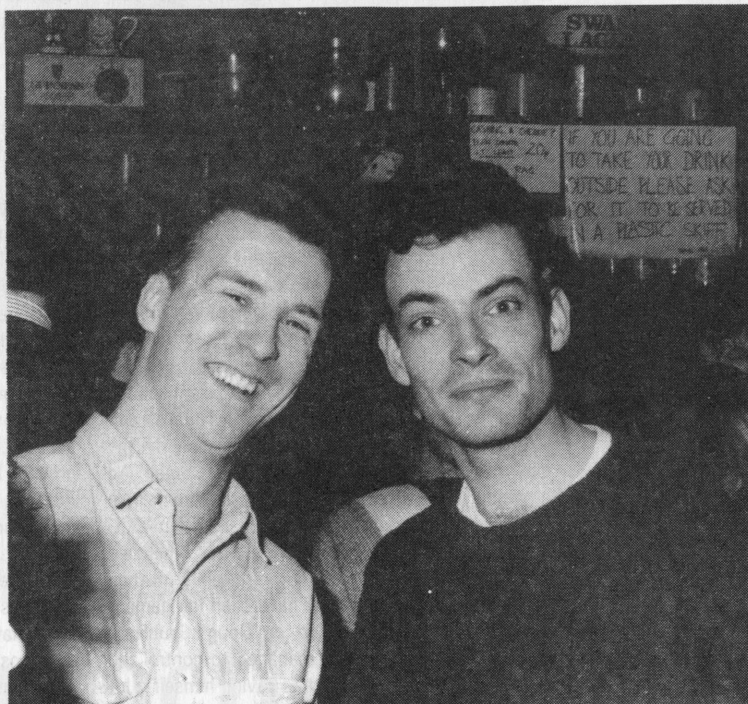


St Mary's votes swing deputy president election for a new election and finalise victory for president, Paul Shanley.

The worm that Turnered

New Election has won its first sabbatical election since its inception two years ago after a landslide rejection of Ben Turner in the election for Deputy President by students voting at St Mary's. Next year's ICU President will be Paul Shanley with strong support from Mary's. Chris Stapleton gained the post of FELIX editor and Murray Williamson will be Honorary Secretary (Events).

After a 2½ hour count, Paul Shanley won the presidential election at the final re-allocation with 555 votes against 363 votes for Doug King. Results before the first re-allocation were Doug King 289, Mark Orrow-Whiting 85, Athos Ritsperis 231, Paul Shanley 453 (with a vote from St Mary's of 165) and New Election 87. Speaking after his election, Mr Shanley said he felt 'Bloody marvelous.' He commended Doug King in particular for his 'extremely clean campaign.' He added that he was glad it was all over. Speaking on the support he had received from the voters at St Mary's, he said, 'I think they have an important role to play next year in the politics and the running of IC Union.'



Paul Shanley and proposer, Andrew Bannister.

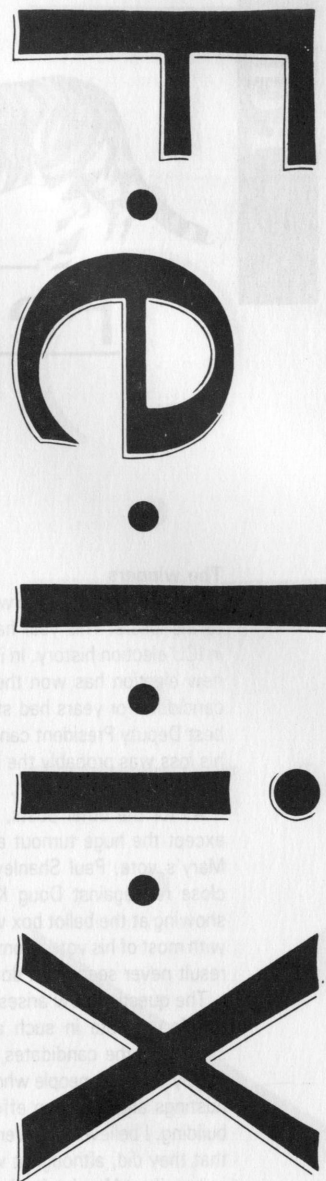


Next year's FELIX editor, Chris Stapleton, takes his first pint from the editor's pot.

Chris Stapleton won the election for FELIX editor by a strong margin, with 831 votes against 169 votes for Thomas Wyatt and 118 votes for new election. Asked how he felt about his victory, Mr Stapleton said, 'Bloody marvelous, it's about fucking time as well.' Frightened by the prospect of smoking up to 50 cigarettes a day by the end of his year, Mr Stapleton said 'I certainly hope to keep that down.' He added that the term 'mass resignation' meant nothing to him thankfully. Having won the election, Mr Stapleton said he was determined to pass his examinations.

