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Society of Editors
www.societyofeditors.org



ANNUAL REVIEW 2007/08





Society of Editors

www.societyofeditors.org

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 more than 400 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 online media, media lawyers and academics in journalism education.

They are as different as the publications, programmes and websites they create and the communities and audiences they serve.

But they share the values that matter:

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

These values give the society the integrity and 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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President's Report

"The media embargo sent the society's public profile soaring and cemented its role as the key organisation that could represent the views of decision makers in all sectors of the media."



A YEAR ago, when we met in Manchester, the society was sitting on the secret of Prince Harry's proposed deployment to Afghanistan.

We brokered a unique understanding with the Chief of the General Staff in order to achieve a news blackout that won the British media rare praise from the public and politicians.

The media embargo sent the society's public profile soaring and cemented its role as the key organisation that could represent the views of decision makers in all sectors of the media. It took the society's work to a new level, and our director Bob Satchwell should take full credit for managing it so successfully.

Following the public disclosure of the society's role, Bob was inundated with requests for interviews from the UK and foreign media. The society's role was reported in regional and national newspapers and TV and radio, as well by the cream of the overseas media.

According to Google, the society received more than 1,500 mentions worldwide in relation to the Prince Harry story. With one or two notable exceptions among columnists and commentators, there was widespread support for the media's security

embargo both in Britain and abroad. The society received only one adverse comment.

Of course, there are lessons to be drawn from the experience. It is quite right that the debate continues. In the meantime editors can be satisfied that a totally voluntary agreement held for so long.

The publicity generated for the society understanding followed the wide coverage given to the speech at last year's conference by Jonathan Evans, Director General of the Security Service MI5. The speech was a great scoop for Paul Horrocks and crowned an excellent conference.

In my speech in Manchester, I outlined two ambitions for my presidential year: I wanted to increase the membership, especially among non-newspaper editors and I wanted to focus on training of young journalists.

We have had some success in expanding our membership which, treasurer Pat Pilton reports, has helped maintain a fairly healthy financial position. But we need to do more and once again I am challenging every member to try to recruit a new one in the year ahead.



Since I am the society's first non-newspaper president, it was logical that this year's conference should focus on the convergence of news outlets. As Peter Cole notes in his training report, convergence has dominated the society's work in this area.

We have met industry representatives and continued to encourage closer cooperation between newspaper and broadcasting training bodies to create sensible common approaches that will help to produce the 'converged' journalists of tomorrow. Together with key parties we have drawn up an action plan to this end, with an ultimate view to the creation of a single journalism training authority to cover all disciplines.

Most importantly, the society has remained in the front line of the battle for media freedom. In a notable coup, the Justice Secretary Jack Straw was persuaded to withdraw proposals to charge for court lists.

But other issues remain on the table. The threat to reporting coroners' courts within the Counter Terrorism Bill, as well as the review of parts of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill both continue to present challenges to journalists and editors. As our Parliamentary and Legal Committee chairman Robin Esser reports, we were able to question Jack Straw about these issues at a successful P&L lunch and the society will continue to press him and the government hard over the coming months.

The society has made enormous advances in 2008, thanks to another year of tireless work by Bob Satchwell, whom we should not forget is a very full-time part-timer.

Thanks are due to him, and the other key people in the society: Pat Pilton, our treasurer, Robin Esser the chairman of the P&L committee and Peter Cole, the chairman of the training committee, who, along with the board and standing committee members, all work hard on our behalf. And of course our staff and consultants.

Finally, I am delighted that your next president will be Nigel Pickover. He was an inspired choice, given his wide experience in national and regional newspapers and that his paper the Evening Star, Ipswich was, deservedly, named this year's best daily in the under 40,000 circulation category. The judges called his paper "ballsy" and I have no doubt Nigel will make a very ballsy president. I wish him the very best of luck.

Simon Bucks
Associate Editor Online
Sky News



Director's Report

"The conference is the key annual showcase for the society which brings editors, senior executives, media lawyers and trainers together from all sectors of the media."



EVERY year at the end of the annual conference we ask ourselves how on earth can we follow that. After Paul Horrocks' Manchester Conference - A Matter of Trust – we knew we faced a special challenge.

It started with the formal Society of Editors Lecture by Gavin O'Reilly of Independent News & Media on the 23rd floor of the Hilton Hotel. As we looked across the 360 degree view over most of North West England fireworks exploded into the night sky and Mr O'Reilly joked that he had never given a lecture in a night club!

It was certainly a contribution that set the scene and a high standard for the sessions that were to follow next day at the Radisson Hotel and later at the Lowry Centre.

By the end of the conference we had witnessed a succession of lively, informative debates topped off by speeches from artist Harold Riley, Prince Charles' communications director Paddy Harverson and boxer Ricky Hatton at the annual dinner.

But no one will argue that the most talked about interjection was that by Jonathan Evans, Director General of the Security Service, who had arrived, with appropriate secrecy, to deliver his first on-the-record public speech.

