

Proposal to change current Rules 11 and 14 of the IACR Rule Book.

This is a Proposal to change IACR current Rules 11 and 14 – see below paragraphs – by removing the position of Association Librarian as an Officer of the Association.

11. That the management and property of the Association shall be vested in the Executive Council. The Executive Council shall consist of a President, Ringing Master, General Secretary, General Treasurer **and Librarian**. In addition, each District shall be represented by a Vice President, Ringing Master, Secretary and representative for each 50 members or part thereof. No Association Officer shall hold the same post for more than five consecutive years.

The new Rule 11 to read as ...

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Rule 14

14. That all nominations for the offices of President, Master, **Librarian**, General Secretary and General Treasurer shall be in the hands of the General Secretary at least 14 days before the Annual Meeting of the Executive Council. The nominations shall be considered by the Executive Council at its annual meeting and in the event of their accepting more than one nomination for any office a ballot of those present entitled to vote shall decide.

The new Rule 14 to read as ...

14. That all nominations for the offices of President, Master, General Secretary and General Treasurer shall be in the hands of the General Secretary at least 14 days before the Annual Meeting of the Executive Council. The nominations shall be considered by the Executive Council at its annual meeting and in the event of their accepting more than one nomination for any office a ballot of those present entitled to vote shall decide.

New Rule 16 to read as ... (insert after the Rule describing the Master).

16. The position of Association Librarian should be filled via a proposal and seconded from the AGM attendees as an agenda item per normal AGM business. If there are 2 or more nominees a vote shall be held, with the person obtaining the most votes declared as Association Librarian.

Should a vote be required, the Association President shall decide whether by a “show of hands” or by secret ballot.

All subsequent Rules to advance by 1 number.

Discussion:

The position of Association Librarian has, since the inception of the Association, been considered an Officer of the Association. However, in current reality, the Association, like so many other similar organisations is administered by the President, Ringing Master, General Secretary, and General Treasurer.

The role of the Librarian is to ensure the contents are accessible at the request of members and to update the library listing as new items are received.

Part of Rule 11 states that “No Association Officer shall hold the same post for more than five consecutive years”. This portion of the rule was changed recently to exclude the Association Librarian, as there was no person interested in taking on the position.

By making this exclusion, we open the possibility of doing the same for any of the other Association Officers in future years for the same or similar reasons.

This is **managing by exception**; it is not a good management process and is best avoided.

In addition, conversational consensus would suggest that the Association Librarian should be based in, or close to, Dublin as the library is currently housed in St. Patrick’s Cathedral. This however effectively rules out a Northern or Southern District member acting as the Association Librarian. As it is usual practice to rotate the Officer positions around the Districts, precluding Southern or Northern members from an Officer position could be construed as poor management.

Proposed by Kieron Brislane.

Seconded by Andrew White.

February 2024.