

1 **BRITISH INSTITUTE OF VERBATIM REPORTERS**

2 **PROCEEDINGS**

3 at the

4 **120th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

5 held in

6 **THE FLEET ARBITRATION CENTRE**

7 Hulton House
8 161-166 Fleet Street
9 London

10 on

11 **WEDNESDAY, 17 APRIL 2002**

12 **In the Chair:**

13 **Miss V. Wason**

14 **(President)**

15 -----

16 **Secretary/Treasurer: Mrs M. Sorene**

17 -----

18 **Council:**

19 **L. Bickers (President Elect), S. Carter, J. Chandler, V. Doyle (Immediate Past
20 President) N. Forrest, R. Freeman, A. Lloyd, J. Lukins, R. Nott,
21 V. Wason (President) and E. Willett**

22 **Present:**

23 **C. Armstrong, A. Bauers, R. Bell, B. Bennett, L. Bickers, C. Booth, L. Cordaro,
24 F.Dobson, S Dutton, V. Doyle, N. Forrest, P. Frith, S. Glanville, J. Gough,
25 P. Humphreys, S. Humphries, A. Kirk, A. Lloyd, J. Lukins, J. Littlewood, K. Maree,
26 R. Nott, M. Roberts, J. Roper, C. Slater, M. Sorene, A. Tang,
V. Wason, E. Willett, J. Whittaker, P. Woolgar**

1 THE PRESIDENT: I want to welcome you all to the 120th Annual General Meeting of the
2 Institute.

3 **Item 1 – Notice of the Meeting**

4 THE PRESIDENT: First of all, I call upon the Secretary to read the notice convening the
5 meeting.

6 **(The Notice of the Meeting was read)**

7 **Item 2 – Apologies for Absence**

8 THE PRESIDENT: We now come to apologies for absence.
9 Apologies were received from Francis Barrett, Lynn Briault, Ruth Bronzite,
10 Diana Burdon, Janet Callison, Stephen Carter, Jenny Chandler, Bob Freeman,
11 W. Frencham, Andrew Howell, Tara Matthews, Anne Mills, Heather Morris,
12 Mr Pardekooper, Mavis Ross, Ray Taylor, Helen Tennyson-Spelman,
13 Michael Thear and Joan Webb.

14 **Item 3 – Minutes of the 2001 AGM**

15 THE PRESIDENT: We come to the minutes of the last meeting which no doubt you will all
16 remember. We do have some spare copies of the minutes if anyone wants one. May
17 we take them as read and approve them?

18 **(The minutes were proposed by Jackie Roper and seconded by Jean Gough)**

19 THE PRESIDENT: We will take them as agreed.

20 **(The Minutes of the last AGM were agreed and signed as a correct record of the
21 meeting)**

22 **Item 4 – Presidential address**

23 THE PRESIDENT: We now come to my report, which you will be glad to hear will be short,
24 where I am going to review the past year's events.

25 **The Newsletter:** The newsletter produced by our hardworking Secretary wearing
26 the Editor's hat keeps you informed on all major events and new technology as it
becomes available. The first task that the Institute took up after the last AGM was to
set up a website. At the moment we have a brochure on there for prospective
stenograph students to download but we want to have a 'Members Only' area. When
we have a password for this, Members will be able to find the newsletter printed on it
together with other news as it becomes available. We hope eventually to have the
Institute's Manual there. We are presently scanning it and will probably make some
alterations. Most of us are still novices at using the web but it was hoped that within
the next few years our site will be used more extensively. It is called
www.bivr.org.uk.

1 On the related subjects of e-mails, may I ask those of you who have an e-mail
2 address who would be prepared to receive your newsletter, etc., in this form to let
the Secretary know. This will cut down a little on our printing and postage.

3 **Editing:** This is really for reporters in the Crown Courts, particularly new reporters,
4 as opposed to people here. I am afraid that our last newsletter contained some
5 errors in the passage on editing which I think was due to a rushed 'cut and paste' job
- rushing being just what we are saying you must not do and so I am sorry about
that!

