**Proposed amendment to the SHA Constitution :**

**Proposed – Jos Bell**

The proposal is that there is no place for slates in the context of SHA elections or for pejorative written statements to be circulated about either slates or candidates, for the following reasons :

It is the responsibility of the SHA officers and CC members to care for the reputation of this organisation in all areas of our operation.

Slates have been introduced over the past few years to the point that they have latterly become public property, such that they have brought the organisation into significant public disrepute.

Slates have been used to highlight, manufacture and exacerbate internal discord.

The SHA has garnered a tradition of an eternal focus on internal matters – which is only exacerbated and highlighted by the use of slates.

The bandying around of slates on social media is detrimental to the organisation.

In some cases members have been included on slates without prior permission – sometimes resulting in being included in more than one at once.

Slates suggest that there is no capacity for members of the organisation to work together.

Instead, to care for the reputation of the SHA, we should accordingly run our elections in a positive light, thus :

Slates play no part in our election processes.

Members should be elected on their own individual merit.

During elections it is important to treat all those standing for office with respect.

Those wishing to stand should be invited to fill out a template of basic information and a brief statement. If members wish to find out more about those standing for office or CC they should be able to contact them direct with additional questions, as with any selection campaign.

We should also be certain that as a Labour Party affiliate, all those standing for SHA officer election are Labour Party members, and the same should apply to those acting as Returning Officer.

 **February 2020**