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Magazine of
The National Federation of
18 Plus Groups

Summer
2003

ANC News / Brean /
Skiing / Badminton



Iain Parkes; winner of Spirit Of Linda Street Award

2 EDITOR'S COLUMN



Hello and welcome again, may the summer sun be shining on you all.

This issue features plenty of good gubbins, especially the ANC which saw a few important changes passed this year. It was good to see everyone in Coventry and congratulations to Banbury on winning the Norbury Trophy for Best Magazine. More groups should try and produce magazines, or even simple newsletters; you can say so much more about how events went, how to get people to forthcoming events, and how your group contributes to its community. They are good communication and recruitment tools and can be produced very cheaply. Try one!

The various holidays seem to have been popular and you can read all about them this issue, too. As we're entering the holiday season I am sure groups have plans to go away, so let me know how you go on for the next issue, due in September.

You will notice a lack of photos this issue - no-one has sent me any! Sort it out you lot!

Bye 4 now

Peter

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THE SMALL PRINT

The views of individuals expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the editor or of The National Federation of 18 Plus Groups.



NATIONAL CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

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As this is my first opportunity to speak after the ANC, can I start by thanking everyone who came to Coventry and contributed to an extremely successful Conference - I thoroughly enjoyed the debates and the weekend.

The annual round of Area Conferences saw me rather busy, visiting Midland, Southern and Northern Areas, as well as North Thames & Chiltern's Conference Dance; However, I'm very disappointed that I have to attend two Emergency Conferences in June: North Thames & Chilterns and East Anglia are the 'powerhouses' of Plus, and to see both Areas struggling to get one person to become Chairman is saddening - hopefully, we'll be able to sort something out. On a lighter note, I've also been taking part in the first National Narrowboat Holiday (a week ambling around the West Midlands - great fun) and the National Treasure Hunt.

See you soon, Bekki

62ND ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Deputy Lord Mayor of Coventry, Cllr Peter Lacy, opened the 62nd ANC. Vice President Jo Woodhead hoped everyone would enjoy the dinner dance and wished all a happy conference.

The minutes of the 61st ANC were proposed and carried. There were no questions on the 2002 Federation Report, which was passed.

The 2002 accounts were presented and passed, as was the accountants' report. The first motion was that £5 of the £15 levy (or other figure determined by the NEC) be the levy for Direct Members. Presenting the motion, Martin Berry (Midland Area Chairman) said that the Direct Membership fee had increased,

and that National postings went to Groups and DMs, hence the additional fee. Sending an extra £5 to the DM's Area would help those Areas pay for posting and to National to absorb VAT. Solihull proposed an amendment to say that the motion should read 33¹/₃ and not £5. Coventry seconded this. Martin summed up on the original motion to say that the levy had already been increased and this would allow money to pay for postings. The amendment was carried.



North Thames & Chilterns Area
Winners of the Cobb Jug Mug for Best Area

An amendment was proposed, to say the motion should read that Areas be mandated to use the £5 for bulk postings. It

4 was seconded by Sudbury. The amendment to the amended motion was carried, as was the amended amended motion (eh? - Ed).

A motion was presented to scrap the present system of Full and Associate membership in the first tier without altering joining age limits. This would mean current Associates become Full Members and be charged standard membership fee. This would also affect Life Members. Ian Robinson explained the proposal and how it would redefine Groups. Current second tier members would become associated to 18 Plus irrespective of age. The motion also does away with segregation of active Associates. Ian summed up by saying it was up to each individual group to make the most of this proposal. The motion was carried.

Sunday's first business was that the name of the Federation be changed to 'The National Federation of Plus Groups of Great Britain'. Wayne Fenton presented the motion for the NEC. He argued that change costs could be minimal; that few members were aged 18 and that many groups had dropped '18' from their name. Following the debate Wayne summed up by saying groups could still use '18' as long as 'Plus' was in their title. The motion was rejected.

Next was a motion to say that all groups should include their geographical location in their name. Wayne presented the motion. An amendment was proposed to have the motion read as 'local' geographical location. This amendment was accepted, as was the motion.

Martin Berry proposed for the NEC a motion which says that rules covering Direct Membership delete the condition that it be dependent on there not being a group within a 15 mile radius. The NEC proposes Direct Membership for those living where there is no group, with £15 extra paid for bulk postings. The motion

was passed.

Andy Cole spoke for the NEC on the next motion, which was to say that all National Officers, except NEOs, be elected at the ANC and that the constitution and standing orders be amended accordingly. Andy said it would widen the vote and make it that decisions were not seen to be behind closed doors. The motion was carried.

Mark Randall (Northern Area Chairman) presented a motion to change the NEC to consist of National Chairman, Area representatives (Chairmen), HGS and National Finance Officer. All would vote and the National Chairman would have a casting vote if a decision were tied. Mark said it made for a better and more accountable NEC. The motion was passed.

