The Standing Orders Committee began its work this year, prior to the impact of Covid-19, in preparation for a traditional AGM.

Melvyn Coleman stood down from the SOC during this period and we would like to thank him for his service. Sheila Banks was co-opted to fill the vacancy and we are incredibly grateful for her skills and experience. Sheila has previously served both as AGM Chair but also for numerous years as a member of the SOC.

16 resolutions were received by the deadline. One was rejected as it did not meet the submission requirement of the number of supporters. 5 resolutions called for amendments to the Articles and were therefore classed as Special Resolutions. The SOC worked with the proposers both before and after the deadline to bring resolutions into line with the Standing Orders and we would like to thank all those involved for their cooperation.

Following the decision to hold the AGM as a closed meeting, the SOC wrote to all proposers asking if they wished for their resolutions to continue to be heard or to resubmit them next year. As a result, 8 resolutions have been placed on the AGM agenda, including the standard financial resolutions F1 and F2 and a Special Resolution S1.

Although there will be a virtual forum at which resolutions S1, and ordinary resolutions O1 - O5 can be discussed, the SOC have agreed that as this discussion is not a formal part of the AGM, Standing Orders will not apply. Therefore, there will be no requirement for resolutions to be formally proposed during the online discussions, and no amendments will be permissible. Voting will be postal/electronic. Ordinary resolutions will require a simple majority of votes in favour and S1 will require a three-quarter majority for adoption.

The SOC are not proposing any changes to Standing Orders for the period to the next AGM.

Dr Alex Rhys (Chair)

Sheila Banks

Tom Hedley