



PLUS NEWS

Magazine of the National Federation of Eighteen Plus Groups
Summer 2004

Southern Area Clean Up at National Awards Ceremony



Southern Area members with their awards: Best New Group (So'ton Friends), Best Recruitment Drive (Slough), Best Magazine, Training Trophy, and Best Area 2004

Breanarama!



Essex girls park themselves



Biggles sustains a downpour



Barking&Dag take title



National Chairman's Bitz

Well here it is yes the Chairman's bitz, I have a lot of them, so don't grab them all at once.

OK what do I want to say, well I have already started going out there already to Areas and will also be attending group nights too (Yes sorry it's got to be done).

The list below gives you an idea of my activity since my election:

Midlands Conference & Dance, Southern Area Conference, also Publicity Event at Jumpin' Jaks (Southampton), North Thames & Chilterns Area Dance, London & South East's Crawley Group and West Kent Group with the Area Conference being held at the same time, East Anglia Area Havering's Karting.

What am I doing in the future well I shall be attending Fareham's Murder Mystery, Kings

Lynn's Camping Weekend, Coventry's 40th Birthday Dance, National Treasure Hunt, Amsterdam with Barnet, and a visit to as many groups as I can.

This year as you all know by now will be a tough one for us all and you and your groups will have to make some decisions based on the finding of the restructuring.

All I want to see is members being happy and having a great time, as well as those that work hard and put that effort into making this Federation what it is. I know it is not easy at times, but please enjoy yourself and we shall all be winners in the future.



Speak soon and I am sure you will see me in a bar near you soon.

Wayne Fenton
National Chairman

Editor's Column

Hello everybody, and welcome to the 'New Look' Plus News. This is my first edition and I'm very proud to take over at the helm of our National Magazine.

I'd like to start by thanking everybody who has sent in articles and pictures. I have been really encouraged by the volume of material sent in. I would like to add special thanks to former editor Peter Sharples for grooming me into the position, Mark Hewson for helping finalise the issue, and Christine and Sue in the HQ for doing all the copying and distribution. With family insisting I take a week's break in a boat off the coast of France (who could refuse?) and also last minute preparations for the Treasure Hunt to be made, I have had to get this issue out much faster than normal and I do appreciate all the help that has been offered.

Please continue to keep the articles and pictures coming, I do keep them all from the

riddles to the radical proposals for our Future, and my promise to you is to squeeze as much in as I possibly can. Don't wait until the deadlines are approaching, post it to me while it's fresh in the mind.

Meanwhile I'd be interested in any new ideas for the magazine or general feedback you may have, whether praiseworthy or 'constructive', who knows the best points of view may find their way into a future issue!

Bye for now, and hope to see many of you in London on July 3rd, for the 4th Annual Treasure Hunt!

Ian Crawshaw
Editor
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Contributions to this issue have come from Adrian Barnard, Tina Bunyan, Wayne Fenton, Kirsty van Lieshout, Nikki Hastie, Barry Healey, Mark Hewson, Dan Geddes, Emma Brindley

A Caravan with a View!

On a sunny Friday afternoon we drove from Southampton to Brean Sands. After being pointed out to us that we were at the wrong caravan site, we managed to get to the right one (just don't trust me reading maps in the future please). We received a warm welcome from our hosts; Halesowen Group and were even able to nick some food (which was nice). After the refreshments we went to the venue and enjoyed a few drinks, more chats and our dance cards were fully booked. We had a good time and after the last dance (thanx) we went back to the caravan ending up playing monopoly and drinking hazelnut

liqueur - sorry for cashing in (and winning!) so early (around 4am), but I did need my sleep.

Saturday was windy, but it was nice and warm in the venue and the caravan. Paul and I were planning on singing a duet, but (luckily) there was no time for that (otherwise you had to be subject to hearing my voice even more). We participated in the quiz and I learned loads of new words (which usually is a good thing, but am undecided on these ones)... The Raw Talent Show begun and that was good fun as well! Before it was over we ran out (not because of the people performing, but we promised to help out with dinner). Did you know that the shop around the corner sells three different potato peelers (well, now you know)? I personally love to have cook-outs together; sharing experience, having a drink (!) and in the end making something really nice and eatable! After dinner we went back to the venue in our Party Animal Outfits (yep; we like to dress up). The band was incredible and we had more drinks, chats and dances. After the last dance (thanx B) Chair and

