

20073-27-076

This is a brief expression of the Nelson branch's approach to this event. We have some fairly clear-cut ideas about how it should be run. As we do not want to be high-handed about this we invite you to comment on our proposals and any of your own that maybe relevant. Some of these suggestions may entail changing the Constitution. This can be quite easily be effected by circulating the proposed alterations in advance and passing them with a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority at the AGM.

It is our avowed intent that this conference be above all a fun, social, stimulating affair.

However, in order to achieve this it is imperative to avoid the procedural dead-ends that have plagued past AGMs. This can be done by standardizing a set of 'Standing Orders' that will be circulated to all participants well in advance. Delegates would then be very clear in their own minds as to their rights and obligations. Thus, we will have a tight, scrupulously fair, meeting that will efficiently dispose of the business.

Here are some ideas as to what those Standing Orders might be.

We feel it would be a great advantage to have an experienced and impartial chairperson co-opted, whose sole function is to ensure strict adherence to the rules. It would be valuable to have the President participate in general debate.

All children (with the exception of breast-feeding babies, of course) should be excluded from the formal proceedings of the AGM. There will probably be a few howls of outrage at this but how can there be clear debate and difficult decision making against a barrage of constant noise? Naturally, there will be perfectly good creche facilities.

REMITTS: The rules currently in place requiring the notice of remits in advance are, in our view, quite satisfactory.

SPEAKING RIGHTS: These should be strictly proscribed and timed to ensure that all get an equal hearing. Speaking rights would apply only to official delegates - not observers. For example, The branch proposing a remit could speak up to 5 minutes on that remit.

Each branch would have up to 3 minutes per remit.

amendments

Each branch could speak for 3 minutes on any \wedge that might ensue.

The remit would then be voted on. If it was decided by $\frac{2}{3}$ of the delegates that

more time was necessary for a particularly contentious remit a further ^{be} minutes would allocated to this end.

VOTING RIGHTS: At one of the previous AGMs a form of proportional voting was agreed upon. As far as we are aware this was not done constitutionally and is consequently, null and void. Thus, the system of voting is an open question. We feel proportional voting may contain as many injustices as the 'show of hands' system required by the Constitution and could be extremely cumbersome to implement. In general, the number of delegates a branch can send will roughly reflect it's membership and vigor.

What do you think? Whatever system we ultimately adopt the voting will be checked and recorded by a scrutineer. Obviously, the local branch must not have voting power disproportionate to it's membership.

Once we all know the rules we can play the game.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Is there anyone in your branch with sufficient enthusiasm and ability to become a National President, Secretary or Treasurer? If so, carefully cultivate them. This would be infinitely preferable to co-opting someone unprepared on the day.

TIMING OF AGM: The Saturday P.M. is best.

VENUE: We are delighted to announce that Nelson Girl's College hostel has been booked for the weekend. Most of the sleeping accommodation is in two bed units but there will be single bedrooms for breast-feeding mothers. Every conceivable facility is available including; the catering of our choice; laundry; halls; lecture theatre; electronic equipment; and a variety of class rooms. Incidentally, it is centrally situated in lovely grounds. Excellent value at \$ 24 a day. Billets maybe an option but we anticipate most would prefer to stay on campus.

FESTIVITIES: A barn dance is in the pipe-line for the Saturday night.

TRANSPORT: Group bookings can be made through Air Albatross and Air New Zealand from our end.

IDEAS: On speakers (no - we can't invite Shelia Kitzinger - she is too expensive)
movies, displays or whatever will be enthusiastically accepted.

NELSON IS A GREAT PLACE FOR A HOLIDAY AS WELL AS A CONFERENCE - THINK ABOUT IT.

Why not send extra delegates in 85 and make it a Conference to remember ?

If you or your branch has anything to add or detract from the aforementioned it
would greatly facilitate our planning to have something back on paper by 26 th of
Feb 85.

THANK YOU.

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