



BRITISH SUNDIAL SOCIETY

Patron: The Hon. Sir Mark Lennox-Boyd
President: Christopher St J H Daniel FSA
Chairman: Dr Frank H King
12 Victoria Street, Cambridge, CB1 1JP
Telephone: 07766 756997
E-mail: fhk1@cam.ac.uk

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Dear Member,

Chris Daniel's request for the return of books

I am writing to update you on developments since the September Newsletter (copy deadline 15 August).

Most regrettably, I have to report that Chris Daniel has not constructively engaged with the trustees' efforts to arrive at an amicable solution.

- On 25 August the trustees made a formal offer to meet Chris Daniel's original request in exchange for the Society's logo and other related trade marks, currently all registered in his name with the Intellectual Property Office. He has chosen, despite repeated urgings, not to accept.
- Despite all evidence to the contrary (see material circulated with the June Bulletin and in the September Newsletter) Chris Daniel continues to assert that the books were a loan and demands they be returned on that basis. As the books were donated, both the Society's constitution and charity law prohibit this as a legitimate course of action available to the trustees.
- We have received a further communication from Chris Daniel's solicitors despite both he and they having informed the Secretary they were 'in abeyance'. An amicable solution neither requires nor involves solicitors!

The trustees have therefore concluded that not only has an amicable resolution been refused, but that the very basis of an amicable solution within the Society (the express wish of the membership) has been undermined.

The trustees have always wished to reach an amicable resolution with Chris Daniel — a founder member, major benefactor, and former Chairman. We have indulged extraordinary behaviour and conduct (including requests/demands not based on fact, repeated dismissal of trustee comment, legal threats and threatening solicitors' letters to individual trustees) that would not be tolerated from any other member.

The trustees have been both flexible and accommodating in their efforts to facilitate an amicable solution. The opportunity was there for Chris Daniel to accept an amicable resolution within the Society of his original request and to draw a line under his dispute with the trustees and the Society. That he chose not to do so is a matter of deeper disappointment to the trustees than it will be to the membership.

It is now over four months since Chris Daniel informed the membership of his dispute. The time has come to put this sad and sorry saga behind us and move on. The Society is far bigger than any internal dispute. The matter will now be considered closed.

With my best wishes to Fellow Diallists,

Frank King