

For consideration at OEC AGM 21 November 2011

PROPOSAL TO AMEND CONSTITUTION OF THE OLD EDINBURGH CLUB

(As last amended at AGM 16 November 2009)

The Club funds have been growing steadily healthier in the last year or two, in part because we have successfully applied to HMRC for Gift Aid refunds for the last few years. The Club now has more funds in hand than it needs for its normal range of activities (including a regular publication of the *Book of the Old Edinburgh Club*), and it would seem therefore reasonable to use the extra funds for the public benefit. To enable us to make better use of the Club funds, however, we realised that we needed to make a slight change to the Club constitution, as currently it could be argued that we could not spend funds on matters other than the usual activities.

Members should understand that the Club Council, in discussing the possible uses of Club funds, is sure that it will only seek to spend money beyond what it deems necessary to support its usual activities, and there would be an annual cap on any spending on what might be called special projects (probably to be determined by the state of the Club funds at the end of each financial year).

The **current constitution clause 2** reads as follows:

“The objectives of the Club shall be the study of all aspects of the history of Edinburgh, and the promotion and encouragement of interest in Edinburgh by means of lectures, visits and publications.”

After discussion at the Club Council meeting on 13 December 2010 about the advisability of widening the objectives, the following **revised version of clause 2** was drafted:

“The objectives of the Club shall be the study and support of all aspects of the history of Edinburgh, and the promotion and encouragement of interest in Edinburgh by means of lectures, visits, publications and appropriate activities for public benefit.”

This revised version was sent to OSCR, the Scottish charities regulator, for their comment in January 2011, and it has received their approval.

The Club Council therefore recommend to the AGM that the revised version of clause 2, as rendered above, be adopted. If the change is approved, and once OSCR has been formally notified of the change, the Club Council will then draft and make available on the Club web-site a statement setting out the type of special projects that it might support in 2011-12, and seek suitable applications for funding, to be assessed by the Council.