

A PERSONAL STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I would like members of the Club to know well in advance that I have informed Council that I will not be standing for re-election as Chairman at the next AGM.

I have taken this decision with considerable regret. I have thoroughly enjoyed being Chairman and have been very proud to be associated with the Club at a time when its profile and reputation have risen so considerably.

However, by April 2004 I shall have served as your Chairman for five years and most of the plans I set out when I first took office have now come to fruition. It therefore seems the right moment to step aside and make way for someone else to lead us through 2005 and beyond.

Moreover, as I think most of you know, I am very closely involved with the very ambitious programme of events that is now planned for 2005 and, in addition, I have a number of important academic projects to complete in time for the bicentenary - above all, the *Nelson Letters Project*! I am acutely aware that I am already not giving as much time to the Club as I have in the past and I can see that this is going to get worse, not better, as 2005 approaches. On a personal level, too, I need to focus my energies and thoughts at a time when I am going to be extremely busy!

A number of people are already considering whether they might stand for election and if any member is interested in leading the Club I would be delighted to hear from them. You do not have to have served on the Council - the only requirement is that you must have been a member for three years or more.

Colin