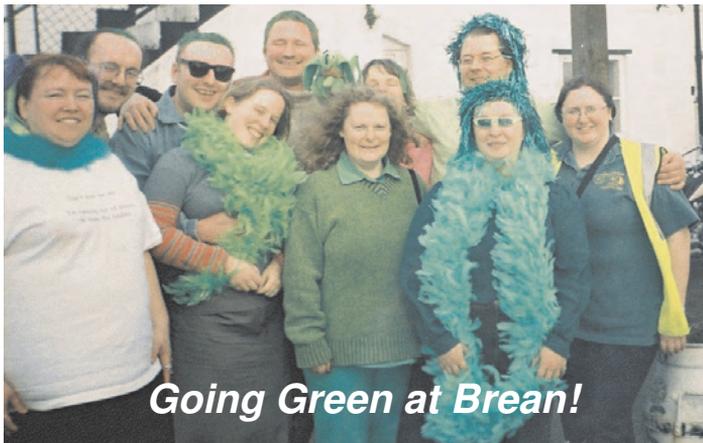
Chair sneaked out and had a nice talk on the grass outside the park (the more rumours the better)!

Sunday morning came (and went). I promised to blind you with my green and Halesowen's current Chair went all girly on us! We had great fun at the Real Ale Trip, meeting other Federation members, chatting and drinking ale. We prepared another dinner that went in well. Our dance cards for the evening were filled and we felt the need to drink (again). After the last dance (sigh) we went to the Banbury caravan for the after party, made friends with the newly appointed

National Chair (good to have friends in high places), were canvassed to write stories for the newly

appointed Mr Jacuzzi Man (remember WASH?) [*Yes - Ed*] and met loads of other nice people. At a certain time we went back to our caravan and had another chat session till 7am. Slept for 2¼ hours, woke up (well, was moving around), cleared and cleaned the caravan and went on our way back to Southampton.

So... what did we think of Brean and in particular the Halesowen Group? Brean was definitely fun and I personally think Halesowen is a great group with a very nice bunch of people. I feel that we made new friends here and it would be marvellous if we are able to do joint events and see more of each other in the future!!



Going Green at Brean!

Kirsty

**So'ton Friends
"Stoel"**



North Thames & Chiltern Party

The day was Saturday 22nd May and the Havering Girls, Nikki, Jane and Lorraine were preparing for the NT&C Party. It was advertised as drinking and dancing til 2am, so how could they not go? After a hard day of packing, painting their nails and deciding which handbag goes with which pair of shoes, they departed for Bicketwood Country Club.

Armed with their eyeliners and driving an Escort Cabriolet they ventured along the M25 to St Albans.

The party was fantastic! The beer flowed (although not literally as these ladies only drunk vodka) and the DJ bounced out many a good tune. The Havering Girls drank (to excess), danced, met loads of new people and had the time of their lives.

After everyone was kicked out at closing, they staggered the 100 yards back to their comfortable and value for money rooms in the lodge. They were sad the night had ended and didn't want to go home.

However this proved to be reality when they discovered they were unable to start their car on the Sunday morning! Luckily enough the new National Chairman was on hand to offer the girls his assistance by calling the AA. Although it would have been beneficial to all concerned had he unplugged his hands free kit rather than repeatedly ring the AA thinking his phone had broken!

With the AA on route the sit in commenced. With only one cigarette and half a bottle of Evian between them they waited an hour in the sweltering heat for roadside assistance. When the AA man did turn up the girls were mortified to discover he wasn't as fit as he is in the adverts! Trading Standards will hear about this.

After spending the entire morning in the Bricketwood Country Club Car Park, which is rather nice this time of year, the Havering Girls finally managed to make their way home to Essex arriving 23 hours after setting off the day before. Surely this must be the longest disco trip in history!

Nikki Hastie
Havering 18 Plus

MULTI ACTIVITY WEEKEND 2004

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

Well here we are with only weeks to go and I have been busy finalising details with the site. After listening to various comments about previous years' events we are pleased to announce the following changes in this year's format!

Firstly the event will run for an extra day namely from Friday 27th to Bank Holiday Monday 30th August. We have arranged for an optional session of Paintball for the Monday Afternoon (£20 extra including gun, mask, overalls and 150 paintballs). We will be having a disco on Saturday Evening. The Disco will finish no earlier than 1AM! There is no bar on site so



you can bring your own drinks ☺

The price is only £59.50 (including Disco) if payment is received before 1st August (Cheques made payable to "East Anglia Area 18 Plus")

Bookings are coming in nicely (20 so far) so thank you to all groups who have booked and to everyone thinking about booking remember that the price increases the closer we get to the event (£69.50 before 15th August)

Any questions then give me a shout on 07958 749148 / 01708 782762

Barry

63rd Annual National Conference, Coventry

~~ Roundup ~~



In addition to Southern Area's massive haul (mentioned elsewhere), the following awards were made:



Focus on Development.... Focus on Development.... Focus on Dev

A former Area Development Officer has opened two groups and here he explains how anybody can do the same...

