# **CONFERENCE CIRCULAR NO. 1 – INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024, WATERFRONT SOUTHPORT HOTEL

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# 1. AGM/CONFERENCE 2024

Date:	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> May & Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2024		
Venue:	Waterfront Southport Hotel, Waterfront, Promenade, Southport PR9 0DZ		
Time(s):	Opens 09:30am Tuesday 14 $^{ m th}$ May and closes lunchtime on Wednesday 15 $^{ m th}$ May		
Breaks:	<u>Tuesday</u>	Two breaks during the day, one mid-morning and one mid-afternoon. Lunch will be approximately between 12.30pm and 1.30pm.	
	<u>Wednesday</u>	There will be one break during the day, mid-morning.	

# 2. DEADLINE DATES FOR DOCUMENTATION

- Nominations for all Committees Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> J
- Resolutions
- Motions
- Delegate Form\*
- Observers/Carers
- Amendments to Resolutions
- Amendments to Motions
- Appeal to Res/Mot Ruled Out of Order
- Questions on the Annual Report & Accs
- Ballots for Elected Positions

- Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 (Regulation 10.1)
- Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 (Regulation 12.3.1)
- Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 (Regulation 13.2.1)
- Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024
- Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024 (Regulation 12.3.4)
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024 (Regulation 13.2.3)
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 (Regulation 10.2)
- \* (Includes Attendance / Hotel Booking, Proxy Vote, Bank Details)

Branches/Groups should submit their AGM/Conference documentation as soon as possible. Documents will be acknowledged by Head Office. Unless you have received an acknowledgement, you must assume that the documents have not arrived. Hard copy submissions will be accepted up to and including the post on the deadline date and up to midday (12 Noon) for electronic submissions on the deadline date. Items delayed, lost in the post, or failed electronic transmissions, will not be accepted after the deadline date.

# **3. RESOLUTIONS**

Each Resolution **MUST** be submitted on a separate form (refer to Guidance on Resolutions). Further forms are available on request to Head Office or may be photocopied or downloaded from the website.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association & Regulations are laid out differently to the old Rule Book and therefore elements relating to the same topic are found in different areas of the document. Resolutions and Amendments to Resolutions will be referred to the Solicitors to avoid any "unintended consequences" and it would be beneficial for any submissions to be discussed with the CEO and submitted as soon as possible.

#### **Receipt of Resolutions by Head Office**

Resolutions to be put to the Annual General Meeting must reach Head Office by Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 (Regulation 12.3.1).

#### **Amendments to Resolutions**

Each Amendment to a Resolution **MUST** be submitted on a separate form. Further forms are available on request to Head Office, or may be photocopied or downloaded from the website.

Amendments to Resolutions can only be corrective in nature and shall be Ruled Out of Order (as otherwise failing to give requisite notice of the Resolution as amended to Members) if any such amendment either varies the intent of the original Resolution or adds additional subject thereto. (**Regulation 12.3.5**)

Amendments to Resolutions to be put to the Annual General Meeting must reach Head Office by **<u>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024</u>** (**Regulation 12.3.4**) to be eligible for inclusion.

#### Branch/Group Approval of Resolutions and Amendments to Resolutions

Resolutions and Amendments to Resolutions must have the approval of a Branch/Group Meeting and be signed and dated by the Branch/Group Chairman and the Branch/Group Secretary (or by the Vice Chairman, Treasurer or Assistant Branch/Group Secretary as authorised substitutes) and the date of the meeting completed in the space provided. Where the Resolution or Amendment to a Resolution is typed and stuck to the form, both the form and the typed sheet must be signed and dated by the signatories.

#### Head Office Acknowledgement

Resolutions and Amendments will be acknowledged by Head Office. Unless you have received an acknowledgement, you must assume that the documents have not arrived. Items delayed, lost in the post, or failed electronic transmissions, will not be accepted after the deadline date.

#### **Guidance on Resolutions and Amendments to Resolutions**

Where a change in principle or introduction of a new concept is to be dealt with within the Memorandum and Articles of Association & Regulations, a single Resolution should be submitted detailing each element that needs amendment within the Memorandum and Articles of Association & Regulations.

Historically, changes of this kind to the 'rules' was dealt with by a Motion. Each Motion dealt with a 'unique subject or concept' and the inclusion of more than one subject or concept was not permitted. The principal has erroneously been carried forward to Resolutions assuming that each element that required change needed a separate Resolution.

