



**Air Traffic Control Officers Branch
58th Annual Delegate Conference**

SOC PAPER 7

REPORT ON CONFERENCE

DAY 1

Conference opened at 1420 with a welcome from the Branch Chair, Mr Paul Winstanley. The delegates then introduced themselves.

Standing Orders Committee Report:

Kevin Malam, Chair SOC presented the SOC Report along with SOC Papers 1 and 2. All were approved by Conference.

Branch Chair

Branch Chair, Paul Winstanley addressed Conference. He informed Conference that yet again the Branch had been involved in a very hectic year, with many new issues arising. He gave a number of thanks to colleagues, in particular Charlie de Rosa, who had given exceptional assistance and support to the family of a member of the NTUS group who suffered a heart attack during the NTUS visit to Gibraltar. He also thanked his colleagues on the BEC who yet again have worked tirelessly throughout the year but with particular mention to Chris Edwards & Hayden Evens who had recently concluded protracted negotiations and signed a new agreement on Loss of a Local Certificate of Competence. Paul informed Conference that the new Agreement contained significant improvements over previous agreements, would lead to greater consistency in how such cases would be dealt with in the future and contained new compensation arrangements for members who may find themselves in this very difficult situation and for whom the other provisions of the Agreement do not find a resolution.

He moved on to talk of the future. Changes and challenges will continue to present themselves. NATS will soon announce the name of its new Chief Executive and there is the distinct possibility that the Airline Group could sell their shares in the Company. Both events would no doubt bring new challenges and the Branch would need to be prepared, remain strong and resolute.

Paul asked Delegates to fully involve themselves in the debate over the course of the week-end and to enjoy a successful Conference.

BEC Report, Annual Report etc:

Mr Stuart Osman presented the BEC Report, the Annual Report and the Treasurers Report to Conference. He informed Conference that 2009 had been an exceptionally expensive year for the Branch for a number of reasons, in particular the convening of the SDC in April to discuss NSL Issues. Prospect had however been very supportive despite the difficulties brought about by the current economic climate. Stu informed

Conference that the NTUS was now responsible for its own budget and continued prudence was required to limit expenditure wherever possible.

Stu then gave Conference details of action taken by the BEC on Policy contained in Section J of the Branch Handbook.

A number of members moved 'reference back' to the Report to seek further information from various members of the BEC on progress in certain aspects of Policy.

A Delegate from Swanwick AC Section moved 'reference back' to question how Policy contained within Section J, but not yet actioned is retained. Chair SOC explained that whilst Section is titled 'Annual' the Rules do not require that such Policy is automatically withdrawn after 1 year. In association with the on-going review of the Handbook and in accordance with the practice approved by previous Conference the SOC now place Policy requiring one-off action by the BEC into Section J. It is likely that following the review this Section will be either re-named or incorporated elsewhere within the Handbook. Chair SOC agreed to discuss this matter further and to ensure that where appropriate Policy currently contained within Section J is not removed completely from the Handbook.

Steve Danson presented the Membership report. He outlined the difficulties experienced in keeping the records contemporary and again sought the assistance of local Reps in this task.

The Annual Report, Treasurers Report and Membership Report were approved by Conference.

National Secretary – Mr Garry Graham

Mr Garry Graham, Prospect National Secretary, addressed Conference. He thanked both the members of the BEC and all the unit Reps for their continued hard work on behalf of the members over the past year. Garry spoke on the very challenging times being faced by not only the Branch but the whole aviation industry. The Branch however remains united and stands side by side with our colleagues in the ATSS Branch and PCS. In these challenging times unity is key and we have also been developing our links with other union colleagues in both the UK and Europe and also with BALPA.

He advised Conference that amongst the many challenges that will face us in the coming months the key ones are likely to include:

- CP3
- Developments in Europe
- The position of the Airline Group
- A possible change in Government

Garry spoke about each of the above point. With regard to Europe we are already seeing suggestions that could lead to major changes and threats to such things as STRATCOH and other safety related regulations. Garry stated that we are extremely disappointed at recent press speculation that the Airline Group may seek to sell all or part of their stake in NATS, particularly as they entered the PPP with clear statements that they '.....were in for the next 30 years – with no exit strategy and that they would run NATS on a not-for – commercial-gain basis'.

Garry moved on to talk about Working Together and his image of what it means and how we should treat it. He stated that the NATS Executive has responded well to our suggestions as to how to get the process back on track.

Garry closed by stating that by remaining united we will be able to deal with the challenges that will face us effectively on behalf of all our members.

BEC Briefing on Proposed Changes to Branch Structure

During a break in Standing Orders, Mr Jon Waddington gave a presentation to Conference on proposed changes to Branch Structure. A number of Delegates asked questions on this important and complicated issue.

