

CONSTITUTION OF EXETER CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

1. DEFINITIONS

In this Constitution,

'CND' means the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament;

'ECND' means the Exeter Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament;

'AGM' means an Annual General Meeting as defined in Section 5.1;

'EGM' means an Extraordinary General Meeting as defined in Section 5.2;

'WG' means a Working Group as defined in Section 8;

'AG' means an Area Group as defined in Section 9.

GM means a General Meeting

2. AIMS

2.1. The aims of ECND shall be those of CND, namely:

The unilateral abandonment by Britain of nuclear weapons, nuclear bases and nuclear alliances as a prerequisite for a British foreign policy which has the worldwide abolition of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons leading to general and complete disarmament as its prime objective; opposition to the manufacture, stockpiling, testing, use and threatened use of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons by any country and the policies of any country or group of countries which make nuclear war more likely, or which hinder progress towards a world without weapons of mass destruction.

2.2. Any changes in the aims of CND shall automatically apply to Section 2.1.

2.3. ECND shall be a CND Group as defined in the Constitution of CND.

2.4. Besides participating in CND activities, ECND has the specific aim of carrying out such activities within Exeter and its region as will further the aims of CND.

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1. Individual: any individual may join ECND. The rates of subscription are: £1 for pensioners, Social Security and Unemployment Benefit claimants, and those receiving full-time education; £2 for other members.

3.2. Affiliated: any organization may affiliate to ECND, subject to the approval of Council. The rates of subscription are: £5, or 5p for each member of the organization, whichever is the smaller.

3.3. Conditions of membership

3.3.1. Members must declare that they accept the aims and constitution of ECND.

3.3.2. Subscriptions are due annually; the subscription year runs from 1 January to 31 December. Members joining on or after 27 October in any year shall not be liable for a subscription in the year following.

3.3.3. Members may resign at any time, but are liable for their subscription for the year in which they resign.

3.3.4. Members may be expelled from ECND by a two-thirds majority vote of a GM.

3.3.5. The rates of subscription may be changed by a simple majority of a GM.

3.3.6. In Section 3.3., 'members' refers both to individual members and to affiliated organizations.

4. ORGANIZATION

The activities of ECND shall be determined by GMs and Council, in so far as these activities are city-wide or involve participation in national campaigns, conferences, etc. Reports on activities shall be made to an AGM. Area Groups and Affiliated Organizations shall be responsible for activities within their own areas and organizations.

5. ANNUAL AND EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETINGS

SM ~~General Assembly~~

5.1. Annual General Meeting: there shall be an AGM of all individual members of ECND, which shall receive reports from the Officers, Area Groups and Affiliated Organizations, and elect Officers and an Auditor. Three weeks' written notice of this meeting and of the business to be transacted at it shall be given to each member.

5.2. Extraordinary General Meeting: an EGM of all individual members of ECND may be summoned by Council or at the written request to the Secretary of at least thirty individual members. Two weeks' written notice of the meeting and of the business to be transacted at it shall be given to each member of ECND.

whom not more than ten may be on any one AG.

5.3. Powers of GMs: GMs shall have such powers as are assigned to them in this Constitution; in addition they shall decide on business relating to ECND Annual Conference, and may make decisions which shall be binding on ECND Council.

5.4. Conduct of GMs

General Chairman

5.4.1. GMs shall be chaired by the President or in his/her absence by a substitute elected by the meeting.

5.4.2. The quorum for a GM shall be thirty, but an inquorate meeting shall be quorate for the purposes of conducting elections.

5.4.3. All ECND members present at a GM shall have a vote; Affiliated Organizations may delegate a member to speak on their behalf at a GM, but such members shall have no additional votes.

5.4.4. Any minor procedural irregularity in the summoning of a GM may be waived by a two-thirds majority of a quorate meeting, and the meeting proceed as if such irregularity had not occurred.

