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Magazine of  
The National Federation of  
18 Plus Groups

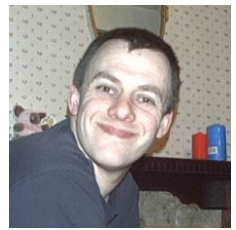
# Winter 2004

National Skiing Holiday / Annual National  
Conference /  
WASH / Your New Plus News Editor



National Skiing Holiday  
Bulgaria

## **2** *Editor's Column*



Welcome to the first Plus News of 2004, and my last (sound of sobbing across 18 Plusland).

This time we go back as far as November 2003 for a belated review of WASH, to remind you of (a) how good it was and (b) to book for Brean in March. There's a look at the National Karting, and National Ski Holiday. Plus booking reminders of Brean and the ANC, get yourselves in whilst you have the chance.

I'm pleased my plea for a successor in the Editor's chair was heeded, and I'll now wipe from it four and a quarter years of blood, sweat and tears to allow Ian Crawshaw to make it his own. Most of you know Ian, a valued member and contributor to these pages of old; be nice to him.

A few thank yous: to Mark Hewson, magazine designer / occasional photographer the past couple of years and Pete Strawbridge, who preceded him; the NEC for putting up with my excuses when the magazine was late again; all the contributors; and of course the girls in the office who not only photocopy and distribute Plus News but have supplied invaluable help at the ANC the past four years.

I hope I have been able to show through these pages the efforts many people make to keep 18 Plus alive in the face of increasingly lengthening odds. Tell people what you do, why you do it, what you get out of it and get them involved, not just within the 18 Plus walls, but outside them too.

I may pop up in these pages again, if Ian allows, but until then it's adios, ciao, sayonara, au revoir, and ta ra.

**Peter**

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**PLUS NEWS** is YOUR magazine.  
Without you, it's nothing!

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### ***Acknowledgements***

Contributions in this issue are from: Ed, Bekki Randall, Adrian Barnard, Wayne Fenton, Ian Crawshaw, Soton Friends, Iain Parkes, Barry Healey, Alison Berthier, Dave Filer & Mark Hewson.

#### **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.

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...will return  
**NEXT ISSUE**



## National Skiing Holiday 2004: A Bulgarian Odyssey

Always note folks - when the organiser says be at the airport on time, be there! Two more minutes and I don't know how we'd have been getting to Bulgaria.

Upon arrival we found passport control full of young, fit, shaven headed, uniformed officials (who were just the women!). The coach driver was very safe and progressed at a steady pace unlike Austrian drivers who always left you wondering how they'd negotiated that icy bend.

The hotel staff were smart, plentiful and efficient and fairly lacking in English, though exemplary service was provided.

Bulgarian food is always warm, but you can never burn yourself on it, but at least there was a wide selection and there is always enough choice to satisfy most. From what we heard from other holiday makers though, don't go less than four stars.

The hotel had its own nightclub. The cabaret kicked off after midnight, so some of our party

tended to return to their rooms around 5am! The main foyer had a 24-hour bar. Other activities included the night time skidoo run and a jeep safari. I took a mask and goggles for the skidoo - not for the snow but the diesel fumes from the vehicle in front of you!!

Skiing instruction varied. The top class were very happy with their instructor, as were most of the others. However, the beginners class was rather large and did not advance as fast as the Austrian classes last year. This was looked into after day one and improvements were made.



The snow was adequate this year, we skied most of the time, some days some lifts were shut due to high winds that concentrated people on the lower slopes making for lesser enjoyment. On the last day we had new snow and got up top before the lifts were shut allowing us to stay in a relatively deserted area for some time. One of our members didn't fall

off the lift bar - it snapped! But at least snow was soft. On the last day the top class was let loose on the top slopes, and I claimed the best fall beating Steve's head first roll down the red run.

I hurtled down a short but steep run to turn and climb the bridge going right then left along the path overlooking the tree lined crevasse... The

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turn didn't happen, and I just managed the net barrier. Lying face down on one arm and across my free leg with one still attached to a ski doesn't lend itself to getting up quickly!

Look out for next year's details for 'The 18 Plus

National Skiing Holiday'. £10 deposits from interested parties are being sought now. Get in touch with Adrian Barnard, 21 White Leys Close, Didcot, Oxon. OX11 7LP.

**Adrian Barnard**

## Annual National Conference 2004

The 63rd Annual National Conference will take place from Saturday 24 to Sunday 25 April 2004 at the Britannia Hotel, Coventry.

There will be plenty of lively debate, opportunities to put forward new ideas and a chance to meet people from groups across the country. Don't forget the Saturday night dance and live band, which this year will be 'In St Louis'.