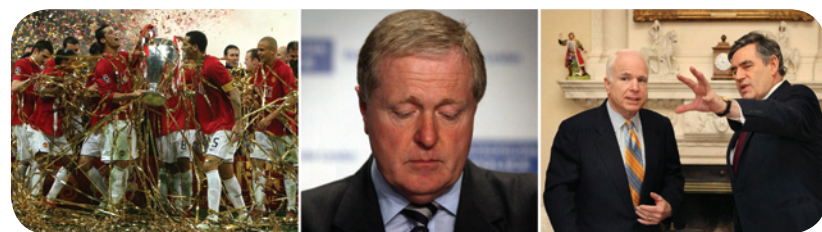
It made headlines across the nation and indeed the world.

The conference is the key annual showcase for the society which brings editors, senior executives, media lawyers and trainers together from all sectors of the media. Horrocks certainly succeeded in raising the SoE profile – and the bar for future conferences.

That helped us on the all-important campaigning front that has been especially busy over the past year as Robin Esser's Parliamentary and Legal report outlines.

As a result of yet another dramatic increase in activity and the huge increase in the society's public profile some of our long term goals for internal development have again been on the back burner. Our finances continue to improve, as Pat Pilton's report demonstrates, but we are still searching for funds to provide for a full-time secretariat.

The conference remains the main source of extra funding for our campaigning while membership subscriptions and valuable support from Associated Newspapers, the Guardian and Observer, News International, the Telegraph Group and Trinity Mirror finance the logistics upon which the lobbying forces rely.



While our budgets remain extremely tight we benefited from the talents and efforts of Tom Bonnet and then Stuart Dalziel who followed Sarah Goodman in the role of research assistant. Lily Brandhorst is our latest recruit into a job that has enabled us to lift our level of activity. Each has brought a fresh approach to our work. This injection of youthful talent and energy means we now have time for thinking as well as doing.

The all-important design and operation of our website is regularly refreshed and made more user friendly by Lyn Disley and Paul Foulsham of Magstar, who also continue to contribute their skills to conference planning and our other activities. Amanda Macchi of M-S-G plays a vital role in planning and organising the domestic arrangements for the conference and Giles Wadsworth adds the technical skills.

Elena Tulenkova ensures that we meet our day-to-day financial and accounting challenges, satisfying the auditors and keeping us legal. Angela Varley continues to power the administrative machine and has had particular success over the past year in building membership.

We are sustained by the dedication of our board members and our regional officers. Without their commitment and support the society simply could not exist. In particular we should thank Liz Griffin and Hannah Walker, who are standing down from the board at the AGM. Their contribution and support has been immense.

The board has co-opted Nick Turner, head of on-line at CN Group and Graham Dudman, managing editor of the Sun. They will bring valuable extra insights and experience to the board.

We rely on the encouragement of our Advisory Council members and our Fellows and in addition to the tangible financial help from national newspaper groups we also appreciate the support of regional newspapers that encourage membership and the equally valuable assistance of many other newspaper and broadcasting organisations and individuals, too numerous to mention by name, that share our aims and appreciate our work.

We thank our landlords at the University Centre in Cambridge and the teams at Press Gazette and HoldTheFrontPage that publicise our activities and PR Newswire for the continued partnership that helps us produce this report.

The report is prepared in advance of our annual conference. The Bristol conference will mark the end of an eventful and fruitful year of office for Simon Bucks, our first president from the broadcasting sector. His contribution to the industry extends beyond the SoE and alongside a demanding workload at Sky News he has brought fresh insights to our work and helped us expand membership and enhance our reputation as the only organisation for editors across the media.

Bob Satchwell
Executive Director



Parliamentary and Legal Committee

"Along with the Newspaper Society, we discussed the new system with MoJ officials to ensure that the media will get at least as good a service as previously."



IT has been quite a year.

While the boss of MI5 and Prince Harry were helping the Society of Editors make headlines in Britain and across the world, the length and breadth of the agenda for our lunch meeting with Jack Straw, Secretary of State for Justice, demonstrated just how much effort is required to maintain the battle for media freedom.

In a valuable exchange of views, the wide-ranging discussion, which lasted over two hours, included:

- Progress on the freedom of expression audit, which the Prime Minister announced in his speech on Liberty.
- Conditional Fee Arrangements in libel cases.
- The Green Paper to review internet liability and whether defamation of the dead should now become actionable.
- Discussions about open justice which included cameras in courts, proposals for a reporting restrictions database, emergency legislation on anonymity of witnesses, the Counter-Terrorism Bill and secret inquests, Family Court secrecy and contempt of court law reform.

Jack Straw, in a very positive mood, took on board all our concerns and promised action and on-going attention to these. In another huge and welcome step, 20 years after the former Guild of Editors negotiated the provision of court lists, Jack Straw had announced a few days previously that they should now be provided free of charge.

Along with the Newspaper Society, we discussed the new system with MoJ officials to ensure that the media will get at least as good a service as previously. These meetings were extremely positive, but more importantly the abolition of charges was a significant step forward in the fight for open justice. It was powerful recognition of the value of the media in informing the public and helping to restore confidence in the courts and the judicial system.