The Resolution should clearly state what principle or concept is being proposed or changed and then list all the amendments to the Memorandum and Articles of Association & Regulations that the acceptance of the change or new concept requires. If the Resolution is then carried, all the necessary changes are automatically applied.

Resolutions and Amendments will be reviewed on receipt, and where there is a concern as to their validity or compliance with the Terms of Reference of the Conference Supervisory Committee, the Branch/Group will normally be advised. Early submission of Resolutions is therefore recommended to enable corrections to be made and forms re-submitted prior to the deadline date.

#### Moving of Resolutions and Amendments to Resolutions at the AGM

Branch/Groups which submit Resolutions or Amendments to Resolutions are reminded that they should either be present at the Annual General Meeting to move or make arrangements for another Branch/Group to do so on their behalf. Any arrangement for another Branch/Group to move should be notified to the Chairman of the Conference Supervisory Committee in writing and sent via Head Office.

# 4. MOTIONS

Each Motion **MUST** be submitted on a separate form. Further forms are available on request to Head Office or may be photocopied or downloaded from the website.

#### **Receipt of Motions by Head Office**

Motions for debate at the Annual Conference must reach Head Office by <u>Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024</u> (Regulation 13.2.1).

#### **Amendments to Motions**

Each Amendment to a Motion **MUST** be submitted on a separate form. Further forms are available on request to Head Office or may be photocopied or downloaded from the website. Motions to be put to the Annual Conference must reach Head Office by <u>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024</u> (Regulation 13.2.3).

#### Branch/Group Approval of Motions and Amendments to Motions

Motions and Amendments to Motions must have the approval of a Branch/Group Meeting and be signed and dated by the Branch/Group Chairman and the Branch/Group Secretary (or by the Vice Chairman, Treasurer or Assistant Branch/Group Secretary as authorised substitutes) and the date of the meeting completed in the space provided. Where the Motion or amendment is typed and stuck to the form, both the form and the typed sheet must be signed and dated by the signatories.

Motions and Amendments received will be acknowledged by Head Office. Unless you have received an acknowledgement, you must assume that the documents have not arrived. Items delayed, lost in the post, or failed electronic transmissions, will not be accepted after the deadline date.

#### Wording of Motions and Amendments to Motions

In framing Motions, Branch/Groups are advised to pay particular attention to the **Terms of Reference of the Conference Supervisory Committee and Regulation 13.2**.

Please note that a Motion must contain a definite direction. Any Motions not containing such a direction will be Ruled Out of Order. Guidance is available from Head Office, and a copy of the Terms of Reference of the Conference Supervisory Committee is attached.

Motions will be reviewed on receipt, and where there is a concern as to their validity or compliance with the Terms of Reference of the Conference Supervisory Committee, the Branch/Group will normally be advised. Early submission of Motions is therefore recommended to enable corrections to be made and forms re-submitted prior to the deadline date.

#### Moving of Motions and Amendments to Motions at Conference

Branch/Groups submitting Motions or Amendments to Motions are reminded that they should either be present at Conference to move or make arrangements for another Branch/Group to do so on their behalf. Any arrangement for another Branch/Group to move should be notified to the Chairman of the Conference Supervisory Committee in writing and sent via Head Office.

# **5. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

All Resolutions and Motions will also be printed in full in the Conference Booklet and the order they will be taken will be detailed in the Agenda. A copy of the Conference Booklet will be circulated to all Delegates approximately two weeks prior to the start of Conference.

In the event of Emergency Motions, the National Chairman and the Chairman of the Conference Supervisory Committee will decide where they shall be taken on the Agenda.

#### 6. NOMINATIONS

Nominations are invited for the following positions and must have the approval of a general meeting of the nominee's Branch/Group. Nominees must agree to their nomination.

- a. Executive Committee 8 members
- b. Conference Supervisory Committee 1 members
- c. Audit & Risk Committee 1 member
- d. Appeals Committee 3 members

A Member elected to the Executive Committee may not also be elected to the Conference Supervisory Committee, Audit & Risk Committee or the Appeals Committee.

#### **Nomination Forms**

Each nomination must be on its own correct form and contain the nominee's address, telephone number and email address where possible and should include an up to date image of the nominee. A short election address can be provided by each candidate. This address should be forwarded with the nomination and should be limited to 180 words. The address will be published in the Conference Circular containing the list of nominations and in the Annual Report. Election addresses exceeding 180 words will not be published and 'Election Address exceeded 180 words' will appear under their name and photo.

