

Dear Greg

Thank you for your letter (copy attached) as it has refocused my attention to this matter.

Thank you for explaining how a committee works.

This document will form the basis of my eventual wider communication to the BVWS membership.

Your letter suggests I will no longer be (or want to be) a member of the BVWS! I am a fully paid up member and will continue to be so. Whose gem was it to suggest this? If you think applying pressure and stress on me while I am ill will make me back away you are wrong.

I have never seen such a misrepresented laying out of the facts. You blithely ignore the core issues as if they never existed.

As your letter is misleading, I should state for clarity Jeremy Owens email (attached) started this whole chain of events. I have always done the correct thing and behaved in the best interests of the membership.

This matter was about excess RetrotechUK funds, theft of donations to the BVWTM, and the abuse Benita and I were subject to by a BVWS member.

It is a blatant lie to claim that this matter was about use of BVWS excess funds (as your letter states). In any case, all BVWS excess funds belong to the membership, not to you or the committee. Excess RetrotechUK funds have already been allocated to the BVWTM by a membership decision and the committee has no right to ignore the membership.

It is a lie to state I have had public disagreements with the committee. It is with you and Jeremy Owen alone.

I put my intention to resign from the committee as you say. I then had an email from you asking me to reconsider and to give a formal decision by midweek. I agreed. I informed you I would not resign; also, to not tell the committee I had resigned, and that I requested an EGM. I asked for this to be a committee matter and that it was not right for you to deal with this alone. You drivelled on about having big shoulders and being some sort of tough guy and refused to give the committee any input until you told them not to talk to me and that I was out.

You then said you would take extracts from my emails as formal resignation, and ignored my request for an EGM.

I then said this was not right and that I wanted an EGM.

You replied 'There will absolutely be no EGM, I refuse your request.'

I am not putting 'my side of the story'; it is right and proper that I make the membership aware of the potential crooked shenanigans and the incompetent and dishonest way the committee chairman has behaved, along with unbelievable email sent by Jeremy Owen. Please call me a whistle blower.

You dealt with this entire matter in an autocratic fashion with no regard to fair play of honesty. That is not how a committee works.

For your information the BVWS is an unincorporated association. Please read the following extract: -

Is an unincorporated association recognised at law?

Unlike an incorporated organisation (for example, a limited company) an unincorporated association is not a "legal entity" in law. Therefore, it has no legal rights and is not separate from its members. It follows that individual members are legally responsible for the acts and omissions of the entire organisation.

I believe that to defraud or to show intent to defraud the BVWTM would be a criminal act and the entire membership would be legally responsible for this. Please explain why you do not know, understand, or care about this.

This issue was and always will be about honesty and integrity within the BVWS committee. You can attempt to prevent people discovering the truth about this matter but I have copies of all emails relating to it.

Your handling of this entire matter has been weak and inept, and throughout you have taken the path of least fuss rather than stand up to the real issues.

Regarding RetrotechUK excess funds, I had to explain to you that the RetrotechUK (formally called the National Vintage Communications Fair, NVCF) event was purchased by the BVWS with the agreement of the membership, with excess funds from this event used to support projects at the Dulwich Museum. You or the committee have no right to override any membership decision without their permission.

Jeremy Owens email was unbelievable and actually put forward to the committee an intention to defraud the BVWTM. Do you not agree?

Jeremy Owen and Jeffery Borinsky have always represented the BVWTM interests at this event and after Owens email I dug further and discovered both Owen and Borinsky were trustees of alternative, fledgling museums. I queried this and it turned out that Borinsky at least was using the Museum B&B as a venue to sell donated items for his particular museum. He was no longer collecting donations for BVWTM but for his own. In Owens email, he states that while acting as a representative of the BVWTM he has discussed the B&B with others suggestion taking it away from the BVWTM. This shows a clear lack of integrity. Do you not agree?

I stated that there was a potential conflict of interest here, Owen ranted that I was talking rubbish. I asked why they had not declared their involvement with museums other than the BVWTM and Owen stated they did not need to. This again shows a lack of integrity. Do you not agree?

However, the most damning section of Owens email is the following: _

‘The higher value B&B donations items could be filtered off to Mikes stall, and less desirable items from Mike’s stores pushed onto the B&B.’

Do you and the committee not think this would be theft and therefore illegal?

To me (and others) it shows clear intent to defraud the Museum. Your response to this was ‘can you prove it?’ Just read the email! You cannot be that misguided you do not understand intent.

I tried to find a way to work with this. Owen spoke to me apologising and stating ‘sorry to have blotted my copy book’. He begged me to allow him to continue on the B&B and that he had a good friend who always came along to help and it would put him in an awkward position to not offer him free entry at an event he enjoyed helping at. He stated he would drop Borinsky and said he could advise me on ‘how to handle him’. He informed that all the relevant documentation to run the BVWTM B&B was in his hands and it would not be able to function properly without him.

