

NEC MEETING 11th MAY 2024

Minutes by Ian

Present (in person or remote):

Steve Rolfe (NC), Martin Posner (ASEAC), Tina Bunyan (NTACC), John Smith (MAC), Ben Allen (NFO), Craig Bunyan (PRO), Adrian Barnard (VP), Gerry Edwards (VP), Ian Crawshaw (VP), Matt Dickinson (Obs), Andy Rutter (Obs), Lauren Crawley (Obs)

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Meeting opened at 10.40.

Welcome everybody and welcome new NEC member Craig. Hope we can pair you with Terry Dixon for PRO stuff once he has completed his house move. Welcome Lauren Crawley as well. All introduced themselves

2. Apologies for Absence

Nicky Rolfe, Kath Good

3. Voting Strength

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4. Minutes of last meeting (Feb 2024)

Ian's last minutes were sent as images of his notes.

Mark Hewson has been asked to store on the NEC pages of the website, any reports sent to him.

IC asked to resend and write up properly. [IC – *resent at the time, write up recently sent*]

AB's address is now abarnard03@outlook.com

Matters Arising

No discussion

5. Actions Review

Pending.

6. AREA REPORTS

ASEA report – Written report. MP – the officers are MP Chair, Richard Leach Treasurer, Sanya Preston Admin. MD – What's with the £400 loan to WASH. **Action – MP to find out if any accounts were available from WASH.** SR – WASH is a group not area event. BA – so the area still needs to see the accounts. Will cover later anyway. CB – would like to know how new members are being attracted. MP – Poster on the venue, and Facebook (for Redbridge)

Midland Written report which John read out.

JS Chair, Kathy Morris Admin, James Oliver Treasurer, Mark Hewson membership officer, Adam R General member.

Recent motion at NAGM to abolish upper age limit has helped Lincs Quest.

MD – Has the FB ad attracted anyone and cost? JS £100 per group, had enquiries but not collated yet. To do at publicity action day. Facebook traffic has increased. Will need to determine how to classify and process PNMs in collaboration with the FB group owners. SR – Lincs Q. numbers seem to have dropped. JS – Covid affected. Also they had kept to the 65 age limit. But it is starting to go in the right direction now (maybe 60% of them were over 65)

NTAC Written report. Katie Hawkins Treasurer and memberships, AB Admin, Mark Hawkins Activities. Cornwall weekend actually beginning of September (6-9th) not end. At the Hoburne site St. Mabyn, Just over £100 pp. MD – when are we publicising the Cornwall hol? AB only 5 chalets left, let AB know if interested. MD Can you let plussers know. **ACTION AB to disseminate details to Plus members.** Could be a larger event next year than this.

Southern A written report. NR Chair, Kath Good Membership, Mike Shapcott as Treas. AB – Please send me email addresses for a National Directory. TB any new members? SR not that he knows. SR – email NR if any questions.

Vote the reports en bloc. Proposed MP, seconded TB. Accepted Unanimously.

7. OFFICERS' REPORTS

Chair - A written report from Steve.

MD – Is movement of NAGM covered by scheduling item? SR – was only a suggestion. BA – can cover later.

HGS – Vacant.

NFO – written report with a spreadsheet arranged into tabs by account, with balance checks in place. Work in progress, he will have spreadsheet ready by end May. GE said it's a good report. [IC – refer to report for the details].

AB – has destroyed all Nicholson House info. Still has HLM list which he sent to VPs and Ben. BA – Can membership officers confirm it's correct.

Ben's report was commended by several. MD asked about ASEAA levies. Do you still require an invoice. BA happy to do the invoice levies electronically to each Area.

SR – What's net worth. BA – about 19-20K. SR asked because Savings accounts only has 14.5K. BA is still getting his head around all the accounts. MD – Do you want the National Lloyds debit card? BA – yes please.

8. National Activities' Officer

NAO – Adam Not present.

SR thanked AB and BA for the Hoburne weekend. AB said mostly Ben's work!

BA walked us through Hoburne monies and chalet allocations. Wants to make Hoburne the last weekend of April for the next several years. Makes it 3 months after WASH. AB what about late Easters? BA – There are no late Easters in the medium term. BA will aim to get a private / quiet area booked for the quiz.