The form will also confirm that the nominee is physically and mentally able to undertake the role.

Each nomination form must be signed by the Branch/Group Chairman, the Branch/Group Secretary (or by the Vice Chairman, Treasurer or Assistant Branch/Group Secretary as authorised substitutes) and the nominee and the date of the meeting completed in the space provided.

#### **Executive Committee Declaration**

The Executive Committee declaration must be signed and dated by the nominee, prior to being sent to Head Office. If it is not signed or cannot be signed, the nomination will be invalid.

#### **Receipt of Nomination Forms**

Nominations for the posts, to be filled by ballot of all Branches/Groups, must reach Head Office by Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024. (Regulation 10.1)

Nominations will be acknowledged by Head Office. Unless you have received an acknowledgement, you must assume that the documents have not arrived. Items delayed, lost in the post, or failed electronic transmissions, will not be accepted after the deadline date.

# 7. DELEGATES

Delegates are appointed by the Branch/Group at a meeting and advised to Head Office on the Delegate Form (see 8 below).

#### **Branch/Group Entitlement**

Branches/Groups are entitled to appoint two Delegates for the first 400 members then one for each subsequent 200 members or part thereof, subject to the maximum of 10 Delegates. The number of Delegates each Branch/Group can appoint is set out in **Regulation 8.5** and calculated on the membership as at the <u>31<sup>st</sup> December 2023</u>, with a minimum entitlement of two. An indication of the number of Delegates a Branch/Group may nominate is detailed in the covering letter. Any change as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 will be advised to the Branch/Group. Each Branch/Group should appoint its full entitlement of Delegates, whether they are attending the AGM/Conference or not. Only appointed Delegates are entitled to appoint a Proxy. If the Branch/Group does not appoint Delegates, it loses the opportunity to grant proxies.

#### **Delegates Attending**

A Delegate may attend the Conference and the Annual General Meeting.

At the Conference they will be entitled to vote on the Motions debated by showing their voting card. At the Annual General Meeting they will be entitled to vote on Resolutions presented by showing their voting card. A full list of Delegates attending will be printed in the Conference Booklet.

#### Delegates unable or not wishing to attend

A Delegate who does not wish to or is unable to attend the Annual General Meeting may give a Proxy to another Delegate with the agreement of the Branch/Group by completing the appropriate section of the Delegate Form (see 9 below).

#### 8. DELEGATE FORM

Each Branch/Group, regardless of whether their Delegates intend to attend AGM/Conference, should complete a Delegate Form for each Delegate. The form provides the following information for Head Office and <u>must</u> be completed:

- The contact details of the Appointed Delegate
- Attendance Details whether they are attending the AGM/Conference or giving a Proxy Vote (see 9 below)
- Accommodation requirements, including details of any sharing arrangements (see 14 below)
- Bank Details of the Appointed Delegate for expense claims

The Delegate Form should be completed clearly by each Delegate completing the relevant sections. Each nomination form must be signed by the Branch/Group Chairman, the Branch/Group Secretary (or by the Vice Chairman, Treasurer or Assistant Branch/Group Secretary as authorised substitutes) and the nominee and the date of the meeting completed in the space provided.

A Delegate may not attend the AGM and give a proxy vote. The granting of a Proxy Vote is only valid if this section of the new form is completed, signed, and returned to Head Office.

#### **Delegates Accommodation**

Each Appointed Delegate must complete the Accommodation Requirements section of the Delegate Form.

# **Receipt of Delegate Form by Head Office**

Completed forms must be received at NFOP Head Office **no later than** <u>Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024.</u> We cannot accept new Delegates after the deadline date above or guarantee accommodation at the hotel will be available.

Delegates will be acknowledged by Head Office. Unless you have received an acknowledgement, you must assume that the documents have not arrived. Hard copy submissions will be accepted up to and including the first post on the deadline date and up to midday (12 noon) for electronic submissions on the deadline date. Items delayed, lost in the post, or failed electronic transmissions, will not be accepted after the deadline date. An acknowledgement letter will be sent to the Branch/Group Secretary, as well as to the nominated Delegate/s.

Travel arrangements should not be booked until the acknowledgement has been received from Head Office.