Consideration of proposed changes to Branch Rules:

Motion R1 (CV1)	-	CARRIED	Motion R5 (CV5)	-	LOST
Motion R2 (CV2)	-	CARRIED	Motion R6 (CV6)	-	GUILLOTINED
Motion R3 (CV3)	-	LOST	Motion R7 (CV7)	-	GUILLOTINED
Motion R4 (CV4)	-	LOST	Motion R8 (CV8)		GUILLOTINED

Immediately after the vote on Motion R5 the BEC requested a break in Standing Orders and retired. Following their return the Branch Chair made a brief Statement to Conference. It had become apparent that there may have been some confusion within Conference following the presentation but the votes had been taken and the results must stand. This presented the Branch with considerable difficulties as to how to organise itself in the future and the BEC would need more time to consider this issue.

A revised time-table was implemented, Section A was deferred.

Mr Paul Noon – General Secretary, Prospect.

Mr Paul Noon, General Secretary, Prospect addressed Conference.

Session 1 Closed at 1800

DAY 2

Upon resumption of proceedings a Suspension of Standing Orders was requested by a Delegate to discuss issues arising from the 1st session. This was approved. During the suspension it was suggested that a number of Delegates may have been confused by the way the BEC motions had been presented and by structure of the Agenda. It was further suggested that one or more Delegates may have accidentally voted against their true desires. Guidance was sought from SOC as to possible courses of action available through the Rules. SOC informed Conference that Conference Standing Order 3(g) was quite clear and that any attempt to circumvent this could set very dangerous precedents for the future. This opinion was supported by a number of Delegates and by a BEC member with experience of Standing Orders at national level. SOC gave further guidance regarding the rules relating to Emergency Motions. Significant discussion revolved around 'the will of Conference'. The BEC informed Conference that whilst they understood the sentiment being expressed, the results of votes taken must stand. The BEC would work with the situation they have been presented.

Standing Orders were resumed and Chair SOC presented SOC Paper 3 which contained a request for a motion to be withdrawn, number of corrections and a revised time-table. Objections to the withdrawal of Motion 51 were raised and the Paper was not accepted by Conference.

Consideration of motions – Section G – Technical

Motion 51	-	LOST
Motion 52	-	CARRIED
Motion 53	-	CARRIED
Motion 54	-	CARRIED
Motion 55	-	CARRIED

Consideration of motions – Section J – Annual

Motion 64	-	CARRIED	Motion 69	-	CARRIED
Motion 65	-	LOST	Motion 70	-	Guillotined
Motion 66	-	LOST	Motion 71	-	Guillotined
Motion 67	-	CARRIED	Motion 72	-	Guillotined
Motion 68	-	CARRIED	Motion 73	-	Guillotined

SOC presented SOC Paper 4 containing a number of corrections and a revised timetable for the remainder of Conference. The Paper was accepted by Conference.

Guest Speakers NATS

Mr Phillip James (HR Director), Mr Guy Adams (Finance Director, NSL) & Mrs Pauline Lamb (GM, Prestwick Centre) each addressed Conference on the Working Together process.

Each of the Guests answered a number of questions from Delegates.

Guest Speakers NTUS

Mr Ian McNeill (NTUS Co-ordinator) and Mr Chris Rogers (PCS) addressed Conference.

Briefing - BEC – Working Together

Ahead of the consideration of motions in Section H – Industrial Relations, the Branch was given a briefing by the BEC on its position on the Working Together process.

Consideration of motions – Section H – Industrial Relations

Motion 56	-	LOST	Motion 60	-	Composited
Motion 57	-	Composited	Motion 61	-	CARRIED
Motion 58	-	LOST	Motion 62	-	CARRIED
Motion 59	-	CARRIED	Motion 63	-	LOST

Consideration of motions – Section A – General Branch Policy

Motion 1	-	CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
Motion 2	-	CARRIED
Motion 3	-	CARRIED
Motion 4	-	CARRIED
Motion 5	-	CARRIED
Motion 6	-	CARRIED

Guest Speakers NATS

Mr Phillip James & Mr Guy Adams addressed Conference on a variety of issues affecting the future of the business.

The 2nd Session ended at 1800

DAY 3

Conference re-convened at 0920

Consideration of motions – Section C – Working Practices & Rosters

Motion 10	-	LOST
Motion 11	-	LOST
Motion 12	-	Daggered
Motion 13	-	LOST
Motion 14	-	LOST
Motion 15	-	CARRIED

Consideration of motions – Section B – Conditions of Service

Motion 7	-	LOST
Motion 8	-	CARRIED
Motion 9	-	CARRIED

Consideration of motions – Section F – ATC Training & Licensing

Motion 50	-	CARRIED
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Consideration of motions – Section D – Medical, Retirement & Superannuation

Motion 16	-	REMITTED	Motion 32	-	LOST
Motion 17	-	CARRIED	Motion 33	-	Guillotined
Motion 18	-	LOST	Motion 34	-	Guillotined
Motion 19	-	CARRIED	Motion 35	-	Guillotined
Motion 20	-	CARRIED	Motion 36	-	Guillotined
Motion 21	-	CARRIED	Motion 37	-	Guillotined
Motion 22	-	CARRIED	Motion 38	-	Guillotined
Motion 23	-	CARRIED	Motion 38	-	Guillotined
Motion 24	-	CARRIED	Motion 40	-	Guillotined
Motion 25	-	CARRIED	Motion 41	-	Guillotined
Motion 26	-	CARRIED	Motion 42	-	Guillotined
Motion 27	-	LOST	Motion 43	-	Guillotined
Motion 28	-	LOST	Motion 44	-	Guillotined
Motion 29	-	LOST	Motion 45	-	Guillotined
Motion 30	-	CARRIED	Motion 46	-	Guillotined
Motion 31	-	LOST	Motion 47	-	Guillotined

At 1100 Conference rose to observe a period of 2 minutes silence in Remembrance of all those who have given their lives in service of their Country.

