

Annual *report*

Society of Editors
www.societyofeditors.org



2009 2010

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We are the *Society of Editors*

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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Pictures by: **PRESS
ASSOCIATION**

President's *report*

THERE are many with vested interests all too intent on curtailing the media



DONALD MARTIN

IT has been a year of challenges and frustrations, of tough battles and even tougher decisions.

In the never ending fight for media freedom the Society of Editors tackled the damaging no-win, no-fee agreements, campaigned for reform of our restrictive libel laws and improved access to Family Courts.

We railed against legislative threats to imprison journalists and punish newspapers by suspending publication.

And our members from all parts of the media landscape endured the pain of the economic downturn. Many in the regional press had to chart a course through the perfect storm of both declining revenues and declining audiences.

Yet in the face of such adversity there was much to be praised and plenty of reasons to be thankful.

There were success stories borne out of good old-fashioned journalism, investigative reporting and strong campaigns.

The tremendous pressures on costs caused many to look closely at their operations, resulting in more efficient businesses and, importantly, a stronger bias of resource away from production to the content that truly adds value in a demanding world.

And across the media there were pioneers adapting, creating new ideas and building new and different platforms to drive revenue and audience.

As the title of our 2010 conference - Have We Got Good News For You - suggests there is still much that is positive to celebrate across all parts of Britain's media.

And we should not forget the importance of the Society of Editors and the power of work the office and my colleagues on the board undertake on behalf of all those hard-pressed editors and executives.

It is all too easy to take the eye off the ball in the fight for media freedom when you are struggling to juggle competing demands and increased workloads.

But never is that vigilance more vital.

There are many with vested interests all too intent on curtailing the media, sometimes clamoring loudly but often worryingly using stealth.

At almost every turn there are fresh Parliamentary pressures and legislative hurdles. No matter how well intentioned, they invariably cast up unintended and damaging consequences for freedom and democracy. Too often the devil is in the detail.

And it is attention to detail and level of scrutiny that we as editors have much to thank the society for, particularly Robin Esser as chairman of the Parliamentary and Legal Committee and Bob Satchwell, our hard-working executive director.

As President I have been fortunate to see at first hand their tireless



efforts on our members' behalf. Their professionalism, knowledge and dogged diplomatic skills have undoubtedly helped the SoE retain its prominence in the campaign for press and broadcasting freedom and the public's right to know, freedom of expression and self-regulation.

Much of their work, and that of the board, is chronicled in detail elsewhere but I must praise them all for working even harder in these challenging times.

I took over as president at Stansted where Nigel Pickover and the team produced a superb conference that again made headlines and fuelled debate inside and outside the industry for months.

My predecessor had the difficult and unenviable task of juggling his professional responsibilities to ensure the smooth running of the conference with the more important personal commitments

of looking after his wife Ruth as she successfully underwent major emergency surgery. He did so admirably. We will miss his valued contribution when he retires from the board this year.

Also deserving our special thanks is Pat Pilton who retires from the board after serving us so well as treasurer. Pat has steered us superbly through difficult financial times, ever vigilant on costs but mindful of the battles we needed to fund.

And, of course, we thank our long serving chair of training Peter Cole who also stands down this year.

A vital part of the society's role is a commitment to high editorial standards and in that pursuit we recognise the importance of ensuring journalism training reflects the needs and requirements of a fast-changing multi-media world.

Peter has been a powerful champion of the industry's future recruits, ensuring them the best possible start in our great industry.

Our other retiring board members - Paul Horrocks and Tony Watson - also deserve special mention for their tremendous contribution to the ongoing success of the society.

I am immensely proud to have been given the opportunity to lead an organisation that is vital to the media industry and I am grateful for the opportunity to have worked with so many talented people connected with the society. It has even been a privilege to again be taking orders from Bob as his right-hand man after a 20-year gap!

Finally, I am delighted that your next president will be Robin Esser and his vice president Francesca Unsworth.

As executive managing editor of the Daily Mail and chairman of the society's parliamentary and legal committee he is a much respected and powerful force for good.

Together with Francesca, head of newsgathering at the BBC, they will offer a powerful voice uniting broadcasting and press in the cause of media freedom.

Donald Martin

**Editor
The Sunday Post**

Director's *report*

LAST year recession and acute structural upheaval were assaulting all parts of the media.

Despite that the title of Nigel Pickover's conference - The Fightback - clearly appealed and we had a record turnout.

The Radisson at Stansted Airport proved an enlivening venue when the society was in austerity mood. But there was certainly nothing austere about the atmosphere, the facilities, the food and drink and especially the content of the conference.

Baroness Buscombe, new chair of the Press Complaints commission set the tone with a Society of Editors lecture that was not only a powerful reply to critics but which in parts still causes controversy a year on.

She was first in a series of

firsts. We were treated to a characteristic keynote address by the new Lord Chief Justice, Lord Judge, who has always provided thought-provoking challenges to editors in his contributions to conferences in his previous roles.

We also welcomed Dominic Grieve, then Shadow Justice Secretary who was destined to become Attorney General, Keir Starmer, the new DPP, Christopher Graham the new Information Commissioner and Andy Trotter, incoming chair of the ACPO media advisory group.