Costs:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| One night package<br>includes accommodation, conference,<br>dinner dance, Sunday breakfast & lunch   | <b>£75.00</b>  |
| Two night package  | <b>£100.00</b>   |
| <i>Individual costs</i><br>Saturday Dinner Dance only<br>Saturday Dance only<br>Conference attendance only<br>Sunday lunch only<br>Single room supplement for Friday night | <b>£22.50</b><br><b>£6.50 (entry from 9:30pm)</b><br><b>£2 per day</b><br><b>£9.50</b><br><b>£10</b> |
| Group levy   | <b>£57.50</b>  |

Groups should remember that they must send two delegates and, of course, as many observers that wish to attend. Also, don't forget to get your awards entries in as soon as possible. Details on the ANC are available on the 18 plus web site [www.18plus.org.uk](http://www.18plus.org.uk) - or by contacting ANC Chairman Wayne Fenton at 44 Bradman Way, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, SG1 5RE. E-mail [wayne.fenton@ntlworld.com](mailto:wayne.fenton@ntlworld.com)  
(And I DON'T have to take ANY notes this year!! *Outgoing Ed*)

## Brean 2004

Friday 19 to Monday 22 March

Top DJ, Bands, Real Ale Trip (new pub - £4 extra), Talent Show, Sunday Carvery (£12 extra) plus Tim & Deb's Bogus Quiz! All for only £48.50.

For three nights of fun and frolics, book NOW time is running out!

Full balance is due by 1st March.

Contact Wayne Fenton, 44 Bradman Way, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, SG1 5RE. E-mail [wayne.fenton@ntlworld.com](mailto:wayne.fenton@ntlworld.com).

See also [www.18plus.org.uk](http://www.18plus.org.uk)

**Wayne Fenton, Organiser Brean 2004**  
**01438 241787 or 07890 446764**

# Introducing your new Plus News Editor, Ian Crawshaw!

Greetings everybody!

At the January NEC meeting, I was co-opted to succeed Peter Sharples as Plus News Editor, and I will be standing formally at the ANC in April.

I'd like to begin by thanking Peter for his tireless efforts over the past four and a bit years. He has produced several fine issues of Plus News over that period and he will definitely be a hard act to follow! That said, a magazine can only be as good as the articles and pictures that are sent in, so PLEASE get sending your news in my direction. My address is **17 Maurier Close, Northolt, Middx UB5 5 JY** and my email is [ian\\_m\\_crawshaw@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ian_m_crawshaw@yahoo.co.uk).

Now a little about me: I am 34, work for British Airways and am engaged to a Dutch girl. I grew up in Cornwall, moving to London and becoming a member of 18 Plus in the early 90s. After a spell with Bromley I joined Hounslow (then Acton) in 1997. I stood as Secretary at the next Bi-



The new Editor surrounded by his 'birds'

AGM and since then have gone round most of the Group Committee positions as well as Area Administrator for North Thames and Chilterns Area. I am also the organiser of the National Treasure Hunt, which this year takes place in London on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Let's see if we can top the 79 people who attended last year's event!

Those who know me will know I always enjoy meeting friends, old and new, at the various National or local gatherings. Those who don't know me will soon find that out!

I hope to get to meet more of you at Brean and then the ANC. I'll be the one recording the decisions made over the ANC weekend, as well as who embarrasses themselves on the Saturday night, but for a suitable bribe I'll keep shtum about the latter. I will also be awarding the Norbury Trophy,

which is the prize for the Best Magazine. If you wish to enter, I need to see three or more issues of your magazine at least 28 days before the start of the ANC. I will consider good online magazines as well as printed ones, so please do email or post your Group or Area publications to me now.

Ok that's all for the moment, see you at the bar!!

**Ian Crawshaw**

## National Football Competition & Dance

back after six years!

Saturday 8th May 2004

Powerleague Soccer Centre, Ragstone Lane, Slough SL1 2PU.

Organised by Slough, Windsor and Eton

# 6 WASH 2003

So what about WASH? Well, it was a great holiday! The heating in the caravans worked, the beds were cosy (for some a bit small), there were great events for everyone!

On Friday there were two great bands in the evening (Kuda and The Floating Greyhounds). On Saturday you could participate in aqua aerobics, karaoke, laser clay shooting and of course the big quiz in the afternoon (we came 12th out of 30, thanks to Breakfast Homer). In the evening the

Wississippi Jazzman gave us a nice piece of music to listen to and we kind of missed out on the dance session (we were getting dressed for the Pyjama Party). The Steve Ferringo Band was extremely weird, but also extremely great! 5 steps to Abba was



good at dancing and changing outfits, but (in our opinion) could not sing (it kind of did hurt our sensitive ears). On Sunday there was 5-a-side-football, a fantastic comedy show and a cinema showing of Pirates of the Carribean (still deeply impressed with Johnny Depp and

Legolas). The band East of Java was giving an excellent performance in the evening and 2 Unlimited... well.. we were glad it was short and less glad is was painful.

We shared our caravan with Ben (who kind of escaped to a better place: caravan 210?!) and Andrew, who decided to become a member at So'ton Friends after spending a weekend with us (quite remarkable!).



