

ANC 2001 MOTION

A SECOND TIER FOR THE FEDERATION

“That on the vote of all of its members, both full and associate, any 18+ Group within the Federation may create a Second Tier group to which all members reaching the age of 36 will be eligible to join. There is no compulsion to create such a Group and there is no upper age limit.

Members of this Second Tier Group will become Associate Members of the Federation and will pay a membership fee equal to that of the Associate membership fee of 18+ Groups.

The Second Tier Group may actively recruit in the 36+ age group.

This Second Tier Group will be subject to the model written constitution which is attached to the papers supporting the motion

And that the following new paragraph 3.4 be added to the National Constitution

3.4 ‘A member Group may establish a Second Tier Group by a majority vote of its Full and Associate members present and voting at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Group’.

Membership of the Second Tier Group will be open to all persons over the age of 36 who agree with the fundamental values and objectives of the Federation and the Member Group. Members of the Second Tier Group will become Associate Members of the Federation and will pay a fee equal to the Associate Membership fee for 18 Plus members.

Members of Second Tier Groups may attend 18 Plus events by invitation only from the organisers of those events.’”

Proposed by: Hillingdon 18+

Seconded by: Southampton 18+

ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2001

A SECOND TIER FOR THE FEDERATION

BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSAL

Within the Federation there are a number of Groups who have a high proportion of members who are well over the age of 35. In the majority of cases these members wish to stay as Group members which they have every right to do under current rules. Unfortunately some Groups in this position may find it difficult to recruit in the 18-35 age range as prospective members visiting the Group for the first time can be turned off by the older members who are well outside the target age range. At the same time it is highly likely that the Group receives enquires from prospective members who are over the age of 35 and therefore cannot legally join the Federation.

The usual suggestion is for Groups to be told to persuade these older members to leave – but where there are a large number of them the Groups may well collapse if this happens; the same would apply if the NEC decided to introduce an age limit. A coincidental effect will be a loss of income from their memberships. Additionally prospective members over the age of 35 are told that they cannot join.

Another option would be to allow Groups to create a Second Tier group for these older members *if they so wish*. This Second Tier group would still be part of the Federation but would allow members over the age of 35 to be recruited. The members of the second tier could share events with the lower age range Group but would not attend its midweek meetings.

The lower age range Group would be able to recruit exclusively in the age range 18-35 whilst the second tier Group would be able to *recruit* in the age range 36+. These 36+ members would be members of the Federation.

Hillingdon 18+ had a considerable number of older members and the Group Committee, after research, came to the conclusion that these older members were preventing successful recruitment of younger members. At a well attended EGM it was unanimously agreed by all of the full members as well as all of the Associate members that the NEC should be approached with a view to creating a pilot second tier Group. The older members were happy to meet midweek as a separate Group but very much wanted to stay as part of the Federation.

THE PILOT SCHEME

Although Hillingdon 18+ believed that the Federation should create a second tier they were aware of the possible concerns of some members. Hillingdon 18+ therefore asked the NEC to allow them to create a pilot second tier Group in order to establish the benefits and pitfalls of such a Group. This Group would be established on the 1st January 2000 with a six month report being made to this NEC at its meeting in July 2000. At this point the NEC would have three options a) to allow the pilot to continue b) to discontinue the pilot c) to consider presenting a motion to the 2001 ANC allowing Groups to create second tier Groups.

At its October 1999 meeting the NEC approved the pilot scheme with the following ground rules-

- a) Associate members would create a Second Tier Group which would meet on a regular basis. This Second Tier Group would actively recruit members in the 36+ age bracket paying the same fee as existing Associate members this to be administered by National. This will give these members full Associate membership of the Federation.
- b) The two Groups would meet during the midweek but on separate days.
- c) The Second Tier Group would initially be funded by the 18+ Group.
- d) Weekend events could be arranged together if that is the wish of the 18+ Group.

At the NEC meeting it was clearly stated by Hillingdon representatives that a successful pilot scheme should not lead to a proposal for a compulsory Second Tier but to a Second Tier that would be optional for those Groups who wished to adopt it.

Considerable interest was shown in the pilot scheme and in order to explain its workings to the membership Gerry Edwards, National Executive Officer, addressed the ANC on the reasoning for the pilot scheme and progress to date.

At the July 2000 NEC Meeting a six months progress report was made on the pilot scheme. The NEC agreed that the pilot scheme should be continued and that an ANC motion should be presented to the October 2000 NEC Meeting for consideration.

Due to pressure of items which had to be taken at the October NEC Meeting this proposal was deferred to the January 2001 NEC Meeting. At this meeting the NEC agreed that Hillingdon 18+ should propose an ANC on the lines submitted.