6 At the risk of offending some of my colleagues, I feel that as a Crown Court
7 Contractor I must warn about too much editing in Crown Court transcripts. The
8 contract does say that the verbatim note must be "as uttered". Although I am not
9 suggesting that you take down every umm and er and stutter, you should try not to
edit the note as it is taken down. It is not for the reporter to say what is significant
and what is not. Defendants, in particular, get very upset if anything is edited out.
They remember jokes and, if they find them missing, are suspicious about the
accuracy of the rest of the transcript.

10 People in general challenge things more than they used to - for example, patients
11 and doctors - and I feel that our profession is no different. In the last few years,
12 I have been asked on several occasions if the note could be checked because the
defendant or counsel thought, for example, that the judge started to say something
13 or that the clerk started to put the verdict incorrectly and then corrected himself.
Unfortunately sometimes this is true and, although I quite understand why it was left
14 out, and probably the Court of Appeal would as well, we are left with less defence
nowadays with the Crown Court contracts worded as they are. Please put "(sic)" if
15 the judge or counsel get the name wrong rather than correcting it. Evidence should
be transcribed verbatim and summing-ups with very little editing. There is no need
16 to have one whole sentence from start to finish and you still do have to use your
common sense. If you leave anything out, i.e. chat about administrative matters,
17 indicate that there was such a discussion at the relevant place in order that the Court
of Appeal can ask for it if it becomes necessary.

18 It is a great skill to punctuate a transcript that is produced verbatim so that it can be
19 read intelligently and gives a true presentation of what was said. I well remember
receiving a message from the Court of Appeal to the effect that they were very
impressed by a reporter's use of punctuation in a transcript to clearly indicated what
20 was intended by the speaker without altering what was said in a muddled
submission. Sometimes our skill is noticed!

21 Again, I recommend our Manual as the profession's bible. It gives clear instructions
22 on punctuation. I use mine a great deal with the Latin phrases and also the names
of law books. As I say, we are planning to re-issue it and have it on the website.

23 **Digital Recording:** I wish once again to thank our speaker of last year, Martin
24 Bangs, for explaining digital recording, which the LCD is now committed to
introducing in the Crown Courts in the next few years. New wiring has been put in at
25 Bournemouth, for example, although to date the new machines have not arrived.
The trials that took place at Manchester in the latter part of last year were considered
26 by the Court Service to be successful and several transcribers prepared transcripts
from them. One of them was Naomi Forrest and she will be able to answer any

1 questions that you may have for her at this meeting. Not surprisingly, the ease of
2 transcription was again very much down to how well positioned the microphones
3 were. In that sense, nothing much has changed. It is easier to transcribe in that
4 you can home in on the specific point much more quickly and also have the log up on
5 the computer as you type. You will need to be Windows-based. I fear that Word
6 Perfect 5 in DOS will not do!

7 As I understand it, the clerk or logger with a keyboard will type in a code for the
8 speaker, then type in the topic in the same way as they now write it and, on pressing
9 the return carriage bar, the time is inserted. When something is searched for, you
10 type in the time and it can then be played back immediately. However, you cannot
11 type in a word search. So, again, how good it is will depend on the logger.
12 Obviously this will not be nearly as useful as Eclipse, but more of that later.

13 The software system that was chosen, FDR Gold, is the one that both the Courts and
14 Naomi, at any rate, like best, although I gather that some of the transcribers simply
15 said that all the systems were unsatisfactory.

16 If the tapes are going to be produced without a designated logger, all who have had
17 to transcribe from County Courts, particularly District Judges' cases, would agree
18 that it is likely to be very unsatisfactory indeed. At the last meeting in Manchester,
19 in November, the Court Service representative appeared to be watering down their
20 proposals, at least in the near future, by saying that perhaps they could manage
21 with, for example, five loggers in seven courts. They do appear to realise that the
22 unfortunate clerk cannot deal with a long list in court and do the work of a logger as
23 well. We were also told it was unlikely that every court would be converted to digital
24 recording by the time the new Crown Court contracts go out for tender and it would
25 again be a piecemeal changeover.

26 Fortunately, things usually take longer than they think. I remember that they first
proposed to get rid of shorthand writers in 1967 when I started as a reporter and
here we are, 35 years later, still going, although things have admittedly changed
a great deal.