Following long campaigning, the society welcomed the Prime Minister's announcement in his speech on Liberty that the draft Coroners Bill's provisions to limit media access to inquests would be dropped. The society responded to the Ministry of Justice's consultation on sensitive reporting in coroners' courts, outlining proposed changes to the PCC code of practice.



The key argument was that the final duty a government should undertake for its citizens is to investigate their sudden, unexpected death in public.

The threat to reporting coroners' courts remained in the shape of measures contained within the Counter Terrorism Bill, which could make inquests more secretive, as well as the review of the former Part 4 and 5 of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill.

Several other issues concerning open justice have been taken up.

There has been on-going discussion about setting up a reporting restrictions website for the media to check on court orders. This has the potential to save both public and media organisations' time and money by avoiding inadvertent breaches of orders that could lead to trials being stopped and contempt actions. We are also seeking to continue talks with the Attorney General about contempt in the age of the internet.

The society and other broadcasters talked to Maria Eagle MP of the Ministry of Justice about TV cameras in courts. Pilot studies have been completed and we have been pushing for limited access – perhaps to judges' sentencing remarks – to help bring the courts into the 21st century. The society emphasised that this was not simply a matter for our broadcasters but that our newspapers would be happy to carry video on their websites.

Gordon Brown announced that proposed changes to the Freedom of Information Act, severely restricting its powers, were to be dropped.

The society has responded to a consultation on the extension of FOI and the inquiry into the 30 year rule that is being conducted by Paul Dacre, Professor David Cannadine and Sir Joe Pilling.

A cross industry note on data protection issues was circulated and the society will contribute to a planned industry survey on "best practice" on information, training and data protection policy.

Just in time to table an amendment to the Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill that was going through the House of Lords, the Government came up with a compromise solution to our long running debate with Richard Thomas, the Information Commissioner, over the need to threaten journalists with jail sentences for breaching the Data Protection Act.

Custodial sentences remain in the Act but will not be implemented unless the Minister of Justice identifies a need, sometime in the future, and only after consultation. Public interest defences under the DPA are also being strengthened.

We made significant progress in the drawing up of new guidelines for the release of images with the Association of Chief Police officers. We have started discussions with ACPO's Media Advisory Group about updating and simplifying the rest of the police media guidelines. Meetings have been more positive than for many years and hopefully proposals for getting buy-in to the guidelines across all police forces may bear fruit in the shape of a much improved flow of information through the media to the public.

Our message is that editors are not the enemy as some police offices seem to believe but they are ready to work together with the police to improve the flow of information to the public. The new Home Office policy on crime mapping will perhaps be an early test.

Along with other media organisations we talked to Sir Igor Judge and other senior judges about updating the guides to reporting restrictions in Crown and Magistrates' courts. As new judges and indeed new journalists take over it is important to keep the guides up to date. They have made a substantial contribution to court reporting since they were introduced, not least in allowing for journalists to challenge restrictions. It is now routine for editors and reporters to use the guides in this way.

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Parliamentary and Legal Committee

We worked with other organisations on the production of guides to reporting mental health and poverty to add to work carried out on other issues. The idea is to provide sensible, practical advice while at the same time satisfying genuine concerns among the public and support organisations.

The society defended media coverage on numerous occasions during the controversy over suicides in South Wales. The society also attended a meeting with MPs to discuss reporting of suicides generally. It was a healthy and useful exchange of views in which we pointed to the strengthened clauses in the Editors' Code of Practice and PCC decisions particularly regarding the need for care in the reporting of detail of suicides. We commented on the Samaritans' new guide to reporting suicides.

As well as welcoming the PCC's statement on privacy and the internet, we took part in the Westminster Media Forum on website privacy in which President Simon Bucks made a major contribution as he was working on the finishing touches to the re-launched Sky website.

The Max Mosley privacy action against the News of the World brought widespread demand for comment from the SoE.

Our stance was that there is always concern about the development of privacy law through the courts when Parliament has decided that the risk to media freedom is too dangerous.

Major concerns remain about Contingency Fee Arrangements that have made a mockery of defamation actions and have had a cooling effect on legitimate investigative journalism.

The society along with other media organisations has welcomed the ongoing review of CFAs but we have called on the Government to make immediate and urgent changes that would not require legislation.

This has been helped by the provision of examples by editors across the country, which clearly show that the system is open to abuse.

We are working with other media organisations to counter the increasingly worrying trends of sports organisations imposing draconian conditions on media attendance at sporting events. This is an issue that affects all sectors of the media covering international sport and is spreading to local levels of domestic football. It could also become an increasingly difficult issue with other major non-sporting public events.



The society is always happy to discuss issues with other bodies in an effort to improve the flow of information to the public and remove restrictions on reporting. The society played a part in the Pitt Review on last year's floods. The report concluded that the media had a big part to play in emergencies and authorities at all levels should work more closely with news organisations to inform the public.

The society was the prime mover in setting up presentations and discussions with parliamentarians about newspapers and the internet. The Associate Parliamentary Media Literacy Group heard from Pete Picton, on-line editor of the Sun, SoE vice president Nigel Pickover, editor of the Ipswich Evening Star, and executive director Bob Satchwell, about how newspapers large and small were moving on-line with a vengeance.