While none pulled punches about the need for a responsible media, they all preached powerfully the importance of openness and the need for a vibrant, vociferous and independent media.

A wealth of informative and entertaining speakers from a wide variety of media backgrounds injected new levels of inspiration, vision and indeed controversy into our debates. They certainly reflected the rich diversity of our members and their newspapers, programmes, websites, blogs and twitter threads.

Sadly, outgoing president Pickover missed most of his conference to be at his wife's bedside. Thankfully Ruth is progressing well.

As the rest of this report and particularly Robin Esser's parliamentary and legal report demonstrates as we entered the society's second decade there was no let up in the challenges.

In addition our involvement in consultations, conferences and seminars shows the huge range of activity - and therefore the breadth of preparation that has to be undertaken, especially by our research assistant, Sharon Nall.

They have included Westminster Media Forums on Facing the Future and the Future of News Media, a Gray's Inn seminar with speakers such as Max Mosley on Gagging the Press, a Westminster Legal Forum on Press Freedom and Privacy Law, a Media Standards Trust seminar in the House of Lords, Lord Justice Jackson's Civil Litigation Costs Review, a Global Ethics Youth-led Media Summit, a Newcastle University research seminar on Widening Diversity in Journalism and a Care Matters Partnership conference on the Future of Care Applications.

These, and many more daily calls for advice or comment in the media, have been in addition to seemingly endless visits to the Ministry of Justice to meet ministers and officials.

They were so frequent that I once joked with former Justice Secretary Jack Straw that I intended to move into one of his meeting rooms and claim it on expenses as my second home.

As well as supporting us financially the Newspaper Publishers' Association has now asked us to take on the organisation of the national press awards, the proceeds of which will be used to make a major contribution to our funding as well as supporting the Journalists' Charity.

We shall say farewell with much gratitude to several long-serving board members this year who have contributed so much to the success of the society.

I record special professional and personal thanks for the support of Peter Cole as training committee chairman. We will not lose his wise counsel as he will remain a trusted contributor to our affairs. He will be succeeded by Simon Bucks who has focused attention on the need for cross media training for the journalists of the future.

Pat Pilton ends his tenure as treasurer after providing a solid platform upon which we have built our campaigning.

We are ever grateful to board members and others who support our activities. Richard Catlow maintains regular and relevant practical meetings for editors in the North of England and Donald Fullarton tends the Scottish contingent.

Lyn Disley, Paul Foulsham and the Magstar team contribute their skills to our website, conference planning and our other activities. Amanda Macchi of M-S-G plays a vital role in the domestic arrangements for the conference and Giles Wadsworth makes a special contribution to its delivery.

Elena Tulenkova meets our day-to-day financial challenges and satisfies the auditors. Angela Varley has honed the administrative machine with particular success in building membership and supporting the CPU Media Trust that has been running distance training courses through the hard work of society member Gareth Weekes.

EditorsInc, the consultancy arm of the society, that puts clients in touch with members who can offer a wide range of media services is growing and adds a small revenue stream.

We are ever grateful for the

encouragement of our Advisory Council and our Fellows and the valuable assistance of many other organisations and individuals that share our aims.

We thank our landlords at the University Centre in Cambridge and the teams at Press Gazette, HoldTheFrontPage and Journalism.co.uk that publicise our activities.

The Glasgow conference will mark the end of a fruitful presidential year for Donald Martin who managed a change of job while orchestrating our activities.

And finally, while there will be further upheavals, there can be no doubt that the rest of the world still shares our admiration for journalism in the UK that remains the most formidable in the world.

Bob Satchwell

Executive Director



BOB SATCHWELL



Parliamentary and Legal Committee

IT was in part the nearly year...

We nearly succeeded in reform of Contingency Fee Arrangements that are chilling media, scientific and academic debates.

We nearly opened up the Family Courts to sensible scrutiny under well-intentioned reforms that would help promote public confidence in the justice system.

We nearly achieved a central database of court reporting restrictions that would help prevent inadvertent breaches of orders.

It was only a nearly year on these issues because, having persuaded the Justice Secretary of the strength of our case, Jack Straw was promptly undermined by politicians supposedly on his own side and indeed in his own ministry, by his civil servants and by judges and lawyers, or by a combination of all of them.

That said, we also achieved a great deal of influence and confirmed the society's role as the organisation that represents the interests of all parts of the media.

Following the consultation on Controlling Costs in Defamation Proceedings, and months of discussion, Jack Straw announced that suc-

cess fees that lawyers can charge for winning defamation cases in no-win, no-fee agreements should be reduced from 100 per cent to 10 per cent - which was still substantially more than they need to cover the average number of wins and losses. He was especially concerned with the effect of CFAs on regional and local newspapers and on scientists and academics.

Shortly before the election, a Conditional Fee Agreements (Amendment) Order was introduced into the Lords. A bizarre hand-wringing intervention from former Commons Speaker Lord Martin of Springburn delayed its progress. The society sent an aide-memoire to members of the Lords reminding them of why there was a need for urgent reform. It then cleared the Upper House without a vote after Lord Martin withdrew his motion.