The Court Service want to switch to digital recording for other reasons, such as
linking the log with their computer system. It will be a saving in storage as, instead
of cassettes, the recording can be stored in the computer and/or on CD ROM and
sent down the telephone line to the transcriber. Obviously there are considerable
benefits in this, but no doubt there will be plenty of hiccups ahead.

I believe that the transcriber will have to pay approximately £200 for the software
and foot pedal to use the system. This is considerably less than the playback
machines we currently use, but cases on cassettes will need to be transcribed for
a long time to come and we will probably need both playback systems for the next
10 to 15 years before all the Crown and Civil Courts are switched over.

Examinations: The Council have recently had several very good transcripts
produced by people wishing to join who are not Court Reporters but who work in the
deaf field doing speech to text. We have therefore decided to set up another
category of membership which will be "Member of BIVR, Accredited Speech to Text
Reporter".

1 **Weekend training course run in association with the National Association of**
2 **Deafened People:** This was run over the weekend of 21-23 September and proved
3 very successful. Unfortunately, I could not go myself as it coincided with a medical
4 procedure that I had to undergo (successfully completed, I am glad to say) but
5 I have heard nothing but praise for the weekend from those who attended. I had
6 attended a similar weekend some years ago and so I do know how enjoyable it was,
7 although very hard work. I must say that walking round the lake is one of my
8 strongest memories, but we all have different priorities!

9
10 Putting on these courses is very hard work for the Training and Technology
11 Committee, headed by Betty Willett, and also our Secretary, Mary Sorene, but I think
12 I can safely say that the success of the weekend is all the reward they want from it.
13 Even if only a small percentage of Members attended and found it useful in their
14 careers, then I personally think it is well worth putting on. Three people passed the
15 realtime examination: Frances Barrett, Caroline Booth and Julie Whittaker, and they
16 now become Qualified Realtime Reporters. I congratulate them.

17
18 All who attended, however, passed the Deaf Awareness examination and for that we
19 owe much thanks not only to the hard work of the individual reporter, but also to
20 Heather Jackson, who is such an excellent teacher.

21
22 **Sir Robin Auld's Review of the Criminal Courts:** This was published on 5
23 September and there did not appear to be anything relevant in it about us except the
24 fact that we might not in future be exempt from Jury Service. A pretty grim idea!

25
26 **Obituaries:** I am very sorry to report that Peter Girling died on 27 February. Peter
was a director of Marten Walsh Cherer and, for many years, a member of the Council
and President on several occasions. He was in the chair at the first Institute meeting
that I attended which I think would have been in the mid-1970s. I remember
making a strong speech urging, among other things, that the Institute change the
time of the AGM, which was during the day when most Court Reporters could not
attend. At the end, Peter said he had always felt that he was the only radical
Member but that he could now see he had support. It rather took the wind out of my
sails. Peter did an enormous amount of work for the Institute for which we are very
grateful. I know that there will be others here who knew him much better than I did
who will be able to pay him more tributes.

I have also just learned of the death of Claire Shepherd. Claire worked latterly in the
House of Lords. We extend our sympathy to her family.

Eclipse: I know that many of you have attended this meeting to see the
demonstration of Eclipse and, particularly for Palantypists, this looks a very exciting
development. Many excellent Palantypists have been severely handicapped by the
lack of development of the software to keep pace with that in Stenograph. Eclipse
should put us on a more equal footing. I am tempted to say that it will be the best
thing since sliced bread for Palantypists, but that is a rather double-edged sword as
I am doubtful if sliced bread is a good thing! We should all know much more about
Eclipse by the end of this meeting and so I will not say any more about it now.

The Financial Situation: You will know from the accounts that BIVR is now running
at a loss. This past year has been particularly expensive because of the seminar, but
we cannot go on exceeding our income indefinitely. The Council would therefore like

1 to put to this meeting that we increase our subscription by £5 per member. The
2 Council met on six occasions last year, seven including today. However, this does
3 not cost the membership anything due to the kindness of Fleet Arbitration who let us
4 use a room here without charge. Of one thing you can be sure: the Council does not
5 go on binges on your money.