The society met representatives of the European Parliament, contributed to RRAC risk forum on policing, the House of Lords Inquiry into Government Communication, the BBC commercial operations inquiry as well as other media related inquiries.

The society also took part in the Commission on English Prisons Today Penal Reform consultations and we shall be responding to a Parliamentary Select Committee inquiry into the penal policy system and particularly what the media's role can be in changing the culture in that policy.

We continued to contribute to the Media Emergencies Forum and regional MEFs, the Crisis Communication in Government study programme and the Think Tank on Media Convergence and we have also briefed Shadow

ministers on issues concerning the media.

The society has been asked to join the media side of the "D-Notice Committee" properly known as the Defence Press and Broadcasting Advisory Committee where it will continue to fight for the Freedom of the Press to report matters of national importance.

The Parliamentary and Legal committee works closely with the NPA and the Newspaper Society and other media organisations that share our objectives.

We are especially grateful for the invaluable and tireless support of David Newell, Santha Rasaiah, Catherine Courtney and Sue Oake at the Newspaper Society. And, of course, we could not achieve all this without the hard work and dedication of our executive director Bob Satchwell.

Robin Esser
Executive Managing Editor,
Daily Mail
Chairman, P&L Committee



Training Committee

“representing both print and broadcast journalism and the skills required by editors”

AS it has right across the media, the past year has been dominated by convergence. In the case of the training committee it has been the provision of pre-entry training for those hoping to enter the media industries.

No longer is there clear distinction between employer requirements in the newspaper, magazine and broadcast industries. When all three sectors are increasingly publishing online as well as on their traditional platforms it is no longer sufficient for aspiring journalists to acquire the relevant platform specific skills and then 'sell' themselves to an employer in that specific sector.

This has implications not only for the aspiring journalists but for the training providers and the professional bodies that link the media industries with the training providers.

It was all much simpler when newspapers looked to the National Council for the Training of Journalists, broadcasters to the Broadcast Journalism Training Council and magazine publishers to the Periodicals Training Council to influence, monitor and accredit training courses.

A working group was set up nearly two years ago by the NCTJ and the BJTC, later joined by the PTC, to address the issue of reconciling their largely platform specific activities with the reality of the convergent media world surrounding them. The society was indirectly involved in that working group through board members also on the boards of professional bodies.

The working group met several times but seemed to find the obstacles to a united approach to training, a convergence of approach to convergence, too great to overcome. There was broad agreement on what needed to happen, but an inability to agree about the detail, to recognise for example that different standards of broadcast production were needed for a regional newspaper website or a network TV broadcast. And there were historic vested interests which proved hard to overcome.

The society then became involved, offering itself as an 'honest broker' representing both print and broadcast journalism and the skills required by editors in both media but with no day to day involvement in the provision or accrediting of pre-entry provision.

The president and director initiated meetings with the heads of the professional accrediting bodies and with senior editors and managers from print and broadcast employers. It was quickly established that there was a strong desire for a 'convergent' approach to training and that satisfying that was more important, and urgent, than overcoming demarcation issues between the professional bodies.

The president set up a task force charged with delivering what so many have sought, without success, to achieve. It includes senior representation from print and broadcast employers, and from the BJTC and NCTJ and PTC. It has a tight remit and progress will be reported to conference. It is an initiative that has to succeed and win the support of the pre-entry training providers, predominantly university and college courses, which at present have to deal with the unconverged requirements of different accrediting bodies. This will require some streamlining of syllabuses and accreditation processes, and a recognition that changing journalism means changing skills, without sacrificing standards.

Current activity underlines the importance the society gives to training, and its preparedness to take the initiative when it is helpful to all its membership.

Peter Cole
Professor of Journalism
Sheffield University



Treasurer's Report

"our income is ahead of budget, expenditure just slightly above budget and our cash reserves considerably ahead of the corresponding period in 2007."



THE Statement of Accounts published in last year's Annual Report differed from previous years in that the figures were "unofficial", i.e. they had not been subjected to the usual scrupulous independent audit.

There was nothing sinister in that, it was just simply that the Board had decided to change the society's financial year from July through to June, to January through to December, a move supported by our auditors MacIntyre Hudson.

This was done to simplify our budgeting and accounting process, bring the reporting of our quarterly trading more in line with the dates of our board meetings, and to ensure we captured all the revenue and expenditure of our conference within one financial year.

To achieve the change, it was necessary to extend the financial "year" by six months and delay the annual audit. Thus, the audited Financial Statements on the succeeding pages relate to the period from July 1, 2006 to December 31, 2007. Obviously this makes direct comparison with the society's performance in previous years difficult and the picture somewhat distorted.

For example, our reported turnover for the 18-month trading period was £374,806 against £172,452 previously,

a seemingly unprecedented increase even allowing for the fact the "previous period" covered only 12 months. This is simply because the current figure, being over 18 months, includes income from both the Manchester and the Glasgow conferences. Likewise with our expenditure, which shows a rise over the same period from £197,566 to £365,395.

