



PLUS NEWS

Online Magazine of the National Federation of Eighteen Plus Groups
Spring / Summer 2005

Areas to lead the way forward



The 64th ANC: East Anglia win Best Area the night before the Area Lead option, placing emphasis on Area responsibility and the Internet, gets the delegates' vote

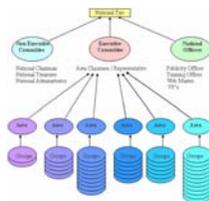
Hole in one!



Gerry needs a Pacemaker?



Exploring Area Lead



Frog hits Brean



Editor's Column

Greetings all,

I always enjoy the ANC and this year's was no exception. Good company throughout and good fun sitting at the back amid the sweet-throwers and hecklers in order to type up the events.

Plus News is less affected than most by the changes that will come with the implementation of the "Area Lead" option. It does mean, though, that your magazine will no longer be printed and delivered by the administrative officers of the Federation. Instead it will reside on our website www.18plus.org.uk under the link to Plus News. If you do have access to the Internet and are reading it this way, please consider printing off some copies and distributing them around your group – Plus News normally prints to 8 or 12 pages. We all as individuals need to work harder to make the



changes a success, but there is a belief that this can be done as evidenced by the large vote in favour of the option at the ANC, and subsequent filling of roles at the Area Conferences. I personally support this belief.

We remain the best at putting on some 5-star weekends of which Brean and NGOOT are just two recent examples. I hope you enjoy reading about them in this issue and look forward to seeing you at an event soon.

Ian Crawshaw, Editor
plusnews@18plus.org.uk

Contributions to this issue have come from Adrian Barnard, Clare Smithers, Corinna Teale, Francis Wallington, Huw Morris, Jarrett Smith, Lucy Smith, Paul Catterwell, Philip Saffer, Tina Bunyan

National Secretary's *Opinion*

In April, we witnessed an extraordinary scene, people realising the emotional cost and consequence of change. We were all shocked by the result of the vote at the ANC selecting a structure for the future running of this organisation.

For this organisation to continue and survive in today's context and respond to our target audience, we have to change. Our responses to change will be varied from mourning / obstruction to engagement and enthusiasm.

As I write this, I believe we are in a period of inertia. The organisation continues to function at group level and in Newent; it is currently undergoing change in committee personnel.

We wait for the July NEC meeting to induct new members, appoint posts, recognise constraints and more importantly set the agenda for the year; one of the tasks being to generate a new constitution in light of the motion.



Along this journey, we will need you as a member to understand and contribute your ideas. It is my opinion that in order to gain acceptance of the constitution and other measures that we will need a National Conference. Shock Horror, the ANC is not dead! Over the next few months, volunteers will be working hard to enable this change to happen.

What can you do?

- ❖ Continue to run and publicise your group.
- ❖ Seize the opportunity for self development by participating in INSPIRE and learning more about yourself and your skill base.
- ❖ Offer your specialist skills and knowledge to the organisation to enable it to prosper today and tomorrow.

I look forward to meeting you rambling across the Yorkshire Dales with SADY.

Francis Wallington
Honorary General Secretary

Now Get Out Of That

Well done to Neighbour of the Beast (Oxford) for winning.

It had been a lot of hard work in planning but I was pleased it turned out so successful. The weather was good with temperatures in the mid 20s throughout the weekend and many of us have the sunburn / suntans to prove it.

We had an excellent BBQ in the woods, bonfire and story telling, a scenic 9½ mile walk and a car rally which took teams to the edge of the Cotswolds and some of the nicest villages in this part of the West Country. We had a Boules Competition, an Aunt Sally Contest and an Assault Course Challenge. Thanks to everyone who took part in those events.

The Scout camp now has a new best time for the Assault Course of 3.25 mins which I got, beating the warden's friend who is a TA PT instructor and Cross Country runner by 1.21 mins.

We hope to get certificates out to everyone who attended soon and also a trophy for the winning team. I did try to get a trophy before the event but our local trophy shop moved out of the city centre and we were pushed for time so I wasn't able to get over to them.

