

Most, if not all of you will be aware that we did not have the Bars and Walls tour this year.

In the flurry of electronic exchange leading up to the cancellation, I misread a particularly important piece of information. Thinking that this was history repeating itself, I issued some advice re: voting on possible alternative dates. This led to confusion, bad feeling and the temporary resignation of our bagman.

I was wrong and should have taken more care before putting text to the air waves. I apologise.

Particularly irritating to me was the way I was caught out by the situation. As a former IT professional, I should have known better not to react to messages in such a knee-jerk manner.

With this in mind I propose the following policies to be adopted:

- 1) Ordinary members must not start a conversation, speculating whether or not an event is happening. There is a way to make the WhatsApp group read only, though this might prevent the app's use for voting.
- 2) If rule 1 is broken, an officer, nominally: the Squire should step in immediately, to terminate the discussion and issue a reprimand to the offender.
- 3) Check the website for information, before issuing a question on group chat.
- 4) Do not use group chat when your comments are directed at a particular recipient. Avoid use of "reply all" unless absolutely necessary.
- 5) When issuing a comment, check for errors: days and dates; can the message be interpreted differently to your intended meaning. Availability does not mean willingness to do something.

Finally, if a message requires a response, consider how urgent is *really*? See my comments on "Future Dates Policy". Generally keep the airwaves as uncluttered as reasonable.