#### A Branch/Group that is unable to appoint Delegates

A Branch/Group that is unable to appoint Delegates should return one Delegate Form clearly marked with the Branch/Group name and number and **"no delegates appointed".** 

# 9. PROXY VOTES

Granting of a proxy vote is now included in the Delegate Form (See section 8 above).

Special attention is drawn to **Article 7 and Regulation 8.3** concerning Proxy Votes. It should be marked clearly on the Delegate Form (see 8 above) if a Delegate is not attending the AGM/Conference but wants to appoint a Proxy.

#### **Giving a Proxy**

A Branch/Group Delegate not attending the AGM may appoint any other attending Delegate or Executive Committee Member as their Proxy; the appointment has to be approved by their Branch/Group, and the Proxy Votes section of the Delegate Form should be completed and signed.

#### **Proxy Form**

The Proxy Form has been amalgamated into the Delegate Form. Each Delegate, who is intending to appoint a Proxy, must complete the Delegate Form and relevant sections.

The **Appointed Delegate** giving the proxy must sign the Proxy Vote section of the Delegate Form.

The **Branch/Group Secretary must also sign** the Proxy Vote section confirming that it was approved at a Branch/Group meeting and add the date of the meeting at which it was approved.

# The completed Delegate Form including the Proxy Vote section must be returned to Head Office by the Delegate Form submission deadline of <u>Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024</u>.

Proxy Voters will receive a letter after the deadline date above advising them of the name(s) of the Delegate(s) who have granted them their proxy vote(s).

# **10. OBSERVERS FORM**

The Observers Form has been amended to include the attendance of non-members who are attending as a Carer for an appointed Delegate. Both Observers and Carers attending AGM/Conference should complete the relevant section of the Observers Form.

#### Observers

Observers are classified as NFOP Members who are attending AGM/Conference but are not a Delegate. The Observers form MUST be completed. Whether an Observer is funded by the Branch/Group should be noted in the minutes of the Branch/Group meeting. There is no other category of attendee. Observers will <u>not</u> be seated with the Delegates and should sit in the allocated 'theatre style' seating at the back of the hall, with guests of the EC.

#### Carers

Carers are classified as Non-Members who are attending AGM/Conference in a carer capacity on behalf of an attending Delegate. The relevant section of the Observers Form MUST be completed <u>by the relevant attending Delegate</u>, including the Attendance Details section.

Carers that ARE Members of NFOP should attend as an Observer and complete the Observers Form as an Observer detailed above. If necessary the Carer may be allowed to sit with the Delegate and a letter explaining the reasons should be enclosed with the completed form, otherwise they will be seated with the Observers.

Observer forms should be submitted to Head Office no later than Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

Observer Forms will be acknowledged by Head Office. Unless you have received an acknowledgement, you must assume that the documents have not arrived. Hard copy submissions will be accepted up to and including the first post on the deadline date and up to midday (12 noon) for electronic submissions on the deadline date. Items delayed, lost in the post, or failed electronic transmissions, will not be accepted after the deadline date. An acknowledgement letter will be sent to the Branch/Group Secretary, as well as to the nominated Observer/s.

# **11. BALLOTS**

Ballots are no longer held at the AGM/Conference. All Branch/Groups are invited to participate in the ballots that are needed, which are then counted at Head Office and verified by the Conference Supervisory Committee. The result of the ballot will be published in the Conference Booklet.

Ballot papers will be distributed to all Branch/Groups following the closure of nominations of the Executive Committee, Conference Supervisory Committee, Audit & Risk Committee and Appeals Committee. Each Branch/Group will be entitled to vote in accordance with regulations for each ballot as detailed on the ballot paper. The completed ballot papers should be returned to Head Office by <u>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.</u> (Reg. 10.2)

<u>Ballot papers not received by this date will be considered void and will not be included in the vote.</u> Documents will be acknowledged by Head Office. Unless you have received an acknowledgement, you must assume that the documents have not arrived. Hard copy submissions will be accepted up to and including the first post on the deadline date and up to midday (12 noon) for electronic submissions on the deadline date. Items delayed, lost in the post, or failed electronic transmissions, will not be accepted.

#### 12. **QUESTIONS ON THE ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS**

Questions on the Annual Report and Accounts should be submitted on the appropriate form and sent to the CEO at Head Office to be received no later than Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.