Apologies for the song competition but there wasn't enough time to include this and we really needed to hear these songs preformed. When things like this happen only a time machine can rectify it; understanding and acceptance goes a long way. We had to move the times around as we were unable to get the helmets for the

assault course until the warden arrived on site at 11:15am; the original plan was to get the assault course

done by 12:30 and then hear the songs. If teams want to forward their songs to the mailing list and / or Plus News / National Website feel free.

The standard of competition was high, with all but one team in the winning stakes. There was only a ½ point between second (Orange - So'ton Friends) and third (Lara's Lovelies - South Bucks), and 1 point between third and fourth (Option Z - Dave Filer, Adam Redshaw and Rob Broadfield).

There was an excellent thunder and lightning storm at 2am

Sunday morning which some of us watched from the covered patio or our rooms, as it passed overhead we could see the clouds light up in the distance and the forked lighting flash across the sky.

Thanks to everyone who helped tidy up at

the end. Thanks also to all those people who helped and supported me over the weekend as part of the NGOOT team - David Ireland, Adrian Barnard, Tina Bunyan, Jo Walton and Lisa.

Regards
Jarrett Smith



Errata

In the last issue Chris Porter was mentioned as a member of Brentwood group. He has asked me to point out that he is actually a member of Bishop's Stortford. I would like to apologise for this error. Ed

ANC 2005 – View from an Architect

Well well, another interesting weekend...

On the Saturday, much time was lost haggling over whether to allow So'ton Friends' Group Lead option into the debates. This was inexcusable, since both sides knew it was coming, and they had Friday evening and Saturday morning to sort it out. It's one thing to rigidly stick to your interpretation of the Constitution, but there are times when it's more important to get things done. First order of business should have been a vote as to whether to allow Richard to present a motion, which is what (eventually)

happened. I sympathise with both sides here. As I said to my fellow Group delegate, "Richard doesn't have a legal leg to stand on, but his motion has to be allowed."

All this wasted time, combined with the fact that we needed to allow time for four presentations instead of three meant that there would not be time to do the presentations on Saturday afternoon. It was therefore decided to do as much as possible of the other items on the agenda instead, and start the presentations on Sunday morning.

Wayne was elected as National Chairman, Francis Wallington as HGS and Andy Cole as NFO, with the caveat that they would withdraw their nominations if one of two (unspecified) options were voted for.



Our much loved and valued Office staff, Christine George and Sue Swan, unwind with a cup of tea before heading back to Newent

Saturday night was great, the funfair concept (mostly) worked, and the Plustars was a great improvement over doing it on the Sunday afternoon. I stayed up till 5:20 am!

Sunday, we had the presentations followed by a question and answer session for each option in turn. I'm told So'ton Friends did a good job with theirs, but thanks to my late night (early morning) I was still in bed. I got up in time to hear the NEC present the National and Member options before presenting the Area option myself.

I honestly thought it was about neck and neck between the Area, National and Group options, so I was pleasantly surprised that the Area option that I had worked on was chosen on the first ballot (Area 36, National 16, Group 10, Member 0).

Wayne and Andy then withdrew their nominations, leaving us potentially without a chairman or treasurer when their term of office is up.

So big changes are afoot.

I'm sure I'll be drafted in to help in some way, and I hope other people will volunteer as well. So far the noises I've heard about

Special Awards

- Don Juan
- Femme Fatale
- Pisshead
- Time Keeper
- Most Eccentric
- Futuristic
- Spirit of WASH
- Ian Crawshaw
- Alison Bray
- Pete Mann
- Paul West
- Iain Parkes
- Black Country (WAP)
- Phil Bettis

accepting the decision have been good, and let's face it, we cannot afford to be divided. We have work ahead of us, and it's up to all of us to make sure it works.