9. National PRO

CB written report. IC commended it. CB building contacts starting with Area Chairs. He liked the Stevenage publicity. BA said Nessa Nash started from scratch for Stevenage PRO and has made a flying start without prior help.

CB wants to set up a central email address + FB page to link to other groups. JS – Mark Hewson could help set up a centralised address. IC worried a link to links on FB would be too static, thus falls down search engine rankings. JS – there are Plus pages that have this already. CB – Yes we can use the existing pages. **Action for JS to give access to CB for his FB pages.** Also – **Action SR to contact MH to contact CB re: centralised email address.** SR why did you like the Stevenage page. CB – Vibrant, colourful, bright, enticing. Shows they are friendly and doing a lot of varied activities and it seems to work.

<https://www.facebook.com/stevenageplus>

Also appears high up in search engines.

SR – Great start and we can support you with Terry etc

AB – I have sent to CB the latest National Directory.

10. Unfilled Posts

CB – I have a possible candidate for training post and threw Lauren under the bus 😊. LC keen to give it a go and has some experience. Proposed BA Seconded JS. LC – is a H&S manager, has delivered training, will hope to deliver Risk Assessment course. Could carry out an area assessment for training needs. SR how do you see us. LC wide range of activities, enjoys national events. SR is there something we are not doing? LC not sure what was done in the past, increase what groups can do. AB – Thinks there is a lack of training in areas other than Midland. Talk to JS about the training

he has done. Needs to convince people of the need to attend training. The training Francis W has delivered was very good with professional certificates issued.

AB there is a training budget? LC could talk to BA.

BA Risk assessment, food hygiene level 2, first aid – would be good. CB does some training too.

Lauren was elected into the position unanimously and was thanked by Steve.

IC – Has been talking offline to Erica Knight, who might re-stand for HGS. It was agreed to co-opt her if so. (See later)

11. Lunch Break

12. Financial Record Retention

BA wants to round up the retention period for financial documents to 10 years.

AB – I committed some of the records eg Training, HLM list, to electronic format. Now has too many video tapes of such!

BA – They can be converted to CD. There was some discussion as to what to keep.

SR – How much to convert videos to disk? JS about £10 per video. AB – think £200 then. SR would be nice to archive it rather than lose it. BA shared that it can be done online, saw a cost somewhere (“maxphoto”) of £30 first tape then £20 thereafter. MD – I can look into this.

13. Tenders for NAGM 2025

Ben Allen. Saturday 15th Feb 2025

Tender A – Northampton. 3 potential Holiday Inns. Picked the one 2 miles East of Northampton Station. £187.50 2 night package. Could base there for a few years if successful.

Tender B – Accord Hotel Northampton. £183 two night package

Tender C – an alternative Accord Hotel package with slightly different lunch option. £177 for 2 nights.

BA talked through the detail and options of these tenders (previously emailed to top table)

Defer decision until we have some more answers (such as Parking)

Some discussion about the various options, and also for future NEC meetings.

SR and CB thanked BA for his hard work.

14. Hoburne 2025 Update

Covered earlier.

15. WASH

SR – WASH needs to be advertised now especially with the date move. Costs could be a problem for some. MD – January or nothing. Keith Israel's post said instalments payment is an option. AB – have they looked at other venues? BA / TB Yes. TB why has Keith said "For Members" when non members come. BA discussed with AB and Keith – can costs be saved eg 1 band rather than 2 per night. Could this be the last WASH? BA – he is probably at the mercy of Searles. MD – Searles are putting on a weekend at similar cost to WASH at similar time WASH used to be. AB – Brean no longer suitable for groups as dealing with individuals / selling agents.

16. Scheduling of events across the year

SR – Somewhat covered already. We did have an events diary. An alternative (non Plus) weekend idea in Great Yarmouth in November was discussed.

17. AOB

- MP - Fran's charity quiz next Saturday
- AB – his email address abarnard03@outlook.com – please add him to lists!
- Erica Knight (absent) was happy to be co-opted to HGS. Proposed MP seconded JS and Elected Unanimously.
- There was a discussion about travel / NEC expense claims.

Action – All, to think about updated aims for Plus.

18. Close Meeting

31st August for next NEC meeting

16th November for the one after

SR – it was a good meeting and good to get Lauren and Erica on.

Meeting closed at 14.30.