The Facility for National Debate opened with Wayne introducing the concept of one member, one vote. Clive Bryant introduced a suggestion for alternative funding for the Federation. He first suggested trebling the membership fee, then cutting costs, or finding other income so put forward buying a building which could act as a B&B, office, and meeting rooms, and also be used by non 18 Plus customers. The third debate concerned extending terms of office for group committee post holders from six months to a year, and that groups could specify how long members could stay in a post.

Bekki was re-elected National Chairman. In her address she said chairing an NEC meeting is fun, and that chairing an ANC was one of the most impressive things she had done in her life! Members must now go back to their groups and build on what has been said and heard over the weekend. She thanked everyone for attending the ANC and thanked the NEC, particularly Donna, Sandra and the ANC committee, and gave special thanks to her husband Mark Randall and Martin Berry.

Trophy winners were: Excellence Award

Simon Bunker (East Anglia), Linda Street Award
Iain Parkes (Midland), Charities Trophy
Rothwell, Gold Trail Northwich, Recruitment
West Kent, New Group Banbury, Norbury
Banbury Bulletin,

Charles Padgham Midland, Development
Midland, Presidents Barking & Dagenham,
Cobb Jug Mug North Thames and Chilterns.

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BREAN 2003

AN ORGANISER'S VIEW

The onslaught started in Legends with members arriving in droves. Tony was behind the desk, so I was able to give lots of hugs to our female members (don't tell Venita) and some male ones (no I don't swing both ways).

I must say the venue we used in the first year looked terrific as we extended the dance floor, and the lighting from Gary was really great and made it look a great deal better. The atmosphere was electric.

Saturday was a mass of entertainment, which started with Adam Redshaw and his amazing kites; I do believe that was well attended, around 35 people. How many did you injure in the end Adam?

In the venue was the Karaoke and people were ready and waiting for their moment of glory. Yours truly decided to sing and no he did not empty the place (much!!). It was excellent with six acts, from Gary and Kerry doing Olivia Newton John and John Travolta, Paul West in a Hula Costume (no jumper) singing Tom Jones, Erica Knight and the Corrs (sorry last place), Sutton girls trying a new song, and rather well, then the Hounslow girls and guys or was that girls dressed as Atomic Kitten? Well they won it and got £60 for it, in second place winning £40 was Ian Crawshaw singing a Hollies song in the Death costume. Thanks to all who took part, they were great sports and hopefully enjoyed it. Also thanks to the judges - Chris Page, Bekki Randall and Karen (Rob the DJ's other half), and special thanks to Venita for a most excellent hosting of the event and

putting up with me.

Saturday night saw the first band called Midnight Dynamos, a rock band covering the 50s, 60s and 70s, though all of them were in their 20s. A good night was enjoyed by all that were there.

Sunday morning came with around a dozen mad Midlands males dressed in dresses, and what a sight! Yes I was tempted, but I knew something would be in store for me later. We got on the bus for the Real Ale Trip, got lost on the way and there was fun turning a coach in the middle of a country road! We had the old sing a long with Tony the DJ of the day, with over 100 people there it was a great sight to see. The best of the afternoon was an impromptu "Fashion Parade" by the lads. It was back to the comp with Gill and Venita as Judges and me presenting. Prize money yet again was forced from my hands with some teddy bears to boot. Michael Sutton was the overall winner and does she/he need to shave those legs. The bar staff stole all the guy's dresses, whilst one of them was asleep on the sofa, and then paraded them outside. Paul West, why were you trying to avoid us? His clothes were stolen during a debagging session earlier and hidden. Thanks Gill for a great time.

Sunday night we had a problem, no time and two acts, so we started with 'In St Louis'. I wish I could have kept them on longer. They were followed by Steve Littlewood as Freddie Mercury.

Thanks to: Tony and Linda Burgess, Venita Olayemi, Tim Day and Debbie Mann, Adam Redshaw, Lara Collins and Chris Page, ALL the door staff many thanks, also Gary Jay and Rob (our DJ's), the bar staff,

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Matt the duty manager, Lee on security, The management and other staff of Brean Leisure.

STOP PRESS!

The name of the event is to change (as long as there is no objection from the NEC)

New Name: BREAN 2004

Proposed Date: Friday 19th March to

NATIONAL SKIING HOLIDAY 2003

The highlights of the trip started at Salzburg Airport bus terminal. Due to delays, the party from Gatwick joined the party from Manchester to near monopolise the transfer coach and give the (new that week to the job) Rep a really hard time, with all the swapped-around ski pack deals that we had organised.

Rather disappointingly, a certain member of the party has now actually learned to ski, which meant they could no longer be seen hurtling down the 'Green' runs out of control, providing much entertainment. So, this was substituted by firstly their rather inventive use for a shower, and second outdoing this with a public sink (getting the idea?), and finally topping this by the fastest means ever found of clearing a bar table (followed by having to walk back in squelching shoes having not vacated the table fast enough).