Huw Morris
Oxford

Main Awards

- Best Group
- Best Area
- Treasurer's Trophy
- Charities Trophy
- Gold Trail
- Development
- Training
- Best Magazine
- Chairman's Merit
- Excellence Award
- Spirit of 18 Plus
- So'ton Friends
- East Anglia Area
- L&SE Area
- Black Country
- Northwich
- L&SE Area
- East Anglia Area
- Barnet Flyer
- Andy Cole
- Steve Browning (EAA)
- Wayne Fenton

ANC 2005 – View from a Party Girl

I would like to say a big thanks to Kirsty, Kathy, and all of the NEC for everything they did for the ANC (including the duck) but I'm very sad it was the last ANC.

I was sad to see Wayne standing down especially as my group seconded him as National Chairman, but I do understand his reasons for doing so and fully support him for it. It's also a shame that Andy Cole has stepped down too.

Saturday night was fun and the 'Plustars' were really good. Well done to those who won awards. I was pleased we won Best Magazine for *Barnet Flyer* and would like to say well done to Mark Hawkins.

I enjoyed taking part in the funfair kissing booth. Thanks to all those who came and kissed me

and some more than once mentioning no names!

I'd like to wish Francis, Dave, and Adam all the best in their new positions on the NEC [HGS, Activities, Publicity – Ed]. The option that went through wasn't what my group and I personally wanted but we need now to support our Area and I would like to say to Tracy Thorn (our Area Chair) that I will urge as many members as possible to attend our meeting next month.



Top table at the ANC

Finally I'd personally like to say a huge thanks to all the NEC and the office staff (who will be greatly missed) for all their hard work over the last year.

Lucy Smith
Barnet Plus

Journey to the ANC (or “Still Alive in Interesting Times”)

We had an eventful journey in. I got a lift, instead of the coach. In the first 5 minutes our chauffeur proved to me, despite the shouts, that red lights are only advisory, as indeed would appear to be the national speed limit. Around then I taught our driver of 15 years what the de-mist symbol was on the car. A new experience of watching gaseous rubber pass the windows curling in the slipstream came next when an articulated truck decided “mirror indicate manoeuvre” applied whether a car was there



The Essex boys get “high”

or not. The rest of the trip was uneventful until reaching Coventry (apart from the now constant clicking of the tyre's flat spots), when many small detours were forced around the inner dogs dinner even though we could see where we wanted to be.

So, this rumour of me standing as National Chairman, do you think it's got any truth in it?

Adrian Barnard

[Only you can answer that question!! – Ed]

The Business Page

Huw Morris presents questions & answers relating to the Area Lead option

At the ANC this year, the Area Lead option was chosen as the blueprint for restructuring. Since then, as the writers of the document, Adrian Barnard and I have managed to attend the Area meetings of four of the six Areas, to explain the Area Lead option more fully, and what it means for the Areas. Following are my responses to the questions we have been asked. If you have further questions, or want any of these answers expanded on, I am happy to oblige, either through email, or on the Yahoo Groups mailing list.

Questions:

Q1. What is our current Constitutional position?

A1. The current Constitution applies, right up to the end of the February 2006 NEC meeting.

Q2. I like elements of the Area Lead option, but I don't like the idea of not having the ANC. Can't we implement Area Lead, but retain the ANC?

A2. No. The NEC has been given the task of implementing the Area Lead option in full. The NEC does not have a mandate to implement only parts of the Area Lead option.

Q3. Isn't it the case that the current Constitution can only be scrapped by a vote at the ANC?

A3. Yes, and that vote was at the 2005 ANC. All four options presented there involved scrapping the Constitution and writing a new one from scratch.

Q4. Does the new Constitution need to be ratified by a vote at the 2006 ANC?

A4. No, because the Area Lead document specifically says that the new Constitution is to be ratified by a vote at the February 2006 NEC meeting. The 2005 ANC accepted this by voting for the Area Lead option.

Q5. What about the social side of the ANC?