But in the Commons four Labour MPs joined opposition parties in committee in voting against the order. They claimed they were concerned that the limit would stop lawyers from taking cases on CFAs denying access to justice to people of modest means. They also quoted claims about the lack of consultation!

We had clearly won the argument but it was more a matter of sour grapes after the MPs expenses scandal and the order was lost in the pre-election legislative wash up. The CFA amendment order was an interim measure that would have been capable of revision later under more comprehensive legislation. The society therefore continues to press the new government to rekindle the reform. We hope to win the battle to overcome the powerful vested interests of claimant lawyers who are making a mockery of legislation designed to help less well off people seek redress on the strength of the case, demonstrating the chilling effect on responsible investigative journalism.



ROBIN ESSER

Lord Justice Jackson took the point in his wider review of costs in civil cases. Sadly his recommendations will take time to implement. So will the welcome promises that libel law must be reformed. The government proposes action next year following Lord Lester's private member's Bill. The pressure must be maintained because the longer the delay on these crucial issues the greater the chance that a media organisation will be forced out of business while trying to report on behalf of the public.

The DCMS committee's long awaited report in fact majored on press freedom and libel but it was its comments on phone tapping allegations that stole the headlines in parts of the media. We took an early opportunity to point out that their suggestion of suspension of publication as a punishment for breaches of the Code of Practice was more in keeping with remedies of Robert Mugabe than a western parliamentary democracy.

Surprise, surprise, in an election year, the important role of the media in free democratic societies became something of a mantra for politicians. A new pamphlet Media Freedom in 2010 prepared by society member Professor Peter Cole was a timely reminder. It concluded that Harry Evans' half free press of 1974 was now only 45 per cent free.

This was because of many issues, not least threats to jail journalists under a range of legislation - including our old

friend the Data Protection Act. The society led the campaign against the introduction of custodial sentences for breaches of the Data Protection Act. There was a flurry of activity when the new information commissioner Christopher Graham raised the subject again - though saying it was not directed at journalists.

We reminded the Government that it had promised, but not delivered, a stronger public interest defence under existing legislation. This remains unfinished business and it has already been raised with new justice ministers.

Access to Family Courts has been improved but a coalition of opponents made up of children's campaigners, expert witnesses and some lawyers and judges misinterpreted the media's desire to report on behalf of the public. As a result Jack Straw was again thwarted and the hotchpotch legislation is likely to make reporting more difficult rather than creating greater openness.

We responded to a consultation on reform of the coroners' system showing that secondary legislation could impose new restrictions on the reporting of inquests, exclude the press from inquests and could enable coroners to refuse or withhold inquest information, as well as giving coroners unchecked powers of search and seizure provisions which threaten journalistic material and sources.

The society continued to host Parliamentary and Legal

lunches with prominent government ministers in order to aid our campaigning activities.

We debated with then Shadow Culture Secretary, Jeremy Hunt and the new Justice Secretary, Kenneth Clarke and Minister for Culture, Communications and the Creative Industries, Ed Vaizey.

The Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee's second report, Future for Local and Regional Media, was well received after it called for a review of council newspapers by the Office of Fair Trading.

We continue to work with ACPO in order to improve relations between the press and the police and helped to resolve an issue surrounding the use of indemnity forms.

Although news of photographers being prevented from carrying out their work under Section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 continued, ACPO helped to deal with the problem. The full coalition programme stated that safeguards will be introduced against the misuse of anti-terrorism legislation.

Naturally we welcomed the Home Secretary's announcement that the police would no longer be allowed to stop and search individuals without having to show reasonable suspicion of terrorist activity.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown invited Paul Dacre, Editor-in-Chief of the Daily Mail, to chair an independent committee to review the 30-year rule concerning the amount of time after which official

documents can be released. The committee recommended a 15-year rule be adopted and phased in over a period of year. Although the Prime Minister later announced that the 30-year rule would be cut to 20 years, it was a victory nonetheless.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport announced plans to establish licensing arrangements for local TV stations by November 2011. It also asked Ofcom to investigate removing local cross-media ownership rules and it is hoped that rules will be relaxed by November 2010.

There is still much to achieve however. It is expected that the Bribery Act will come into force next April. Although the Act is not intended to affect journalists, we are concerned that it provides for extremely serious penalties including imprisonment for up to ten years. The Act is so wide-ranging that if it is not amended these penalties could be misused and applied to journalists, their editors, their sources and whistleblowers, which in turn could inhibit investigative journalism in the public interest.

The society has also looked into The Freedom (Great Repeal) Bill. We believe that any review should look at ensuring freedom of speech and open justice, the effect of anti-terrorism laws on freedom of speech and the media, the Bribery Act, and the aforementioned Data Protection Act.

We continue to work in diverse areas, such as sports rights, where we try to help resolve disputes between football clubs and newspapers. We are often approached about reporting guidelines, and in the last year have been asked to review the updated Guidelines for Reporting HIV, to promote reporting guidelines for the charity Changing Faces and endorse a guide on Reporting Human Rights, published by the Media Trust, in which the introduction to the report was written by the executive director. We are also asked for our views on how to report suicide and have been asked to help garner feedback from our members on the subject.

The society met with the new Attorney General, Dominic Grieve and the Solicitor General, Edward Garnier to discuss contempt and the development of a court reporting restrictions database.