Sod's law really, that in seeking to make our accounting simpler in some instances – for this year only – it has become a little more confused. So in perusing the audited reports that follow, please be aware that the figures shown in the end columns are not a direct comparison.

The bottom line, however, is that it has been another positive period for the society and, once again, we ended a year in a better position financially than when we began it. We are able to report a surplus of £18,219 against a loss (for the year to June 2006) of £20,338, whilst our cash reserves stood at £108,809 against £90,590.

Not only were the Glasgow and Manchester conferences outstanding in terms of substance and speakers but healthy delegate numbers and increased sponsorship did much to boost our bottom line.



Two years ago the board agreed to invest some of its reserves to proactively promote the society to a wider audience. Funds were released to the Executive Director to recruit a graduate intern to help identify opportunities for growth, to raise the society's profile on a daily basis, and to develop the website and increase membership, not least among the ever expanding broadcast and digital media world.

This initiative has continued over the past year and is beginning to pay dividends, as will be evidenced elsewhere in this Annual Report. Money well spent and all achieved within budget.

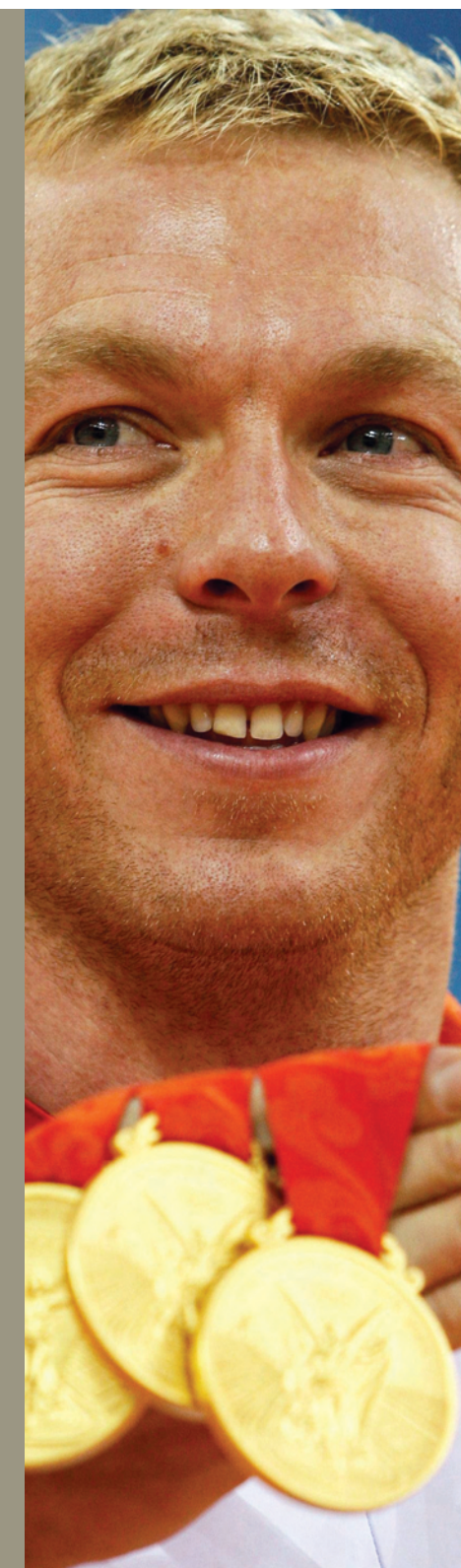
Six months into the current financial year all indications were that we shall hit our end-of-year target. Currently our income is ahead of budget, expenditure just slightly above budget and our cash reserves considerably ahead of the corresponding period in 2007.

A big thank you to Camelot, South West Development Agency, Bristol City Council, the BBC for their generous sponsorship of the 2008 conference and to Telegraph Media Group, Associated Newspapers, Guardian Media Group News International and MGN, who continue to support the society through their donations.

Thanks once again to our financial wizard Elena Tulenkova who makes sense of all the figures and continues to ensure our money works for us. Shrewd switching of accounts has increased interest income by 38 per cent in the last financial year. And to Bob Satchwell and the board for all their support.

Doubtless we are all heading for a tough financial year, but on current performance, the society can at least face the next 12 months with some confidence.

Pat Pilton
Treasurer



Accounts

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER 3047323
SOCIETY OF EDITORS
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
31 DECEMBER 2007

SOCIETY OF EDITORS
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

OFFICERS AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

The board of directors :

R E Satchwell, P G Cole, R C Esser, H M Walker, S Egginton,
E A Griffin, P Horrocks, N Bensen, P W Pilton, D Martin, A
Watson, S Bucks, C McGhee, R Catlow, N Pickover, P L
Charlton, A R Qualtrough

Company secretary:

R E Satchwell

Registered office The University Centre, Granta Place,
Mill Lane, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire CB2 1RU

Auditor:

MacIntyre Hudson LLP, Chartered Accountants &
Registered Auditors
New Bridge Street House, 30-34 New Bridge Street, London
EC4V 6BJ

THE DIRECTORS' REPORT PERIOD FROM 1 JULY 2006 TO 31 DECEMBER 2007

The directors have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the company for the period from 1 July 2006 to 31 December 2007.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activity of the company during the year was to represent newspaper editors and their counterparts in broadcasting as a professional association.