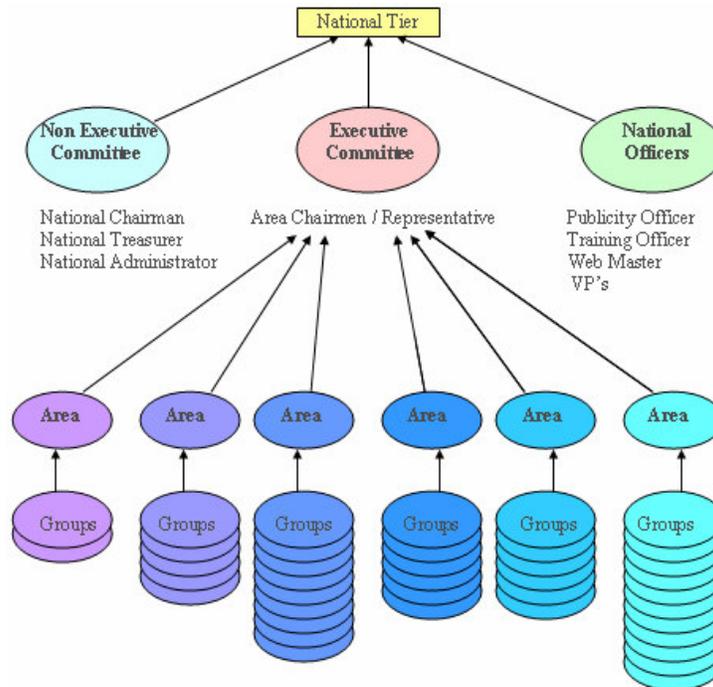
A5. The ANC itself has been scrapped. However, there are a few proposals about so as to not lose the ethos of the weekend. For instance, one of the NEC meetings could include a smart dress dinner dance in the evening, which incorporates an awards ceremony like Plustars.

Q6. Will all Areas have different membership cards? Will they be laminated?

A6. There will be a single National Membership card, as at present, although it will probably not be laminated plastic. The National Administrator will obtain blank cards and distribute them to the Areas. At present, we envisage A4 sheets of perforated cardboard.

Q7. The membership fee drops to £25 after the new Constitution takes effect in February 2006. Won't members delay renewing until after this date?

A7. This won't work (sorry)! If you renew your membership within 6 months of your membership expiring, your membership will take effect from when your old membership expired.



Q8. How do amendments work under the new system? Is it possible that motions could be held up indefinitely by being continually amended?

A8. If a motion is brought up at a National meeting, then that motion will be debated, unamended, at the Area meetings, and be voted on, unamended, at the following National meeting. Therefore, motions cannot be held up by amendments. Only once a motion has failed can a motion be re-introduced in an amended form.

Minutes of National meetings will be made available on the web. Therefore all Groups

and members will have advance notice of upcoming motions. If a Group wishes to amend a motion then they will have to publicise their suggested amendment, in order to organise a "No" vote to the original motion. Likewise, any Groups wishing to introduce original motions should publicise their intentions first, so that potential objections can be dealt with. In this way, the motion as submitted should be in a form that is acceptable to as many Groups as possible.

In both of these cases, communication is the key. Groups are going to have to talk to other groups, to try and form a consensus.

Q9. How can I ensure that my Area Representative votes the way they have been instructed to by my Area?

A9. Observers will be able to attend National meetings. In addition, minutes of the meetings will be available on the web and the votes of each Area will be public.

Q10. In what form will be the Membership Records be stored?

A10. This is still to be decided, but is likely to be in Microsoft Excel format. For Membership Officers without access to Excel, the free OpenOffice.org provides similar functionality.

Huw Morris
huw.morris1@gmail.com

Brean 2005

Yee Haa! A Line Dance Poem

Saturday morning we rise and shine,
Ready to dance and to get into line.
Paul Hudson teaching, for the first time,
Some dances to music, with a country rhyme.

We did Floby Slide, and Cowboy Strut,
And of course Ziggy, swinging our butt.
Shimmying this way, shimmying that way,
Turning around and doing a sway.

It helped us wake up, after a heavy night,
(Some may not have looked, a pretty sight).
So thank you Paul, it was good fun,
I'm off to lunch now, I fancy a bun.

Clare Smithers (Barnet Plus)



Nick Cotton wins the Comic Relief scratchcard game as Tina wins Best Fancy Dress

Paul Catterwell drops us a line to tell all those who DID NOT attend Brean just what they missed. The DJ did a top job, played a good selection of music and didn't waffle too much.