Snow conditions were barely adequate, so the good skiers in the group investigated nearby Gossau for the day. With artificial snow piled high (as opposed to the lumps of green stuff the instructors insisted were 'Astro-Snow!') much better skiing was available. The runs are much better and longer and all the lifts were of the chair

Monday 22nd March 2004.

I will have a special announcement with regards to the new price, however this has to be approved by the NEC, so watch this space for a (hopefully) great announcement that benefits you, the member.

Regards Wayne Fenton

variety.

For Adrian Barnard, it was the day he realised there was a good reason for wearing red as it is so much more stylish when hurtling down the slopes head first, skis over the head, poles clear, while ingesting the odd snowball via the nose! Not to be outdone, another member managed to misjudge both their speed AND ability to handle it by the time the others reached the bottom, the two parallel lines straight across the slow down area, THROUGH the Booking Hall and out the other side were all too evident. They departed the ground a mere eight feet from the main road, which he unfortunately didn't quite manage to clear (although his skis did). You'll be please to know he bounced!

It seems some people put on SIX Pounds during the week! Perhaps they should have stuck a bit more to the great idea someone had of a Schnapps diet (for local Schnapps, read high-octane petrol)!

There was also Husky Racing, if anyone visiting the resort spots a Husky wearing some cool shades please let Adrian know, as a member of the party lost theirs while watching the sleds depart. Unfortunately, the Operetta was on the same night as the Bowling AND the Curling, so that was all the best events in an evening gone! This did leave the chance for a Sleigh Ride did you know horses still smell at 10C, and flies still enjoy it! It was also fun for the non-skiers, with mountain walks and 'langlaufer' available (walking with tennis

racquets on your feet). There's also an evening candlelight walk around the village, tobogganing and a trip to Salzburg available.

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NATIONAL TRAINING WEEKEND

'TAKING CONTROL'

Sat 6 - Sun 7 September 2003

Cost £45 (subsidised) Alsager Campus, Crewe and Alsager Faculty, Manchester Metropolitan University, Hassall Road, Alsager, Stoke on Trent ST7 2HL.

The idea of the weekend is to equip members with the skills to organise, plan, market and manage events and the organisation. These are the same skills that an individual needs to run a commercial business or be part of a team contributing to an organisation.

We will be bringing together a cast of professional and experienced trainers in one location. They are all experienced plussers with a detailed knowledge of the organisation to share. We will use a mixture of delivery techniques to make your participation, interesting fun and challenging.

Individuals will learn about

- Committee Posts
- The organisation and management of projects
- Working within and leading a team
- Motivating and Rewarding people for doing and completing tasks
- To recognise constraints, opportunities and encourage experimentation
- To encourage communication and sharing with others
- To understand the principles of budgeting and scarce resources

Members will have the opportunity to establish informal and strengthen networks. We seek to utilise the knowledge and skills of members past and present to deliver training in a modular format during this period. The trainee will seek to choose training sessions from a menu to build their knowledge and skill base. There maybe certain core topics to deliver such as job descriptions and we might utilise a simulation exercise to consolidate team working and learning.

As part of the training process, we would seek to induct novice trainers from the membership to deliver and present modules .In this way we will encourage interest in the organisation and delivery of training to group members through out the organisation. The outcome being to raise the morale of the organisation through membership being more robust to face challenges of running the organisation and making commitment.

Formal training is not occurring where it is most needed at group level due to the fact those with the skills to facilitate training are not in the right place and being lost.

Bringing trainers and potential group committee members together in one place will alleviate this issue and give confidence to trainees to assume responsibility and commitment within this small organisation.

Contact Francis Wallington for more details.

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National Badminton 2003 was held in Maidenhead and was a huge success. For those of you who weren't there or were too tired to take in the results here they are!

Ladies Singles

1st place - Lara Mellor (South Bucks)

2nd Place - Tracey Thorn (Dunstable)

Alison Kirkpatrick and Sarah Ardley were in 3rd and 4th positions. There were no quarter finals for the ladies.

Mens Singles

1st place - Tom Halfdyke (Tunbridge Wells)

2nd place - Keith Gibbons (Brentwood)

Mark Foster and Chris Mountain were in 3rd and 4th positions. The other men that reached the quarter final stage were Adrian Barnard, Mike McAtwine, Dave Filer and Mike Shapcott.

Thanks to everyone who attended and helped make it such a successful event.

Lara Mellor - Chairman South Bucks Plus

NATIONAL DIARY 2003

Jul 19-20, NEC Meeting - Newent

Sep 6-7 National Training Weekend - Crewe

Sep 14, National Paintball - Southern Area

Sep 25-Oct 2, National Greek Week - Zakynthos

Oct 11-12, NEC Meeting - Newent

Nov 7-10, WASH - Hunstanton

Dec 6, National Karting - Southern Area

Full details of 18 Plus National & Area activities available from the web site

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