DIRECTORS

The directors who served the company during the period were as follows:

R E Satchwell, P G Cole, R C Esser, H M Walker, S Egginton,
E A Griffin, P Horrocks, N Bensen, P W Pilton, D Martin, A
Watson, S Bucks, C McGhee, R Catlow, N Pickover, P L
Charlton, A R Qualtrough (Appointed 9 March 2007), K O
Sutton (Resigned 6 November 2006)

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations. Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law).

The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, 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 financial statements 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 that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements 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.

In so far as the directors are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- the directors have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

DONATIONS

During the period the company made the following contributions:

	Period to 31 December 2007	Year to 30 June 2006
Charitable	£	
	10,200	-

SMALL COMPANY PROVISIONS

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part VII of the Companies Act 1985.

Signed by order of the directors

R E Satchwell

Company Secretary

Approved by the directors on 25 April 2008



Accounts

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY OF EDITORS PERIOD FROM 1 JULY 2006 TO 31 DECEMBER 2007

We have audited the financial statements of Society of Editors for the period from 1 July 2006 to 31 December 2007 which comprise the Profit and Loss Account, Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses, Balance Sheet and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2005) and on the basis of the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 235 of the Companies Act 1985. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS AND AUDITOR

The directors' responsibilities for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) are set out in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We also report to you whether in our opinion the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements.

In addition we report to you if, in our opinion, 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 other transactions is not disclosed. We read the Directors' 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 International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, 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 the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements 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 information in the financial statements.

OPINION

In our opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities, of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2007 and of its profit for the period then ended;
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985; and
- the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements.

MACINTYRE HUDSON LLP

New Bridge Street House Chartered Accountants
30-34 New Bridge Street & Registered Auditors
London EC4V 6BJ 21 May 2008

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT PERIOD FROM 1 JULY 2006 TO 31 DECEMBER 2007

		Period from 1 July 06 to 31 Dec 07	Year to 30 June 06
	Note	£	£
TURNOVER		374,806	172,452
Administrative expenses		<u>365,395</u>	<u>197,566</u>
OPERATING PROFIT / (LOSS)	2	9,411	(25,114)
Interest receivable		<u>10,941</u>	<u>5,014</u>
PROFIT / (LOSS) ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION		20,352	(20,100)
Tax on profit/(loss) on ordinary activities	3	2,133	238
PROFIT / (LOSS) FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD		<u>18,219</u>	<u>(20,338)</u>



Accounts

BALANCE SHEET 31 DECEMBER 2007

		31 Dec 07		30 Jun 06
31 Dec 07	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible assets	4	2,321		
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	5	39,578	9,235	
Cash at bank		124,350	124,403	
		163,928	133,638	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	6	57,440	43,048	
NET CURRENT ASSETS		106,488		90,590
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		108,809		90,590
RESERVES	8			
Profit and loss account	9	108,809		90,590
MEMBERS' FUNDS		108,809		90,590

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part VII of the Companies Act 1985 and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2005).

These financial statements were approved by the directors and authorised for issue on 25 April 2008 and are signed on their behalf by:

R.E. Satchwell
Executive Director

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERIOD FROM 1 JULY 2006 TO 31 DECEMBER 2007

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2005).

Turnover

Turnover represents the total invoice value, excluding value added tax, of conference fees and subscription fee income received, together with ancillary income. The Society invoices fees to its members on an annual basis as at 1 July each year. Amounts invoiced but unpaid at 31 December are not included within the financial statements to the extent that membership of the Society is dependent upon payment.

Fixed assets

Fixed assets are recorded at cost other than donated assets, which are recorded at estimated market value at the time acquired.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Computer equipment - 33% Straight line

Operating lease agreements

Rentals applicable to operating leases where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged against profits on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Financial instruments

Financial instruments are classified and accounted for, according to the substance of the contractual arrangement, as either financial assets, financial liabilities or equity instruments. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the company after deducting all of its liabilities.

Taxation

The company is only liable for corporation tax on income received from bank deposit accounts.



Accounts

2. OPERATING PROFIT/(LOSS)

Operating profit/(loss) is stated after charging:

	Period From 1 Jul 06 to 31 Dec 07	Year to 30 Jun 06
	£	£
Depreciation of owned fixed assets	598	—
Auditor's fees	3,000	2,350
3. TAXATION ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES	Period From 1 Jul 06 to 1 Dec 07	Year to 30 Jun 06
	£	£
Current tax:		
UK Corporation tax based on the results for the period	2,133	238
Total current tax	2,133	238
4. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS		Computer equipment
		£
COST		
At 1 July 2006		9,044
Additions		2,919
At 31 December 2007		11,963
DEPRECIATION		
At 1 July 2006		9,044
Charge for the period		598
At 31 December 2007		9,642
NET BOOK VALUE		
At 31 December 2007		2,321
At 30 June 2006		—

5. DEBTORS	31 Dec 07	30 Jun 06
	£	£
VAT recoverable	15,675	—
Other debtors	23,903	9,235
	39,578	9,235
6. CREDITORS:	31 Dec 07	30 Jun 06
Amounts falling due within one year		
	£	£
Trade creditors	26,222	12,377
Corporation tax	2,133	236
Other taxation	—	2,195
Other creditors	29,085	28,240
	57,440	43,048

7. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The company was invoiced by The Satchwell Partnership, of which R. E. Satchwell is a partner, the sum of £59,359 during the 18 month period (2006: £37,373) in relation to consultancy fees and reimbursed expenses.

8. COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

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.

9. RESERVES	Profit and loss account
	£
Balance brought forward	90,590
Profit for the period	18,219
Balance carried forward	108,809



Accounts

DETAILED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT PERIOD FROM 1 JULY 2006 TO 31 DECEMBER 2007

	18 months from 1 July 06 to 31 December 07		Year to 30 June 06	
	£	£	£	£
Turnover				
Subscriptions	68,470		48,438	
Conference income	277,777		94,526	
Sponsorship	22,500		27,500	
Book sales and other income	3,915		1,988	
Donations	2,144		-	
		374,806		172,452
Other income				
Bank deposit interest	10,941		5,014	
		10,941		5,014
		385,747		177,466
Administration expenses				
Conference expenses	190,735		88,891	
National Secretariat fees	78,875		53,833	
Wages and salaries	12,841		-	
Meeting expenses	6,574		4,931	
Marketing and promotions	5,093		2,810	
Rent and water rates	16,340		10,861	
Operations	29,311		19,231	
Depreciation	598		-	
Audit and accountancy	6,828		5,009	
Consultancy	200		-	
Parliamentary legal fees	18,000		12,000	
		365,395		197,566
Profit/(loss) for the period		20,352		(20,100)

NOTES TO THE PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT PERIOD FROM 1 JULY 2006 TO 31 DECEMBER 2007

- Sponsorship**
This is in respect of income from News International, Associated Newspapers, Trinity Mirror, Guardian Media 2YA and the Telegraph Group Ltd.
- Conference**
This income relates to the Glasgow conference in 2006 and the Manchester conference in 2007.
- Secretariat**
The sum of £78,875 (2006: £53,833) includes fees and re-imbursed expenses from Robert Satchwell in the sum of £59,359 (2006: £37,373), who is company secretary.
- Rent and Water Rates**
- This represents payments to University Centre in Cambridge**
- Operations**
This includes printing, stationery, telephone, catering, insurance, postage, bank charges, sundry expenses, and irrevocable input VAT under partial exemption.
- Audit and Accountancy**
Accountancy fees include payments to Elena Tulenkova for the provision of book-keeping services.
- Parliamentary legal fees.**
The Newspaper Society has charged the Society £12,000 per annum for the provision of legal expertise.



Society Profile

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.

COMMITTEES 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 that 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 Committee, the government's Media Emergencies Forum, the National Council for the Training

of Journalists, regional training advisory committees, the Journalism Bursary Fund and the Information Users Group at the Department of Constitutional affairs.

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.

SOCIETY OFFICIALS

President: Simon Bucks (from 5.11.07)

Vice President: Nigel Pickover

Immediate Past President:
Paul Horrocks (from 05.11.07)

Treasurer: Pat Pilton

Chairman, Training Committee:
Peter Cole

Chairman, Parliamentary and Legal Committee: Robin Esser

Executive Director and Company Secretary: Bob Satchwell

Research Assistant:
Sarah Goodman (until 01.09.07)
Tom Bonnett (until 05.01.08)
Stuart Dalziel (until 18.8.08)
Lily Brandhorst (from 18.8.08)

Administrator: Angela Varley

Finance Officer: Elena Tulenkova

Board as at 30 June, 2008:
Neil Benson, Simon Bucks, Richard Catlow, Peter Charlton, Peter Cole, Steve Egginton, Robin Esser, Liz Griffin, Paul Horrocks, Charles McGhee, Donald Martin, Nigel Pickover, Pat Pilton, Alan Qualtrough, Nick Turner, Hannah Walker, Tony Watson

Advisory Council:
Kevin Beatty, Tim Bowdler, Robin Burgess, Mark Byford, Carolyn McCall, Paul Dacre, Paul Davidson, Bill Emmott, Ivan Fallon, David Fordham, John Fry, Philip Graf, Phil Harding, Les Hinton, Clive Jones, Murdoch MacLennan, Chris Oakley, Keith Parker, Michael Pelosi, Paul Potts, Richard Tait

Fellows:

Ben Bradlee, Geoff Elliott, Walter Greenwood, Phil Harding, Bob Pinker, Peter Preston, Richard Tait, Tom Welsh

Past Presidents:

Geoff Elliot, Neil Fowler, Edmund Curran, Liz Page, Jonathan Grun, Neil Benson, Keith Sutton, Charles McGhee, Paul Horrocks.

