

## Errol Blake (Member Number 344). Election Statement for the post of Chairman 2018

Dear Members,

I am volunteering for the post of Chairman of the Association at the 2018 AGM.

Whether or not there are other candidates for this post, I feel it necessary for me to put to you a number of points for your consideration BEFORE you decide whether or not to vote for me. Even if I am the only candidate I shall ask for a vote of confidence based on what follows and I shall only take post if there is majority support.

My overriding thoughts are.... We are not some large business corporation; We are only approx. 1800 people trying to study our chosen art(s). The Association is insignificant in the wider scheme of trying to provide enough food, clothing, shelter and security for ourselves and our families. I shall try to ensure that you can at least study your art(s) in a peaceful and harmonious environment.

Some controversies/actions in the last few years have made it unappealing for members to volunteer for NC and laido BuEC posts. Hence, we as a group should extend courtesy and support to those who volunteer their free time and energy for the common good and enable them to perform their constitutional roles without fear of conflict. The bottom line is that unless we have a Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary we shall be compelled to dissolve the Association.

What would most benefit us in the next two years? Stability.

My role as Chairman will be to try to restore stability of administration and fair treatment for members and for Officers. However, this will largely depend on all of us. We must be confident of the protection offered by the Constitution and internal processes. In addition, we must respect each other and have concern for the effects of our actions on the Association as a whole.

Emergency powers: The past few years have highlighted areas of the Constitution which had not hitherto been tested. If elected, I shall ask for emergency powers to amend the Constitution (effective immediately, but to be ratified or not by you at the next AGM) to cope with revealed limitations.

In my previous period of service as Chairman, we succeeded in reducing the cost of membership and the number of meetings over 5 years. Regrettably, in the short term I envisage an increase in the Central Services fee to improve our reserves. In the meantime, if the Association has to defend its actions in the wider court of law then *in extremis* it may be necessary to draw on Bu reserves (refundable asap). In the long term, I shall aim to reduce/stabilise the Central Services fee again (barring inflation). I shall be looking to reduce the cost of NC administration by holding fewer NC meetings (again this depends on the problems we encounter) and conducting more administration by email.

Well, there you are. Now you know how I'm thinking and you can make up your own mind whether or not to vote for me. Someone has said ...Democracy is not the most efficient system of management, but it is the best we have. You have a choice.

Regards, Errol Blake