6. OFFICERS AND AUDITOR

General Chairman

6.1. There shall be a President; a General Secretary, a Membership Secretary and a Minutes Secretary (all or any two of which posts may be held by the same individual); a Treasurer; and a Press Officer.

6.2. Elections

6.2.1. Elections to these offices shall be held at the AGM.

6.2.2. Nominations may be made either in writing or at the AGM; in either case they must be seconded and it must be clear that the nominee is willing to serve.

6.2.3. Elections shall be by show of hands unless any member present at the AGM calls for a ballot; in either case elections shall be held by 'exhaustive vote', with the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes being eliminated from the next poll until one candidate shall achieve a clear majority.

- 6.3. Casual vacancies shall be filled by Council.
- 6.4. Officers shall hold office until the end of the AGM following their election.
- 6.5. *General Chairperson*
The President and General Secretary shall be individual members of ECND during their terms of office; the AGM or Council as appropriate may agree to pay their subscriptions out of ECND funds.
- 6.6. Duties of Officers
- 6.6.1. All Officers shall be subject to and responsible for carrying out the instructions of GMs and Council, except where this responsibility has been assigned by Council to a Working Group.
- 6.6.2. *General Chairperson*
The ~~President~~ shall chair such GMs as are held during his/her term of office; the General Secretary shall be responsible for the general organization of ECND (the taking of minutes and the keeping of membership records/collection of subscriptions shall be the responsibility of a Minutes Secretary and a Membership Secretary respectively, when these posts are held by a person who is not the General Secretary); the Treasurer shall be responsible for the income and expenditure of ECND, and shall keep accounts; the Press Officer shall be responsible for any statements, letters, etc., issued on behalf of ECND to the media.
- 6.6.3. Any Officer may delegate his/her duties to another Officer in the event of illness or temporary unavailability, for a period not normally exceeding two weeks.
- 6.6.4. If an office cannot be filled, Council shall make such arrangements as are appropriate for its duties to be carried out.
- 6.7. Auditor: following the election of Officers, the AGM shall elect an Auditor, who shall not be an Officer. The Auditor shall examine the accounts presented by the Treasurer to the following AGM, and shall certify that they are accurate. In the event of the Auditor's being chosen to fill a casual vacancy for Officer or ceasing to hold office for other reason Council shall elect a member to fill the vacancy.
7. COUNCIL
- 7.1. *organized*
The activities of ECND shall be ~~directed~~, subject to instructions from GMs, by a Council, which shall meet once in each month, and may hold special meetings as necessary. Council shall elect a chairperson from among those present at each meeting to serve at the following meeting.
- 7.2. Council shall consist of: the Chairperson; the Officers; two delegates from each AG; one delegate from each Affiliated Organization, except in the case of those Affiliated Organizations which Council, by a two-thirds majority, has agreed shall have ~~additional delegates up to a maximum of three in all~~. All members shall be individual members of ECND.
- 7.3. All members of Council shall have the right to speak and vote, except that the Chairperson shall have only a casting vote in the event of a tie. No individual may have more than one vote. Any individual member of ECND not a member of Council may attend Council meetings, and speak at them.
- 7.4. The quorum for a Council meeting shall be ten, but an inquorate meeting shall be competent to transact essential business.

3. WORKING GROUPS

Council may establish WGs either permanently or temporarily for the purpose of preparing or carrying out the work of ECND. Each WG shall choose a co-ordinator, who shall report to Council as required on the WGs activities. WGs may be called upon by AGs for advice and assistance.

9. AREA GROUPS

- 9.1. AGs shall consist of all individual members of ECND within their areas; they may accept affiliations from organizations within their areas on such terms as they see fit.
- 9.2. AGs shall choose a convenor and a treasurer, and shall send two delegates to Council. They may choose their delegates ad hoc before each Council meeting, or for a period not exceeding one year.
- 9.3. The areas for which AGs are responsible shall be defined by Council. AGs may propose to Council a division of their AG into two or more AGs; no AG shall be established for an area smaller than a District Council Ward.

