

ELECTRONIC/POSTAL BALLOT vs AGM VOTING

(discussion paper prepared by Karen Moffatt-McLeod)

A discussion took place at the 2017 AGM regarding the ongoing Electronic/postal voting for constitutional changes of Archery NZ.

As part of the Restructure Ballot that took place in 2016, it was voted in to move away from the traditional voting at the AGM to an electronic/postal ballot voting system as a way of allowing more members to have their say.

This has continued but as the person who has managed this system I believe that the new system has resulted in hours more work, higher costs for a small increase in the numbers voting. The process now involves:

- setting up the ballots,
- maintaining the list of those members who are able to vote,
- sending out the emails and reminders on voting,
- printing & posting the hard copy ballot papers,
- writing the report on the results,
- sending all information to the scrutineers,
- then presenting the results to the Board
- Board then give formal notification to the members on the outcome of the results

My question at the 2017 AGM was should we be continuing this when there seems to be a great sense of apathy among the members to take the opportunity to have their say.

The following are the numbers of responses that we have received in regard to postal ballots:

- Restructure proposal – 38%
- Constitution and rules changes – 25%
- Membership fee – 39%
- De-coupling the Selection Panel Convenor role from the Vice President role – 141 members (36%)
- Separating the Outdoor Nationals Target and Field events – 141 members (36%)

Attendance at AGM's in recent years has been:

- 2013 AGM – 74 members
- 2014 AGM – 64 members
- 2015 AGM – 73 members

After some discussion at the AGM, and some members believing that it should continue as there were more people voting than at an AGM it was requested that a Pro's & Con's Report be compiled.

PRO's for Electronic/Postal Voting

- The opportunity for all eligible Archery NZ members to vote
- Members don't have to attend to AGM to vote
- The motions are in writing and it is clearer what people are voting on rather than listening to someone read out a motion
- There have been lead-ins to the voting to keep people informed of what the vote is about
- Small increase in the number of people who have voted vs AGM numbers
- Anonymous, so people will vote how they wish to without being worried what others think
- More accurate information on numbers of members who vote, and percentages on the vote counts

CON's of Electronic/Postal Voting

- Increased workload for poor return
- Increased costs – Survey Monkey monthly fee \$70, postage, envelopes for those who do not have computer access
- No response to calls for a Ballot Officer, thus no one to continue to put the Ballots together and run this process
- There is no ability for the membership to discuss the proposal and potentially have the original proposal amended before a final vote / decision is made
- Not every member has an individual email address so it is hard to ensure one vote per member
- Members do not always update their email addresses with the Membership Secretary when they change
- Due to not all members renewing membership on 1st October and new members joining throughout the year, some returning or new members miss the ballot invitation as they have joined between the time of the Membership Secretary providing the membership list and the time the Ballot goes out
- Need for 2 scrutineers for each Ballot – either Life members or Board members

While in essence this electronic system should be better for the Archery NZ members, it won't work effectively unless:

- members show more interest and have a say
- we have a volunteer who can take up the role of Ballot Officer and:
 - set up the Ballots (through Survey Monkey),
 - send Ballots out to members,
 - collate the information,
 - do the reports,
 - liaise with the Scrutineers
 - complete a final report for presentation to the Board in a timely manner.



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