Answers to questions on the Annual Report and Accounts will be included in the Conference Booklet if received before the publication date but if not will be distributed at the AGM.

#### 13. **CONFERENCE BOOKLET**

The Conference Booklet includes the following:

- Agenda •
- Chairman's Guidance and Rulings •
- CSC Report •
- Guest List •

Motions

- Minutes of the previous AGM/Conference •

- Nominal Roll
- Resolutions •
- Seating Plans
- **Regulations affecting AGM/Conference** •
- Stewards and Tellers •
- Welfare Fund AGM details

Answers to Questions on the Annual Report will be included if the question has been received prior to the publication date. The booklet will be sent to each Delegate and Observer at least two weeks before Conference.

#### 14. HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

#### Waterfront Southport Hotel, Waterfront, Promenade, Southport PR9 0DZ

Waterfront Southport Hotel is the Conference accommodation and venue for 2024.

The Executive Committee, Conference Supervisory Committee, Head Office team, other staff members and guests will be staying at the Waterfront Southport Hotel. It is recommended that all Delegates stay at the Conference Hotel, where a special rate has been negotiated.

#### The Delegate Form – Accommodation Requirements section

Delegates staying at the Conference Hotel should provide details of the accommodation they require and details of anyone sharing their room (other Delegate, Observer, carer, non-conference attending partner).

Please indicate any special requirements in the 'Special Requests' box.

On the reverse of the form there is a section for those choosing not to stay at the Conference Hotel.

When returning the **Observers Form** (see 9 above) the **Accommodation Requirements** section **must** be completed.

#### Accommodation Costs

A special rate has been negotiated with the Hotel and a number of additional rooms reserved. To avoid confusion with bookings it has been agreed that Head Office will handle all room bookings of accommodation at the Waterfront Southport Hotel.

- Single occupancy £150.00 per room, per night dinner, bed and breakfast
- Double occupancy £185.00 per room, per night dinner, bed and breakfast

#### Contribution to accommodation costs

The Executive Committee has decided a contribution to accommodation costs for 2024, for Delegates staying at the Conference Hotel, of £150 per Delegate, for up to two (2) Delegates. Where the two Delegates share a room, only the costs of the room for two nights will be met.

The cost of the accommodation at the Waterfront Southport Hotel will be paid by Head Office and the Branch/Groups will be invoiced accordingly:

- For two (2) Delegates the amount in excess of £150 contribution
- The full cost for any other Delegate
- The full cost for any Observer
- The costs of a Partner/Observer/Carer sharing with a Delegate
- The cost of a third nights accommodation for any of the above

The amount due for the above will be deducted from the July 2024 Rebate payment. If the Rebate payment does not cover the amount due an invoice for the amount due will be issued, which should be paid immediately.

Branch/Groups should minute whether they intend to pay for Observers, Partners or Carers. If they choose not to the Branch/Group should claim the amounts from the individual or Delegate.

Delegates will be responsible for paying any "extras" and will be asked to provide a debit or credit card to cover any charges to the room.

#### **Delegates NOT staying at the Conference Hotel**

For Delegates not staying at the Conference Hotel, accommodation and dinner expenses may be claimed on the following basis for each Delegate, up to two (2) Delegates up to £150 per Delegate:

- 70% of the Bed and Breakfast accommodation cost for two nights, and
- (a) up to £17.50 per night for Dinner for Monday and Tuesday evening <u>or</u>
- (b) up to 17.50 for the Monday night and Tuesday night attending the Conference Dinner (an additional £16.00 will be deducted from the claim to cover the additional cost of the Conference Dinner).
- Observers and carers not staying at the Conference Hotel may attend the Conference Dinner but a charge of £33.50 will be charged to the Branch/Group.

Claims must be accompanied by a receipt (where VAT is paid this must be a VAT receipt). Claims submitted without receipts will not be paid.

An Expenses Claim Form will be enclosed with the information sent out with the Conference Booklet for those Delegates known not to be staying at the Conference Hotel.

Payment will be made to the **Delegate Bank account** using details provided by the Delegate on the Delegate Form in the 'Bank Details for Expenses Claims' section.

It is strongly advised that Delegates and Observers be covered by appropriate travel insurance.

