

RETIRED MEMBERS CONFERENCE
STANDING ORDERS AND CONSTITUTION

STANDING ORDERS

1 Members

Members of the conference are the (i) ex-officio and (ii) voting members as set out on the attached constitution of the retired members conference (RMConf). Only voting members may vote during debates and during the election for chair.

2 Business of the conference

The business of the conference shall be:

- (i) to consider matters directly relevant to those members of the BMA permanently retired from medical practice, excluding issues relating to previous employment which remain the responsibility of existing standing committees;
- (ii) to consider any motion submitted by a member of the retired members conference relating to the promotion of the medical or allied sciences or to the maintenance of the honour or interests of the Association or the achievement of high quality healthcare. Resolutions of the conference shall be referred to the joint agenda committee;
- (iii) on alternate years to elect a chair and deputy chair.
- (iv) every two years, to elect the 5 voting members of the retired members committee (this is in addition to the election of chair and deputy chair of the retired members conference who would also serve as chair and deputy chair of the committee for a two year term).

3 Motions

3.1 A **motion** is a primary statement of an issue put forward for debate.

3.2 A motion may be submitted by any member of the RMConf. The motions should be sent to the secretariat by a date to be decided by the chair.

3.3 Motions may be submitted in writing or by email.

3.4 The chair shall decide the order in which motions submitted to the conference are to be debated.

3.5 A motion prefixed with the letter "A" is, in the opinion of the chair of the conference, likely to be non-controversial and acceptable without debate. Such motions shall normally relate to matters which are already policy of the Association. The chair shall formally move that each such motion be accepted without debate.

3.6 The chair shall group items covering substantially the same ground and shall mark with an asterisk that item that he/she recommends for debate. If no motion adequately covers the ground, the chair shall have the power to draft a composite motion and in such circumstances the motion shall be moved by the representative of the conference whose motion is first in the bracket immediately below the composite motion.

3.7 A motion taken as a reference will not be referred to the joint agenda committee but will instead be considered by the appropriate BMA committee which will act in the best interests of the Association.

4 Amendments and riders

4.1 An **amendment** shall be either: to leave out words; to leave out words and insert others (provided that a substantial part of the motion remains); to insert words to alter the statement; or be in such form as shall be approved of by the chair.

4.2 **Amendments** shall be dealt with in debate as follows:

- substantive motion proposed
- amendment proposed
- vote on amendment
- debate on motion (whether amended or not) continues

4.3 A **rider** shall be to add words as an extra to a seemingly complete statement; provided always that the rider is relevant to the motion on which it is moved and is not equivalent to its direct negative. A rider shall be proposed after the substantive motion has been debated and voted upon.

4.4 A motion, amendment, or rider once moved and seconded shall not be altered or withdrawn without the consent of the conference.

4.5 Whenever an amendment or rider has been moved no second or subsequent amendment or rider shall be moved until the first amendment or rider shall have been disposed of.

4.6 If any amendment or rider is rejected, other amendments or riders may be moved on the original motion. If an amendment or rider is carried the motion as amended or extended shall take the place of the original motion and shall become the question upon which any further amendment or rider may be moved.

4.7 Except for the election of deputy chair, voting shall be by show of hands or by the use of an electronic voting system, unless before the vote is taken, 10 or more members present request a recorded vote, in which event the vote shall be taken by a system of recorded voting.

5 Rules of debate

5.1 Any motion, amendment or rider shall be introduced by a member of the conference.

5.2 Those proposing motions shall be allowed to speak for three minutes, all other speakers shall be permitted to speak for two minutes.

5.3 A member shall not address the conference more than once on any motion, amendment, or rider, but the mover of any such item may reply, and in their reply, shall strictly confine themselves to answering previous speakers and shall not introduce any new matter into the debate; provided always that a member may speak to a point of order or, by consent of the conference, in explanation of some material part of a speech made by them which they believe to have been misunderstood.

5.4 Motions expressed in several parts and designated by numbers (i), (ii), (iii) etc or by letters (a), (b), (c) etc shall automatically be voted on separately, however, in order to expedite business, the chair may, at their discretion, seek the agreement of the conference (by a simple majority) to waive this requirement for any single motion

5.5 A member of the conference shall speak from the lectern when called, unless unable, and address the chair. Every member shall be seated except the one addressing the conference. When the chair rises all members shall sit.