Steve Ferringo Band

We would like to thank Keith, Dawn, Paul, Sherrie and Lynne for organising WASH 2003. It was amazing and we will be back next year!!!

## Soton Friends



Five Steps To Abba



*Members of Solihull & Banbury enjoying the last morning of WASH by the beach.*

# **West Midlands meets East - A day in Nottingham**

Members of Banbury, Coventry and Halesowen 18 Plus Groups recently visited the historic and exciting metropolis that is Nottingham. We all met up in the city centre, dodged a few trams and jumped on a few fairground rides, and then wandered around the busy streets before wandering off to explore the City of Caves within the Broad Marsh Shopping Centre. We all enjoyed the Medieval Tannery, Anderson Shelter and the Slums of Drury Hill.

Following on from that we visited Nottingham

Castle and the museum within.

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Feeling ourselves in need of liquid refreshment after those two cultural experiences, we headed off to the 'Old Trip to Jerusalem', which is England's oldest pub! (half of it is carved into the sandstone hill beneath Nottingham Castle) after a pint or two we returned to the city centre to meet up with some of our members who had chosen to do the Nottingham shopping experience!

Some of us then went for a nice (if slow to turn up) meal before meeting up with the others, who had stayed at the fair, before going to join the Nottingham Ghost Walk, a pleasant, if gory, way of rounding off an interesting visit to a great city.

We look forward to going again one day!

**Iain Parkes (Biggles of Banbury)**

## **National Badminton 2004 - Results**

### *Mens Singles*

1st David Filer - Coventry  
2nd Gary Scrivens - South Bucks  
3rd= Mike McAleer - Hounslow  
3rd= Steve - Bradford

### *Ladies Singles*

1st Lara Mellor - South Bucks  
2nd Tracy Thorn - Dunstable

### *Doubles*

1st David Filer and Peter Mann - Coventry  
2nd Andrea and Gary Scrivens - South Bucks  
3rd Mike Sappcott - South Bucks and Mike McAleer - Hounslow  
4th Steve - Bradford and David Ireland - Coventry

## **Multi-Activity Weekend 2004**

(run by East Anglia Area)

Mepal Activity Centre, Chatteris Road, Mepal, Nr. Ely Cambridge CB6 2AZ

Friday 27th - Monday 30th August 2004 (Bank Holiday)

Arrive from 6:00pm on Friday night - finish is around 3:30pm on Monday.

£54.50 (Before 20th June '04)

£59.50 (Before 1st August '04)

£69.50 (Before 15th August '04)

BOOKINGS: BARRY HEALEY, 01708 782762 / 07958 749148

What you need to bring: strong footwear, towels, changes of clothes including shoes (for canoeing and windsurfing), long sleeved top (for archery), tent (if camping), torch and yourself!!!

Please add £16 per person for use of the dormitories, and add an additional £20 if you wish to participate in Paintball on Bank Holiday Monday, spaces are limited, so strictly first come first served (gun, mask, overalls and 150 paintballs all included in the price.)

# **8** *Get Murdered in Fareham!*

Fareham 18 Plus is proud to present an evening of murder mystery (with Performance Interactive Pursuit s' professional actors), and some budding Plusser actors at the Mill Suite, Titchfield Community Centre, in Titchfield, near Fareham, Hampshire on Saturday 10 July 2004, from 7.30pm to 11.30pm.

If you think you can stay alive long enough to solve the murder, then join us and put this date for murder in your diary.

Price of detection is £15.00 per person, including buffet. All profits go to the RSPCA. Tickets only available in advance. Contact Alison Berthier, Fareham Group Co-ordinator at [berthiera@microsense.co.uk](mailto:berthiera@microsense.co.uk)

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## ***Midland Area Paintball***

Sunday 23rd May

Full day's paintball - start 9.30am finish 4.30pm

Deposits of £10 by May 14th final payments on the day. Early booking may get you an extra 100 paintballs (depends on final numbers).

Cheques to be made payable to Coventry 18 Plus, c/o Dave Filer, 38 Stare Green, Coventry. CV4-7DN.

The venue - National Paintball Fields, Bassett's Pole, Sutton Coldfield.

<http://www.nationalpaintballfields.com>

OPTIONS: all inc. lunch and soft drinks

1. £40 inc. 500 paintballs
  2. £50 inc. 800 paintballs
  3. £55 inc. 1000 paintballs (recommended)
- 

## ***National Diary 2004***

Fri 19 - Mon 22 Mar 2004 Brean 2004

Sat 24 - Sun 25 Apr 2004 Annual National Conference

Sat 8 May 2004 National Football Competition & Dance

Sat 3 Jul 2004 National Treasure Hunt

Sat 17 - Sun 18 Jul 2004 NEC Meeting

Fri 3 - Sun 5 Sep 2004 'Inspire' The Plus Training Event

Sat 18 - Sat 25 Sep 2004 The 7th Annual Holiday Abroad

Sat 16 - Sun 17 Oct 2004 NEC Meeting

Fri 5 - Mon 8 Nov 2004 WASH

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