

Special Meeting

**To consider the proposed merger with IBB
and any amendment to the EC motion at the Special Conference
(to be held on 12 February 2022)**

Notes

1) Welcome and apologies

John Rees, Chair, welcomed members to the special meeting and explained the scope.
Luke Howard, Secretary, listed the apologies that had been received.

2) Introduction to the issue

LH outlined the background of the merger proposal and the information published by the EC.

3) Review and discussion of EC responses to questions put by RMG and others
There was a wide-ranging discussion with many members participating

4) Manuel Cortes, TSSA General Secretary

Manuel addressed the meeting and answered questions about the proposed merger

5) Proposed amendment to motion at Special Delegate Conference

The following amendment was agreed:

To add at end of EC motion:

‘However, before the formal ballot is held, Conference instructs the EC to carry out due diligence on the IBB and report its findings to members and to publish a joint written statement between the Association and the IBB that affirms:

- that the rights and roles of members who have retired will continue to operate as now until the TSSA District changes its rules to determine otherwise;
- that members of the TSSA District shall have the right to determine its banking arrangements;
- that references in the IBB Constitution that refer to Communist membership or activity such as 17.1.3 and 24.1 are not applicable to TSSA District members and to specify how any other matters that conflict with the IBB Constitution will be reconciled;
- that legal opinion confirms that TSSA District support for international solidarity bodies to which we are affiliated, plus our Rule Book and practices, will not fall foul of US legislation, or impact on our relationship with the IBB;
- that new members joining the TSSA will not have to pay an admission fee unless this is agreed by the TSSA District;
- the assets that will be retained in the name of the District, as required by the UK Certification Officer.’

The meeting also agreed to ask for clarification on the structure of the SDC, in particular:

- whether visitors/observers will be able to attend;
- whether a two thirds majority will be required to pass the motion;
- whether there will be an open discussion (with Standing Orders suspended) before the formal debate;
- when the revised Rule Book will be presented to a TSSA Conference for acceptance.

6) Questions on the EC Report and Accounts for 2020

The meeting mandated Committee to decide the questions. Members were urged to submit any questions to Luke (retired@tssa.org.uk) by Monday so he could circulate them among the Committee to agree the submission by Wednesday. The questions subsequently submitted are attached below.

Next General Meeting

3 February, 11 am

Attendees:

John Rees, Chair
Luke Howard, Secretary (& Notes)
Cheryl O'Brien, Vice Chair

Bob Bayley, Committee
Dave Porter, Committee

Manuel Cortes, TSSA General Secretary (Guest, for Item 3)

Bill Langford
Chris Godbold
Colin Farquhar
Dick Sharp
Dinesh Bhardwa
Gareth Davies
Gerard McMahon
Gerry Kennedy
Joel Kosminsky
Malcolm Wallace
Michael Maguire

Mike Downing
Peter Vincent
Phil Allen
Ralph Bayley
Simon Pearson
Stephen Floyd
Stephen Halliwell
Steve Whitehead
Stevie Lawrence

There may have been others: apologies to any attendees that I have missed

Apologies for absence

Tim Young (Committee)
Roger Luffman
Roy Smith

Simon Chapman
Manjit Singh Buttar

[Item 6: the following questions were subsequently agreed and submitted:

1. The questions that were submitted regarding the 2019 R&A in March 2021, and responses to these questions, have not been published and there has not been the usual opportunity to ask follow-up questions. We note that the EC intended to oppose amendments calling for this Report to be considered at 2021 Annual Conference. We believe it is important for transparency and accountability that the 2019 and 2020 R&A should be put to 2022 Conference, together with the 2021 R&A, and that all the questions on these Reports should be fully considered at that Conference.
2. The EC is significantly behind schedule in delivering the actions called for in Emergency Composite Em2/3, agreed (with EC support) at 2021 Annual Conference to address the repeated failure to provide timely information on the unions finances. Please publish a full update on the progress of these actions.
3. Recent Reports have been confined to purely financial information, in contrast with earlier years when fuller information about the state and development of the union was included. As an absolute minimum, membership information is clearly crucial to the strength and viability of the union. We recall that, in response to questions on an earlier Report, it was agreed that membership breakdowns by Divisional Council, Industrial sector, sex, subscriptions band etc would be included in future Reports (as they were in 2018), but the 2019 and 2020 Reports have no membership information at all. We call on you to ensure this is remedied in the 2021 Report, and to publish information on the changes during 2019 and 2020.
4. We also used to see breakdowns of income and expenditure for the different accounts that make up the TSSA finances and these are missing from 2019 and 2020. Please ensure this is not repeated and publish information on the changes during 2019 and 2020.
5. There is no follow-up in this Circular and Report regarding the issue of a deferred creditor and consequent potential tax liability, as discussed in the Circular accompanying the 2019 R&A. Please publish a full account of progress in resolving this issue.
6. Please inform us of the union's Tax Advisors. Given the difficulties reported with the 2019 R&A, we feel these should be listed in 'Reference and Administration Information'.
7. The confusion regarding Notes and cross-references that we saw in the 2019 R&A is replicated here. To illustrate, there seems to be no Note 2 on page 9 and page 8 has a section headed '(b)' with no corresponding section '(a)'
8. Note 3 shows that the audit fee had to be increased by almost 75%, so the audit cost over twice as much as for 2019 despite being delivered many months late. Of course this was an exceptional year but it is surprising that the union has to pay extra costs for the auditors in addition to our own costs. Please provide an explanation for this
9. Please also provide an explanation for the 'Other services' provided by the auditors (also shown in note 3), and whether it would be appropriate to have another firm delivering these services to ensure the integrity of the audit.

We look forward to the publication of these and other questions with appropriate answers, together with Q&A relating to the 2019 Report; and trust there will be a full debate on each of these reports as well as the 2021 Report at Conference in May.]