

Frank Ward
Assistant General Secretary
Walkden House, 17 Devonshire Square
London, EC2M 4SQ
email: wardf@tssa.org.uk
helpdesk: 0800 328 2673 (freephone)
www.tssa.org.uk



Circular 76/21 | 14 December 2021
circulation to: EC, Branches, SOGs and Divisional Councils/Irish Committee

PROPOSED TSSA MERGER WITH THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF BOILERMAKERS, IRON SHIP BUILDERS, BLACKSMITHS, FORGERS AND HELPERS (BOILERMAKERS)

Special Delegates Conference Report and Motion

A Special Delegates Conference has been organised to take place at ITF House, 49-60 Borough Road, London SE1 1DR on Saturday 12th of February 2022 starting at 11.00am and finishing at 15.00pm. The Conference will be hybrid to allow delegates unable to attend for covid related reasons to participate in what will be one of the most significant events in our union's proud history.

The Standing Orders Committee (SOC) have stated that any amendments to the proposed motion (set out below) must be received at Head Office by the 26th of January 2022.

The Final Agenda will be published week commencing the 7th of February 2022.

Please note, that the SDC was initially planned for January 2022. However, following representations from a number of Branches and SOGs asking for the SDC to be delayed allowing them to have more time to consider and debate the EC's report and proposals.

These arrangements are subject to change dependant on any Government legislation or statements regarding the situation with the current COVID pandemic.

The Conference has been called to debate the following motion submitted by the Executive Committee (EC):

That this Special Delegates Conference endorses the Executive Committee's report and instructs the EC to conclude merger negotiations with the Boilermakers and move to a formal ballot of TSSA members as soon as is practical.	1 2 3 4
<i>Background</i>	
<i>The following resolution was carried by our union's Annual Delegate Conference in September 2021:</i>	
<i>Em1: as amended</i>	
<i>"That this Conference notes our Executive Committee's report and instructs the Executive Committee to continue talks with the International Brotherhood of</i>	



<p><i>Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers (the IBB) on the basis of the 17 principles outlined in the report to Conference and with other unions in the UK and elsewhere in Europe.</i></p> <p><i>Conference believes that the important issues raised in the report should be widely discussed throughout the union, and instructs the EC:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>to circulate an updated report including the presentation and Q&A from annual conference and further relevant information to Branches, Divisional Councils and SOGs inviting discussion and comment;</i> • <i>to prepare a revised report with recommendations taking account of responses and any other relevant developments and,</i> • <i>to convene a Special Delegate Conference in 2022 to consider the report and decide on the recommendations.”</i> 	
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Executive Committee Report

Progress to Date	1
The General Secretary’s presentation to Annual Conference, together with a transcript of the question-and-answer session at Conference, was circulated to Branches, SOGs and Divisional Councils on 08 October 2021 (Circular 70/21).	2 3 4
Draft rules were approved by the Executive Committee for consultation with Branches and SOGs prior to further consideration with the Boilermakers. The draft rules would determine how TSSA would operate across Britain and Ireland as a District of the Boilermakers family and were circulated to Branches, SOGs and Divisional Councils for consultation on 19 October (Circular 71/21).	5 6 7 8 9
A number of questions were received from Branches and SOGs over the proposed merger with the Boilermakers and were considered separately by the EC. Given that many of the questions being raised were on points of information rather than policy, a question-and-answer paper was circulated to Branches, SOGs and Divisional Councils on 15 November 2021 (Circular 72/21) in the hope that it would offer some reassurances and promote further debate across the Association.	10 11 12 13 14 15 16
Talks have continued with the Boilermakers as required by the resolution with the Assistant General Secretary, supported by our Association’s appointed solicitors Morrish LLP, both meeting online with senior representatives of the Boilermakers on a weekly basis. In addition, our General Secretary met face-to-face with the President of the Boilermakers during COP26.	17 18 19 20 21
The Boilermakers representatives also had a very positive meeting with TSSA’s E-Mix/BAME Group on 10 November 2021 and another positive meeting organised by women members of our Association’s EC with all women in TSSA invited to meet with representatives of the Boilermakers on 01 December 2021.	22 23 24 25



Discussions have continued with the Certification Officer who has suggested that the Boilermakers should register a District in Britain to act as a vessel for our members to subsequently transfer into if our members ballot subsequently agrees to a proposed merger. To facilitate this, the Boilermakers have appointed Thompsons Solicitors to act on their behalf with the Certification Officer.	26 27 28 29 30 31
Consultation Responses Received	32
The public announcement post Conference that our Association was entering talks with the Boilermakers resulted in ten responses from TSSA members. All concerns were responded to, and the majority of those members, who responded, were reassured by the answers given.	33 34 35 36
The EC consultation with Branches, SOGs and Divisional Councils resulted in 14 responses from:	37 38
• Anglia No.3 Branch 019	39
• Lancs & Cumbria General Branch 096	40
• Anglia South General Branch 120	41
• North East General Branch 433	42
• London Transport Retired Branch 452	43
• TfL Central Branch 460	44
• London Bus & Rail Operators Branch 467	45
• Euston Branch 606	46
• Network Rail North London Branch 610	47
• London and Southern Retired Branch 650	48
• Midlands Retired Branch 759	49
• TSSA Retired Members' Group	50
• WiF	51
• DWG	52
All of the issues raised were considered by our EC and responses circulated to all Branches, SOGs and Divisional Councils in Circular 76/21 on 09 December 2021.	53 54 55
What Next	56
Deferring the SDC to February allows time for an online ballot of our Association's workplace reps to gauge where they are in terms of the proposed merger with the Boilermakers. The EC noted that consultation has been through our Association's democratic structures to the exclusion of our workplace activists and the EC felt that giving them the opportunity to express their views would add to the debate at the SDC. Our EC therefore authorised an online ballot of TSSA workplace reps to take place in January 2022, the results of which will be circulated to Branches and SOGs in advance of the SDC.	57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64
Our EC at its December meeting also received a report updating on the latest position reached with our negotiations with the Boilermakers in respect of the	65 66

17 Principles detailed in the report to TSSA Annual Conference in September 2021. They agreed the consensus reached and the progress report was circulated in Circular 77/21 on 09 December 2021.	67 68 69
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