"Dear SHA members,

We need to inform you of an unacceptable situation with regard to SHA's bank, the Coop Bank. The current Officers cannot gain access to the accounts.

Our Standing Financial Instructions require that the 3 Officers, Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, be signatories to the Coop Bank accounts. We understand that the current signatories to the accounts are Alex Scott-Samuel, Irene Leonard, our previous Treasurer, Alison Scouller and Tony Beddow. None of these are Officers.

The Coop requires the current signatories to formally agree to any change of signatories. Despite negotiating with our previous Treasurer about this for months, and despite Central Council voting to make it happen, no support from any of the previous signatories has been forthcoming. As a compromise, Brian asked for just his name to be added, but even that was not complied with.

A number of consequences flow from this unconstitutional, unacceptable state of affairs.

1. The Officers have no oversight of the finances
2. Central Council has no oversight of the finances
3. Some recent transactions (under ex- treasurer Irene Leonard), appear to have been taking place unconstitutionally.
4. Official, original bank statements are required for any audit and for the independent financial investigation to which CC agreed. These have not been forthcoming either, despite a request, so audits and the investigation are likely to be delayed
5. We shall have to write to the Bank explaining this situation and asking them to place the Officers on the accounts without any counter-signatories. That risks the Bank designating the accounts "disputed" which may close the accounts to us for a long time.

The situation is urgent and it is vital that the SHA Officers have access to funds. We call on the current signatories to countersign the request to the Coop Bank to allow the current officers to access the account.

To remind you, we now have a new Treasurer, Martin Brooks, voted in by Central Council 3 weeks ago.

Yours,

Brian, Jean and Martin"