

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BRANCH MEETING HELD AT 18.30 ON 10 MARCH 2022 ON ZOOM.

Attendance: Robin Whittaker (Secretary), Malcolm Wallace, Colin Farquhar, Bob Davies. There were no apologies.

The meeting noted, with disappointment, the poor attendance. Malcolm reported on the SOC meeting held on 9 March at which concern had been expressed at the way in which the SDC is being handled, particularly regarding legal issues and a final ballot. It was put that there should be a fresh EC Report clarifying the status and process of the merger, with opportunity for branches and SOGs to propose new amendments to address the changed approach. This was noted after which the SOC carried out its business as normal. Four amendments were accepted, one withdrawn and it was agreed that Anglia South General will second the motion.

In a discussion on timings Malcolm said that he had pressed the SOC to give ample time for speeches and he hoped that there would be ample provision for a wide range of opinions to be expressed.

Colin then raised his concern that the rule changes may not go to Conference for approval. It was accepted that a single majority would be accepted for the merger, but rule changes would require a 2/3rds majority and we should follow normal practice as expressed in the rule book.

As the discussion concluded Colin said that it was to the branch's credit that we had carried out our responsibilities on the merger as required through meetings and newsletters, and that we had kept members informed at every stage.

It was noted that there would not be a question/answer session. Both delegates were made aware of their responsibilities to vote in line with branch policy and that the views of the branch should be expressed in any comments or speeches.

The meeting ended at 19.05.