NEC Committee Meeting

Coventry, 15 August 2015

Minutes

Present: Erica Knight (NC), Joan Clifford (HGS), James Oliver (NFO), Matthew Dickinson (Dep. NC / NTAC Chair), Martin Posner (A&SEA Chair), Adam Redshaw (MA Chair / Nat Publicity), Nicky Rolfe (SA Chair), Steve Rolfe (Internet Co-ordinator), Adrian Barnard (NAO), John Smith (National Publications), Francis Wallington (VP), Andrea Rutter (Observer)

Note: Where written AR refers to Adam, AndyR refers to Andrea.

Agenda:

Meeting opened at 10:10am.

1	Open Meeting	Chair

Erica thanked everyone for coming.

2	A short review of procedures and the meeting will be run	Chair /HGS

3	Apologies for Absence, acknowledge of proxies	HGS

Gerry Edwards, Ian Crawshaw

3.1	Establish of Voting Strength of Meeting	HGS

Established at 7.

4	Minutes of last meeting	All
4.1	Points of Accuracy	

EAA Area is called A&SEA

4.2	Acceptance of May 2015 NEC meeting Minutes	Areas

The minutes were accepted nem con.

4.3	Review of Action list	All

The action list was reviewed and some items added to agenda.
Discussion about number of "Ongoing" items
See separate attachment for review of existing actions and new actions.

4.4	Matters arising thereon	All

None.

5	Officers reports (No verbal report will be taken)	All

NC – None.
HGS – None.
NFO – Later in meeting.
SAA written report. MD asked about Caversham – research is ongoing. South Bucks is expanding – hosting badminton. Oxford has about 6 people. A discussion re members and memberships renewal.
A&SEA – Written report. FW asked about West Kent. MP said they are going places – want to open groups in E Grinstead, Sevenoaks, Ashford. They have the potential to open an Area. Membership was discussed. FW asked for explanation of the RGT – MP answered points for participation in events and meetings. FW said not many areas run these trophies anymore but MD said NTAC do! FW thanked Martin for making the contact (with West Kent).
MA – Written report. AR said 3 people are on the Area committee. Lincs Quest members constitute about half of the area. JC commended AR's idea about free life membership if 10+ years. Some discussion re this. Meetup

page closed some time ago, some talk re reopening it. FW "What's On" had recently yielded 1 enquirer near Lincs Quest. AB said word of mouth better than paid advertising, some members joined after his karting event. **NTAC** – MD sent a report but not received by all. AR wanted to be invited to stuff groups were doing, as seen on personal Facebook feeds. Some discussion over which website people tend to look at, confusion over which is the definitive one. AB regretted that FB feeds etc have killed Onelist.

NEC Admin – a report was emailed.

Internet Co-Ordinator: SR said the website payments are in hand.

Reports voted en bloc and accepted.

6	Finances	NFO
6.1	National Finance Officer's Report	NFO

A written report from James. The web hosting charges were considered expensive. Discussion over researching a different contract. JO said that there had been a problem with getting the website charge paid.

6.2	Outstanding Debts from Areas	NFO

A&SEA to pay debts at this meeting. Query over why is SA paying £25 a quarter?

6.3	General (incl. Risk Assessments)	NFO

Re the Shropshire walking weekend, the insurers asked if the walks were properly planned? Answer = Yes! MD – groups are uncertain about when RAs are needed. FW – ask him if needed. AB said the RA is not needed if the company (eg a pub) has a RA. The question was asked what about repeating events? Generally, update the date but otherwise just copy over.

EK called for a discussion on budgets. The area levies budget would default back to £600 each. There may be motions at NAGM that retrospectively set the 2016 budget. The insurance was thought to be excessive although AB thought it was as good as any and warned that lots of cowboy insurers are out there online! FW was keen to meet Ecclesiastical (our insurers) face to face to increase their understanding of what we do. AR took an **action** to look at insurance policy (in conjunction with JO).

There was a big discussion re inviting groups to the NAGM. It will cost more but not doing this could lead to fewer people standing for office (as they wouldn't have been invited). FW wanted to reward the membership for the 75th anniversary. MD and AR said it should be a self-financing NAGM, at least for the national tier. EK asked whether Adrian had researched a venue and was told no because does not know state of bids. See also item 8.2.

JO's report was accepted.

A budget was set for 2016 and JO emailed this out during the meeting.

7	Publicity (excl website)	Chair / All

AB emphasized do point out the value of membership eg Karting

There was a lengthy discussion prompted by AR which ultimately led to a **Proposal** – we adopt Adam's idea of a weekend POW WOW style event on setting up and successfully operating groups, with a budget up to £2K, also to focus on existing groups. Proposed by John 2nd by Adam. **Passed by majority.** [*Note – after the meeting – there is support for using the NAGM weekend, making the Saturday the POW WOW day and Sunday the NAGM*].

8   National Meeting
8.1   Dates for National Meeting(s)
NAGM 27th – 28th Feb

8.2   NAGM tender 2016
AB will get a tender in. £25-30 additional charge likely. Day delegate rate could go up by £5. Budget to break even. Some talk about having it at the seaside, AB could look at Bournemouth – but it would be a lot more expensive.

9	Other Matters	Chair / All
9.1	General	Chair / All

FW said MA had used the services of Google Adwords to get analytics for clicks around the Yorkshire Post site. 169 clicks in July, 883 during Mar – July. "Social group" and "social clubs" the popular search terms. We are 1st preference when Social Groups is searched. However this cost £1.2K for 1 year and there is no way of telling if this generated enquiries. AB said conversely that word of mouth and posters free. SR – Tried google analytics with "holidays" having more hits than "Plus" or "Social". Some discussion ensued about the relative merits of various advertising services with AR believing printed advertising does not work, and Wordpress getting mixed reviews with its tiered pricing strategy (£70pa bare bones vs £450 full dynamic service).

Discussion settled around JS using MailChimp to produce a Plus eNewsletter focusing on future events. It would not be the same as the Onelist as it would be "pushed" by the NEC rather than a debating forum for all. Use of "bcc" would prevent it becoming used as a spamming tool. Action: Can people email John Area Diaries. [*Note: Since the meeting, there have been 2 e-Newsletters from John*]

9.2   Groups Development
Focus on West Kent & Caversham. NR to complete feasibility report for Caversham. SR said we could use the feedback from the Pow-Wow "idea of templates" to help with developing the group.

10	Activities	Chair / All

AB asked who wants Pool Competition? Possibly Abingdon?
Area chess a week or two after that. Offered to talk to WASH committee re holding National Chess during WASH. [*After the meeting, Area Chess scheduled for Sunday 6th December, Adrian's house*]

10.1	Diary	Chair / All

WASH Fri 6 – Mon 9 November
Send any other National or Area diary dates to Adrian abarnard@jet.uk

11	Any Other Business	Chair

Shropshire walking 11 attended. Went well with evening games, great food, would go there again. Broke even.
Spring holiday 2016? AB offered to look into it – possibly Pontins.

11.1   2015 – 2016 NEC
11.2   Members
An in camera session was held.
There was a motion to write off the debt regarding Joe O'Sullivan owed monies; this **passed by majority**.
11.3   Charity
Should Plus be a Charitable Organisation? [*Notes taken by Joan C*]
£1500 to Charitable Commissioners
Give Gift Aid
Can employ people
Adam can try and get someone from his 4N group to come to November meeting to talk about Charitable / Limited Liability Options.

12	Date, time and Venue of Next Meeting	HGS

Saturday 23rd November 2015

13	Close Meeting	Chair

Erica closed the meeting at 16.05