# **15. TRAVELLING EXPENSES**

#### Travelling by rail or any other form of public transport

If the Delegate is not the holder of a valid Senior Railcard or similar discount card, the cost for purchasing the discount card may be included in the claim, provided that the discount received on the ticket is greater than the cost of the discount card. **Receipts must be provided with the claim form.** 

#### Travelling by car

Delegates are encouraged to car share where possible. If an Observer or Carer is the driver of the car, the Delegate(s) should submit the claim.

The mileage rate for 2024:

- A Delegate may claim 45p per mile
- A Delegate may claim an additional 5p per mile if a second Delegate is travelling with them.

# **Submitting Claims**

Each Delegate will receive a travelling expenses claim form with the information sent out with the Conference Booklet.

Travelling expenses claims should be submitted as detailed above and will be paid direct to the Delegates' bank account.

Claims submitted at Conference or by Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024 will be paid on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024. Claims submitted after that date will be paid at a time convenient to Head Office.

Claims for Contributions to accommodation costs for Delegates not staying at the Waterfront Southport Hotel must be submitted as soon as possible.

#### Claims submitted after Monday 29th July 2024 will not be accepted.

Copies of the travelling expenses claim forms for the additional Delegates will be sent to the Branch/Group to reimburse their Delegates.

Any queries on the above, please contact Head Office.

# **16. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE CONFERENCE SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE**

- 1. The Conference Supervisory Committee shall act within these Terms of Reference and the requirements of Memorandum, Articles and Regulations in general and shall:
  - a. consider the admissibility of Resolutions to the Annual General Meeting, Amendments to Resolutions in accordance with Regulation 2.3, Regulation 12 and its sub-paragraphs and the guidance of the NFOP legal advisers as to its admissibility and compliance with current Companies Act and Companies House requirements. The Conference Supervisory Committee shall notify Branch/Groups, in writing or by email, of the exclusion of their Resolutions or Amendments and the reasons for their decision.
  - b. consider the admissibility of Motions to the Annual Conference, and Amendments to Motions in accordance with Regulation 13 and its sub-paragraphs and they shall notify Branch/Groups, in writing or by email, of the exclusion of their Motions, or Amendments and the reasons for their decision.
  - c. composite Motions and seek to obtain agreement of the sponsoring Branch/Groups before the commencement of Annual Conference.

i. Where a Branch/Group objects to such compositing, the Branch/Groups Motions and any Amendments will be placed on the Agenda in its original form. Such an objection must reach the Chief Executive Officer, in writing or by email by the date set out in Conference Circulars.

- 2. The Conference Supervisory Committee may consider the matters detailed in paragraph 1 a-c above, by email, telephone or writing, on receipt of the Resolution, Motion or Amendment, and if necessary at a meeting. Any meeting should be held as soon after the deadline date as possible at a convenient venue.
- 3. Appeals against the decision of the Conference Supervisory Committee must reach the Chief Executive Officer, in writing or by email, by the 15<sup>th</sup> March. Failing agreement the Branch/Group may request that the appeal is submitted to the Annual General Meeting if it relates to a Resolution or the Annual Conference if it relates to a Motion.
- 4. Deadline Dates. Whenever dates are quoted for e.g. receipt of Resolutions, Motions, Amendments, and Nominations, if the date shown coincides with a weekend or bank holiday the date is then automatically extended to the first working day after the date shown in these rules. Items not submitted by post will be accepted up to midday of the closing date and items sent by post will be accepted for the postal delivery on the closing date.
- 5. The Chairman of the Conference Supervisory Committee shall submit report(s) to the Delegates detailing:
  - a. The number of delegates attending
  - b. The number of proxy votes issued
  - c. The process for ballots and the collection of ballot papers
  - d. Amendments to Motions and Resolutions received and whom from
  - e. Details of any appeals against decisions of the Conference Supervisory Committee
  - f. Details of the Stewards
  - g. Details of Tellers
  - h. Housekeeping information about the Conference Venue
- 6. A nominated member of Head Office staff shall input the votes cast by Branch/Groups into a vote recording programme approved by the Chairman of the Conference Supervisory Committee who shall verify the accuracy of the input for all ballots except ballots for the Conference Supervisory Committee.
- 7. Ballots for the Conference Supervisory Committee. A nominated member of Head Office staff shall input the votes cast by Branch/Groups into a vote recording programme approved by the Chairman of the Conference Supervisory Committee. The Chief Executive shall verify the accuracy of the input.