Hillingdon 18+ therefore are moving this motion at the 2001 ANC.

THE MOTION

“That on the vote of all of its members, both full and associate, any 18+ Group within the Federation may create a Second Tier group to which all members reaching the age of 36 will be eligible to join. There is no compulsion to create such a Group and there is no upper age limit.

Members of this Second Tier Group will become Associate Members of the Federation and will pay a membership fee equal to that of the Associate membership fee of 18+ Groups.

The Second Tier Group may actively recruit in the 36+ age group.

This Second Tier Group will be subject to the model written constitution which is attached to the papers supporting the motion

And that the following new paragraph 3.4 be added to the National Constitution

3.4 ‘A member Group may establish a Second Tier Group by a majority vote of its Full and Associate members present and voting at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Group’.

Membership of the Second Tier Group will be open to all persons over the age of 36 who agree with the fundamental values and objectives of the Federation and the Member Group. Members of the Second Tier Group will become Associate Members of the Federation and will pay a fee equal to the Associate Membership fee for 18 Plus members.

Members of Second Tier Groups may attend 18 Plus events by invitation only from the organisers of those events.”

Proposed by: Hillingdon 18+

Seconded by: Southampton 18+

CONCLUSION

Hillingdon 18+ wish to see the Federation grow and prosper. Yet they also wish members who have been together in 18+ over a number of years have the chance to stay in the Federation but not prevent the success of an 18-35 age group. Hillingdon 18+ believe that the creation of a Second Tier Group will allow this to happen and at the same time allow the Federation to expand.

However, Hillingdon 18+ do not wish to see Second Tier groups become mandatory as they will not suit every Group. Therefore the motion submitted clearly states that a Second Tier would be an option which each Group could choose to adopt if they so wish.

The pilot scheme in Hillingdon has been very successful - both 18+ Group and Second Tier Group have recruited members and currently there are over twice the number of members in total than before the pilot scheme began.

MODEL CONSTITUTION FOR SECOND TIER GROUPS

(See National Constitution, [Article 3](#))

CONSTITUTION of theSecond Tier Group

Article 1. Name of Group

The name of the Group shall be "..... Group" (hereafter referred to as 'the Second Tier Group').

Article 2. Membership of the Federation

The Group shall be a second tier group of a Member Group of the National Federation of 18 Plus Groups of Great Britain (hereinafter called "the Federation") and shall comply with the National Constitution and Standing Orders of the Federation.

Article 3. Aims of the Second Tier Group

The Group shall adopt the aims of the Federation.

Article 4. Membership

- 4.1) Membership of the Second Tier is open to all persons over the age of thirty six years who agree with its fundamental values and objectives.
- 4.2) Each member shall pay an annual membership fee as agreed by the Second Tier Group at a General Meeting but this shall not be less than the Associate Membership fee of the Federation.
- 4.3) Prospective new members shall be asked to pay the annual membership fee on or before their fourth attendance, or leave the Second Tier Group.
- 4.4) The annual membership fee shall be due for renewal on the anniversary in each succeeding year of the day of the month in which the member first joined.
Applications for renewals of membership will be processed on the basis of issuing the membership card as valid from the date of expiry of their previous membership, except when the period of lapsed membership is greater than six months.
- 4.5) Any membership not renewed shall expire on the anniversary of the day of the month in which the member first joined or renewed and the member shall be deemed to have resigned.
- 4.6) A prospective member shall be given the opportunity to read the Second Tier Group Constitution, prior to their application for membership.
- 4.7) In confirmation of this agreement to abide by this Constitution, they shall be admitted into membership of the Group subject to Article 4.8 and shall be deemed to be a member when they have received a completed and signed a Membership Card from the Second Tier Group as from the date thereon shown.

(in the interim period between completing the application form and paying the membership fee and receipt of a signed Membership card, the receipt portion of the standard application form shall be deemed as acceptable proof of membership entitling the holder to receive the benefits and privileges of membership for a period not exceeding twenty eight days).

4.8) Membership may be refused by the Second Tier Group (by a two thirds majority of the full members present and voting at a General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting of the Second Tier Group) on one or more of the following grounds:

- (a) material disagreement, evidenced by conduct, with the fundamental values and objectives of the Federation.
- (b) the admission of the applicant would likely to bring the Second Tier Group or any part of the Federation into disrepute.
- (c) the admission of the applicant would be seriously detrimental to the interests of the Second Tier Group or any part of the Federation.
- (d) the admission of the applicant would hinder the Second Tier Group or any part of the Federation from acting in pursuance of the said aims and policy of the Federation.

4.9) Should a member of another Member Group or Second Tier Group of the Federation visit the Second Tier Group, they shall not be required to pay the annual membership fee.

