
The sum of £43,078 (2001: £45,027) includes fees from Robert Satchwell in the sum of £26,752 (2001: £27,730) who is the company secretary.
- 4 **Rent**
This represents payments to University Centre in Cambridge.
- 5 **Operations**
This includes printing, stationery, telephone, catering, insurance, postage, bank charges and sundry expenses.
- 6 **Audit and Accountancy**
Accountancy fees include payments to Eye Tec Media, a company providing book-keeping services.
- 7 **Parliamentary legal fees**
The Newspaper Society has charged the Society £9,159 (2001: £29,931) for the provision of legal expertise.

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OBJECTIVES OF THE SOCIETY

- To defend and promote the freedom of the media and to champion the universal right to freedom of expression.
- To represent members' interests in all matters of editorial and professional concern and interest.
- 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.
- To interpret legislation and advisory notices to other organisations.
- To provide a forum for discussion of the practical problems of editorship and to promote the objectives of the Company.
- To provide access to a network of professional contacts.
- 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.
- To help improve the quality of journalism through the active support of education and training.
- 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 Journalism Training Forum 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 Information 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.

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SOCIETY OFFICIALS

President

Ed Curran (from 17.10.00)
Liz Page (from 23.10.01)

Vice President

Liz Page (from 17.10.00)
Jonathan Grun (from 23.10.01)

Immediate Past President

Neil Fowler (from 17.10.00)
Ed Curran (from 23.10.01)

Treasurer

Graham Cole

Chairman, Editorial Training Committee

Peter Cole

Chairman, Parliamentary & Legal Committee

Robin Esser

Editor, Briefing

Alan Powell

Executive Director and Company Secretary

Robert Satchwell

Administrator

Lyn Beasant (from 07.01.02)

Membership officer

David Fulford Brown

Board as at 30 June, 2002

Ed Curran, Liz Page, Peter Cole, David Gledhill, Jonathan Grun, Robin Esser, Paul Horrocks, Alan Powell, Chris Robertson, Keith Sutton, Hannah Walker, Graham Cole, Bob Satchwell.

Advisory Council

Edwin Boorman, Tim Bowdler, Jim Brown, Paul Dacre, Bill Emmott, Philip Graf, Phil Harding, Les Hinton, Clive Jones, Chris Oakley, Paul Potts and Richard Tait.

Fellows

Ben Bradlee, W.F. Deedes, Peter Preston

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

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

Training Committee

Chairman: **Peter Cole**

Members

Drew Cochrane
Sean Dooley
Neil Fowler
Jock Gallagher
Colin Grant
Ian Hargreaves
Tony Johnston
Doug Melloy
David Rowell
Peter Sands
Keith Stafford
Malcolm Starbrook
Rick Thompson
Mike Woods

In attendance: Joanne Butcher

Parliamentary & Legal Committee

Chairman: **Robin Esser**

Members

Ian Beales
Neil Benson
Simon Bradshaw
Catherine Courtney
Nigel Dacre
Neil Fowler
Anthony Longden
Doug Melloy
Francesca O'Brien
Peter Preston
Santha Rasaiah
Chris Robertson
Alan Rusbridger
Sue Ryan
Andrew Smith
John Spencer
Keith Sutton
Neil Wallis
Stephen Whittle

The following are ex officio members of the committees

President
Vice President
Immediate Past President
Editor Briefing
Executive Director

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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

Eastern Region

Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, North Essex and Kettering.

Chairman: Mr Stuart Rawlins, Editor, Essex Chronicle Series, 01245600700,

stuart.rawlins@essexchronicle.co.uk

Secretary: Mr Colin Moule, 01223 434441, muffinthemoule@aol.com

Ireland

Chairman: Mr Edmund Curran, Editor, Belfast Telegraph, 02890 264400, ecurran@belfasttelegraph.co.uk

London & Home Counties

Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Berkshire, Central London, Greater London, Surrey, Kent, West and East Sussex, Essex (South).

