

## **WEA 2021 Conference**

### **Report from the Standing Orders Committee (SOC) 24 Aug 2021**

#### **Section 1 Introduction and general points**

The SOC has been involved in certain aspects of the planning of the conference set for Thursday 7 October in Leeds, but with remote access facilities. SOC has been particularly concerned with the procedures involved in the formal business of conference relating to reports and conference motions. This year (for a variety of reasons) we have had very few motions submitted and we have considered these in the usual way to ensure they were in order relative to the Regulations. Section 2 below summarises the details of this work and the Final Agenda is produced as a separate paper 2021Conf FA1rev.

The impact of the Covid situation and other factors have all affected the practical arrangements concerning the format, content, and procedures of the event. The use of information technology facilities to allow remote access and other issues have all affected the way that conference business can be conducted. The formalities around reports, motions and debate have had to be modified. We are also still working under the trial system in which Council has been given the task of assessing all motions in advance, and then reporting their conclusions to conference.

Please note that we have had no actual meetings but have corresponded by emails, post and phone calls to discuss the content of motions and to agree the overall approach.

#### **Section 2 Motions**

By the final date set for the submission of motions, 2 had been received. They were both from the North East Region and were deemed to be “in order”. However, they both needed to be modified so as to conform to the preferred format. The representative of the Region was contacted to check that the altered wording and layout was acceptable. Following the request for further motions (as allowed under Regulation 4.25A) one motion was received from Eastern Region. This was deemed to be in order but a slight wording change was agreed with the Region’s representative to include a reference to a related detail in the regulations. The 3 motions are presented in paper 2021Conf FA1rev. The content of this was passed over to Council on July 28 for them to begin their assessment of the propositions prior to producing a report for conference.

### **Section 3 Procedures for 2021**

As previously, we ask that any queries or comments on the various reports should be submitted in advance. This is to enable responses to be prepared and for officers or staff to be available to report on the points raised in a meaningful way. The report from Council on their assessment of submitted motions will be a crucial part of conference business. It will be important for conference members to be able to express their views and to provide additional comments on any recommendations coming forward. In particular, it will be useful to hear from members about their own experiences in dealing with some detail related to the problem or issue raised in a recommended motion. Such practical experience could be very useful to the Council and the Trustees, in deciding on the best course of action to take things forward, and it will be best if they are submitted in advance.

SOC suggests that all comments or ideas which might arise from the above considerations are communicated to the General Secretary, preferably by email, using the previously established mailbox for motions – i.e., [motions@wea.org.uk](mailto:motions@wea.org.uk). Comments or ideas arising should arrive no later than Friday 1 October.

Signed Gill Aldridge, Colin Barnes, Frank Colls (Chair), Martin Sundram, Betty Wolfenden

SOC report dated 24 August 2021    WEA 2021 conf SOC main report