Article 5. Life Membership

5.1 Members may become "Life Members" and be exempt from paying the annual membership fee upon payment of a 'once and for all' fee of six times the current membership fee.

5.2 "Life Membership" is renewable annually by the holder of the Life Membership Card at their Second Tier Group, and will be accepted by the Second Tier Group in lieu of the annual membership fee. Such membership shall be in accordance with Article 4.

Article 6. Resignation, Suspension and Expulsion of Members

6.1 A member may resign from the Second Tier Group at any time by letter addressed to the Administrator indicating their desire so to do.

6.2 A member is deemed to have resigned if their membership is not renewed in accordance with Articles 4.4 and 4.5.

6.3 No member who resigns or is deemed to have resigned shall be entitled to be repaid any part of any membership fee which he shall have paid whether in respect of a period before or after such resignation.

6.4 Membership may be revoked by a two thirds majority of the full members present and voting at a General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting of the Second Tier Group, or the NEC in accordance with its internal procedures, on one or more of the following grounds.

- (a)** material disagreement, evidenced by conduct, with the fundamental values and objectives of the Federation.

(b) conduct which has brought, or is likely to bring the Second Tier Group or any part of the Federation into disrepute.

(c) the continued membership of the individual would be seriously detrimental to the interests of the Second Tier Group or any part of the Federation.

(d) the continued membership of the individual would hinder the Second Tier Group or any part of the Federation from acting in pursuance of the said aims and policy of the Federation.

6.5 Membership shall not be revoked unless the member has been notified of the grounds on which revocation is to be considered and has been given a reasonable opportunity to reply.

6.6 In case of urgency, the Second Tier Group Committee or the National Executive Council (by a simple majority of its voting members) may direct that any member may be suspended from the rights and privileges of membership for a period not exceeding one month while the question of termination of their membership is under consideration.

6.7 Any person whose membership is revoked while they hold any elected or appointed position on any Committee with the Federation shall be deemed to have been removed from office from the date that the revocation takes effect.

6.8 No member who is suspended or whose membership is revoked shall be entitled to be repaid any part of any membership fee which he shall have paid whither in respect of a period before or after such suspension or revocation of membership.

Article 7. Annual General Meeting

7.1 An Annual General Meeting of the Second Tier Group shall be held yearly and so far as possible in the second week of the month of November in each year and the Committee shall notify members not less than fourteen days prior to the date of such meeting.

The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be:

(a) the reception of the reports from the Second Tier Group Committee;

(b) the reception of the Accounts;

(c) the election of the Second Tier Group Committee;

(d) the adoption of Standing Orders;

(e) the appointment of the Auditor;

(f) any other matters which may, consistent with this Constitution and the Second Tier Group Standing Orders (if any) be introduced at the meeting.

7.2 The Chair, Administrator, Treasurer and any other members of the Committee shall submit reports to the Second Tier Group at the Annual General Meeting.

7.3 Extraordinary General Meetings shall be convened by the Administrator (or the acting Administrator) by notice given to all members of the Second Tier Group not less than fourteen days prior to the date fixed for such meeting and specifying the purpose for which such meeting is so convened;

(a) upon a resolution of the Committee to that effect; or

(b) upon receipt by the Administrator of a request for such meeting made in writing, specifying the nature of the business proposed to be transacted at it and signed by not less than one-third of the full members of the Group.

7.4 A quorum for the Annual General Meeting shall be achieved when;

(a) a minimum of one third of the total current full members of the Second Tier Group are present, or;

(b) if the Second Tier Group has less than fifteen full members at the date of the Annual General Meeting, a minimum of five full members of the Second Tier Group are present.

If, within thirty minutes from the time fixed for the Annual General Meeting to begin, a quorum is not present, the meeting shall be adjourned until such time as a quorum is achieved.

7.5 The Chair of the parent Eighteen Plus Group shall be invited to the Annual General Meeting.

Article 8. Committee

8.1 The affairs of the Second Tier Group shall be managed by a Committee who may do all such things and transact all such business as is not by this Constitution required to be done or transacted by a Annual General Meeting PROVIDED THAT the Committee shall be solely responsible for its own debts and liabilities and shall not pledge the credit of any other constituent part of the Federation, or member thereof.

The Second Tier Group Committee shall obtain the approval of its members to borrow or to obtain services on credit or otherwise incur any liability in excess of the Second Tier Group's assets and those members of the Committee who incur any liability in breach of this proviso shall be jointly and severally liable to indemnify the Second Tier Group members and the Federation against any loss caused thereby

8.2 The Committee shall consist of the Executive Officers of the Group, who shall be a Chair, Administrator, Treasurer and Publicity Officer, and such other officers as may be deemed necessary by the members at a Annual General Meeting.