Chairman: Ms Hannah Walker, Group Editor, South London Press & Mercury, 0208 769 4444, hannahwalker@SLP.co.uk

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: Mr Paul Mortimer, Editor, Staffordshire Newsletter, 01785 257700, pmortimer@staffordshirenewsletter.co.uk.

Vice-Chairman: Mr John Butterworth, Weekly Series Editor, Shrewsbury Chronicle, 01743 248248, ktudor@shropshirestar.co.uk

Northern

Northumberland, Tyne & Wear, Durham, Cleveland.

Secretary: Mr Malcolm Warne, Editor, Darlington & Stockton Times, 01325 505191, mwarne@nen.co.uk

North Western

Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside, Cheshire, Greater Manchester and Leek.

Chairman: Mr Richard Catlow, Editor in Chief, Greater Manchester Weekly

Newspapers (North), Rochdale Observer Series, 01706 354321,

richard.catlow@gmwn.co.uk

Secretary: Mr Gordon Maxwell, 01457 878568

Scotland

Chairman, Scotland: Ms Ann Galbraith, Editor, Ayr Advertiser, 01292 267631,

ann@galbraitha.fsnet.co.uk

Secretary: Mr Donald Fullarton, 01436 673774, dsf@btinternet.com

Wales

Chairman: Neil Fowler, 02920 397931, neildfowler45@aol.com

Wessex

Dorset, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, parts of Somerset, Newbury, Reading, Salisbury and Wokingham.

Chairman, Mr Ian Murray, Editor, The Southern Daily Echo, 02380 424777, ianmur@soton-echo.co.uk

Western

Gloucestershire, Avon, parts of Somerset, Wiltshire, Devon and Cornwall.

Chairman: Mr Steve Egginton, Head of News, HTV West, 0117 972 2150,

eggintons@htv-west.co.uk

Secretary: Mr Andy Cooper, Managing Editor, North Devon Journal, 01271 343064,

andyc@northdevonjournal.co.uk

Yorkshire

South, West and North Yorkshire, and Humberside north of River Humber.

Chairman, Yorkshire, Liz Page, Editor, Evening Press, York 01904 653 051

liz.page@ycp.co.uk

Secretary: Mr Danny Lockwood, Publisher, Dewsbury & District Press, 01924 439498,

editor@dewsburypress.co.uk

Society of Editors

www.societyofeditors.org

NOTICE OF THE FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY 15 OCTOBER 2002 AT 12.15 AT LE MERIDIEN HOTEL, YORK

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 1 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.societyofeditors.org or from the executive director. To be valid a proxy must be received at the society office no later than noon on Friday 4 October, 2002, or at the Le Meridien Hotel by 12 noon on Sunday 13 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 23rd October, 2001.
- 4 ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2002
To receive and, if approved, adopt the audited statement of accounts for the financial year ending 30 June, 2002.
- 5 ANNUAL REPORT 2001/2002
To receive and, if approved, adopt the Annual Report for the financial year ending 30 June, 2002.
- 6 RE-APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS
To approve the reappointment of MacIntyre Hudson as auditors for the forthcoming year.
- 7 To approve the co-option to the board of Hannah Walker (from 21 January 2002).
- 8 To note the nomination of new board members and to approve their election for the forthcoming three years.
- 9 To approve the re-appointment by the board of Peter Cole as chairman of the training committee for a further three-year term.

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- 10 To note and approve the re-appointment by the board of Bob Satchwell as executive director and company secretary.
- 11 To note and approve the re-appointment by the board of Graham Cole as treasurer.
- 12 To note and approve the re-appointment by the board of Alan Powell as editor of Briefing.
- 13 To elect Neil Benson, Editorial Director of Trinity Mirror Regional Newspapers, as vice president for the year 2002-2003. This is the unanimous nomination of the board.
- 14 To elect Jonathan Grun, Editor of the Press Association, as president for the year 2002-2003. This is the unanimous nomination of the board.
- 15 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
To note that the next annual general meeting will take place in the autumn of 2003.
- 16 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- 17 **PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS** by the incoming president
Jonathan Grun, Editor, Press Association.