Training Committee Chairman:
Peter Cole

Members:

Neil Benson, Joanne Butcher, Drew Cochrane, Robert Cockcroft, Chris Elliott, Colin Grant, Liz Griffin, Jonathan Grun, Tony Johnston, Doug Melloy, Alan Powell, Marc Reeves, David Rowell, Chris Rushton, Peter Sands, Keith Stafford, Keith Sutton, Richard Tait, Rick Thompson.

Parliamentary and Legal Committee Chairman: Robin Esser

Members:

John Battle, Ian Beales, Neil Benson, Nick Carter, Ed Curran, Chris Elliott, Jonathan Grun, David Jordan, Anthony Longden, Doug Melloy, Alan Powell, Peter Preston, Santha Rasaiah, Alan Rusbridger, Sue Ryan, John Spencer, Neil Wallis, Graham Dudman and Tony Jaffa.

The following are ex officio members of the committees:

President, Vice President
Immediate Past President
Executive Director



Elena Tulenkova



Stuart Dalziel



Lily Brandhorst



Angela Varley

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

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

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, if they so wished. They are encouraged to develop a programme with the help of head office.

REGIONAL BOUNDARIES**Eastern Region**

Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, North Essex and Kettering.

Nigel Pickover, Editor, Evening Star, Ipswich
Tel: 01473 324785 Email: nigel.pickover@eveningstar.co.uk

Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland

Edmund Curran, Editor-in-Chief, Belfast Telegraph,
02890 264400, edmund.curran@belfasttelegraph.co.uk

London & Home Counties

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

Ms Hannah Walker, Editor in Chief, South London Press,
0208 7106506, hannahwalker@slp.co.uk

Midlands

Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Humberside south of River Humber, Peterborough, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Hereford, Worcester, West Midlands, Warwickshire, Welshpool and Banbury.

John Butterworth, Editor, Shrewsbury Chronicle, 01743 283311, jbutterworth@shrewsburychronicle.co.uk

North Western

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

Richard Catlow, Editorial Director, Greater Manchester Weekly Newspapers (North), Rochdale Observer Series,
0161 4804491, richard.catlow@gmwn.co.uk
Secretary: Ken Bennett, Head of PR, Key 103,
01457 820494, kd.bennett@yahoo.co.uk

Northern

Northumberland, Tyne & Wear, Durham, Cleveland.

Paul Robertson, Editor, Evening Chronicle, 01912016231,
paul.robertson@ncjmedia.co.uk

Graham Marples, Managing Editor, News, Tyne Tees TV,
0191 2693700,
graham.marples@granadamedia.com Mr Malcolm Warne,
Editor, Darlington & Stockton Times, 01325 505109,
malcolm.warne@nne.co.uk

Scotland

Scotland: Julian Calvert, Journalism lecturer, Glasgow Caledonian University, 0141 331 3000,
julian.calvert@gcal.ac.uk

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

Wales

Alistair Machray, Liverpool Echo, 0151 4722507,
alistair.machray@liverpoolecho.co.uk

Secretary: Mr Spencer Feeney, Editor, South Wales Evening Post, 01792 510000, spencer.feeney@swwp.co.uk

Wessex

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

Ian Murray, Editor, The Southern Daily Echo, 02380 424777,
ianmur@soton-echo.co.uk
joe.scicluna@andoveradvertiser.co.uk

Western

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

Steve Egginton, Head of News, HTV, 0117 9722150,
01634 332313
steve.egginton@htv-west.co.uk

Yorkshire

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

Peter Charlton, Editor, Yorkshire Post,
0113 2432701, peter.charlton@ypn.co.uk



NOTICE OF THE TENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 10TH NOVEMBER AT 5.45 PM AT THE MARRIOTT ROYAL HOTEL, BRISTOL

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 Thursday 30 October 2008. 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 on Thursday 30 October 2008 or at the Marriott Royal Hotel by 12 noon on Sunday 9 November.

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 5th November, 2007.
- 4 ACCOUNTS
To receive and note the accounts for the financial year up to 31 December, 2007.
- 5 ANNUAL REPORT 2007/2008
To receive and, if approved, adopt the Annual Report.
- 6 RE-APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS
To approve the re-appointment by the board of MacIntyre Hudson as auditors for the forthcoming year.
- 7 To approve the co-option of Graham Dudman, managing editor of the Sun and Nick Turner, head of digital content CN Group and organiser of the Digital Editors' Network as members of the board of directors.
- 8 To re-elect former president Paul Horrocks, editor of the Manchester Evening News, as an ordinary member of the board for three years from November 2008.
- 9 To record the society's thanks to retiring board members for their service.
- 10 To note and approve the re-appointment by the board of Pat Pilton as treasurer.
- 11 To note and approve the re-appointment by the board of Bob Satchwell as executive director and company secretary.
- 12 To elect the president for the year 2008-2009 – Nigel Pickover, Editor, Evening Star, Ipswich, is the unanimous nomination of the board.
- 13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING
The next meeting will take place in the autumn of 2009 at a time and venue to be confirmed.

