



## *International Visitation Trophy*

Sir, As Brothers no doubt remember, the late Campbell Hewson donated a trophy, open to all Catenians, to be awarded for visiting a Circle or Circles in another country.

The winner of the trophy for the year 2009/10 is Michael Henderson of Aberdeen Circle who had made a trek to Australia and had visited a joint meeting of Swan Valley and Avon Valley Circles. The runner up was Mike Withers from Wokingham – Berks Circle who made a trip to Zimbabwe, visiting Harare and Bulawayo Circles. This is Michael's second triumph – he was the first ever winner of the trophy.

Fife St Margaret Circle are now taking claims for the new Catenian Year 2010/11. The rules are simple – submit a claim to me with the number of miles travelled to attend a meeting (or group of meetings in any one journey) and the Brother with the highest mileage wins. If you accompany Grand President on any official visit, though, then this doesn't count. My e-mail address is John\_McLean@tesco.net

**John McLean**

Secretary

Fife St Margaret Circle

## *When Is A Conference Not A Conference?*

Regarding the Bournemouth Conference, even though the Conference timing was well controlled this time, finishing eight minutes early, there was still no provision for Brothers to raise any comments or suggestions from the floor.

Surely there could be a way of providing for this, even if Brothers could only speak for a few minutes? Such a provision would enable us to have a proper Conference next time.

**Tony Kay**

Vice-President, Cirencester  
South Cotswolds Circle

## *A Separate Species?*

Sir, I have long been struck by the warmth and enthusiasm which Brothers show to their wives after a dinner or some other joint celebration calling for after-dinner speeches, in which reference is made to the contribution made to the success of the evening by the ladies.

It seems to me that our view of our ladies and their importance in our lives is at variance with the now popular image of women held by both sexes in which they are seen as almost a separate and rival species.

Hence, no sooner has the election result been announced than we are wondering

if more or fewer women have been returned for this or the other party; how many there are in the Cabinet? In what posts? Our attention is repeatedly drawn to the fact that girls are outperforming boys at school and filling the first places at university. The ceiling at work may be made of glass but they are bursting through in ever larger numbers. I find myself gritting my teeth, but why? Aren't we all just people after all? Must I regard women as rivals? Seemingly so, for women are also taking possession of male sports. They play rugby, soccer, climb Everest, sail unaccompanied round the world and box. I have even read that they are planning to procreate without the aid of men or become Catenians which I trust is alarmist nonsense. More unpleasantly, young women seem set on showing their brothers that they can outdrink and outfight them and, if necessary, outstrip them at weekends. Yet God seemed clear on the subject at the Creation. "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he them; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply..." It would seem from this that far from being from rival tribes man and woman were made to form a unity, to function as one in making new life and provide the setting in which that life could flourish. Each without the other is incomplete, neither one is necessarily subordinate, together they form the rock on which society is based. What a pity if women were to disdain the manifold maternal gifts they possess to trade them for the gracelessness which so often necessarily characterises male behaviour.

**Tony Holland**

West Middlesex Circle

## *Chesham Place – Disappointing!*

Sir, It was disappointing to read in the latest edition of Agenda that serious difficulties are being experienced with the property in Chesham Place. This is of particular concern as it is, as far as I am aware, the only investment held by the Association. Additionally, The Benevolent Fund's share of the property is a very substantial part of the Fund's total assets. Perhaps I was not so ill informed, as many suggested at the time, when I wrote to you in 2004 expressing my reasons for opposing the development and retention of the building as being an inappropriate investment for the Association. A phrase used at the time was that Chesham Place 'was the jewel in the crown'. It seems that the jewel is now somewhat flawed and the crown has become tarnished!

Agenda does not tell us, however, the cost that has now to be met to put the

building in good order, where these funds are to be sourced, the amount of rent which is being withheld by the former tenant and why this has occurred. In view of the importance of this investment property to the Association as a whole, the provision of some basic detailed figures and background information would seem to be appropriate in the interests of transparency. I seem to recall that the last time the Association had trouble with a tenant in Chesham Place, it became a costly matter to resolve.

**Patrick O'Donoghue**

City of Winchester Circle

## *Professional Catenians?*

Sir, I refer to the advertisement on Page 5 of the June issue for a very attractive dinner in Manchester to take place on 3rd June. I was surprised to read that the dinner was being organised by the Catenian Association. I was even more surprised to read that those who were asked to consider attending were to include professionals – accountants, lawyers, surveyors, architects and doctors. I am a retired Chartered Accountant myself. I had been successively on holidays and in hospital for about four weeks when my copy arrived and had therefore no opportunity of enquiring about the content before last evening when our circle meeting took place. As it happened, a Director and two Provincial Presidents were present among many others. Principally, all were able to reassure me and the many brothers present who would not be described as professionals in the sense emanating from the advertisement, the Association had not and would not organise such an event. However intended, such an event would smack of imagined elitism among some "professionals", something which so bedevilled and confused recruitment and membership in the Association in the past. The feeling of our meeting was that I should write you so that my letter could reassure brothers in other circles who might have been troubled by this possibility. I have sent a copy of this letter to the contact named in the advertisement who may care to clarify to you how it is claimed the Association is the organiser and, since it appears it may not be, whether the organiser is a circle or simply a group of members acting on their own initiative. He may also be happy to confirm that, notwithstanding how it might have seemed from the advertisement, the organisers are perfectly aware that the Association is not elitist on any basis now and unlikely to be in the future.

**Kevin O'Connor**

Hull Circle