10. FUNDS

- 10.1. The income from subscriptions and from the activities of ECND shall be held by the Treasurer and spent at the direction of Council.
- 10.2. Council may allocate funds to AGs and WGs for specific activities; in the absence of a decision by Council the Treasurer may in cases of urgency allocate sums not exceeding £20 to AGs and WGs, and shall report such allocations to the next meeting of Council.
- 10.3. AGs may retain funds they have raised themselves (including any income from local affiliations) for their own use in furthering the aims of ECND.

11. DISSOLUTION

ECND may be dissolved by a two-thirds majority vote of a GM; its net assets shall be made over to CND, or, if that no longer exists at the time of the dissolution, to such organization as a majority of a GM shall designate.

12. INTERPRETATION AND AMENDMENT

- 12.1. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of a GM.
- 12.2. Except where otherwise provided, all decisions and elections referred to in this Constitution shall be by simple majority. In all cases, majority means a majority of those present and entitled to vote who actually vote; an abstention is not a vote.
- 12.3. The holders of all offices and other posts referred to in this Constitution are eligible for re-appointment at the end of their term of office.
- 12.4. In any case of ambiguity or omission the ruling of the person chairing the meeting (or of the President ^{if the person is} if the ambiguity or omission becomes apparent otherwise than at a meeting) shall be final; the Officers shall bring an amendment to clarify the Constitution to the next AGM.

To Area Groups - from the Working Group on the Constitution

The draft constitution has been drawn up by the working group on the lines approved by Council at its meeting on December 1 1980. It is proposed to adopt it at the AGM on January 26 1981. The form which adoption will take is as follows:

Tim Reuter will move on behalf of the working group that the draft constitution be adopted as the ECND Constitution, and will explain its provisions;

Any amendments proposed and seconded will then be taken, in the order in which they apply to the Constitution. Each amendment will be voted on in turn, except for those which fall as a result of an earlier vote;

After all amendments have been voted on, the meeting will be asked to approve the Constitution (as amended).

Area Groups are asked to submit amendments in writing to Rita by January 10 1981 if possible, so that they can be sent out to members with the draft constitution and other papers for the AGM. The absolute deadline for amendments is January 21 1981; this gives us time to prepare a sheet listing all the amendments in order. It will not be in order to propose amendments for the first time at the meeting, except for minor alterations of wording which do not affect the substance.

It is essential that amendments should be in proper form, i.e. proposing specific additions, alterations or deletions. Tim Reuter (tel. 59719) is willing to advise on the wording of amendments.

It is of course open to any individual member of CND to propose amendments; but we hope that amendments will be proposed through Area Group meetings, and not be pressed if there is not a majority for them there. The point is that there will be a large number of members at the AGM, many of them new ones, for whom such matters are of little or no interest. Co-operation and self-restraint will be necessary if we are to get through this business quickly - which is not meant to discourage anyone from submitting amendments they feel are essential!

A few points of explanation may be helpful. All the 13 points recorded in the minutes of the December 1 meeting have been incorporated in the constitution, except for no. 10, which appeared to be pointless in view of no. 1. Point 8 has been dealt with by a slight change in point 6, whereby Affiliated Organizations may be allowed more than one delegate if 2/3 of Council agree: this will cover the University group. Additional points:

3.3.4 (expulsion) - no sinister intention, simply reflecting the need for any organization which accepts members to be able to expel them if they damage it (eg by embezzling funds or making public statements defaming it).

5.4.4. - again, no sinister intention; it merely enables a GM to proceed even if e.g. some members have only had thirteen days' notice.

6.1. (President) - this is not a rejection of the decision taken by Council to have a rotating chairperson, but arises from (a) the requirement laid down in the CND Constitution to have an equivalent figure (b) the need to have someone to chair General Meetings, which are a different body from Council. The provisions of 2., 5.3., 6.4., and 11 also arise from the CND Constitution.

NB — PLEASE REMIND ALL MEMBERS THAT ADMISSION TO THE AGM WILL BE BY MEMBERSHIP CARD!