A study by the Ministry of Justice found that pre-trial media coverage did not prejudice juries and that jurors took their duty to consider only the facts presented in court very seriously.

That said, there is still room for detailed academic research with specific juries in specific cases if we are ever to achieve any change in the contempt laws to match the internet age.

Following the tragic death in Afghanistan of Rupert Hamer of the Sunday Mirror, we have contributed to further chang-

es in the Ministry of Defence Green Book

We were invited to take part in the BBC's annual News Festival. The session entitled 'The Death of Local News?' looked at the much reported crisis in local news. It covered a range of issues, including what audiences want, how advances in technology influence local news of the future, the BBC's role in supporting local news, whether developments in commercial local news should be left to market forces, new business models of the future and what a change of government would mean for local news.

We have maintained pressure about super-injunctions in privacy cases and the society contributed to a seminar chaired by Lord Justice Moses called Gagging the press: Is the public bound to suffer?

Thankfully we seem to have seen off one new problem in the shape of proposals to extend anonymity to defendants in rape cases but vigilance must remain eternal.

The society's workload has been greater than ever and the change of government has often made a repetition of all the previous consultation points necessary to bring new ministers up to speed.

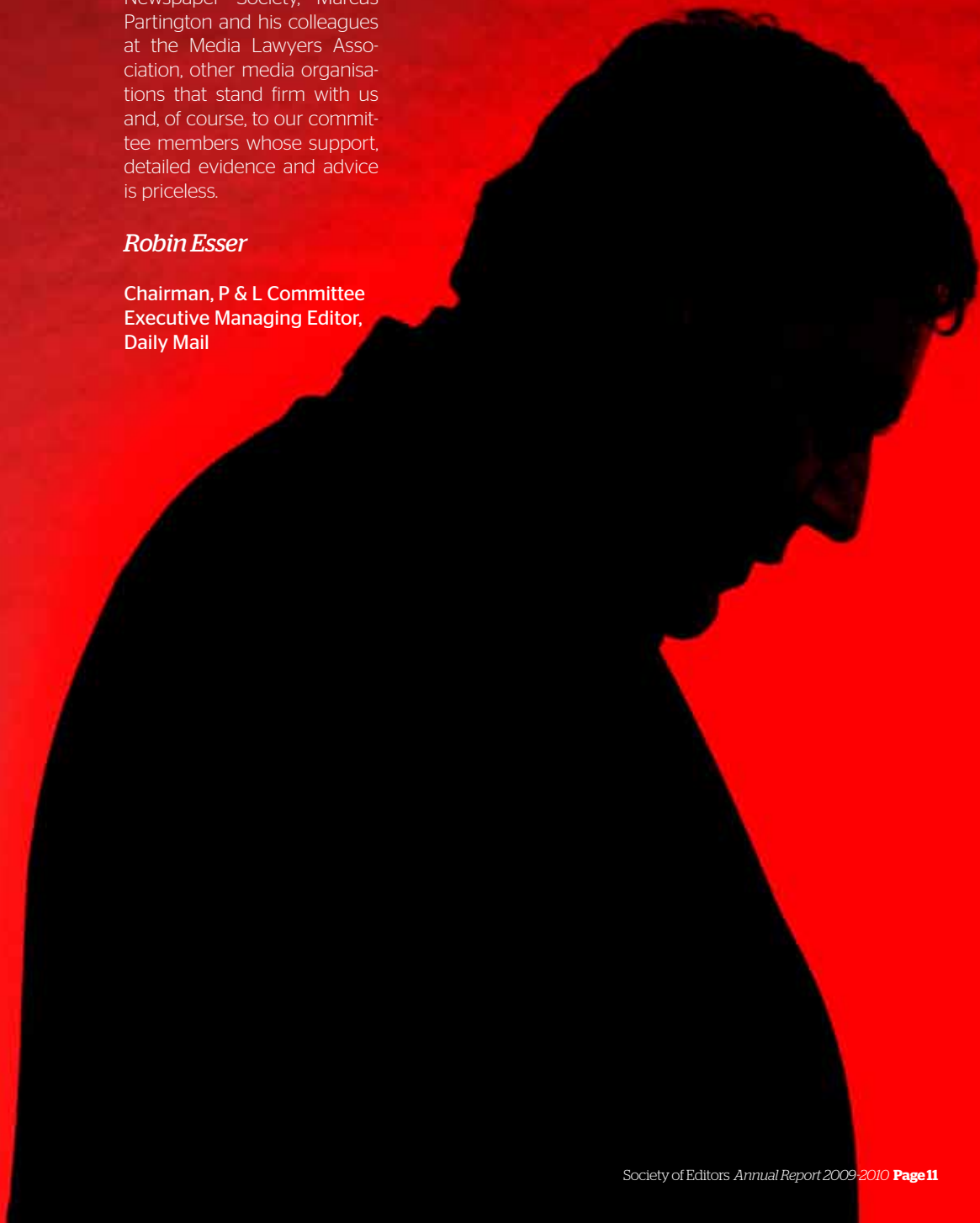
Hopefully under the new government, further threats to our freedom and the public's right to know will reduce but we need be more vigilant, not less as changes are proposed.

