**Report from the Chairman of the Governance Committee**

The past year has been a relatively straightforward year from the governance perspective, with little sign of major controversy or crisis, so this report will be notable for its brevity.

The Board has continued to function as a cohesive team, with, as reported last year, the inevitable occasional disagreement being settled without giving rise to ongoing problems. Board meetings have been conducted sensibly and efficiently, although one minor gripe would be that the occasional meeting has suffered from low attendance, but that is perhaps the inevitable consequence of many of the Board’s members having work commitments.

As for the activities of the Governance Committee itself, a considerable amount of time was devoted to developing proposals for voting reform, rejected by Council in April but returning, in diluted form, at the AGM. Other tasks have involved a general review of the Bye-Laws and Regulations to ensure they are up-to-date and in line with current laws and practice and a review of the extent to which, a year or so on, the Pearce Committee recommendations are being complied with. There was little of note outstanding here; however, there is a need to comply with the requirement for board minutes to be on the website within 21 days of the relevant board meeting and the relevant people are being encouraged to ensure future compliance.

The Pearce Report recommends that the annual report of each Standing Committee sets out specific recommendations for Council to endorse and for Council or the Board, as appropriate, to implement, with agreed time limits for implementation. Apart from the above failing, which is being dealt with as described, the Governance Committee has no items for specific recommendation this year.

Robert Stern 19th September, 2017