



**Minutes of the Extra Ordinary General Meeting of the Association
held on Saturday 4 June 2011 at the Westmorland County Showground**

Present: A Devonport (Chairman), B Jones (Vice President), S Adcock, M Benge, Ms T Blackwell, M Booth, A Brown-Jackson, I Campbell, E Fort, Q Grosvenor, B Hannett, C Jenkins, R Kitchen, Ms B Koo, R Love, Mrs I Mitchell, S Mitchell, P Moorhead, R Stockall.

In Attendance: Miss A Shaw.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and pointed out that the only business for the meeting would be the subject of the adoption of the proposed new Constitution and Rules.

The DSWA Management Committee had discussed this subject at length over the last six years, taking account of the latest information provided by the Government and Charity Commission. Grateful thanks were recorded to members, and in particular to Chris Stephens and Brian Jones, who have worked tirelessly to get to the position the Association is now at. The Charity Commission had confirmed that the proposed amendments to the Constitution were acceptable.

One of the main reasons for the proposed changes to the Constitution was to have governing documents that better reflect the organisation as it continues to move forward. The Constitution considers only the ultimate governance of the organisation and changes cannot be made without reference to the Charity Commission. However, the day to day running of the Association is covered in the Rules (or Standing Orders), which can be amended by the Association without having to seek Charity Commission approval for any changes. The other major change would be the reduction in the number of Trustees from 30 to 12, as is considered best practice by the Charity Commission. At present all members of the Management Committee are deemed Trustees and are responsible for running the Association. However, branches and members would continue to input into discussions either via the Charity Trustees, directly to DSWA Officers or the DSWA Office. A Members' Forum would be established in order for members to have the opportunity to discuss current matters or raise issues of interest or concern. It is envisaged that this group would meet twice a year although additional meetings could be arranged if required.

By making changes to the Constitution now, it should also be easier for the Association to move to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) as and when the opportunity arises. This incorporation would limit the financial liability of the Charity Trustees and allow the Association to act as a legal entity for holding property and other financial operations.

Should the resolutions outlined on the voting paper be agreed, there would be elections for the new Charity Trustees at the Annual General Meeting, taking place on 26 November 2011.

The meeting was advised of two minor typographical errors in the Constitution document;
Page 3, Item 8, sub clause 2(d), should read "... referred to in paragraph (c)".
Page 6, Item 10, sub clause 4(e), should read "... limit specified in clause 12 on the number....."

There were no questions in response to the above and following a short break for anyone wishing to vote in person and additional votes to be counted, the results were announced as follows.

	FOR	AGAINST
To adopt the new Constitution to take effect from the Annual General Meeting in 2011.	369 (93%)	25
To adopt the new Rules to take effect from the Annual General Meeting in 2011.	365 (93%)	27

Thanks were recorded to Mrs Patricia Bell, Elected Member of the EC Electoral Observation Roster, for counting the votes on behalf of the Association.