8.3 No Committee member shall hold the same office for more than three consecutive terms.

8.4 The Group Committee shall be elected by members attending the Annual General Meeting. Those elected shall take office on 1st January.

8.5 The Committee shall meet regularly, and half the elected members of the Committee shall form a quorum. Minutes shall be kept of all meetings.

8.6 The Committee may co-opt any member to the Committee to fill any vacancy or for specific purposes, but such co-opted members shall not be entitled to vote at any Committee meeting.

8.7 The Committee shall manage the affairs of the Second Tier Group in accordance with the aims and ideals of the Federation and have regard to the advice and guidance of the officers of the Federation.

8.8 If it shall appear to a majority of the voting members of the Second Tier Group Committee that any Committee member is failing to fulfil their duties it shall cause to be sent to such officer a statement in writing of their failings and shall afford them a reasonable opportunity of giving an explanation in writing or orally; and if having considered such explanation (if any), the Second Tier Group Committee is of opinion that the officer should be removed from office the Committee shall put such resolution before the members at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Second Tier Group.

Both the Second Tier Group Committee and the Committee member that is proposed to be removed from office shall have the right to present their case, and such resolution shall require a simple majority of the full members present and voting to be passed.

8.9 In the event of the death, resignation or removal from office of any officer the Second Tier Group Committee shall call an Extraordinary General Meeting to fill the office thereby vacated until the expiration of the term of office of the officer who has died, resigned or been removed.

Article 9. Relationships

9.1 The Second Tier Group shall report to the Half-Yearly General Meetings of the parent Eighteen Plus Group on activities, finance and membership.

9.2 The Second Tier Group shall have no representation at the Regional, Area or ANC level of the Federation.

9.3 Any issues which need discussion at higher than Second Tier Group level shall be pursued through the parent Eighteen Plus Group.

Article 10. Finance

10.1 The Second Tier Group shall have a current Bank Account to which the signatures shall be the Chair, Administrator, Treasurer and Chair of the parent Eighteen Plus Group.

10.2 The Bank Mandate shall provide that the signatures of two signatories shall be required to authorise any payment.

10.3 It shall be the duty of the Treasurer for the time being to ensure the Bank Mandate is amended as necessary.

10.4 If the signatories mentioned in Article 9.1 include two or more related persons the Chair shall nominate such alternative signatories as he considers necessary so that no two signatories are related to one another.

10.5 The Treasurer shall make copies of all bank statements available to all the signatories included on the bank mandate within fourteen days of receipt.

10.6 The Committee shall ensure that correct accounts are kept by the Treasurer and are submitted to the new Committee at the commencement of their term of office.

10.7 The Treasurer shall forward the annual membership fee in respect of each new membership and membership renewal to the National Finance Officer (or their representative) within seven days of receipt and in accordance with the internal procedures of the NEC.

10.8 The financial books of the Second Tier Group shall be closed on 31st October each year and submitted for audit.

10.9 The audited Statement of Accounts shall be submitted in writing to the Annual General Meeting.

10.10 The Audit shall be carried out by a competent person elected at the Annual General Meeting, preceding that at which the audited accounts are to be submitted.

10.11 Neither the retiring Treasurer, nor any member of the newly elected Committee or the Committee which precedes it shall be eligible for election to the post of Auditor. The Auditor need not be a member of the Second Tier Group.

Article 11. Dissolution

11.1 The Second Tier Group may be dissolved at a special Extraordinary General Meeting, of which not less than twenty-one days notice in writing shall be given to all members.

11.2 If a resolution to dissolve the Second Tier Group is duly passed by three-quarters majority of the members present and voting at such meeting, the Second Tier Group shall be dissolved and its affairs shall be wound up by the Committee under the supervision of parent Eighteen Plus Group.

11.3 The Second Tier Group's Membership Certificate and any other property belonging to the Federation shall be returned to the parent Eighteen Plus Group.

11.4 All charitable funds held by the Second Tier Group shall be applied by the Committee under the supervision of the parent Eighteen Plus Chair and treasurer in accordance with the particular trusts (if any) affecting the same and (if there are no such trusts) for such charitable purposes as the parent Eighteen Plus Group in its absolute discretion may appoint.

11.5 All other funds held by the Group shall be paid to the parent Eighteen Plus Group

Article 12. Standing Orders

12.1 Any resolution passed by a simple majority of the members of the Second Tier Group at a Annual General or Extraordinary General Meeting concerning the running of the Second Tier Group shall be incorporated into Standing Orders.

Such standing Orders shall be appended separately to the Constitution.

END OF CONSTITUTION