As we stand guard we are as ever grateful to Santha

Rasaiah and her team at the Newspaper Society, Marcus Partington and his colleagues at the Media Lawyers Association, other media organisations that stand firm with us and, of course, to our committee members whose support, detailed evidence and advice is priceless.

Robin Esser

**Chairman, P & L Committee
Executive Managing Editor,
Daily Mail**



Training Committee

There is much to do, and it is time to reconstitute the training committee so that all voices are represented.

THE tough times experienced by the news media in general over the past two years have inevitably fed through to training, in that fewer jobs have been available to young aspiring journalists completing the large number and great variety of courses available.

These have retained their popularity – and there is evidence of an increase in applications for courses starting in the autumn of 2010 – but the employment prospects for those obtaining a pre-entry qualification have been less good than for some years. The worst area has been the regional press, hardly surprising when falling sales and advertising revenues have been more likely to lead to cuts, and sometimes closures, than to employment opportunities for the newly qualified.

But signs are emerging that the worst is over and recruiting is back on the agenda, if not yet on anything like the scale considered normal before the recession. The skills and qualities required across all media are different, and greater, than ever before.

The multi-media era requires multi-talented entrants, and the society, through its training committee, remains a key player (some would say 'the' key player) in ensuring that journalism education and training provides the young journalists modern journalism needs.

It is in a unique position to do so. It represents those senior journalists, in print and broadcast, and increasingly a combination of the two, who do the hiring as well as running news gathering. It has journalism educators within its membership. It is in dialogue with government about employment and training issues, and has a direct line to the bodies which accredit journalism courses. Through its annual conference it brings together all those stakeholders, and regularly includes debates on relevant training issues.

There is much to do, and it is time to reconstitute the training committee so that all voices are represented. The past two or three years have been taken up with discussions with the historically mono-media accrediting bodies as they wrestle with the implications of new multi-media publishing.

Our current president Donald Martin is a board member of the NCTJ and chairman of its qualifications board. The next two years, with the society having presidents at the most senior level in national newspapers and broadcasting, both with a declared interest in bringing on young talent with the right skills and knowledge for 21st century journalism, present a further opportunity for the society to

play a leading and constructive role in influencing training development, for the benefit not only of the media industries and journalism itself but of young people entering journalism for the first time.

With the approval of the annual meeting, the training committee will now be chaired by Simon Bucks, associate editor or Sky News and former society president.

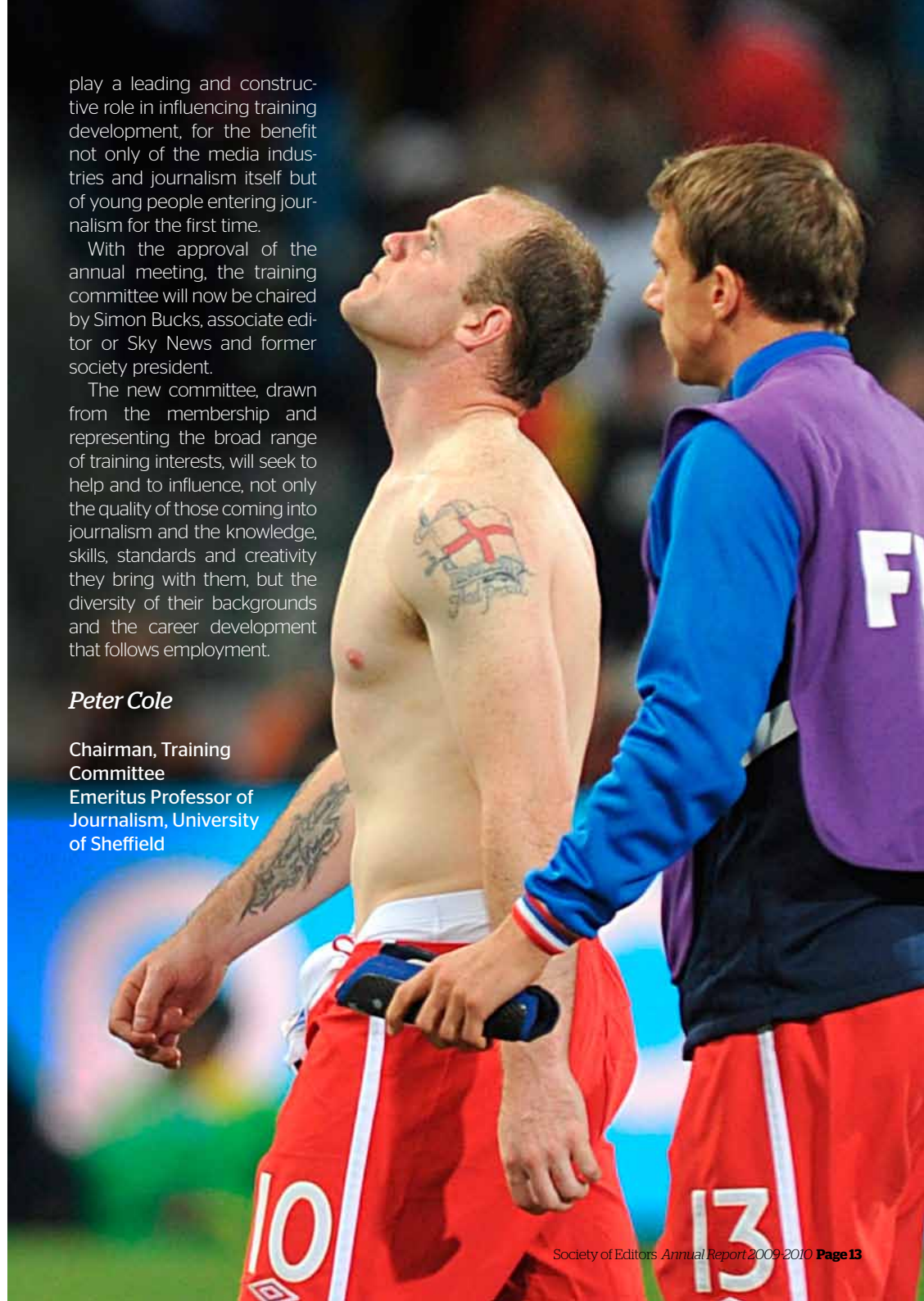
The new committee, drawn from the membership and representing the broad range of training interests, will seek to help and to influence, not only the quality of those coming into journalism and the knowledge, skills, standards and creativity they bring with them, but the diversity of their backgrounds and the career development that follows employment.