4 **Tributes:** One of the first tributes that I must make is to Jenny Chandler, Managing
5 Director of Marten Walsh Cherer, who is leaving the Council, we hope only
6 temporarily. Jenny has done an enormous amount of work for the membership,
7 particularly at time of crisis when we are fighting LCD proposals to get rid of
8 reporters in the Crown Court. Perhaps it is only when you work with someone in a
9 crisis that you realise what a vast amount of work they do and how efficiently they
10 do it. We seem to have had so many battles over the years when Jenny has followed
11 in the tradition of partners and then directors of Marten Walsh Cherer in putting an
12 enormous amount into the Institute in time, work and, I suspect, emotion. All the
13 profession owe a great debt to her for the battles she has fought and often led for
14 reporters. I do hope that it is only a temporary break.

10 I also want to give a big thanks to Stephen Carter, a mere youngster in terms of
11 service, who is also leaving the Council due to his move to Torquay. Stephen is not
12 retiring but managing Barnett Lenton from there, a lovely part of the country. New
13 technology means that many reporters are living further and further away. I hear
14 that Andrew Howell is living near Glasgow while working for the BBC in London.

13 I mentioned Fleet Arbitration's generosity in letting us use their rooms and I thank
14 them for that and particularly Gillian, who has always been so helpful to us.

14 I must also thank Harry Counsell for letting us use their address and forwarding our
15 mail.

16 Lastly, I thank all my fellow Council members for their work this year, particularly
17 Betty Willett in leading the Technology Committee and last, but certainly not least,
18 Mary Sorene, who is a tower of strength to any President and very good at a gentle
19 but effective nag!

18 That is my speech, I am afraid rather weighted to the Crown Court because that is
19 basically the field in which I work. Are there any questions or comments?

20 JEAN GOUGH: Can you clarify the new category of speech to text reporting membership: is
21 that going to be Associate and Member?

21 THE PRESIDENT: No, it will be full Member. We now have the position where people are
22 coming in who would not produce a transcript in the way that we would normally
23 produce a transcript and, to get round that, we have introduced that separate,
24 equally honoured, position of Member.

24 JEAN GOUGH: Naomi, I gather you had something to do with the digital transcripts.

25 NAOMI FORREST: I did some transcripts from the tests that they carried out, yes.

26 JEAN GOUGH: What was the standard of the logs for the transcripts that you did?

1 NAOMI FORREST: Very good. Whether that was because it was a test ... It was just a trial
2 going on, not a long list of cases. The log is a very helpful feature. The recordings in
3 general were not particularly any clearer than the ones we get from the recordings
4 that are there at the moment, but having the log on the screen is very helpful. Yes,
5 very good and very detailed.

6 THE PRESIDENT: What view do people have about putting the fees up by £5? Do you think
7 there would be strong opposition to that? It is just that we are trying to balance our
8 accounts. It would make it £35 instead of £30.

9 NAOMI FORREST: It did come down some years ago, did it not?

10 THE PRESIDENT: It was at one stage £40 or £45.

11 NAOMI FORREST: I think it was £45.

12 THE PRESIDENT: It will bring another £600 or £700 in to the Institute. It is obviously no
13 good us doing this if everybody is going to leave as a result. What is the general
14 feeling?

15 JACKIE ROPER: I think it sounds very fair. We have not had an increase for such a long
16 time. I do not know how many years it is.

17 THE PRESIDENT: I think that if you pay £30, it is not going to matter terribly to pay £35 if
18 you want to belong and it is so useful to be a Member, certainly if you do any work in
19 the private field, because then you sign yourself in as Member of the British Institute
20 of Verbatim Reporters. In actual fact, it is useful for any of the contracts in that, if
21 you use somebody who is a Member, I think it is much easier to get another job, if
22 I can put it that way. May we have a show of hands on that, please. Do you all
23 agree that it should go up to £35? (Unanimously agreed) That will come in next
24 year; it will go up to £35 in January. It will be £15 for retired people and students.