Foolishly, I agreed to let him help under the supervision of the BVWTM chairperson. I must point out that I was recovering from sepsis at the time and not making the best decisions.

It turns out it was a bad decision because as soon as he felt secure he started to manipulate the BVWS, the BVWTM and the B&B again.

He called me demanding that Borinsky get a free stall, that he gets £70 for the previous event, also that he gets £70 at the new event for staffing the door by the BVWTM stall and the free stall should be by the BVWTM stall. I assume he was trying to repair his relationship with Borinsky who, in his rant to myself and Benita, had said of Jeremy Owen 'he is a double C**T, he is supposed to be a close friend of mine'

The BVWS Chair and Vice Chair (that was you and I Greg) had already discussed the matter at length on the phone, particularly the situation with Borinsky. He had screamed abuse down the phone at me but had also stated he had a large amount of donations to sell for his own museum that he had intended to sell via the BVWTM stall.

The BVWS Chair and Vice Chair (again that was you and I Greg) agreed after lengthy discussion that Borinsky, if he wanted a separate stall to sell his goods for his charity would get his £70 for staffing the door at the previous event, but would pay for any stall and helpers in the same way as any other stallholder. He would have a stall separate and well away from the BVWTM stall and it would be clearly marked as separate from the BVWTM stall. Your exact words were 'he will be round the side well away from us, anyone bringing in donations will have no confusion about what stall is the BVWTM. We agreed that I would staff the door by the BVWTM stall to ensure there was no confusion about donations brought in to the normal location.

Just before the event, I spoke to you about another matter and you told me that you had changed your mind. You said you had out of the blue just changed your mind. Therefore, over your cornflakes you unilaterally decided that Borinsky would get £70 for last year, a free table, the table would be placed next to the BVWTM table, also he would get free entry for his helpers, and would get £70 for staffing the door at which donations were brought in.

I asked if you had spoken to Owen and you said no. You said you had just changed your mind. You decided over breakfast to do a complete 180% and not talk to me about it.

Even while recovering from sepsis I managed to stand up to Owen even though he was bullying in the extreme until finally Owen said he would talk to you. I think you lied.

It is as if Jeremy Owen has his hand up your back and operates you manually.

I note you say you have appointed a new membership secretary. Good. Tell him I will be happy to give and advice / pointers that he may wish, feel free to give him my contact details.

I note you have already appointed a new vice chairperson. It is Terry. I like Terry. Please look him in the eye the next time you see him, shake his hand and then explain the emails you sent to me. The emails were unsolicited and intended to demean and belittle his relationship when Peter found himself in legal difficulties. I have taken advice as I thought it might be a hate crime, but the consensus was it was malicious gossip.

Yet now you smile and thank him for his input.

You are not a very nice man Gregory, not a genuine friend or an honourable chairperson. You are not all powerful and do not understand how a committee works. The way you have dealt with this entire matter has been dishonest.

PS I am a geek. I keep most emails and most telephone calls. If Jeremy Owen denies his call to me, I will put it out as an .mp3 for you all to have a listen.

PPS Now I have had to take the time to write this I will complete the timeline for the membership to make their own mind up. I am going to develop a webpage when I feel better and put all emails and other data relating to this matter on my webpage. Your letter and threats have reinvigorated me!

PPPS From the start of this matter you have twaddled on with some pseudolaw nonsense about the data protection act, about breach of trust and litigation. You said you were going to talk to a lawyer who was a friend. All these attempts to threaten me and pile on the pressure hurt. I do not need this stress. Stop it! Please stop misinterpreting the law and spend a little time to research 'Breach of trust', the GDPR and everything else Owen has told you to you accuse me of.

PPPPS (Final one 😊) You mention the BVWS database. At the last BVWS committee meeting that I attended Jeremy Owen and yourself request that I attempt to take a copy of the database. This was because Owen had had problems with Rob so you (Mr Chairman) decided to take the database away from Rob and use an online-bespoke database.

I AM HAPPY TO CONFIRM I IGNORED YOUR WISHES ABOUT TRYING TO COPY THE DATABASE.

It would have been against the data protection act to do so and distribute it even if you and Owen think you are important. Anyway, Rob is competent, proficient and committed; I do not think the data is insecure.

PPPPPS (OK one more then 😊😊) I do have email addresses. All obtained legitimately but just for arguments sake before you threaten me again make sure you understand the GDPR. Even if I had a copy of the database (I do not) the clause 'legitimate interest' covers this matter, even if that didn't the law relating to 'whistle blowing' stands.

OK well that is it for now then, after all how many PTTTTTTTTSSSS can one man do?

I shall bid you good evening while I stand here bathed in the light of honesty and truth.

Dave (ex vice chair, ex membership sec. but still a bloody nice bloke whatever you say)