

## PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

There are two procedural problems likely to be faced that the 2017 AGM, one relating to the desire to not have to hold a postal ballot unless absolutely necessary and the other on a variety of motions on sub section 4.6.

### Need for a postal ballot

The simplest way around the desire to not have to hold a postal ballot unless absolutely necessary is to take the sub section 4.6 and the proxy vote motions first and if both fail, then for the proposer(s) of the other constitutional change motions to withdraw them.

The alternative approach is a complex procedural double motion. The first part is to take a procedural motion to make the debates and votes on the proposed changes subject to a second procedural motion. The intent of the first procedural motion is to make the actual constitutional change motions not complete without the subsequent procedural motion. Otherwise if any one constitutional change motion was passed, then it automatically is required to be put to a postal ballot. My suggestion for this motion is as follows (and apologies for its complexity):

*That this meeting agrees that each debate and vote on each proposed motion (including any amendments) to change a feature of the constitution will also require a subsequent motion confirming that the agreed changes are of sufficient value to warrant the cost of a postal ballot. And that it notes each such motion will be subject to the constitutional requirement that a proposed constitutional amendment shall be taken as succeeding if a 70% majority of votes cast for the motion is obtained in each House, otherwise the motion shall fail. And that it agrees that the said subsequent motion only requires a simple majority in both Houses to pass so that for those successful motions to be taken as motions passed by this General Meeting as motions to change the constitution.*

The second part is a procedural motion following completion of debates on each of the proposed changes to the constitution:

*That this meeting confirms the successful motions to change features of the constitution are of sufficient value to warrant the cost of a postal ballot and hence are to be taken as motions passed by this General Meeting as motions to change the constitution and that the Executive is instructed to proceed to take those said successful motions to a postal ballot.*

### Sub section 4.6

The second procedural motion arises because we have several alternative motions on the first sentence in sub section 4.6. I suggest that there are three possible outcomes, a motion leaving it as it is because no change is required, or a motion deleting the sentence, or a motion (or several motions with differing detail) amending the sentence. The problem that the meeting could face is that even if one motion is successful, a proposer of a subsequent motion may still insist on debating their motion. I therefore suggest the meeting first debates the merits of each motion and then votes on which order to take the motions in. That is done with the understanding that the first successful motion means all subsequent motions become void. In order to ensure this clearly understood and accepted by the meeting I suggest the following procedural motion be taken before the start of considering the motions dealing with sub section 4.6:

*That this meeting agrees to debate the motions related to not needing to do anything to, deleting or changing the first sentence of sub section 4.6 in order to ensure the merits and negative aspects of each motion are understood by the meeting and then followed by a series of debates when each motion is considered until one is successful. And that the order for taking those motions is set by the random draw of slips of paper from a container where each slip of paper contains an abbreviated version the motion. And that the meeting recognises that a motion leaving the sentence as it is only requires a simple majority in each house whilst any motion changing the words in the constitution will require a 70% majority in each house.*

If the will of the meeting is that an alternative method of deciding the order of taking motions is preferred then I will be prepared to listen and accept an amendment at the General Meeting.

Bob Mehew  
BCA Legal & Insurance Officer  
28 January 2017

## Formal Proposals

To The Secretary, BCA

Please place the following on the agenda for the BCA AGM on 11 June 2017

1 A first procedural motion to avoid if needed a postal, to be taken before any debate on constitutional change motions:

*That this meeting agrees that each debate and vote on each proposed motion to change a feature of the constitution will also require a subsequent motion confirming that the agreed changes are of sufficient value to warrant the cost of a postal ballot. And that it notes each such motion will be subject to the constitutional requirement that a proposed Constitutional amendment shall be taken as succeeding if a 70% majority of votes cast for the motion is obtained in each House, otherwise the motion shall fail. And that it agrees that the said subsequent motion only requires a simple majority in both Houses to pass so that for those successful motions to be taken as motions passed by this General Meeting as motions to change the constitution.*

2 A second procedural motion to avoid if needed a postal ballot, to be taken after all debates on constitutional change motions have concluded:

*That this meeting confirms the successful motions to change features of the constitution are of sufficient value to warrant the cost of a postal ballot and hence are to be taken as motions passed by this General Meeting as motions to change the constitution and that the Executive is instructed to proceed to take those said successful motions to a postal ballot.*

3 A procedural motion to provide order to the debate on the first sentence in sub section 4.6, to be taken prior to any debate on those motions:

*That this meeting agrees to debate the motions related to not needing to do anything to, deleting or changing the first sentence of sub section 4.6 in order to ensure the merits and negative aspects of each motion are understood by the meeting and then followed by a series of debates when each motion is considered until one is successful when those motions which follow are deemed to have failed. And that the order for taking those motions is set by the random draw of slips of paper from a container where each slip of paper contains an abbreviated version the motion. And that the meeting recognises that a motion leaving the sentence as it is, only requires a simple majority in each house whilst any motion changing the words in the constitution will require a 70% majority in each house.*

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