

29th March, 1920.

My dear Fisher,

When we were discussing the Rules the other day you suggested an interpretation of my proposals which I now believe was correct, and that my own reading of my own rules was incorrect. I do not think anybody but you saw the point and I should, therefore, be obliged if you would let me know whether you think it would not make the rules clearer if they were amended in the following way :-

Rule IX.     Strike out "if in place of any name erased in the second column by a Member, more than one name is inserted in its place,...."

Insert "If a Member shall enter a larger number of names in Column 3 than are erased in Column 2,..."

Then, after the word 'spoilt' (§ 1, line 10) insert "A name entered in Column 3 opposite a name not erased in Column 2 shall not count as a vote for the name so entered in Column 3. The same name entered more than once in Column 3 against more than one name erased in Column 2 shall only count as one vote for the name so entered in Column 3."

I also suggest that the following words should be added at the end of §5 "and the vacancy thus created shall not be filled up at that meeting".

If you can suggest any improvement on this, please do so. I send you a copy of Rule IX as adopted by the Council.

Yours sincerely,

*Leonard Darwin*

IX. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND NEW MEMBERS  
OF THE SOCIETY.

1. Prior to the Annual General Meeting of the Society, the Council shall prepare a sufficient number of Balloting Lists according to the form in the Appendix. The first column of each shall contain a list of the existing Council; the second the list proposed by the Council for election to the Council, and the third be open to receive names which any Member may wish to substitute for any of those proposed for election by the Council. [If in place of any name erased in the second column by a Member, more than one name is inserted in its place,] the ballot paper shall be held to be spoilt. One of the ballot lists shall be available for each Member present at the Annual Meeting. Any names of persons qualified to fill vacancies occurring on the Council, with their qualifications, suggested in writing to the Secretary before the first of May by Members, will be considered by the Council in drawing up the Balloting list.

2. The Chair shall be taken at the time in the notice; whereupon the Chairman shall appoint two or more scrutineers, during its progress, and when it is closed, to examine the lists, and report the result to the Meeting.

3. Each Member voting shall deliver his balloting list, folded up, to one of the Scrutineers, who shall immediately put it into the balloting box.

4. The Scrutineers at the close of the ballot shall examine the lists and report the number of votes for each person to the Chairman, who shall declare the persons on whom the election has fallen, according to the majority of votes cast.

5. If the name of any candidate is found to be simply erased in the majority of the balloting papers, with or without any name being substituted, as provided in paragraph 1 of this section, such candidate shall not be elected.