5.6 A speaker shall direct their speech strictly to the motion, amendment, or rider under discussion, or to a question of order. The chair shall have power to take such steps as they deem necessary to prevent tedious repetition.

6 Majorities

6.1 A 'simple' majority shall be when the number of votes 'for' the motion is greater than the number of votes 'against' the motion.

6.2 A 'two-thirds' majority shall be two-thirds of representatives present and voting. Those voting will include those voting 'for' and 'against' the motion.

6.3 Abstentions will not be used for the calculation in either case.

6.4 A two thirds majority shall be required to carry a proposal:

- that the conference proceeds to the next business
- that the question be now put
- that standing orders be suspended or amended
- that substantial expenditure of the Association's funds be incurred

7 Curtailment of debate

7.1 If it is proposed and seconded that the conference adjourns, or that the debate be adjourned, or that the Conference proceeds to the next business, or that the question be now put, such motions shall be put to the vote without discussion, except as to the period of adjournment, provided always that the chair shall have power to decline to put any such motion to the conference.

7.2 Any such motion, if accepted by the chair, shall be put to the vote immediately except that, before a motion to proceed to the next business is put, the proposer of the motion, amendment, or rider under discussion at the time shall have the right to speak against the proposal to pass to the next business. In the event of a proposal to pass to the next business being defeated, the chair shall have power to permit the proposer of the motion or amendment under discussion to reply to the debate.

7.3 In the event of the proposal "that the question be now put" being carried the proposer of the motion, amendment, or rider under discussion at the time shall have the right of reply to the debate.

8 Election

The conference shall elect by ballot as part of its business on alternate years a chair of both the retired members conference (RMConf) and committee (RMC), who will serve for two years and who will take up office at the end of the current session and who will chair the meetings of the conference and committee to be held in the two years following election; and a deputy chair who will be similarly elected. Time will be set aside at the meeting for candidates to address the conference.

The conference shall elect by ballot as part of its business on alternate years 5 members of conference who will serve as voting members of the retired members committee, who will serve for two years and who will take up office at the end of the current session.

9 Annual representative meeting

The conference will elect a number of representatives to the representative body each year, the exact number of which will be as specified in the allocation calculated prior to the conference. Those members unable to attend the conference can nominate themselves for a seat at the ARM. Where a contest occurs to elect these representatives, the election will be conducted by the single transferable voting system and members will be informed of the results following the meeting. The chair and the deputy chair of the conference should each be allocated a seat on the representative body at the ARM without an election being held for this purpose.

10 Quorum

No business shall be transacted at any conference unless there are present at least one third of the number of representatives registered to attend the meeting.

11 Smoking

Smoking shall not be permitted during meetings of the conference.

12 Mobile telephones

The use of mobile telephones during the conference is prohibited. Those who contradict this standing order will be invited to make a donation to BMA charities.

13 Report of the conference

The chair shall have the power to approve the minutes and report of the conference.

14 Suspension of standing orders

Any one or more of the standing orders of the conference may be suspended if two thirds of the voting members present shall decide.

15 Chair's discretion

Any question arising in relation to the conduct of the conference which is not dealt with in these standing orders shall be determined by the chair at their absolute discretion.

RETIRED MEMBERS CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION

Ex-officio members (non-voting)

BMA president
BMA representative body chair
BMA council chair
BMA treasurer

Voting members*

Five members from each of the following BMA regions and devolved nations:

Eastern
East Midlands
London
North East
North West
South Central
South East Coast
South West
West Midlands
Yorkshire
Northern Ireland
Scotland
Wales

*Voting members of the conference must be recorded on the BMA's membership database as being permanently retired from medical practice. There is no minimum or maximum age restriction nor former branch of practice restriction.

Places on the conference will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Any regional seats which are unfilled after the deadline for nominations has passed will be reallocated to members from other regions who are on a reserve list (should it be necessary to create one) or who apply after the deadline has passed. Both self-nomination and nominations via divisions will be acceptable.