

National Gazette July 2005

This National Gazette is a summary of the decisions and discussions that occurred at the NEC meeting and allied matters relating to the operation of the Federation.

Election of Officers

Of the following persons nominated, the following were elected :-

Deputy National Chairman; John Smith Northern Area Chair

National Finance Officer; Adrian Barnard

National Executive Officers; Gerry Edwards, Huw Morris

National Training Officer; Joseph Gurney

Adam Redshaw was not elected National Chairman.

The post of National Chairman remains open; nominations for this post will be directed to the HGS via the office before 7th October 2005.

I would like to thank all those volunteers who made the commitment to stand and undergo the selection process.

Please direct any inquiries or matters of business in the first instance to myself, Francis Wallington as Honorary General Secretary

Federation's Finances

It was noted that during a presentation of the accounts, that the Federation's Finances are getting worse due to a marked decrease in membership income in the first half of 2005.

Our cumulative membership figure as at June 30th 2005 is 263 persons

Brean

There was discussion as to whether the NEC could organise this event in 2006 and appoint a Brean Co-Coordinator. The National Activities Officer was tasked to identify likely volunteers, secure the venue with the contractor. The NAO will be co-ordinating the preparation of a budget and inviting the purchase shares from area committees.

WASH

The inclusion of friends, that is non-members' participation at this event was discussed by the NEC. The NAO had discussed the matter with the event chairman and identified the reasons for inclusion was to secure the event.

However, the NEC voted to increase the proportion of the charge per non-member participating in WASH.

Inspire 2nd to 4th September 2005

Inspire will be held at Alsager Campus , Crewe and Alsager Faculty , MMU , Hassall Road , Alsager, Cheshire ST7 2HL. This event seeks to equip members with skills for running groups, organising events and publicity in light of the proposed changes for Area Lead Option. It will also be an opportunity for volunteers to practise their skills as trainers

The event will discuss the role of Membership Officer and the management of membership.

All members are encouraged to participate, network, learn and share their experience.

SADY

Over forty-two persons camped at Dalesbridge in June, taking the opportunity to explore the area, to ramble across the Yorkshire Dales and enjoy a mix of entertainment from live bands to quizzes. The event was well organised by Corinna Teale and it would be desirable for it to be repeated in 2006.

Magazine Campaign

Advertisements have been placed in woman's magazines from October 2004 onwards in an attempt to market Eighteen Plus to a specific audience. The external PRO could judge whether this campaign had been successful.

It was observed that the number of inquiries from a Web Page Feedback Form is increasing.

Power in the Park

So'ton Friends have made contacts with the commercial radio company Capital and Brand Activation who are organising festivals in Cardiff, Oxford and Birmingham. There is an opportunity to publicise local groups to a target audience which the EPRO and MAC was asked to co-ordinate.

Charity Car Wash Day

The NEC seeks the co-operation of groups to organise car washes for charity on large retail sites on the same day. The GPC was tasked with investigating the legalities of such a community exercise

National DVD

It was identified that the target audience for such material are for prospective new members and external publicity. Adam Redshaw as NDO was asked to do this with EPRO and to send a copy to every Area Chairman.

0870 Telephone Number

Because of a presentation by the NDO, the NEC agreed to purchase a telephone number that can be used in marketing and publicity materials from a company called Flextel [www.flextel.co.uk]. This number is currently directed to Newent. For a group, it enables them to use one constant number on their publicity materials.

The number is 0870 874 7587 [0870 4plus]. Please use this number on publicity materials.

Changing the way we manage the organisation

A large part of this NEC meeting was spent discussing how to realise the mandate given by the membership at the ANC concerning Area Lead Option. The NEC set about trying to resolve the conflicts and issues raised in order to progress these changes.

ANC 2006

The NEC agreed to hold an Annual National Conference on the weekend of 22nd to 23rd April 2006 at the Coventry Britannia Hotel. External advice will be sought as to the validity of this event.

The HGS reminded the NEC of Article 9 of the current National Constitution and in particular of article 9.1

" 9.1 There shall be held between the beginning of March and end of May each year, a conference of delegates from each of the member groups [in this constitution referred to as "The Annual National Conference or ANC]".

We seek a team of volunteers to organise and run the Annual National Conference. If you are willing to assist in this event, please contact Southern Area Chairman Kirsty Von Lieshout or Honorary General Secretary Francis Wallington.

The HGS wishes to encourage all groups to save and allocate funds towards participation in ANC 2006. The principle objective of this meeting will be the revision and acceptance of a new Constitution and Standing Orders

Constitutional Sub- committee

A group of volunteers were tasked to generate a new national constitution for delivery in March 2006 reflecting the requirements of Area Lead Option and legislation.

This sub-committee is composed of Stephen Browning [EAA Chairman and NEC Representative]; Sandra Brogan HLM; Rita Grimes HLM; Huw Morris NEO and Chris Page Anglia Area HLM.

Office

It is the intention of the NEC to retain the services of the Newent Office until the lease expires in April 2006.

To that end the archive and records held within the office will be moved to Gloucester Record Office, Albion Street, Gloucester in September 2005.

Future NEC meetings will discuss the mechanics of devolving office functions including the management of membership to membership officers and area treasurers

Honouring the Staff

As you will no doubt be aware, the staff consisting of Christine George and Sue Swan has actively contributed to the running of this organisation for many years. The current roles they occupy under the proposed structure become redundant.

To honour and recognise their service and contribution to the federation, the NEC will organise a party celebration and a voluntary collection on their behalf. For the collection, please send donations made payable to the National Federation of Eighteen Plus Groups to Adrian Barnard, National Finance Officer, 21 White Leys Close, Didcot OX11 7LP

NEC Meeting Dates

15th and 16th October 2005

28th and 29th January 2006