In the election for Deputy President, New Election won with 603 votes to Ben Turner's 500. The poll at St Mary's made the decision, with 172 votes for new election against 3 votes for Ben Turner. Ben Turner said afterwards that he was unsure about restanding for the post.

In the election for Honorary Secretary (Events), Murray Williamson passed quota before the first re-allocation of votes with 566 votes against 236 for Ian Thomas and 190 for new election. Speaking after the result, Mr Williamson said 'So, I won...!' 'Is that cock enough?' he added.



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The winners

Congratulations to all the winners and commiserations to the losers. This year has seen the biggest shock in ICU election history. In its second year of running, new election has won the post for which the best candidate for years had stood. Ben Turner was the best Deputy President candidate for a long time and his loss was probably the hardest to bear. I hope he stands in the re-election.

As for the other posts, there were few surprises except the huge turnout at St Mary's. Without the Mary's vote, Paul Shanley would have had a very close run against Doug King. Ian Thomas' strong showing at the ballot box was also a close run thing, with most of his votes from Mary's. Chris Stapleton's result never seemed in doubt.

The question now arises; why did the students at St Mary's vote in such a polarised way? Having spoken to the candidates, it seems that St Mary's largely voted for people who went to them outside the hustings and made an effort in the halls and union building. I believe they were right to vote in the way that they did, although it was sad to see Doug lose so heavily at Mary's after he had spent a large amount of time over at Mary's. This must show a strong moral for next year's candidates; if you don't give a shit about Mary's they won't give a shit about you. Long live democracy!

It now falls upon me to slag off the winners. I remember what a bastard my predecessor was at this stage of the year and I refuse to predict their downfalls. Good luck to them all, it's a hard job whichever you're doing and you'll need all the luck you can get. Thomas Wyatt is dead, RIP ConSoc.

The dirt

This year's elections must rank as the dirtiest for years. The presidential election has been a farce. One candidate has broken nearly every rule in the book. That candidate is Athos Ritsperis. He has consistently flaunted every rule he could find. At times it has seemed as if he has searched for more to break. Within fifteen minutes of papers coming down he had broken the rule which states that no election candidate may use gum-backed stickers. The inevitable happened. The so-called 'badges' which Mr Ritsperis claimed were not for use as posters rapidly found their way onto walls and doors in college. Impossible to remove without the use of some sort of solvent, these stickers should have been enough to have Athos disqualified outright.

Not content with the shambles which he rapidly disowned, Mr Ritsperis proceeded to push his luck with the receipt for his stickers. A scrawled piece of paper was all there was to show for the supposed 288 stickers produced. The amount? £3.65. As print unit manager I would like to make an order for a few thousand such stickers. The figure is so cheap I know

that the ICU print unit cannot beat it. The only way in which the stickers could have been produced for such a small charge, is a fiddle.

Athos must have had to search pretty hard for another rule to break after the stickers, but he managed. Not content with his maximum 3000 handouts he persuaded his chums in Hellenic Society to produce a newsletter promoting him. As usual, Mr Ritsperis disclaimed all knowledge of the incident. This was pretty bloody amazing since Athos rang me within minutes of my refusal to release the material before it was approved by the Returning Officer. How couldn't he have known about the handout, when he rang to complain about the delay on its release? The answer is simple he was, and is, a lying git.

On the same day, Athos started to use handouts as posters. Yes, he had finally found the only unbroken rule so far! Claiming that it was his supporters, and not him, Athos was let off the hook. For a candidate to be disqualified they must be caught in the act, it seems. With God seeing all but Mr Ritsperis' blatant cheating the other candidates were almost certainly disadvantaged by his behaviour.

Then the day of voting came. With the rule which states that candidates shall not canvas around the ballot box in mind, Mr Ritsperis stood at ballot boxes pointing at the box next to his name saying 'put a 1 there.' I know that candidates sometimes place handouts near the box, but this behaviour is inexcusable. Not only does it assume that voters do not have a mind of their own, it displays yet another attempt to rig the ballot.

Then came the CCUs and their idiotic plans to help their candidate, Doug King. Doug's a pleasant enough bloke, and had the ability to win under his own steam. The CCUs wanted to be sure of it. Not only did the dim-witted Broadsheet Editor print a Small Ad promoting Doug King (fair enough, apart from the rule that says that candidates shall not make use of CCU publications for publicity), but City and Guilds hatched a plan to print free T-shirts with the slogan 'I'm voting for Dougie.' The latter would have been fair game if the cost had been included on Doug's publicity budget. Fortunately, Doug managed to control the production of the T-shirts, thus saving himself a lot of trouble.

