

National Finance Officer

James Oliver February 2014

The Income & Expenditure account all the outstanding issues from 2012 accounts have been resolved from the areas. All areas have paid what they owned before the end of the year.

During 2013 income from the old BREAN shares was cashed and paid back to the areas. FAB made a loss of £71 this was about the same as one extra person not attending the attending the event I would like to thank Adam Redshaw for organizing the holiday at FAB in 2013.

NEC has held five meetings instead of its normal four meetings the extra meeting help the NEC to produce the successful AGM in 2013. This had two motions passed, one of which address members issues around the age range, and allowing the Area representatives to spend time debating the how we fund the spring holiday in the past, and how to fund the National Spring Holiday in the future. It also gave the opportunity for Mike Clarkson and Nicky Rolfe to be present at a NEC meeting allowed them to interact and get to know the people working on the NEC.

We are conducting the process to take the outstanding debt to the small claims court for the recovery of £146.00 owned to the Federation.

All expenses claims have followed agreed procedures of the NEC, expenses are checked and validated by myself as National Finance Officer and at the end of the year by Katie in her independent examination of the accounts, all theses expenses have been authorised, properly receipted and as it shown auditable. I would have no hesitation in reviewing expenses.

I would like to thank Katie Hawkins for producing the Independent Examination for the Federations accounts for 2013 and recommend this practice to the areas and groups as an example of best practice.

In a period of rising prices I believe that the levies which the area pay to fund the National tier will have to increase, this is because of increasing number of people joining the NEC, also of rising prices from our external providers such as computer servers, Insurance Premium, and organising training events.

I would like to thank all those who supplied risk assessments during 2013 to me.

I would also like to draw your attention to the fact risk assessments help you manage your event and make sure that you have taken care of the risk involved in the event.

James Oliver

Southern Area Plus

Report for National Annual General Meeting on 22nd February 2014

Management & Finance

There are 6 groups in Southern Area.

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|--|--|
| Abingdon | 4 | | |
| Andover & Newbury | 7 | | |
| Direct Members | 1 | This member has been emailed, but not replied. | |
| Oxford | 5 | | |
| Reading | 1 | | |
| South Bucks | 4 | | |
| | | | |

Total number of members: 22

Finance

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| Total Area Worth | £2,216.47 |
|------------------|-----------|

Number of AEC Positions Filled – 5

Activities

Area

Southern area has held a lot of events through the year most popular events were the Skiing, the Hedge Hop, Centre Parks and the Southern Area Beach Barbecue. Southern Area also attended the some of the National events like FAB, National AGM and WASH.

Training

We have only done one Training session this year on publicity in our area, but is well received by everyone who attended.

Publicity & Communication

We continue to publicise Plus and all our events as much as we can use our website to its full potential. Including joining and paying for your membership and some events online. The website has a fresh look and we now have an area on the website where we have some pictures of past events which can be shown to new potential members.

Recruitment & Development

Reading Group is still under re-development. It has been a struggle to recruit new members to our Reading group but our committee are visiting Reading as often as they can and will continue to help build this group up.

General

Our Area Committee remains optimistic despite lower membership than previous years. We have a positive attitude towards recruiting new members in all of our groups. We still have a good program of events for 2014 and are in the process of trying to build this up with more events. The program can be found on our website. <http://southern-area-plusgroups.org.uk/>

Nicky Rolfe – Chairlady, Southern Area.

MOTION FOR DEBATE

To encourage National to live within its means and to encourage the use of electronic meetings technology, it is proposed to amend the constitution such that:

The total cost of NEC and related expense expenditure does not exceed £1000 per year.

National does not spend more than it's income in any given year without prior consent of a general meeting of the organisation.

This requires the following amendments to the National Constitution:

Delete part 4.3.3.

Existing parts 4.3.4. to 4.3.10. will be numerically incremented to read 4.3.6. to 4.3.12. so as to create a space for the insertion of the following new parts:

4.3.3. The NEC will ensure that the total annual cost of NEC expenses, including all travel, subsistence and accommodation expenses, whether general or associated with a specific event, and including those of any committee appointed under Articles 6.2, 6.3 and 6.8, is limited to £1000 per year.

4.3.4. The NEC will ensure that total national expenditure shall not exceed the amount received from the Area levy and other national level income, without such additional expenditure having been agreed in advance by a majority of the Areas after due debate at their Area meetings or by a National AGM or National EGM.

4.3.5. All moneys raised by or on behalf of the Federation shall be applied to further the Purposes of the Federation and for no other purpose PROVIDED THAT nothing herein contained shall prevent the payment in good faith of reasonable and proper remuneration to any employee of the Federation or the repayment to members of the NEC or of any committee appointed under Articles 6.2, 6.3 and 6.8 of reasonable out of pocket expenses, not exceeding the annual total laid down in 4.3.3.

Proposed Stevenage
Seconded Hillingdon

MOTION FOR DEBATE;

Midland Area mandate the NEC to investigate returning back to National Lead with the following parameters to be considered;

- A) Single tier structure culminating in a full National Committee to be made up as follows;
- National Chairman
 - National Honorary General Secretary
 - National Membership Officer
 - National Finance Officer
 - National Publicity and Public Relations Officer
 - National Internet Co-ordinator
 - National Activities Officer
 - National Development Officer
 - National Training Officer
 - Area/Regional Co-ordinators x 4 {could be more if NEC deemed it necessary}

NC HGS MO NPRO IC NACT NDO NTO ACO ACO ACO ACO NFO

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Groups

- B) Online payments of membership including the option of direct and/or via Groups
- C) Possibility of buying/renting accommodation for head quarters to be re-established

Benefits;

Requirement to fill all the current National & Area Committee Posts would be removed thus potentially enabling a full Committee at National to be filled.

Having a central point for memberships would ease collation of statistics. It would also assist us in paving the way for on-line payment of membership and/or direct debit on a monthly basis.

Having a single Area Co-ordinator to host Area events, promote National events and assist Groups with activities as necessary simplifies the current process.

Reduction in meetings as Area meetings would no longer be needed.

Offer a more corporate/business like image with all publicity being standardized throughout the organization.

How it would work;

The Area's as we know them at the moment would be replaced with a simple Area Co-ordinator to host events. There would be no need to have any of the other posts as all other functions would be handled by National Posts.

We would anticipate having six meetings per annum (one every two months) including the AGM pre-conference meeting as follows;

- February (AGM Meeting)
- April
- June
- August
- October
- December

All elections would be held in February i.e. elected by the Membership of Groups present at the AGM to start their term of office on 1st March.

A simple fixed amount would be allocated each year to an Area Co-ordinator's Bank Account (possibly the existing Area Bank Account) for them to utilize on activities and events hosted for their respective area/region. Any monies currently in the Area Accounts over & above this fixed sum would be transferred to the National Bank Account.

Two signatories would still be required (from the appointed National Committee) and as there would be six meetings per annum we do not foresee any problems with getting signatories.

The HGS would produce a report after every bi-monthly meeting detailing what has been discussed and any decisions made which would be made available on line via the National Website.

The Area Co-ordinators would be expected to provide budgets & breakdowns of each event they have hosted to each National meeting in order that the National Finance Officer can maintain accurate accounts.