

# LETTERS

## RIGHT OF REPLY

Sir, In your July issue you published a feature on "Correspondence Courses — can they help you pass the RAE?" I am not sure whether your reviewer, Sharon Metcalfe, saw our whole course when conducting her review, but her comments appear to concentrate on one of the four booklets in the course and thereby give your readers a misleading impression of the overall course.

She says, "There appear to be four short lines on FM" and while this is certainly the case in the booklet she was looking at she has overlooked the fact that in the next booklet there are some six pages on the principles of frequency modulation. Similarly, she mentions there is nothing on superhet principles and again there are in fact three pages on this in the booklet that deals with FM.

It is very much a matter of opinion how much material to include in a course for the RAE. Certainly valves are not included in the City & Guilds syllabus, but many radio amateurs would argue that knowledge of valves is still essential and for this reason it appears in our course. More emphasis is in fact given to transistors in the third booklet in the course and most of the diagrams in this particular booklet deal with transistors rather than valves. Another important point that Sharon Metcalfe has not mentioned is that we provide two introductory booklets, one for maths and one for physics covering the basic principles required in these subjects by those studying for the examination.

Whilst accepting that our course could be open to criticism in that the tests do not give enough practice on multiple choice questions it is not in fact correct as your reviewer states that "even the final revision papers are of the old style RAE exam". Our final booklet in the course comprises a multiple choice test of 100 questions to give students practice in this format.

Finally, may I say that over the last few years we have had many hundreds of successful students for the RAE who have been very satisfied with our course and the tutorial service that we provide. Currently we are preparing a revised course to cover

the new City & Guilds syllabus and this will be available from October of this year. This will be tailored more strictly to the syllabus and as a consequence will feature tests in the multiple choice format only and will have very much reduced emphasis on valves. I would be happy to send you a copy of this new course as soon as it is available so that you may review it.

**Andrew Young BA FCA**  
Principal, Rapid Results College

*Firstly, we must point out that we did initially request the lessons on semiconductor theory and on radio receivers: if we were not sent the parts dealing with these topics, we cannot really be blamed for jumping to conclusions! That said, we still feel that most of our (we hope, constructive) criticisms of the lessons we saw are still applicable. We look forward to receiving the revised courses and we will be pleased to look them over and publish our comments in these pages.*

## 'OPEN SOCIETY' — FOR...

Sir, I read the letter from G3ZHI with interest and feel that a more detailed explanation is called for. I agree that Ian Abel should join but the Council will not let him. A very serious situation has developed within the RSGB. The Society is now dominated by a few members of the Council. All attempts to get any changes made within the Society are blocked by every means available. The election of the 1985 President has been done in a very questionable manner and the reports of the Council meetings severely edited to hide this.

At the 1984 AGM I proposed a vote of no confidence in the General Manager and the Council. I did this because of the very questionable way in which the 1985 President was elected. Despite repeated attempts to get this matter discussed under any other business the President refused to allow any discussion at all. This was in clear contravention of the various Companies Acts and the normal practice at meetings. After the meeting was suspended in uproar, the

General Manager agreed that the situation was unsatisfactory and he agreed to look into the matter and publish guidance to members as to how items could be raised. He agreed to publish this in the April or May Radcom. The solicitors were consulted and a report made to Council at their January meeting. Nothing further has been published. The minutes will not be published until October in an attempt to prevent any motions being put in time for the 1985 AGM. This is typical of the underhanded way in which the Society's affairs are conducted.

If one investigates further it is easy to see that most of the Society's sub committees are dominated by a small number of Council members who force their views on the membership as a whole. Also note who is on the editorial board. A proposal will soon be put to members that the President be elected for three years instead of one. No doubt this will be forced through by hundreds of proxy votes held by the members of Council. The time has come when the Society must be made much more open and allow an infusion of new committee and Council members to revitalise the Society before it is too late. If you are in favour of an open Society then I suggest that you start taking the lid off it!

**P L Crosland, G6 JNS.**

## ... AND AGAINST

Sir, I would like to make comments about Ian Abel's letter "Open Society", (HRT, August '85). As a long time member of the RSGB, I have received the monthly journal in its many forms over the years from when it was the 'Bull' up to the present 'Rad Com' and I have always thought that the Society gave a good balance of contents in each issue. If the complete details of Council minutes and meetings were to be published, each journal would be full of nothing else, leaving little room for other articles. It is common practice nowadays, is it not, to publish a synopsis of whatever goes on at such meetings. I for one am sufficiently satisfied with the Society's support and aims and ambitions without wishing to know so