

The Final Agenda for the 104th

Annual Conference of The Socialist Party
at 52 Clapham High St. London SW4 7UN on
Friday 21st March 2008 times: 10.30 to 17.30
Saturday 22nd March 2008 times: 11.00 to 16.30.

THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A Election of Chair, Deputy Chair and Tellers.
- B Permission for Branches formed in the last six months or those with late forms 'C' to sit.
- C Fraternal greetings.
- D Arrangement by Delegates of the order of taking the items of business.
- E The 2007 EC and Party Officer's Report to Conference 2008.
- F Motions for resolution.
- G Items for discussion.
- H Any other business.

THE ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

At 10.30am: Conference starts with the General Secretary calling the meeting to order and asking for nominations for Chair.

- A Election of Chair, Deputy Chair and Tellers by the Delegates.
- B Permission for Branches formed within the last six months or those with late forms 'C' to sit.
- C Fraternal greetings from members, branches, companion parties.
- D Arrangement by Delegates of the order of taking the items of business.

The suggested order of taking the items:

Item no. Subject:

- 1 Report of the General Secretary.
- 2 Report of the Assistant Secretary
- 3 Report of the Central Organiser.
- 4 Report of the Treasurer.
- 5 Item for Discussion: "Should dues be collected centrally?" East Anglian Regional Branch
- 6 Report of the Campaigns Dept.
- 7 MOTION: "This conference instructs that we set up a committee to investigate the possibility of advertising the Party on a vehicle." East Anglian Regional Branch
- 8 Item for Discussion: "The Party and its Public Relations." East Anglian Regional Branch
- 9 Report of the Central Branch Secretary.
- 10 Report of the Enquiries Dept.
- 11 Report of the Election Dept.

12 Report of the Premises Dept.

13 MOTION "This Conference rules that no member shall be permanently or semi-permanently resident at Head Office. Members may only sleep overnight at Head Office on an occasional basis for particular occasions such as Conference, ADM and EC meetings." West London Branch.
Amendment to Motion 1: Include after "meetings", ", open days, days schools and the HOO in conjunction with their duties." Swansea Branch.

14 MOTION : "This conference believes that there is no objection to people staying at head office if it helps the work of the party and is authorised by the executive committee" East Anglian Regional Branch.

LUNCHBREAK 1.30pm CONFERENCE RESUMES AT 2.45pm

15 Report of the Publications Dept.

16 Report of the Socialist Standard Dept.

17 MOTION : "This conference considers that in the heading on the front cover of the Socialist Standard the word 'Socialist' should be at least as prominent as the word 'Standard'." East Anglian Regional Branch.

18 MOTION : 'That this conference is in favour of having a Socialist Standard that is printed with ease of reading in mind, for example with articles being printed in two columns and the print justified.' East Anglian Regional Branch.

19 Report of EC on carrying out resolutions carried at Conference 2007.

20 Report of Advertising Dept.

21 Report of Archives Dept.

22 Report of Audio Dept.

23 Report of Ballot Committee.

24 Report of BLOG committee.

25 FORMS C Report

26 MOTION: 'This conference reaffirms that branches will only be recognised as having the rights of functioning branches if they return their Form C yearly, and that this be followed up by the EC.' East Anglian Regional Branch.

27 MOTION: 'This conference instructs that branches who haven't held quorate meetings at least four times in a calendar year be wound up.' East Anglian Regional Branch.

28 Report of the General Purposes Committee.

29 MOTION: "That the 1992 Conference resolution establishing the General Purposes Committee be rescinded." Central London Branch.

30 Report of Head Office Organiser.

31 Item for Discussion: The usefulness of an analysis of the political and cultural climate of the times. East Anglian Regional Branch.

ADJOURNMENT at 17.30 on Friday

CONFERENCE RESUMES at 11 am on Saturday

32 Report of Internet Dept.

33 MOTION 'This conference believes that Spintcom and Spopen should not be moderated.' East Anglian Regional Branch.

34 Report of Library Committee.

35 MOTION: 'This conference rules that members borrowing books from the library must renew their loan at three monthly intervals so that library records can be kept up to date. Further, no more than six books may be borrowed at one time.' East Anglian Regional Branch.

36 Report of the Membership Applications Committee.

37 MOTION: "That this Conference re-affirms the 1996 Conference resolution on questioning potential members, viz. "That this Conference re-affirms the need for potential members to be examined by the Branch they wish to join as instructed in Rule 1, and instructs Branches to ensure that applicants are in agreement with the Party's Object and Principles before recommending acceptance of their application." Central London Branch.

38 MOTION: "This Conference reaffirms the Socialist Party of Great Britain position that all applicants for membership shall be examined in order to ensure that they fully agree with and understand the principles and policies of the party." Glasgow Branch.

