

14th May 2012

After considerable thought, I have decided to resign as Chairman of CWF with immediate effect.

Over the last two and a half years, I believe we have made good progress at rebuilding the organisation. Forward magazine has a new contemporary look and is published regularly; successful events have been held throughout the year and during the Party Conference; the Nicholas Ridley Memorial Lecture has been a popular reintroduction; a significant part of the country is now covered by Regional Co-ordinators who are holding local events. The regional structure gives me considerable pleasure. We have also started to connect with the Parliamentary Party and gain their involvement in the organisation. There is much more to be done to achieve the success I always envisaged.

However, it has always been clear to me that my vision for CWF is fundamentally different to that of one of the Trustees, Mark Allatt. There comes a point when fighting an internal battle is counterproductive to the best interests of our great Party. The Party must always come first. After all, we do have the word Conservative in our title. It is therefore time to move on and leave Mark to shape the future.

Having been elected to a position at every level on the voluntary side of our Party, from Branch Treasurer to National Chairman, I find it incompatible in 2012 that the choice of CWF Chairman should be at the discretion of unelected Trustees dominated by one individual. The constitution of CWF leaves all power in the hands of self-appointed Trustees. This situation is unsustainable.

I would like to thank all those colleagues, both long standing and newer recruits to the team who have helped me to rebuild CWF. It has been a pleasure working with those enthusiastic and positive individuals who shared a common vision.

My final tribute is to our great President and distinguished Vice Presidents. It has been a privilege working for an organisation with which they have been closely associated. I hope I have added just a little to CWF which their considerable political achievements deserve.

Don Porter CBE
Chairman