

## **SHA CHAIR'S REPORT**

### **Treasurer and finances**

The Treasurer blocked our main Coop Bank account and refused to put the Chair and the Secretary as signatories, against the Constitution and the Standing Financial Instructions of 2012 and 2020. This is apparently to force agreement that there should be an SGM held. No-one has refused an SGM.

The Treasurer had not complied by 11/9 to requests to put the Chair and Secretary as signatories. As a result of her decision to repeatedly breach the Constitution and the SFIs, she has ceased to be a member of the SHA. We need to elect a new Treasurer as per the Standing Orders.

The Treasurer raised queries about financial irregularities in the accounts over 2019 and 2018. We hope to set up an independent enquiry into these.

### **Special General Meeting**

There are practical and legal problems with the SGM as it stands. Meeting face to face is impossible in pandemic times and a virtual meeting will not be accessible to all SHA members. The framing of the motion may not be constitutional.

We are asking CC to find a fair and practical way of holding a SGM.

### **SHA Policy development on Race, Racism and Health**

This has now taken the first step. We are asking members to form a small group under the direction of Tony Jewell. The group will draw up Terms of Reference outlining the scope of the policy and the resources needed to finish the task. That will go to CC for a decision about whether to proceed.

### **Social Care Campaign**

This will launch on 10/10 and, with KONP, we are sending out notifications nationally. IN addition, we are asking branches to support the campaign locally, jointly with KONP groups if possible. We have support from a wide range of organisations, including unions and the TUC. Recently, John McDonnell offered his support and will speak. This remains a most opportune time to begin this initiative. A number of members have been heavily involved in planning this campaign.

### **Recess**

The government has been in recess, so no contact with the Shadow Team for a little while. We have a follow-up meeting with Alex Norris, Shadow Minister for Primary Care on community development in early October.

### **Connected, Labour's Online Conference.**

SHA held a successful online meeting on social care. We had a substantial audience who were enthusiastic about the contributions. However, I was very concerned to be told by John McDonnell's secretary that he had received representations from members of SHA and, as a result, he withdrew from speaking shortly before the event. If this is the case, it is quite unacceptable behaviour from members of SHA, damaging the SHA, preventing good work and impeding progress on social care.

### **Auditors**

The last audit of SHA accounts was in 2018, but the accounts were not agreed as there was no AGM in 2019, so I have begun the process of setting up an audit for the 2019 accounts and ensuring the 2018 accounts are referred to the AGM.

**Web adverts**

For years, companies from across the world have paid SHA about £9K a year to place articles about their products on our website to increase their attraction to web searches. The articles themselves are rarely seen by website visitors. Our administrator has a process for vetting the articles and the companies, eliminating unsavoury content. Many are refused. Jean does a separate ethical review. There remains concern in CC about this process and we shall set up a group to explore further.

**PayPal**

Irene has had access to all the PayPal transactions and so has full knowledge of the financial health of the SHA. We are investigating how and whether we can totally stop all payments from PayPal to align us with the Standing Financial Instructions. It is not easy, from a technical point of view.

**Branches**

There appears to have been inadequate communication between branches and CC for many years. In addition, as a result of many branch delegates now no longer on CC until the next AGM, we need to improve communication and decision-making between branches and the centre. I am contacting branch chairs in England to sound them out for ideas for how this might be improved.

**Our administrator**

Ken was originally given a sparse, undated contract and was not managed. I am now his line manager with appraisal. I have drawn up a formal contract which is now in line with the SFIs. He will be submitting reports to CC on his work.

**Brian Fisher Sept 20**