25 We will now go on to the special resolutions. If I may just explain, all this means is
26 that we are having fewer people where we can hold a quorum. You must realise
that, on the Council, for example, people come from all over the place and, when we
sometimes have to call a meeting suddenly, we do not have enough people there and
it just does not count. We thought we could lower it in order that we could have a
quorum if we have four people and 15 for the AGM. I am very glad to see that we
have many more than 15 this year but we have sometimes struggled on the 20. It
does make a difference. Hopefully, we will get more people coming by having a
guest speaker of some sort to show whatever new technology is coming in.

Can we have a show of hands to bring the AGM quorum down from 20 to 15?

(Proposed by Barbara Bennett and seconded by Jackie Roper)

(Carried unanimously)

1 THE PRESIDENT: Do we approve that,
2 "The Council shall meet as often as necessary for the efficient conduct of the
3 business of the Institute. Five members at such meetings shall constitute a quorum,
except where the Council members number 12 or fewer the number shall be four."

4 **(Proposed by Barbara Bennett and seconded by Jackie Roper)**

5 THE PRESIDENT: Can we have a show of hands for that, please?

6 **(Carried unanimously)**

7 **(Resolution signed and dated by the President)**

8 **Item 5 – Treasurer’s Report**

9 THE PRESIDENT: I am now going to call on the Treasurer to make her report.

10 THE TREASURER: The accounts were not ready in time to send out to the general
11 membership but they are here now. (Same handed) Does anybody have any
12 questions on the accounts? I may not be able to answer them. It does show that we
are again running at a loss, although we do have some capital that we are eating
into each year. Our expenditure is exceeding our income.

13 VALERIE DOYLE: We have money in the bank but each year we are eating into it.

14 PAULINE HUMPHREYS: It is a comment rather than a question. Did I hear you correctly to
15 say that the proposed increase of £5 on the Institute fees would probably raise
between £600 and £700?

16 THE PRESIDENT: That is what I said. That is as I understood it.

17 PAULINE HUMPHREYS: Therefore my comment really rather than a question is, it still will
not cover the amount.

18 THE PRESIDENT: No, it will not, but we might get more Members. It is just that if we put it
19 up any more, it is a big jump percentage wise.

20 PAULINE HUMPHREYS: It is a balancing act.

21 JEAN GOUGH: On the face of it, it looks as if we had more Members in 2001 than in 2000.
How many did we have the year before?

22 THE TREASURER: That I do not know. We have been gradually going down each year.
23 People do not pay and, after this meeting, probably another 15 will be coming off
24 this number because they have not paid their subs this year. According to our rules,
they get notice and, if they do not pay them by the end of March, they are removed.
25 They are welcome to pay their subs and be reinstated. We have gone down over the
years from 400, each year going down.

26 THE PRESIDENT: I hasten to say that we always welcome people back if they pay up.

1 ROBYN NOTT: Perhaps if you work with someone who is a not a Member, you might remind
them to join or to rejoin!

2

3 CHRIS ARMSTRONG: On the question of membership, can people who are editors, not Live
Note and not writers, become Members of BIVR?

4 BETTY WILLETT: Do you mean scopists?

5 CHRIS ARMSTRONG: Yes, people who work with writers.

6 THE PRESIDENT: We do not have a category for them at the moment.

7 CHRIS ARMSTRONG: I know of two who want to join and wanted to come tonight, but
I said that I was not sure they could come.

8

9 BETTY WILLETT: They could have come tonight.

10 THE SECRETARY: We have non-Members here tonight.

11 CHRIS ARMSTRONG: But they are not allowed to join?

12 THE PRESIDENT: We discussed it at one stage but ...

13 ROBYN NOTT: It is called the British Institute of Verbatim Reporters; so, unless you are
a verbatim reporter, you cannot join us.

14 LINDSAY BICKERS: We would not have an examination for them to pass.

15 CHRIS ARMSTRONG: We are talking about loss of revenue and they do work very hard.

16 BETTY WILLETT: We did for a short period have a category of tape transcribers but, when
we did a reshuffle of our rules and everything, it was decided that we should keep it
to reporters.

17

18 PAM WOOLGAR: Is not a scopist or editor part of the profession?

19 BETTY WILLETT: You would not have to twist my arm very hard!

20 THE PRESIDENT: You would not twist mine. You can see that we would be divided on it,
but whether we should have an Associate membership of the people who work and
do that could be looked at. It is something that perhaps the new President might
look at.

