

ORGANISATIONAL BASIS

A) Statement of Organisation of the Direct Action Movement

(passed at conference, Leeds, 30/6/79)

1) Aims and Principles

- a) The Direct Action Movement is a working class organisation.
- b) Our aim is the creation of a free and classless society.
- c) We are fighting to abolish the state, capitalism and wage slavery in all their forms and replace them by self-managed production for need not profit.
- d) In order to bring about the new social order, the workers must take over the means of production and distribution. We are the sworn enemies of those who would take over 'on behalf of' the workers.
- e) We believe that the only way for the working class to achieve this is for independent organisation in the workplace and the community and federation with others in the same industry and locality, independent of, and opposed to all political parties and trade union bureaucracies. All such workers organisations must be controlled by workers themselves and must unite rather than divide the workers movement. Any and all delegates and representatives of such workers organisations must be subject to immediate recall by the workers.
- f) We are opposed to all states and state institutions. The working class has no country. The class struggle is worldwide and recognises no artificial boundaries. The armies and police of all states do not exist to protect the workers of those states, they exist only as the repressive arm of the ruling class.
- g) We oppose racism, sexism, militarism and all attitudes and institutions that stand in the way of equality and the right of all people everywhere to control their own lives and the environment.

2) Membership

a) The membership fee is £1.50 per calender month or minimum dues of 30p per month for non-wage earners.

b) Dues to be paid to a membership delegate for the current month in advance.

c) Arrears can be paid at any time up to 3 months late.

d) Dues can be paid up to 6 months in advance.

3) Membership Delegates

a) Membership delegates are to be elected where deemed necessary by members; and in the manner of the members choosing.

b) All membership delegates should be made known to the secretery.

c) The duty of the membership delegate is to collect dues from members and to record such on members cards and also to keep a record of such.

d) The record and dues collected should be forwarded to the secretery/treasurer as often as possible but at least every 3 months.

e) Dues can be paid direct to the S/T.

4) Groups

A D.A.M. group is constituted by 2 or more members who have sufficient communications to make collective decisions on a weekly basis.

5) Conferences

a) A general conference shall be held every 4 months to which any member may go and have equal voting rights.

b) Decisions should be by consensus where possible; a vote only taken when requested by more than one member.

c) Members not present at a conference may register their opinions or vote in 2 ways:

D) Local Leaflets (Manchester 29/9/79)

That all locally produced leaflets be sent to the secretary for printing in the internal bulletin. These leaflets, where suitable, to be considered for general publication and circulation. (see A8a above)

E) Public Documents (Manchester 29/9/79)

All public documents of the DAM be clearly identified as to their actual source of publication. That is they should bear the general, regional, local, or individuals identity and only that level of authorship which has actually produced this material.

F) Public Documents (Manchester 29/9/79)

That all DAM documents bear their source address (if possible) and that of the current secretary at the time of publication.

G) Postal Ballot (Manchester 29/9/79)

A postal ballot can be called for through the IB on any matter considered urgent enough to merit one.

H) Bans and Exclusions (Manchester 29/9/79)

In order to avoid people who represent what DAM is opposed to having influence on our organisation, the following categories of people are not eligible for membership (except under special circumstances to be determined at a general conference).

1) Police, prison warders, armed forces, security services and similar agents of the state.

2) Members of any political party or authoritarian political group.

3) Any person whose actions are deemed by conference to be contrary to the aims and principles of the DAM may be expelled by that conference.

I) Recall (Manchester 29/9/79)

All official post holders in the DAM shall be subject to recall at any conference of the DAM.

J) Interest Groups (Manchester 29/9/79)

That any special interest group e.g. women, within the DAM have the right to organise and hold meetings autonomously outside and within the conference programme. A report from any such meetings should be made to the general conference and also incorporated in the minutes of the general conference.

K) Minutes (London 26/1/80)

That at future conferences the minutes of the previous conference be circulated and taken as read and that amendments or matters arising be dealt with, the delegates indicating to the chair the item number or item and clause number they wish to comment on, and that matters arising be dealt with after acceptance of the minutes.

L) Publications (London 26/1/80)

That copies of all material published, in addition to leaflets etc. be forwarded to the S/T for inclusion in the IB or forwarding to the publications commission.

M) Speakers Fees (London 26/1/80)

That if members could get fees for ~~XXXXXXXX~~ addressing other organisations, half the fee should be donated to their local branch and half to the DAM funds.

N) Interest Groups (Cardiff 26/7/80)

It was agreed that time should be put aside at conferences for workshops and special interest groups to meet.

O) Newspaper (London 25/10/80)

1) Editorial Collective

The Editorial Collective is to be elected for one year only, subject to a maximum of 2 consecutive years. The Editorial Collective will be subject to recall.

2) Complaints

It was agreed that the place for debate about content, complaints etc, was the IB. Arguments amongst ourselves in public should be avoided subject to the constraints of common sense. Any member aggrieved by the action of the Editorial Collective should raise it at a conference or in the IB.

P) Failsafe (London 25/10/80)

Any member or group unable to carry out a function delegated to it should contact the S/T so that alternative arrangements can be made.

5) Cont'd

- i) A written statement to the S/T.
 - ii) Through a mandated delegate or a free voting delegate.
- d) A chaipperson is to be elected. Duties to include:
- i) Reading of the agenda and calling relevent member(s) to initiate discussion, only.
 - ii) To intervene in discussion when such becomes uncontrolled by normal social rules.
- e) Minutes secretery to be elected. Duties to include:
- i) Taking full minutes.
 - ii) Transcribing the minutes and giving the S/T a copy as soon as possible which should appear in the next bulletin published.
- f) Where a vote is taken on the policy of the D.A.M. a two thirds majority is necessary but a consensus is preferable.

6) Secretary/Treasurer

- a) A seretary/treasurer shall be elected annually and serve not more than two years.
- b) The S/T shall have the following duties:
 - i) To act as treasurer of the D.A.M. and to keep a running account of monies paid into and of the bank account or petty cash. A record of such should be available to any member at two days notice.
 - ii) The accounts should be presented to every general conference.
 - iii) No monies are to be paid out except when authorised by a general conference decision, unless required for general expenses.
 - iv) To act as secretery to the organisation; to answer all enquiries and to provide communications between groups and individuals where these do not exist.

7) Emergency Provision

A full list of members is to be kept by a local group other than the S/T, for purposes in case the S/T does a bunk.

8) Commissions

In order to publicise the D.A.M.'s policies and beliefs, a commission of varying numbers of people shall be elected at a general conference to investigate any specific issue of relevance. A statement of the commission's should be presented to the next conference and to the S/T for distribution to members.

Changes to the statement are made at the conference and a vote taken, if necessary, for acceptance of the statement. A positive vote is an acceptance of the statement as the policy of the D.A.M.

9) Group Publications

a) At least 3 copies of any publication produced by a D.A.M. group under the title of the D.A.M. must be sent to the S/T by the group who have produced it.

b) The S/T will present two copies of the above to the next D.A.M. conference following his acquisition of it.

c) Any member can initiate a discussion about the publication for criticism. Any decision taken becomes policy and should be noted by the group in question and other members.

10) Wages

No member of the D.A.M. shall be paid any wages, of any nature, other than legitimate expenses, by the D.A.M.

(NB I have included in the above all amendments made since it was first agreed. S/T)

B) Membership (Leeds 30/6/79)

It was agreed that membership be on an individual rather than group basis.

C) Publications Committee (Manchester 29/9/79)

That a standing committee be established on an annual basis, subject to a 3 monthly review and recallable at any time, to prepare and publish for general distribution literature on behalf of DAM.