

## NEC ROUND UP

Dear Plussers,

Here is a roundup of the National Executive Council Meeting held at the Quadrant Centre in Coventry on Saturday 24th November, 2012.



Firstly, it was that time again when a decision needed to be taken about the automatic increase in the Membership Fee. The NEC have voted to retain the £25.00 Plus and £18.75 Quest fees for another year.

# Annual General Meeting

Adrian Barnard was in attendance at the meeting and confirmed that the AGM will once again be held at the Beverley Hotel in Walsall on Saturday 20th April, 2013. Make sure you get your bookings in early.

Adrian also presented the BREAN accounts which have now been fully audited. We can confirm that the shares, purchased for £500.0 each, have reduced to £281.32 each.



**F.A.B. 2013 (Fun At Billing).** Yes, a new National Scale Holiday has been agreed upon. Adam Redshaw has been elected as the event co-ordinator and will be responsible for appointing helpers. Willing volunteers should contact Adam directly. Area's with a stake in BREAN have agreed that monies left in the BREAN account will be utilised to underwrite this event. Setting is in Northamptonshire so nice & central for all Members. See you there in March

**BREAKING NEWS: New Website now available** If you wish to acquire a log in then please contact John Smith direct. This is a new look website which is interactive with a blog and twitter feeds embedded. National is seeking one or more Members to act as bloggers and be the official twitter account holder on behalf of the organisation. .

NEC Meetings for 2013 have been agreed as follows:

- 23.02.13 at Coventry
- 19.04.13 at Walsall
- 20.04.13 at Walsall
- 19.05.13 at Coventry
- 17.08.13 at Coventry
- 23.11.13 at Coventry
- 22.02.14 To Be Confirmed

**PLUS IN THE DIGITAL AGE** : The NEC have agreed to host a workshop for Plus Members on the Sunday of the Annual General Meeting. Each Area has voted to contribute £75.00 towards this event. The workshop will focus on the effective use of available technology to help us promote ourselves in this ever more digital age. Please contact Francis Wallington or Adam Redshaw if you have any ideas that you would like to see discussed at such a forum. This is an opportunity to share or gain experience and knowledge



**THE ANGLESEY WALKING WEEKEND** proved to be a great success as a niche event within the Plus calendar. However, due to a budgeting error when presented during 2011 the event made a significant loss of approx £500.00. This has been written off against the SADY account which was used to fund this event. Due to the potential of this event 2013 the NEC has agreed to run this event again in 2013 with the initial deposit being paid for by the balance left in the SADY account. Further details will follow.

**THE FUTURE OF THE FEDERATION** : What has happened so far? The NEC, which are your Area Chairmen, are tasked with the unenviable job of safeguarding the Federation for future generations to enjoy and it has been difficult to decide upon the best course of action bearing in mind the very different and varied ideas of how this can be accomplished.

Initially, to get a start point, the NEC worded an internal survey at the May meeting which was prepared through Survey Monkey and circulated to every Member asking them to complete it. During the May meeting we felt that an internal survey alone would not provide us with the answers to some of the burning questions like do we appeal to younger members?, etc. Therefore, we also prepared wording for an external survey and Francis Wallington was tasked to go away and speak to professional companies who specialise in this field. This was done and his findings were presented at the August meeting.

Francis submitted three options for conducting an external survey with varied costs from £5k up to approx £9k. The NEC voted at that meeting to go with the £9k option as they felt this would provide the most conclusive information. As National Chairman I was mandated by the NEC to attend every Area Conference and present the findings of the survey and to promote the benefits of having an external survey done. I did this back in October and attended 3 out of the 4 Conferences. Your Area Chairmen should have advised you of this as these are the forums where you get your chance to have your say and help decide policy.

At this last NEC meeting in November the NEC voted in favour of conducting an External Survey albeit reservations were expressed that the Membership may not want to implement any changes that are recommended. If you would like to see the analysis of the Internal Survey Results then I have posted them onto the Plus Website (Static Version) for review.

If you have any constructive comments or would be willing to assist the NEC in pushing the Federation forward then please contact your Area Chairman or me to discuss further.

**Finally**, there are still vacant positions within the National Committee such as National Publicity Officer, National Training Officer and National Activities Officer. If you wish to be considered then again please contact your Area Chairman.