21

22 BETTY WILLETT: Certainly in America there is scope for people who work as scopists and
transcribers to be some form of Member in the American body but, as I say, it was
a majority view that we should not go down that route.

23

24 THE PRESIDENT: We have not looked at it for quite a few years.

25

26 PAULINE HUMPHREYS: On that point of scoping, can scopists join any other association
and, if not, where is there any kind of regulation for them to pass?

1 THE PRESIDENT: I do not think there is. Of course, it is a very new thing, is it not? It has
2 only come in during the last few years. These are all good points to put forward at
3 an AGM in order that they can be looked at. As I say, you would never get complete
4 agreement on it but you might find that the majority view was that it was a good
5 idea to have scopist associates. Obviously quite a few people here think it is a good
6 idea. Can I get a feel of the meeting: do you feel it would be a good idea for the
7 Council to talk about this in the New Year, to talk about the possibility of extending
8 membership? Those who think it is a good idea, please show, in order that we can
9 get a good idea.

6 FROM THE FLOOR: What are we voting on?

7 THE PRESIDENT: The question is whether we should discuss extending our membership to
8 have Associate Members for people who are scopers. Do you think it is a good idea?
9 This is only to discuss it.

9 JACKIE ROPER: Before I vote, would somebody explain to me who pays a scoper and where
10 they work.

10 THE PRESIDENT: They work with reporters. Sometimes they will be paid by the firm ...
11 I imagine that they are normally paid by the firm, but they will often be paired with
12 a CAT reporter. A lot of the time, of course, they are reporters, they are just scoping
13 for that day. So they will often be Members of the Institute anyway. Nowadays, of
14 course, you will have people who are just doing that. (Show of hands) The majority
15 think that we should look into that and discuss it. That is all I am asking.

14 **Item 6 – Election of President Elect**

15 THE PRESIDENT: Some people have resigned and I have mentioned that. Those are
16 Jenny Chandler and Steven Carter and we are very sorry that they have gone. Some
17 people retire by rotation but, as there are more vacancies than candidates for the
18 Council, there is not an election, but we do welcome Ann Lloyd, who was co-opted
19 last year and she has been nominated and seconded this year, as have Karen Jobson
20 and Frances Dobson. They are also nominated and seconded. Frances is working in
21 Southampton today and she hopes to be here at around 7.00. As there is no
22 election, they duly come onto the Council.

19 We now move to the election of the President Elect and for this we have four
20 candidates: Naomi Forrest, Jean Lukins, Robyn Nott and Betty Willett. We will be
21 passing out voting slips and only Members or Fellows are eligible to vote.

21 **(Tellers: Jackie Roper and Pam Woolgar)**

22 THE PRESIDENT: Most unusually - I do not think it has happened before or certainly since
23 I have been on the Council - we have a tie. So you will have to vote again.

24 **(Tellers: Jackie Roper and Pam Woolgar)**

25 THE PRESIDENT: You will not believe it but we have a draw again!

26 BETTY WILLETT: Those of you who were here about three years ago will have heard me say
that I am never going to be President again! The only reason that I allowed my

1 name to go forward, apart from a bit of a mistake on the part of our Secretary in
2 putting it there, was that Equitable Life reared its head and I have had to go on
3 working. I am very happy for Robyn to be President, unless those who voted for me
4 object. Thank you for voting for me.

5 THE PRESIDENT: Then Robyn will be President. Congratulations, Robyn, and
6 congratulations Betty, too. It is fantastic that you both drew.

7 NAOMI FORREST: Can we make sure that we have an uneven number of people here next
8 year!

9 **Item 7 – Appointment of the Accountant**

10 THE PRESIDENT: This is Mr Kypri, who is now trading as Alliance Accountancy, and he is
11 willing to continue. He is a Certified Accountant. We do not have anybody else lined
12 up.

13 **(The appointment was proposed by Barbara Bennett and seconded by
14 Jackie Roper)**

15 **Item 8 – Date of Next Meeting**

16 THE PRESIDENT: The date of next year's AGM - I know you will all want to put this in your
17 diary immediately - is Wednesday 14 May, 2003.

