



# Old Nottinghamians' Society

**President:** Daniel Shaw

**Deputy President:** Matthew Draper

18 October 2011

Dear Member

## **Proposals to amend the Constitution – Proxy Voting**

Following my last letter to you on this subject in June, I have been contacted by many Members who wished to voice their opinion in the matter of proxy and postal voting. I attempted to answer as many as possible: please accept my apologies if you did not receive a response, but rest assured that your email or letter was read.

The vast majority of those who responded were disappointed with the outcome of the EGM which rejected proxy voting. Several respondents, while supportive of the proposals, suggested ways of amending the proposals to make them more likely to be accepted. A small minority indicated they were against the proposed changes.

As I noted in my previous letter to you, it was felt that debate at the EGM on this issue was overshadowed by debate on other topics, and that the vote was influenced by these matters. Therefore, in light of this and in response to the correspondence from you, the Committee have decided to submit the proposed changes to the Constitution and Rules, in the same format as before, for a debate and vote at the AGM. If the Resolutions are passed they will take effect from the next Meeting following the AGM.

## **Proposals**

Proxy voting is proposed to be achieved by means of a Form of Proxy posted or emailed to the Honorary Secretary, and can either be by appointing a fellow Member to attend and vote, or by appointing the Chairman of the Meeting to cast the Member's vote on their behalf in accordance with their instructions. Whilst making these changes, which are set out in the enclosed papers, we have also taken the opportunity of clarifying how the Chairman of the Meeting is defined, given that this is not made clear in the current Rules, and could be of importance to Members in deciding who to appoint as their Proxy.

## **Reasons for the proposals**

In short, as previously mentioned, when Resolutions are put to the Members at AGMs or EGMs, the current Constitution and Rules only allow the votes of those present at the meeting to decide the outcome of the Resolutions. In a Society where Members are spread across the country and around the world, this arrangement is considered to be unfair and unrepresentative. The Committee feels that it is appropriate to get approval for the single matter of expanding the voting system prior to putting to Members any more substantive changes to the way the Society is run, such as those outlined in the consultation document on operations and Committee structure which also accompanies these papers.

## **Papers enclosed**

Enclosed with this covering letter you will find:

- The proposed Resolutions, along with the proposed changes to clauses 5 and 6 of the Constitution and Rules
- An example of a Form of Proxy for reference. **This cannot be utilised for the AGM on 10 November.**

A copy of the Society's current Constitution and Rules may be found at:

***<http://www.nottinghamhigh.co.uk/old-nottinghamians/on-committee-pages/current-society-rules/>***

or by requesting a copy from me.

If you wish to contact me regarding this or any other topic, please email me or write to me using the details below, and I will endeavour to respond.

Daniel Shaw  
President

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