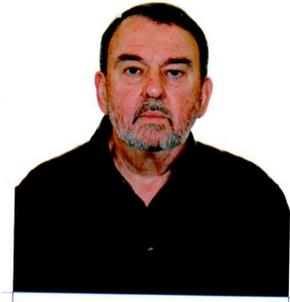


NOMINATION FOR CHAIR OF SOCIETY OF BOOKBINDERS - DAVID BROWN

Nominated by Hilary Henning (London & South) and seconded by Ray Newberry (L&S)



RESUME OF BACKGROUND EXPERIENCE

Before taking up bookbinding I worked in Shipping and Commerce. I finally joined IBM gaining experience in many aspects of business including Administration, Conference & Exhibition Management, Business Management and Development, Product Management and Marketing and Sales. I took the opportunity of early retirement in the late 1990s.

In retirement I wanted to expand my interests, learn new skills and take on something more practical. Bookbinding seemed to be the ideal choice. After a few short courses to see if I would make a relatively able binder I joined the Society and have been a member for 20 years.

Whilst practising binding I volunteered to take on other activities for the SoB. In 2005 and 2007 I was the Treasurer on the Conferences and in 2009 and 2011 I was the overall Organiser. For around 15 years I have served on the London & South Regional Committee. Ten of those years were spent as Chair of the Committee and attending Council as Trustee and Regional Representative.

I was also a Trustee and Director on the board of an independent cinema for 10 years, the last 3 of which I served as Chair before stepping down in August 2018.

MY OBJECTIVES AS CHAIR OF SoB

Firstly the Constitution of the Society needs updating and the liabilities of the Membership and Trustees sorted. We need to take stock of the situation the Society is in.

Recent proposals for structural changes to the organisation by making regions affiliates and a new draft Constitution have proved to be too complex, restrictive and excessive and have been rejected by Council. The Council has voted to seek independent professional advice. Exploratory discussions with specialist solicitors indicate that switching to becoming a "Charitable Incorporated Organisation" is the way forward to safeguard Trustee liability. The Solicitors did not think that turning regions into affiliates would suit the Society's needs.

Further work on the Constitution is being carried out by the Council with independent advice. I fully support this approach and would be keen to work with the advisers over the coming months to ensure the Society has broad a Constitution as possible and that Organisation Structure, Policies and Procedures together with Terms of Reference deal with the governance and decision making processes of the Society and are owned by the Society and not the Charity Commission. Guidance on the organisation of the Society would be considered as part of the discussions with the advisers and precise details of the organisation developed. I believe a more flexible Constitution and a structure of inclusive management, teamwork on the Council and regular liaison with Regional Representatives can ensure issues and anomalies are managed without recourse to dramatic actions and changes.

At the same time as getting the house in order we do need to pay attention to day to day matters and more importantly to the strategy and visions for the Society in the future. Education and Training and promotion of bookbinding and its associated arts and crafts are among our key objectives.

If elected, and with council's approval, I would seek to re-instate the position of Vice-Chair, to ensure due attention is given to these areas. The role would not only explore the direction members wish the Society to take and establish a strategy for approval but also shadow the Chair with a view to taking over at a later stage and thus providing continuity. If we had a Vice-Chair role in place already matters would have been dealt with in a smoother manner following the changes over the last eventful months.

Philippa Rader has stepped forward and offered her services as Vice-Chair and I would be delighted to work with her. Philippa's Biography speaks for itself as an ideal candidate to take the Society forward. A copy of her Biography is attached.