18 **Item 9 – Any Other Business**

19 THE PRESIDENT: We are now going to have some refreshments and, while that is
20 happening, Cheryl is very nobly going to set up. Before we all rush to the
21 refreshments, due to our dire financial state, although admittedly we are going to get
22 an extra £5 from everybody, we did think that we would ask people to make a small
23 contribution towards the refreshments, just whatever they think, £1 or so. It will
24 just help a little.

25 LINDSAY BICKERS: There is a little plate on the side!

26 THE PRESIDENT: Is there any other business?

CHRIS ARMSTRONG: Our website has been mentioned but I wonder whether, when we next
send out the journal in hard copy, we could include the names, addresses and
e-mail addresses of Members, not just for Christmas cards! Pauline got in touch with
me in a rather diverse way to do a job in Slough. There could be somebody who
lives in Slough.

BETTY WILLETT: I do not think we can under data protection.

THE PRESIDENT: We never have done that, actually.

BETTY WILLETT: I do not think we can; I think it is against the law under data protection.

NAOMI FORREST: We did discuss it but decided that we could not do it.

1 CHRIS ARMSTRONG: How are you going to get round that on the website?

2 LINDSAY BICKERS: We are not going to give a list of addresses on the website.

3 CHRIS ARMSTRONG: I thought you were going to put addresses on the website.

4 THE PRESIDENT: No.

5 CHRIS ARMSTRONG: So you are saying that we cannot have each other's ...?

6 THE PRESIDENT: You can put a message on the website of your own.

7 CHRIS ARMSTRONG: I am not talking about the Internet and all that, I am just asking if we
8 can have a hard copy.

9 BETTY WILLETT: Chris, I honestly do not think we are allowed to.

10 CHRIS ARMSTRONG: But it is a very good idea.

11 BETTY WILLETT: It is a very good idea, but we are not allowed to by law.

12 CHRIS ARMSTRONG: If I get a request by Pauline to go to Slough, there might be
13 somebody who lives much nearer to Slough County Court than I do and I would be
14 able to ring them and say, "Hi, Fred; can you cover this appointment." If you think
15 about it, it would cut down the cost for the client. They are going to have my travel
16 expenses from Forest Hill to Slough.

17 THE PRESIDENT: We all think it is a brilliant idea ---

18 BETTY WILLETT: But I do not think we can do it legally.

19 NAOMI FORREST: I know that we have discussed it before, but we can look into it again.

20 BETTY WILLETT: You only need to have somebody object and say, "I did not want my
21 details to be given" and then we could be in court.

22 CHRIS ARMSTRONG: Could we say, "If you would like your name and address put on
23 there ..."

24 BETTY WILLETT: There is nothing to stop you going round this evening with a pen and
25 paper.

26 CHRIS ARMSTRONG: But you do think it is a good idea?

THE PRESIDENT: It is just not legal.

SUSANNAH GLANVILLE: I am available in Brighton!

ROBYN NOTT: When there is a Members' website, you can post messages on the site.

THE PRESIDENT: That is what I was trying to say.

1 ROBYN NOTT: So you could post a message saying, "There is a job in Slough; I cannot do
2 it; would someone else like it?"

3 CHRIS ARMSTRONG: But not everybody works on the Internet, do they?

4 ROBYN NOTT: They will have to if they want to find out what is going on!

5 (At this point there was general discussion on the new IR35 of which there had been
6 publicity in the media and people expressed their individual views.)

7 JACKIE ROPER: Before we close the meeting, may I just say a hearty thank you on behalf
8 of all of us here today and the membership for the hard work put in by yourself and
9 the Committee. We do appreciate it and we very much appreciate being kept
10 informed by Mary's newsletter.

11 **(Refreshments followed and then a demonstration of the by Cheryl Slater using the
12 Palantype system and Robyn Nott using the Stenograph system through
13 Eclipse followed with numerous questions from the floor)**

14 LINDSAY BICKERS: We would like to thank both Cheryl and Robyn for the very informative
15 demonstrations.

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