

Record of Constitutional Changes

“The Constitution and By Laws according to which WDA functioned initially were drawn up in close consultation with the Charity Commission, and were adopted on 6 September 1997 and subsequently [July 1999] ratified by postal ballot.” The origin and development of WDA: the first ten years, 1997-2007 by Philip Corbet. Agrion 12(1). January 2008.

1. Membership

Reported in Agrion 7(2). July 2003, page 28.

“SAFEGUARDING THE REPUTATION OF WDA *Philip S. Corbet and Michael J. Parr*

Explanation

The effectiveness of an association, especially a charitable trust, in achieving its objectives depends on the respect it commands, and this in turn depends on the conduct of its members. If a member, by his or her conduct, brings the trust into dis-repute, the Trustees have a responsibility, both to the trust and its membership, to make explicit their disapproval of the offending action and to dissociate the trust from that action. A conspicuous and effective way of achieving this may be to terminate the membership of the trust of the member responsible for the offence. To some extent provision already exists in the Constitution for achieving this (i.e. in clause E.5) but, having regard to the discussion at the Second Biennial General Meeting at Gällivare on 24 July 2001, we are of the opinion that the existing clause can be improved, partly in order to make any proceedings more open and better understood. The outcome of our deliberations is the following proposal. We thank David Fitch for his valued advice and help with formulation of the proposal. In conformity with Clause T of the WDA Constitution, this proposal is now subjected to a postal ballot by the membership. (Due to the mistaken belief by P.S.C. and M.J.P (combined ages 122 years) that this article had already been launched, this proposal is appearing later than the authors would have intended.)

The proposal:

That clause E.5 of the WDA Constitution be replaced by the following passage:

5) In exceptional circumstances, including those in which the Board deems that a member’s conduct has brought disrepute upon or is inconsistent with the objects of the Charity (the WDA), the Board may, for good reason and by unanimous vote, refuse or terminate the membership of any individual or member organisation. The Board shall report its decision, and the reasons for it, to the membership at large through the newsletter. A terminated member may request reinstatement by written request submitted to the Board, which shall act on same according to such procedure and standards as it in its sole discretion deems appropriate.”

THE VOTE: as reported in Agrion 8(1), January 2004, page 28

“Following the ballot sent out with the last issue of AGRION I am pleased to announce that more than 2/3rds of the membership returned ballot papers (182 in total) The following are the results for each proposal (please see AGRION 7(2) for the details of the wording):

Constitution Clause E5 Membership

Yes . 177, No- 3, Abstentions . 2”

2. Immediate Past-president

Reported in Agrion 7(2). July 2003, pages 27–28

“A PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE WDA CONSTITUTION TO INCLUDE THE IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT AMONG THE OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEE *Mike May*

Explanation

A common practice among scientific and professional organizations is to retain as a member of its governing body the president (or corresponding executive officer) whose term has just ended. This more readily provides the incoming president with the benefit of the experience and advice of the past president, particularly with respect to ongoing or unfinished business as well as tasks or problems that may commonly arise but might not be easily anticipated by someone who has not served in the position. Thus I hope, for my own benefit and that of future WDA Presidents that the amendments proposed will provide this help and continuity. I should point out that the proposal was approved in principle and without dissent both by the Board of Trustees and the Biennial General Meeting during the recent Symposium in Beechworth, Australia, but to become effective it needs approval by the WDA membership at large. Note also that, for the interim, Philip Corbet, who is now our immediate Past President, was co-opted as a member of the Board of Trustees pending a final decision on my proposal. In suggesting changes in wording of the relevant paragraphs, I have changed references to the number of Board members so as to allow for the addition of the Past President without increasing the maximum number of members making up the Board (i.e., because the section G.1. of the Constitution allows for a Board of seven to twelve members, I have worded subsequent sections to preserve those limits); my thought in doing so was to avoid setting a precedent of expanding the maximum size of the Board, a practice that could lead its becoming unwieldy. Changed words are underlined>.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO WDA CONSTITUTION

F. HONORARY OFFICERS. Via a secret postal ballot the members shall elect from among themselves a president-elect, a secretary/ treasurer (or a secretary and a treasurer), who shall hold office from the conclusion of the next biennial meeting. The previously elected president-elect shall wherever possible take over as president but in the event of the president-elect being unable to take up the office of president, then there shall be a postal ballot to elect a president. The outgoing president shall wherever possible serve as immediate past president until the next subsequent biennial meeting but in the event of the president being unable to assume the office of immediate past president the latter office shall be vacant.

G. BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- 1) The Board shall consist of not less than seven members nor more than twelve members being:
 - (a) the four/five honorary officers specified in the previous clause.
 - (b) not less than three and not more than seven members elected via a secret postal ballot at least four weeks prior to the following biennial meeting who shall hold office from the conclusion of that meeting.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO WDA BY-LAWS

3. BOARD of TRUSTEES

a) (i) According to Clauses F and G of the Constitution, the Association shall be administered by a Board of Trustees. The Board shall consist of a Chairman (the President of WDA), a Vice Chairman (President-elect of WDA), a Secretary/Treasurer (or Secretary & Treasurer), a Managing Editor of the WDA Journal, and the Immediate Past President plus at least two and not more than six ordinary members.

b) Elections to the Board (i) All Trustees, except for the President-elect and President, shall resign at the BGM following the one at which they took office but, apart from the President, they shall be eligible for re-election. The President-elect shall automatically take over as President. In the event of this being impossible, the President shall be replaced by the newly elected President-elect who shall then serve an extra term and the Board may appoint a President-elect to take his place or, alternatively, leave the post

unfilled until nominations are next called for. The outgoing President shall serve as Immediate Past President until the BGM following the end of his/her term as President.

THE VOTE: as reported in Agrion 8(1), January 2004, page 28

“Following the ballot sent out with the last issue of AGRION I am pleased to announce that more than 2/3rds of the membership returned ballot papers (182 in total) The following are the results for each proposal (please see AGRION 7(2) for the details of the wording):

Constitution Clause F Honorary Officers

Yes . 178, No . 4, Abstentions . 0

Constitution G1 Board of Trustees

Yes . 178, No . 4, Abstentions . 0

By Law 3 Board of Trustees

Yes . 178, No . 4, Abstentions . 0”

3. Board tasks

Reported in Agrion 8(1), January 2004

“Proposed changes to the WDA Constitution and By Laws

Following discussion among the Board of Trustees the following proposal is made by Viola Clausnitzer and agreed by the Board, to change the wording of By Law 3.C(vii), to clarify Board positions and the tasks allocated to them. (changes are shown in bold type)

(vii) With the exception of the Secretary, Treasurer and Editor, Trustees shall regulate the allocation of tasks, under the direction of the Executive. Among these tasks are: **Chairman of a Conservation & Funds Committee; Membership Co-ordinator; Co-ordinator of International Symposia of Odonatology; Webmaster and Archivist. The detailed responsibilities associated to each task shall be determined by the Board of Trustees. When appropriate, and with the agreement of the member designated, more than one task may be assigned to a single member of the Board.** All members of the Board shall share responsibility for fund raising.”

4. Electronic voting

Reported in Agrion 8(1), January 2004

“In addition it is proposed by Linda Averill that a change be made to the Constitution to allow the membership of WDA to take advantage of electronic voting if this method suits their situation. The proposal has been agreed by the Board of Trustees and will mean an additional clause being added to the Constitution and to the By Laws as follows:

Constitution Clause W. Electronic Voting

Wherever in this Constitution voting is required or authorised, such a vote may also be conducted by electronic mail initiated by the same officer who would preside at the voting if conducted by postal ballot or at a meeting, and subject to the same response times, quorum and majority requirements

By Law 12. Electronic Voting

Wherever in these By Laws voting is required or authorised, such a vote may also be conducted by electronic mail initiated by the same officer who would preside at the voting if conducted by postal ballot or at a meeting, and subject to the same response times, quorum and majority requirements

VOTE:

Minutes 4th General Meeting, Pontevedra (Spain), July 2005

Page 4: Report of the President and Chairman of Board of Trustees

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Administration. During the interval of this report, changes to the Constitution and By-Laws were ratified that clarify the policy of refusal or termination of membership, that provide for the Immediate Past President to remain a member of the Board, and that provide for electronic balloting for officers and any matters requiring approval by the WDA membership. By Board action, the tasks of National Offices Coordinator and Liaison Officer were discontinued and the Code of Conduct was changed to allow, under unusual and defined circumstances, for collection of specimens without prior permission that ordinarily would be required.”

5. Change “Symposium” to “Congress”

Proposed at 8th General Meeting in Freising, Germany June 18, 2013. Approved unanimously.

6. Japanese officers at the national office

Freising 2013 BGM: “It was unanimously carried that the Japanese officers at the national office be ratified within their own offices and not by international WDA vote.”

Bylaw #4 National/Regional Offices amended by adding: (d) Japanese officers at the national office shall be ratified within their own offices and not by international WDA vote.”