39 Item for Discussion: "The need for party discipline to be observed." Glasgow Branch.

40 Item for Discussion: The need to improve the Membership Questionnaire and the "About Joining" letter. Glasgow Branch.

41 Item for Discussion: How to get more Forms A and reduce Forms F. Central London Branch.

42 Item for Discussion: When it comes to spreading Socialist ideas in Africa would it be more practical and feasible to focus our attention on making socialists than recruiting members? However, if they apply to join, their application would be dealt with in the normal way. Swansea Branch.

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43 Item for Discussion: Should SPGB members overseas be re-formed as a World Socialist Group? South London Branch.

44 Item for Discussion: Is "anarcho socialist" a suitable way for party members to describe themselves? South London Branch.

45 MOTION: "This Conference resolves that the Party's full name, 'The Socialist Party of Great Britain', be used in the following cases:
A. legal documents;
B. Party forms;

C. Party membership cards;
D. publication credits, including the masthead of the Socialist Standard;
E. listings of World Socialist Movement parties and publications; and
F. the title of the Party's website.

Central London Branch.

Amendment: After 'C', insert new paragraph: " 'D' All Party bank accounts." and re-letter subsequent paragraphs. South London Branch.

46 Item for Discussion; What is our attitude to nuclear power? West London Branch.

47 Item for Discussion: Should we turn our lights off when we leave a room? West London Branch.

LUNCH BREAK AT 1.30 pm, CONFERENCE RESUMES AT 2.45pm

48 Report of the Production for Use Committee.

49 Item for Discussion: "The need for the Party to engage in educational and theoretical activities." Central London Branch.

50 Report of the Public Access Committee.

51 Report on SOCIALIST BANNER

52 Report of the Standing Orders Committee.

53 Report of the Video Production Dept.

54 Report of the Ad Hoc Committee investigating the circumstances surrounding the estate of the late George Pooley.

55 Report of the Ad Hoc Committee investigating alternative models of party decision.

56 MOTION 'This conference instructs the 'ad hoc committee investigating alternative models of party decision making' to investigate how best Central Branch should be run in accordance as close as possible with the running of other branches, and a set of standing orders be drawn up as a result.' East Anglian Regional Branch

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57 AMENDMENT TO RULE 4: Delete: "The EC shall appoint a Secretary to the Central Branch annually," and replace with: "The Central Branch membership shall elect their Branch Officers. Where no Branch Officers are elected the EC shall appoint annually," Swansea Branch.

Amendment to Conference Amendment to Rule 4: Reword the entire amendment as follows: Replace 'The EC shall appoint a Secretary to the Central Branch annually, who shall...' with 'The Central Branch membership shall elect their Branch Officers. Where no Branch Officers are elected, the EC shall appoint them annually. These Officers shall...'. Central London Branch.

58 AMENDMENT TO RULE 26:

"That Rule 26 should be amended so that 4 branches rather than 6 can call a Party Poll." Lancaster Branch.

Amendment to the Conference Amendment to Rule 26: Replace '4 branches' with 'at least half of all branches'. Central London Branch.

59 AMENDMENT TO RULE 31:

"That Rule 31 be amended in the last line to read: "No parties to the charge shall be allowed to sit as Delegates or Chair at Conference, ADM or any EC meeting where the case is being reviewed." Lancaster Branch

60 Adoption of the Executive Committee and Party Officers' Report to Conference 2008.

Conference Adjourns.

We call for nominations for Chair, Deputy Chair and Tellers. Branches not attending are asked to inform Standing orders, Members seeking accommodation should contact the Central Organiser (Cde Buick) via head office.

Standing Orders Committee, 13 February 2008.

Special Standing Orders report to Conference re an amendment to a motion and an item for discussion ruled out of order.

A: Central London Branch submitted an amendment to item 27 (a motion from East Anglian Regional Branch) The amendment did not make sense and was ruled out of order.

MOTION : 'This conference instructs that branches who haven't held quorate meetings at least four times in a calendar year be wound up.'
(East Anglian Regional Branch)

Amendment to Conference Motion 11: Replace 'four branches' with 'six branches'.

(This is a simple change in magnitude so we don't consider a supporting statement to be necessary.)Central London branch.

This is out of order as there is no "four branches" anywhere in the motion, SOC.

B: Swansea submitted an item for discussion which was ruled out of order as it is, in our opinion, a subordinate matter of routine which is already been dealt with by the General Secretary, SOC.

Item for discussion: What is the point of circulating hardcopy documents when the recipients (branches and members) have access to email facilities? Where possible should branches be encouraged to agree to receive all party documents by email rather than hard copy. Swansea Branch.