Saturday night band was awesome, how on earth they did 135 minutes non-stop beats me (by the way I hope to announce the date of my engagement to the seriously attractive singer soon – shame she was wearing a dress that didn't reveal as much as last year)!

Felt increasingly rough over the weekend (impending flu – aaagh!) so didn't venture out for the real ale trip but heard that everyone had a good time.



Sunday evening's band was good enough to grace any event, and the atmosphere just gets better every year.

Somerset is a lovely part of the country. Chris and Lara worked really hard to put on a damned good event, an event that deserves as much support as WASH enjoys, so make a date for next year. They have plans already to improve it.

Also those who didn't come missed out on the opportunity of paying a £5.00 deposit for WASH 2005 which entitles them to entry into a free draw on the first night of WASH – the prize will make someone very popular – thanks to all those who gave up their hard earned. *[I believe this offer is still open. Please contact Paul directly if interested – details in the National Directory – Ed]*

See you all soon

Paul Catterwell – WASH 2005 Bookings Officer





Welcome to Summer at Dalesbridge, Yorkshire or as we like to affectionately Nickname it:

S.A.D.Y



This 'new' holiday under canvas is brought to you by



National Federation of 18 Plus Groups

SADY will be a small relaxed affair offering a great atmosphere. The cost will be £35.00 per person for 3 nights camping on 17th, 18th and 19th June, 2005, Saturday B-B-Q, Mega-Quiz & much more including:



Disco Every Night



Sat & Sun Night Bands



Ramble & Real Ale Trip

For more details call Corinna on 0-121-329-2639 or e/mail @ corinna.kwale@wheclabratorgroup.co.uk

National Football

Eight teams entered and were drawn into two groups. All played three games each, sometimes in torrential rain (for the first time in 3 years)!

The top two teams in each group played off in the semi-finals, with the two winners playing in the final, and a play-off for 3rd and 4th place.

The final was very exciting with extra time and still no score, so went into penalties (just like the FA Cup!) with the score 4-3 to Barking & Dagenham (B) – last year's winners as well. Commiserations to Solihull. Thanks to the two super referees Andrew Withers and Pete Strawbridge and everyone who came along despite the weather.

Tina Bunyan
SA Chair

1st Barking & Dagenham (B)
2nd Solihull
3rd Oxford / Abingdon / Didcot / Andover
4th So'ton Friends

Other Forthcoming Events 2005



Sat 11 th Jun	Southern: So'ton Friends' Charity Beach BBQ
Sat 25 th Jun	North Thames & Chiltern: Stevenage Dance
Sat 2 nd Jul	National: Treasure Hunt, Birmingham. Hosted by Black Country Group
Sat 16 th – Sun 17 th Jul	National: NEC Meeting, Newent. Check with your Area Chair before attending
Fri 22 nd – Sun 24 th Jul	East Anglia: King's Lynn Mini-Break
Sat 30 th Jul	North Thames & Chiltern: Masked Ball, Bricket Wood Country Club
Sat 13 th Aug	North Thames & Chiltern: Ten Pin Bowling night
Fri 26 th – Mon 29 th Aug	East Anglia: Multi-Activity Weekend, Mepal, nr. Ely, Cambridge
Fri 2 nd – Sun 4 th Sep	National: INSPIRE, Alsager Campus, Stoke-on-Trent
Sat 10 th – Sun 11 th Sep	National: Bargain Break, hosted by Bradford
Sat 17 th – Sat 24 th Sep	National: Holiday Abroad, Es Cana, Ibiza

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 plusnews@18plus.org.uk or 17 Maurier Close, Northolt, Middlesex UB5 5JY. Please note that pictures can only be used if sent electronically. The articles herein do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Editor, Plus News, or the National Federation of Eighteen Plus.

National Federation of Eighteen Plus Groups, 8-10 Church Street Chambers, Church St, Newent, Glos. GL18 1PP Tel: (01531) 821210