Peter Cole

**Chairman, Training Committee
Emeritus Professor of Journalism, University of Sheffield**



PETER COLE



Treasurer's *report*

WE always knew that 2009 would be a difficult year both for the Society of Editors and for its membership, not least those working in the regional press. And so it proved.

You will see from the audited accounts which follow, that the society ended the year with a trading deficit of £20,721. The consequence of this is a drop in our reserves, the money in the bank, from £107,503 in December 2008 to £86,782 at the end of 2009. In part this deficit was self-inflicted and, we believe, for the best of reasons.

We began the year by budgeting for a loss on our day-to-day trading, with the expectation that the Stansted Conference would provide sufficient income to balance the books. A good attendance and healthy sponsorship revenue of £44,000 resulted in a conference profit of £15,000, some way short of our target but a creditable performance given the economic circumstances.

Another reason for the shortfall was that during the year the board took a decision to actively explore ways to reduce the cost of membership, particularly for those working in the hard-pressed regions. It was agreed unanimously that the annual fee for regional

newspaper editors should be cut by almost half to £120 (at a cost to the society of some £26,000 per annum). The overall charge for attending the annual conference was also reduced with further additional savings for regional newspapers.

Positive steps from which many of you reading this will have benefited, and will continue so to do.

The board also agreed to increase the consultancy fee paid to our "part-time" Executive Director to more correctly reflect his workload as the society's activities expand and its public profile continues to grow. We also felt strongly that our excellent intern should be paid a salary more in keeping with that paid generally to industry trainees, and this too has been implemented.

Introducing such unbudgeted changes in the middle of a financial year inevitably had its consequences. Our income for 2009 was £203,755 against £229,127 the previous year and we spent £224,476 against £230,419 previously. Obviously new revenue streams needed to be generated if we were to maintain the newly-created benefits and at the same time protect our reserves.

As reported last year, Bob Satchwell had begun discus-

An exciting further development, again the result of sterling work by our Director, is the decision by the NPA to ask the society to organise and run the 2011 national press awards...



PAT PILTON

sions with the Newspaper Publishers Association with a view to securing funding from the industry in support of our activities. To date the NPA, in two tranches over two financial years, has made grants of £150,000. This was not all new money as this replaces £25,000 previously gifted annually by individual national newspaper groups but it was certainly welcome.

An exciting further development, again the result of sterling work by our Director, is the decision by the NPA to ask the society to organise and run the 2011 national press awards, which Bob has detailed in his

report. Suffice here to say that this activity should result in a further funding boost for the society and ultimately benefit our members.

And finally, this is my sixth and last financial report as, at a now very advanced age, I am stepping down as Treasurer. My thanks to Bob, Donald and all the board members who have been so supportive and made our meetings so productive and the task so enjoyable.

Thanks to Angela, Sharon, all the previous interns and especially to Elena Tulenkova who produces all the figures and, in truth, does all the work.

Amazingly our reserves stand at just about exactly where they were six years ago. Something I certainly struggled to achieve in circulation terms as a newspaper editor!

Subject to the approval of the AGM, my successor-elect is Sue Ryan, no stranger to the society and someone I have had the privilege to work with on several newspapers. Be assured, the accounts will be in safe hands.

Pat Pilton

Treasurer



ACCOUNTS

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER 3047323

SOCIETY OF EDITORS
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
31 DECEMBER 2009

This is an extract from the full company accounts which are available for inspection at the society's office and on the website at www.societyofeditor.org.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

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

The board of directors
R E Satchwell, P G Cole, R C Esser, P Horrocks,
N Benson, P W Pilton, D Martin, A Watson,
S Bucks, R Catlow, N Pickover, P L Charlton,
G M Dudman, N D Turner, S J Smith,
M R Sleight, F Unsworth

Company secretary R E Satchwell

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

Auditor MacIntyre Hudson LLP
Chartered Accountants &
Statutory Auditor
New Bridge Street House
30-34 New Bridge Street
London EC4V 6BJ

THE DIRECTORS' REPORT YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and 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 2006. 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.