Mr Shanley is not without blame. As a non-member of IC Union last year, he stood at UGMs and opposed the election of other candidates to the post of UGM Chair. This enabled him to take the vacant post this year, as he became a student. There is no doubt that this post gave Mr Shanley a huge amount of publicity as well as another union post under his belt.

Prompted by Mr Ritsperis' wish to produce extra posters to replace those which had blown down, both Mr King and Paul Shanley had extra ones printed. A careful twist in the rules allowed this to happen. Candidates who asked had more posters than the accepted maximum of 300. With a precedent like this set, next year's candidates should be allowed as many posters as they like. After all, how many have blown down? There is no way that the returning officer can be sure. With no need for any real receipts, they might as well have had no budget limit set. The Union might as well have said 'Do what you like, we're not bothered.' There is no doubt in my mind that the reason the elections have been such a farce this year, is the appalling way in which elections committee and Fiona Nicholas have interpreted the election rules. I don't know why they bothered with the rules, nobody else did. It should be added that the election rules are now almost certain to be rewritten with much stricter guidelines in mind.

The real dirt

The worst behaviour has not been exhibited by a candidate but an ex-union president, who should know better. Sydney Harbour-Bridge has interfered in

something in which he no longer has any say. Concerned for the future of his union, this ex-president of 1987-88 decided to mount a campaign against one candidate and to attempt to draw another under his wing. Promising votes galore through his warden chum, and one-time proposer, Ken Young, Mr Harbour-Bridge offered to back Doug King's campaign against Paul Shanley. Seeing this election puppetry for what it was, Doug declined the offer. Syd was desperate.

Having suffered at the hands of the libel column in FELIX during his year as president, Mr Harbour-Bridge was almost certain the author was Paul Shanley. Having seen the 'damage' this column had done to the union (well him anyway), Mr Harbour-Bridge was determined to stop Mr Shanley at all costs. Mr Harbour-Bridge had another motive for his dirty dealings which follow shortly; his undying admiration and adoration of Jen Hardy-Smith, the union administrator. There is no doubt that little love is lost between Mr Shanley and Ms Hardy-Smith. Sydney saw the election of Paul Shanley as a threat to the status quo imposed upon the union by Ms Hardy-Smith.

He had to stop the nomination of Mr Shanley going ahead if nothing else. He had a member of college staff check the registry and finance records for any outstanding bills or faults in Mr Shanley's registering with college. Could Mr Shanley be banned from standing because he had faced a disciplinary board over one matter? Could his outstanding bill for the Beans Club prevent him from standing? One thing is for sure, Mr Harbour-Bridge made a vindictive campaign to stop Mr Shanley standing for ICU President and pulled every string he could to ensure success, before he realised that there were no grounds for preventing Mr Shanley from running. The question still stands. Who was the staff member who made enquiries into Mr Shanley's records: a member of staff in the Union Office or Ken Young?

If a permanent member of union staff made the enquiries they have committed a serious offence. They have attempted to influence the sabbatical elections which they have no right to interfere in. If Ken Young is the perpetrator, his position as a warden must be brought into question.

Whoever made the enquiries, one thing is for sure, Mr Harbour-Bridge's interference in these elections is unforgivable. Not only has he proceeded to tell everybody not to vote for Paul Shanley (with no alternative offered, it seems) he has used every possible opportunity to intervene in the elections. He planted questions at the hustings and scrawled DON'T VOTE FOR PAUL SHANLEY on the sign-out sheets in Linstead Hall. A petty thought, maybe, but then everything Mr Harbour-Bridge has done during these elections has been petty. The multitude of perverse actions taken by Mr Harbour-Bridge have culminated into a festering mess. Not only is Mr Shanley unimpressed, Mr King has little respect for Mr Harbour-Bridge now.

Jackie Scott? The ultimate puppet for Mr Harbour-Bridge. As the candidate who would give up her time booked in the print unit to another candidate, Ms Scott fell for the game plan. Mr Harbour-Bridge had hoped St Mary's President, Rhyddian Hapgood, would stand at the last minute. Rhyddian finally decided for the sensible option of keeping out of the whole mess in favour of a more worthwhile career. Seeing that Rhyddian was not going to stand, Jackie withdrew, in a fit of panic, realising that she could well have won.

I'm sorry Syd, but in your own words, IT HAD TO BE SAID.