

**CND Annual General Meeting Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2004**

**City Hall, London**

Chair: Rae Street; Minutes Monica Frisch

1. Apologies for absence

Monica Bradley and John Cox (CND Cymru).

2. Annual Report

This is part of the audited accounts and was accepted unanimously.

3. Accounts

The accounts were accepted.

Resolution: The Treasurer Linda Hugl, Finance Officer Eve Ponting and the Auditor Simon Erskine are thanked for their excellent work on the accounts. This resolution was accepted unanimously.

4. Election of Officers

It was proposed that all Officers nominated by CND Conference – Chair Kate Hudson, Treasurer Linda Hugl and Vice Chairs: Sophie Bolt, Jeremy Corbyn and Rae Street – be elected and this was agreed unanimously.

5. Election of Council

The Steering Group read out the list of the fifteen members directly elected by CND Conference:

Pat Allen (14<sup>th</sup>)

Pat Arrowsmith (8<sup>th</sup>)

Jenny Clegg (12<sup>th</sup>)

Tom Cuthbert (15<sup>th</sup>)

Sue Davis (9<sup>th</sup>)

Monica Frisch (4<sup>th</sup>)

Liz Hutchins (5<sup>th</sup>)

Joan Horrocks (7<sup>th</sup>)

Helen John (2<sup>nd</sup>)

Gawain Little (6<sup>th</sup>)

Caroline Lucas (1<sup>st</sup>)

Alice Mahon (3<sup>rd</sup>)

Rebecca Morden (13<sup>th</sup>)

Pat Sanchez (10<sup>th</sup>)

Carol Turner (11<sup>th</sup>)

Runners up (reserves): Ippy and Caroline Gilbert (in that order)

The AGM endorsed the election of these people.

The Treasurer read out the list of Council members nominated by nations, regions, specialist sections, YCND and Student CND. To this should be added John Cox, Monica Bradley and David Bradley from CND Cymru. The people on this list were elected.

6. Auditors

It was proposed that Gotham Erskine be re-appointed as auditors and this was carried.

7. Special Resolutions: These require a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority.

R1: Add to the end of Article 35 (which deals with replacement of council members): ‘In the event of a vacancy in any of the Officer positions, (or in the event of temporary incapacity), the Officers may decide to request Council to elect from amongst their number, an acting replacement Officer, either temporarily or till the end of the normal term’. This was proposed by Kate Hudson on behalf of CND National Council, which has discussed the matter.

Michael Waugh sought clarification of the wording “amongst their number”.

Kate Hudson clarified that “amongst their number” meant amongst CND Council members and that they are unpaid.

The resolution was clearly carried, probably unanimously.

R2: Proposed by Linda Hugl. She explained that as Company Secretary she has made various proposals to make Mem and Arts reflect the current position and is a tidying up exercise. This resolution is to clarify distinction between members of CND and company members who have agreed to a limited liability of £1.

The proposal was carried with a few abstentions but a clear  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority.

R3: “Conference should refuse membership to, and cancel the membership of any public figure who openly opposes its policies.” This was proposed by Malcolm Pittock, who explained that this was originally part of resolution 18 on relations with politicians. However, this was not possible so it is a separate resolution. It should be a truism that members had to agree with and not speak and act against the policies of the organisations of which they are a member. This does not exclude those who cannot openly support the organisation because of their job.

Kate Hudson: The first part “should refuse membership” is not controversial, but the second part “cancel the membership” is more problematic. CND is a broad church and some of our members oppose, and have written to the Chair, on some of our policies, for example working with the Stop the War Coalition. The category of “public figure” makes things even harder. Why draw a distinction? How is it defined? How do we convict them and how do we expel them? This rule change is a recipe for a kangaroo court and should be defeated.

Michael Waugh, Southampton CND: The wording is not perfect and how a public figure is defined and the procedure for expelling someone needs to be clarified. But the resolution is so important it has got to be supported. It is better than nothing.

Pat Arrowsmith: This is a difficult resolution and has some serious implications. Many people who were CND members supported Neil Kinnock when he renounced unilateral disarmament. There could be some unlikely candidates for expulsion.

Jim Taggart, Scottish CND: Throw this resolution out – it is unnecessary. CND has the right to expel those who openly campaign against nuclear disarmament. No need for a discriminatory statement about politicians. There is a world of distinction between CND policy and the aims of the organisation. It is a recipe for a witch hunt.

Peter le Mare moved Standing Order 23c to next business. It is totally unnecessary, no point voting on it. This was clearly carried, so the resolution fell.

8. Any other urgent business

Tom Milburn: On behalf of a member who cannot be here he asks how the Youth and Student CND representatives were nominated.

#### Closing remarks

Kate Hudson: Many thanks not only to the staff but again to Mayor Ken Livingstone for letting us use the facilities, to CAWG and to the staff (many of whom are not present). It has been a pleasure working with CND staff over the last year and I thank them all. It has been a very good weekend of debate and discussion and we have come to all kinds of important decisions. Now we have to go away and put the decisions into place and into action. Thank you very much for a very good weekend.

The meeting closed at 3.50 p.m.