SMALL COMPANY PROVISIONS

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Signed by order of the directors

R E Satchwell
Company Secretary

Approved by the directors on 14 July 2010

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2009 and of its loss for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

HOWARD K LEWIS FCA (Senior statutory Auditor) For and on behalf of MACINTYRE HUDSON LLP, Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor
New Bridge Street House, 30-34 New Bridge Street, London, EC4V 6BJ

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

	Note	2009 £	2008 £
TURNOVER		203,032	219,720
Administrative expenses		<u>224,324</u>	<u>228,467</u>
OPERATING LOSS	1	(21,292)	(8,747)
Interest receivable		723	9,407
Interest payable and similar charges		-	(14)
(LOSS)/PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION		(20,569)	646
Tax on (loss)/profit on ordinary activities	2	152	1,952
LOSS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR		<u>(20,721)</u>	<u>(1,306)</u>

BALANCE SHEET

	Note	2009		2008	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	3		698		1,510
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	4	28,810		40,270	
Cash at bank		<u>150,135</u>		<u>105,452</u>	
		178,945		145,722	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	5	<u>92,861</u>		<u>39,729</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>86,084</u>		<u>105,993</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			<u>86,782</u>		<u>107,503</u>
RESERVES	8				
Profit and loss account			<u>86,782</u>		<u>107,503</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS			<u>86,782</u>		<u>107,503</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

These financial statements were approved by the directors and authorised for issue on 14 July 2010 and are signed on their behalf by:

R E Satchwell

Director

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. OPERATING LOSS

Operating loss is stated after charging:

	2009	2008
	£	£
Depreciation of owned fixed assets	812	811
Auditor's fees	<u>3,992</u>	<u>3,150</u>

2. TAXATION ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES

Analysis of charge in the year

	2009	2008
	£	£
Current tax:		
UK Corporation tax based on the results for the year	<u>152</u>	<u>1,952</u>
Total current tax	<u>152</u>	<u>1,952</u>

3. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer equipment
COST	£
At 1 January 2009 and 31 December 2009	<u>11,963</u>

DEPRECIATION

At 1 January 2009	10,453
Charge for the year	<u>812</u>
At 31 December 2009	<u>11,265</u>

NET BOOK VALUE

At 31 December 2009	<u>698</u>
At 31 December 2008	<u>1,510</u>

4. DEBTORS

	2009	2008
	£	£
VAT recoverable	9,275	13,863
Other debtors	<u>19,535</u>	<u>26,407</u>
	<u>28,810</u>	<u>40,270</u>

5. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2009	2008
	£	£
Trade creditors	69,373	6,034
Corporation tax	153	1,954
Other taxation and social security	404	230
Other creditors	<u>22,931</u>	<u>31,511</u>
	<u>92,861</u>	<u>39,729</u>

6. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The company was invoiced by The Satchwell Partnership, of which R E Satchwell is a partner, the sum of £53,382 during the year (2008: £40,754) in relation to consultancy fees and reimbursed expenses.

7. 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.

8. RESERVES

	Profit and loss account	
	£	
Balance brought forward	107,503	
Loss for the year	(20,721)	
Balance carried forward	86,782	

DETAILED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT - YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

	Year to 31 December 2009		Year to 31 December 2008	
	£	£	£	£
Turnover				
Subscriptions	44,376		52,459	
Conference income	106,998		136,102	
Sponsorship	50,000		30,000	
Book sales and other income	<u>1,658</u>		<u>1,159</u>	
		203,032		219,720
Other income				
Bank deposit interest	<u>723</u>		<u>9,407</u>	
		<u>723</u>		<u>9,407</u>
		203,755		229,127
Administration expenses				
Conference expenses	85,979		104,810	
National Secretariat fees	65,049		51,924	
Wages and salaries	13,562		12,562	
Meeting expenses	6,038		2,838	
Marketing and promotion	679		1,077	
Rent and water rates	12,017		10,999	
Operations	24,286		26,178	
Depreciation	812		812	
Audit and accountancy	6,902		5,267	
Parliamentary & Legal fees	<u>9,000</u>		<u>12,000</u>	
		224,324		228,467
Finance costs				
Interest payable		-		14
Profit/(loss) for the year		<u>(20,569)</u>		<u>646</u>

1. Sponsorship

This is in respect of sponsorship income from the Newspaper Publishers Association.

2. Conference

This relates to the Stansted conference 2009.

3. Secretariat

The sum of £65,049 includes fees and reimbursed expenses to The Satchwell Partnership in the sum of £53,382 (2008: £40,754) who is the Company Secretary

4. Rent and Water Rates

This represents payments to University Centre in Cambridge.

5. Operations

This includes printing, stationery, telephone, catering, insurance, postage, bank charges, sundry expenses, and irrecoverable input VAT under partial exemption.

6. Audit and Accountancy

Accountancy fees include payments to Elena Tulenkova for the provision of book-keeping and accountancy services.