As an Area Development officer I took this role seriously but slowly, collecting other people's thoughts and collating all their ideas together, visiting all the groups I could. I gave positive feedback to these groups that I worked with. Also I suggested to groups things that work, like a notice board with forthcoming events, good publicity, and web sites.

Listening to people it seemed Southern Area were missing groups in certain places and wanting a new direction for all new groups under my wing. Bournemouth and Winchester seemed a great idea, plus looking at papers showed they didn't have social groups already.



Finding a venue took a little time, I just simply went around with mates looking to see if the place was trendy, enjoyable, asking others and using the network of support of pubs I have in Southampton, also considering free offers, how that pub may help us gain new members etc. When I was Chair of So'ton Friends our birthday event saw us get mega discounts and only 1 member couldn't attend out of 22!

When I ran groups before I checked where and when I displayed things, used "What's On" guides, and gained a helpful publicity list. Southern Area helped us with the display board you saw at the ANC and leaflets also proved very helpful. We had a notice-board with group details, and publicised using websites, online support, and good programmes which were then sent out around the local area in take-aways, supermarkets etc. Telling friends also helps!

We spoke to tourist information centres, landlords, people in the area, and the Southern Area Chair. Area helped with a £150 grant as well as leaflets and posters designed by Tina and Adrian.

In all new groups you get a mixed reaction: some nights low and others high, the thing is not to get down about the low nights but carry on and be happy with the high nights. Never be like "Oh there are no members let's go home" or "That was pants" or people won't come back; stay positive and focused and enjoy the good times.

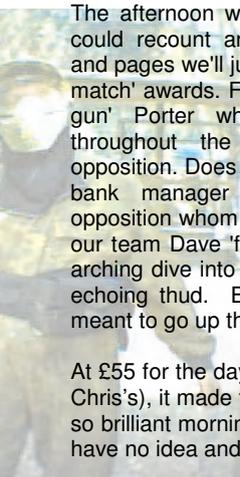
Dan Geddes

Midland Area Paintball ... A View from the Trenches!

The site is very well provisioned with 'play' areas including a two storey Wild West town and real 'downed' helicopter. Add to this functional equipment and good marshalling, all that remains is a decent opposition.

Ah yes, the opposition. Terminators through and through, a marshal required to get most of them off the field each time. Their surprising ability to regenerate exceeded that of the mythical troll even having been sent off. I heard their gun ammunition was not necessarily paint. Further even when dead they had an amazing ability to shoot from the grave, and then we got into the pistol whipping phase too. The opposition were removed from the field at lunch time.

The food was of the best quality I have had at any paintball site, and a wider choice, just not so much of it.



The afternoon was most enjoyable. While one could recount any individual action for pages and pages we'll just limit it to the two 'man of the match' awards. For the 18+ side Chris 'machine gun' Porter whose steady stream of fire throughout the day cowed much of the opposition. Does it have the same effect on your bank manager Chris? And for the 'new' opposition whom required a couple of subs from our team Dave 'flag raiser' Filer for his graceful arching dive into the well and its commensurate echoing thud. By the way Dave the flag was meant to go up the pole not join you in the well.

At £55 for the day total (in my case, perhaps not Chris's), it made for a great afternoon after a not so brilliant morning. Did we win or did we lose? I have no idea and I don't care, we took part!

Adrian Barnard

National Football (or Hackney Marshes all over again)

Oxford lined up their international squad, some originating from as far afield as Holland! Ahead of them awaited at least three qualifying matches, then the semis then the finals. The weather was bleak, wet, dull and a bit cool. The team tended not to notice this as they eyed up the opposition in their league; Barking and Dagenham, big, dangerous looking and fielding three subs; Hillingdon simply looking a little wary, and Coventry with their battle cries enacted on pitch!



Our first match was against Hillingdon, I er... lost count of how many goals we put past them! Not a lot more to add to that one, sorry. Next up the team we had to beat, Barking and Dagenham. An early goal was gained, the fight continued up and down the pitch, the ref asking for it to be downgraded to a struggle at some point! A second goal was placed in against them, and then a little too much relaxation resulted in a return goal from the kick off putting them back in with a chance. The increasingly desperate 'struggle' continued until full time with Oxford gaining a 2-1 victory... YES!

Coventry actually managed to put more goals past our net than the others staying level for the first part of the first half until Oxford wore them down, again the score escapes me, but Oxford won.

