

much about what goes on behind closed doors, after all, it's what matters in the end, the conclusion is what really matters and affects us.

I cannot help but notice that whenever Ian Abel's letters appear in any of the magazines or journals, they have a distinct apathetic and completely anti-establishment air about them. I think he delights in trying to 'nit-pick' at any likely snippet of potentially harmful publicity and revels in blowing it up out of all proportions to fan the flames of his own contorted views. His comments about the membership of the RSGB falling — so what if they are? Why should he be bothered? He isn't even a member, and I for one think he doesn't deserve ever to become one again. I really suspect that support for his ill fated Amateur Radio Novice Licence Campaign is falling much more rapidly.

As a footnote, I notice that he has even tried to take some of the credit for the draft proposal sent by the RSGB Council to the DTI on the subject of an Intermediate Amateur Licence. My own thoughts are that if everyone ignores Ian Abel, as well they should he might just go away.

John Smith

Sir, I was interested to read in the

letter from Ian Abel (August issue) that RSGB membership is falling. I say this because in his report for the financial year ending on 30th June 1984, the Society's Secretary stated that there had been an increase of 6.73% compared with 5.13% during the previous year, and also that this increase was more than maintained during the first few months of the current financial year.

Since the figures for the current year ending in two day's time will not be published until nearer the end of the year, many of us would like to know what grounds Mr Abel has for making such a remark. Has he some 'inside information' concerning some sudden reversal of fortune? Is he suggesting that the Society deliberately issues false figures, or is this just another case of "empty vessels"?

I trust that your correspondent and also the RSGB will be asked for their further comments.

Denis O'Neill.

The above letters on the 'Open Society' question were all received before the September edition of HRT was published, with the Opinion piece 'RSGB — an Open Society' from Geoff Smith, G4AJJ. As a magazine, we do

not yet have enough undisputed evidence to come to our own opinion on this topic, so we see our role as to give room to all sides of opinion.

CHEERS 'N' PERRIER?

Sir, Further to D B Slack's letter in the August issue of HRT. May I suggest that the first step in divorcing radio from alcohol should be the phasing out of "Cheers 'n' Beers"! I'm TT, and most of my friends have learned to wish me "Cheers 'n' Perrier" already.

Paul Thompson, G6 MEN.

Sir, What a shame Mr Slack, G3 GFE, is missing out on the good, clean, booze-free Radio Club meetings that are around. If only he were to look further than the fantasies in his over active imagination, he could well find the majority of clubs are tee-total. I am a lady operator whose club meets in a school classroom and serves only tea and coffee or hot chocolate to young and old alike.

Mrs C J Critchley, G1 GUN.

No 'hic!' response needed!

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