7. Parliamentary and Legal fees

The Newspaper Society charged £9,000 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 Thomson 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 CPU Media Trust and ISWNE (International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors) covering the US and Canada. Its David Greenslade Bursary enables a member to visit North America.

SOCIETY OFFICIALS

President

Donald Martin (from 1711.09)

Immediate Past President

Nigel Pickover (from 1711.09)

Treasurer

Pat Pilton

Chairman, Training Committee

Peter Cole

Chairman, Parliamentary and Legal Committee

Robin Esser

Executive Director and Company Secretary

Bob Satchwell

Research Assistant

Sharon Nall (from 18.3.09)

Administrator

Angela Varley

Finance Officer

Elena Tulenkova

Board as at 30 June, 2010

Neil Benson, Simon Bucks, Richard Catlow, Peter Charlton, Peter Cole, Graham Dudman, Robin Esser, Paul Horrocks, Donald Martin, Nigel Pickover, Pat Pilton, Moira Sleight, Sarah-Jane Smith, Nick Turner, Fran Unsworth, Tony Watson

Advisory Council

Kevin Beatty, Tim Bowdler, Rebekah Brooks, Robin Burgess, Mark Byford, Carolyn McCall, Paul Dacre, Paul Davidson, Bill Emmott, Ivan Fallon, David Fordham, John Fry, Philip Graf, Phil Harding, Les Hinton, Adrian Jeakings, Clive Jones, Murdoch MacLennan, Chris Oakley, 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 Elliott, Neil Fowler, Edmund Curran, Liz Page, Jonathan Grun, Neil Benson, Keith Sutton, Charles McGhee, Paul Horrocks, Simon Bucks, Nigel Pickover.

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, Graham Dudman, Chris Elliott, Jodie

Ginsberg, Jonathan Grun, David Jordan, Anthony Longden, Doug Melloy, Alan Powell, Peter Preston, Santha Rasaiah, Alan Rusbridger, Sue Ryan, John Spencer, Neil Wallis, Doug Wills and Tony Jaffa.

The following are ex officio members of the committees:

President, Vice President
Immediate Past President
Executive Director

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

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



ANGELA VARLEY



ELENA TULENKOVA



SHARON NALL



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. The North West region organises frequent meetings to which all members are invited.

REGIONAL BOUNDARIES

Eastern Region
Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, North Essex and Kettering.
Nigel Pickover, Editor, Evening Star, Ipswich
Tel: 01473 324785
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).
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 and Worcester, West Midlands, Warwickshire, and Welshpool and Banbury.
John Butterworth
john@butterworth.plus.com

North Western
Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside, Cheshire, Greater Manchester and Leek.
Richard Catlow,
richardcatlow@hotmail.co.uk

Secretary: Ken Bennett, Head of PR, Key 103, 01457 820494,
kd.bennett@yahoo.co.uk

Northern
Northumberland, Tyne & Wear, Durham, Cleveland.
Secretary and Treasurer: 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
Alastair Machray, Liverpool Daily Post, 0151 2272000, alastair.machray@liverpool.com
Secretary: 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, ian.murray@dailyecho.co.uk
joe.scicluna@andoveradvertiser.co.uk

Western
Gloucestershire, Avon, parts of Somerset, Wiltshire, Devon and Cornwall.
Steve Egginton, Mendip Times & Mendip TV, 01761 463888
steve.egginton@btinternet.com

Yorkshire
South, West and North Yorkshire, and Humberside north of River Humber.
Peter Charlton, Editor, Yorkshire Post, 0113 2432701,
peter.charlton@ypn.co.uk

SOCIETY OF EDITORS AGM

NOTICE OF THE TWELFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF EDITORS TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2010 AT 5.30 PM AT THE GRAND CENTRAL HOTEL, GLASGOW

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 2010. 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 2010 or at the Grand Central Hotel by 12 noon on Saturday 13 November 2010.

R E Satchwell

Executive Director and Company Secretary

1. President's opening remarks.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. MINUTES: To adopt, if approved, the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15 November, 2009.
4. ACCOUNTS: To receive and if approved adopt the accounts for the financial year up to 31 December, 2009.
5. ANNUAL REPORT 2009/2010: To receive and, if approved, adopt the Annual Report.
6. RE-APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS: The re-appointment of MacIntyre Hudson as auditors for the forthcoming year
7. To record the society's thanks to former presidents Paul Horrocks and Nigel Pickover, training committee chairman Peter Cole, treasurer Pat Pilton and board member Tony Watson on their retirement from the board of directors.
8. To approve the co-option of Chris Elliott, Readers' Editor of The Guardian, Ian Murray editor of the Southern Evening Echo and Alan Qualtrough editor of the Western Morning News as ordinary members of the board of directors.
9. To note and approve the appointment by the board of Simon Bucks of Sky News as chairman of the Training Committee.
10. To note and approve the appointment by the board of Sue Ryan 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 vice-president for the year 2010-2011. Francesca Unsworth, Head of Newsgathering at the BBC, is the unanimous nominee of the board.
13. To elect the president for the year 2010-2011. Robin Esser, Executive Managing Editor of the Daily Mail is the unanimous nominee of the board
14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will take place in the autumn of 2011 at a time and venue to be confirmed.
15. Any other business