Consideration of motions – Section E– Working Practices & Rosters

Motion 48	-	CARRIED	Motion 49	-	CARRIED
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BEC Open Session

Chris Edwards & Hayden Evens briefed Conference on the negotiations and detail contained within the recently signed Loss of Local Certificate of Competence Agreement. Chris & Hayden answered a number of questions from Delegates.

SOC Paper 6 was moved by Chair SOC. Whilst doing so Kevin Malam expressed his personal thanks to his two SOC colleagues, John Ellis and Stuart Mann, whose help and guidance had once again proved invaluable. Conference approved SOC Paper 6.

Consideration of Emergency Motions

Motion EM 1	-	CARRIED
Motion EM 2	-	CARRIED
Motion EM 3	-	CARRIED
Motion EM 4	-	LOST
Motion EM 5	-	CARRIED
Motion EM 6	-	CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
Motion EM 7	-	LOST
Motion EM 8	-	CARRIED
Motion EM 9	-	CARRIED
Motion EM 10	-	LOST
Motion EM 11	-	LOST
Motion EM 12	-	LOST

Consideration of Guillotined Motions

Following representations made and due mainly to time constraints, SOC asked Conference to approve a proposal that on the understanding that they would not be deleted from the Branch Handbook all un-debated motions in Section D be remitted. SOC explained that these motions would be covered in the on-going Review of the Branch Handbook and would fall under the process previously agreed by Conference for that review.

Conference agreed to the proposal by a show of hands.

Consideration of Guillotined Motions

Motion R6		CARRIED	Motion 70	-	CARRIED
Motion R7		CARRIED	Motion 71	-	REMITTED
Motion R8		LOST	Motion 72	-	REMITTED

Charity Fund - Policy 2.2 (i)

Mr Angus MacCormick (Vice – Chair elect) advised Conference that he would be making proposals in the near future for the Branch to adopt Dreamflight as the Branch’s chosen charity for the forthcoming year. How this adoption would manifest itself would be the subject of early discussion at BEC level prior to the proposals being publicised throughout the Branch.

The Thomas Byron Marshall Award

Following policy approved at the 57th ADC the BEC has established ‘The Thomas Byron Marshall Award’. This award will forthwith be presented annually to a member, determined by the TC Section Delegates, to have made an exceptional contribution to the Annual Delegate Conference. Paul Upton, Chair TC Section, presented the award to its first recipient, Kevin Malam.

Elections

Paul Winstanley handed the Chair to Mr Dave Carty who announced that the following had been elected to serve the Branch during the forthcoming year. Each announcement was warmly greeted by Conference.

Branch Chair	Mr Paul Winstanley
Vice – Chair	Mr Angus MacCormick
Deputy Vice – Chair	Ms Vanessa Fahey
Chair, Strategy & Communication	Mr Jon Menice
Branch Organiser	Ms Sara Scuffell
Treasurer	Mr Colin Valentine
Auditors	Mr Joe McGlynn Mr Derek McDade
Chair SOC	Mr Kevin Malam
SOC	Mr John Ellis
SOC	Mr Stuart Mann

In addition to the above Officers of the Branch the following are elected to serve as members of the BEC.

Northern Section	Ron McNab Richard Thomas Malcolm Macpherson
Southern Section	Stuart Osman David Armstrong Andy Hughes
Swanwick AC Section	Jon Waddington Aaron Curtis
Swanwick TC Section	Chris Edwards David George

Any Other Business

Pauline Dempster, delegate for Belfast, advised Conference that having served as a co-opted member on the BEC for some time she was, for personal reasons now stepping down from activity within the Branch. She thanked the Officers and members of the BEC for their support over a long period and wished them well for the future.

Chairs Closing Address

In a short closing statement Branch Chair, Paul Winstanley offered his thanks to a number of people who had helped make Conference a success. David George & Steve Danson for their success in carrying out the difficult task of organising the event, the Management and Staff of Bredbury Hall who once again had made the Branch most welcome and had worked hard to ensure that the domestic side of Conference ran smoothly. Paul thanked the Guests from the NTUS, NATS Management, and Prospect HQ for attending and supporting Conference and all those who acted as Tellers over the week-end. Paul thanked the members of the SOC for their work before and

during what had proved to be a challenging Conference technically. He then went on to express his gratitude to those members of the BEC who were standing down or changing roles, in particular retiring Vice – Chair Stuart Osman who had been Paul’s trusted right-hand through a number of difficult issues. Finally he thanked all of the Delegates and those local Reps who were not present for their continuing hard work on behalf of the membership.

Conference closed at 1525.

SOC
9th November 2009