We attained the semi finals, our opposition from across the wire was Slough group, a manoeuvrable team with some young blood in it as well as experience. In the game Oxford proved the more organised team managing to

close the opposition down enough and make some clear space in front of goal. A slow but steady stream of goals saw Oxford through to the final... against; Barking and Dagenham.

Oxford again managed to squeeze an early goal past them but after a lot of fighting, yes we were back at that level of intensity, then they finally got an equaliser into our net. The fight continued, perhaps Oxford pushed a bit stronger being up the opposition end a bit more. Certainly a few tackles came in

harder than any yet seen. At 1-1 the final whistle blew as Oxford's main goal scorer was chopped down in a tackle and removed from play. No tackles seen I will add, were ever more than an eager attempt at the ball, at no time did I see anything in any tackle that looked like an attempt on another player. There was one shirt grabbing noted preventing a break away from with the ball once, but that was all that I witnessed. Penalty shoot out time... YUK! Given however our two star players were now either departed or injured it was our best option anyway. The long and the short of it? My goal attempt was saved, I let in all attempts in goal! Congratulations to Barking and Dagenham.

RESULTS

- 1st Barking / Dag
- 2nd Oxford
- 3rd Slough
- 4th Solihull
- 5th Hillingdon
- 6th Bournemouth
- =7th Fareham
- =7th Coventry

We retired for a marvellous spread of food, if I do say so myself. Aside from all those behind the organising and refereeing of the event I should like to also thank all those whom played. I saw a very good spirited and essentially clean standard of play and was impressed.

Adrian Barnard



STOP PRESS



Congratulations to two Hounslow members, Ian Pennington and Alison Kirkpatrick, who were happily married at St. Vincent de Paul, Knutsford, on Sat 12th June. The weather was gorgeous and the reception featured a live band

and was attended by members from Hounslow, Hillingdon, and Abingdon groups.



The 4th **National Treasure Hunt** will meet on Saturday 3 July at the Tattershall Castle floating pub. The venue is situated in the Thames opposite the London Eye and the nearest tube is Embankment.

The Tattershall  is a great place to sit inside or out, even after dark on a warm summer's day, and for those who would like to continue their night after the event, there is a nightclub in the venue which plays old and new chart music, open until 3am (cost £5 before 10pm, £7 thereafter).

The day itself starts from 3:30pm and the game will begin from 4. Your team will be given four hours to roam an outdoor area of London in search of answers to various statue – related questions, all of which can be found within the specified boundaries. A bonus game awaits, so let's hope for fine weather!!

The cost will be £5 per person, either in advance or on the day. It would really help me if your group can let me know how many teams you're sending as early as possible as it will give an indication of how many quiz packs to prepare.

If you need any further information please contact me on 0208 738 7254 (work) or 0208 841 2598 (home) or email ian_m_crawshaw@yahoo.co.uk

The National Federation of Eighteen Plus Groups presents...



STATUE OF LIBERTY
Saturday 3rd July
THE LONDON TREASURE HUNT
 Starting from 4pm at The Tattershall Castle, London Embankment (tbc)
 £5 per person entry
 £££ prizes £££
 A Scenic Outdoor Trek around London
NOW IN ITS 4th YEAR!
 Contact Ian Crawshaw on 0208 841 2598 for further details

Last year 80 members attended and the best team won well over £150 on the night. If we can better that attendance then it promises to be a truly great event indeed!

Look forward to seeing you there!

Ian Crawshaw

Other Forthcoming Events



Sun 4 th Jul	Southern: Area Water Fight
Sat 17 th / Sun 18 th Jul	National: NEC Meeting, Newent. Check with Area Chairman before attending
Sun 25 th Jul	Midland: Football Competition Southern: Aunt Sally & BBQ
Sun 15 th Aug	Midland: Archery Competition NT&C: Chess Competition
Fri 27 th – Mon 30 th Aug	EAA: Multi-Activity Weekend, Ely, Cambridge
Fri 4 th – Sun 6 th Sep	National: "INSPIRE" Training, Alsager Campus, Alsager, Stoke-on-Trent
Sat 18 th – Sat 25 th Sep	National: Holiday in Pefkos, Rhodes
Fri 5 th – Mon 8 th Nov	National: Weekend At Sunny Hunstanton
Sat 22 nd – Sat 29 th Jan	National: Skiing holiday, Bulgaria

More information on these and other events may be found on the World Wide Web at www.18plus.org.uk

PLUS NEWS is edited by Ian Crawshaw. Please email articles, programmes and comments to him at ian_m_crawshaw@yahoo.co.uk or 17 Maurier Close, Northolt, Middlesex UB5 5JY. Please note that pictures can only be used if sent electronically.

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