

National Federation of Plus Area's

4th National Annual General Meeting Minutes

Held at the County Hotel Walsall on Saturday 20 February 2010

The conference was opened the Deputy National Chairman Joe Gurney at 10.30am

1 Opening Address by National Chairman

Adrian Barnard National Chairman welcomed delegates and observers to the 4th National Annual General Meeting, ask delegates to keep phone switch off or on to silent, thank the various people around the conference for making this happen, Honorary General Secretary, National Finance Officer and also Francis Wallington, for typing the minutes, and the two Vice Presidents Sandra Brogan and Gerry Edwards.

Adrian also welcomed to the various area representatives, and their area committees and Corinna Teale AGM coordinator. Adrian Barnard then said that on Sunday we have an activities workshop hoping to train the next generation of people to do the large and small scale events. Adrian said he is the front man for the organisation and has a very good team behind him.

2 Vice Presidential Address by Sandra Brogan

Sandra Brogan Vice President welcome delegates to the business side of Plus, which is to change the constitution, elected national officers etc. said to delegates to say your piece especially around the motion, start of a plus weekend with a Dinner, and dance in the evening and a activities workshop on Sunday.

Activities are the backbone of PLUS, activities bring in new members Francis Wallington and his band of helpers have put together a fun interactive workshop and he will not be standing preaching at you, finally remember everyone is entitled to their own opinion.

2.2 Barkingside PLUS

Adrian Barnard National Chairman announced to conference that due to recent discussion on the one list and this morning Pre AGM meeting, Barkingside PLUS group will be open for one day only, to allow for smooth running of the conference, the issues surrounding Barkingside will be resolved by the May 2010 NEC meeting.

AGM Timetable

Corinna Teale AGM Coordinator gave the conference a short timetable for the meeting

Agenda Item 13

James Oliver HGS mentioned that agenda item 13 should carry a 75% majority not 50 on some copies of the agenda.

3 Elections of Tellers

3.1 Nomination of Four Volunteers from the Observers

The following people where nominated to server as Tellers

Janet Rintoul Nominated by Thatcham PLUS

Mark Hewson Nominated by Solihull PLUS

Geoff Buller Nominated by Leeds PLUS

Becki Cooke Nominated by Thatchan PLUS

Seconded by Barnet PLUS

Carried Unanimously

3.2 Determining Voting Strength

The voting strength of conference was established at 29

4 Elections of Ballot Papers Counters

4.1 Nominations of two Volunteers from body of Observers

Adam Redshaw – Nominated by Lichfield PLUS
Elizabeth Buller – Nominated by Thatcham PLUS

Carried Unanimously

5 Apologies for Absence

James Oliver gave out to conference the following apologies to the conference

Chris Mann
Rotherwell PLUS
Sheffield PLUS
Soton Friends PLUS
Didcot PLUS

Adrian Barnard said Mr. Gerry Edwards Vice President will arriving late for the conference

6 Acceptance of the minutes of the 3rd Annual General Meeting held at the County Hotel on 21st February 2009

6.1 Points of Accuracy

The following points of accuracy were raised
Joe Gurney, Deputy National Chairman
Page 9, third paragraph down

He urged delegates to vote for this motion and remove a pointless piece of ***democracy*** from our constitution,

Should read:

He urged delegates to vote for this motion and remove a pointless piece of ***bureaucracy*** from our constitution.

Leo Glover Thatcham Delegate mentioned two points Kirsty Van Lieshout and Richard Morton are both listed as Vice Presidents. Francis Wallington explained what he wrote and page 36 full membership fee was stated to be £26.00.

Robert Jones Bradford Delegate mentions that job titles are not after a person name for Kirsty and Richard.

Iain Parkes Fareham & Gosport delegate mention that his name is spelt differently through out the minutes.

No other points of accuracy were raised

6.2 Acceptance of Minutes

The minutes were proposed by Bradford PLUS and seconded by Bishop Storfod PLUS

For – 25
Against – 2
Abstentions – 2

Carried by Majority

7 Matter Arising thereon

Katie Hawkins Barnet Delegate page 27 mention that included in bulk posting to Honorary Life Members, that she has up date National HLM list to the NEC and area chairman's who are the point of contact for this list.

8 Presentations of the Federation Reports

Francis Wallington ask Adrian Barnard 9.1.3 of the model area constitution The National Membership fee will be subject to an automatic raise of £1 at the beginning of the National Federations Financial year, without referral to the NEC.

Adrian Barnard mentioned he believed that the clause was removed and the membership fee was remained at £25.00 for 2010.

Gary Schwimmer Hillingdon delegate ask how many member there are in the Federation spilt between PLUS and Quest members Adrian Barnard mention this is an action for area's to email Gary Schwimmer with this information.

Andy Campbell Barkingside delegate, ask if Anglia and South Area report to be voted upon separately. Adrian Barnard National Chairman in replied mention the answer to this is no. Andy Campbell also pointed out an error in the number of member in Anglia and South East Area. Joe Gurney Anglia and South East Area Chairman said the colour version is in error but the B&W version of the reports is correct.

Francis Wallington Lichfield Observer ask John Smith Plus News Editor about what has changed on the National website, John Smith Plus News Editor said that the colour scheme has changed and links to YouTube for videos along with other cosmetic appearances to make the site more user friendly to the user and guest.

Katie Hawkins Barnet Delegate gave a point of information for Gary Schwimmer currently Plus Members are 373 and Quest 105 members

No other questions for the reports

Proposed by Solihull
Seconded by Abingdon

For – 23
Against – 3
Abstentions – 3

9 Presentation and Acceptance of the Federations Accounts for the Year 2008

Mark Harrington National Finance Officer thanked Katie Hawkins Barnet Delegate for turning round the Federations books in quick time.

Mark Harrington continue by mention various emails sent between himself and Katie Hawkins showing the 2008 accounts and audit report, 2009 accounts and audit report.

Corinna Teale AGM Coordinator asked a question of the donation which is in the notes to accounts which she – Corinna - did not have, Mark Harrington respond that to Dave Orsler.

Proposed by Bradford
Seconded by Sutton Coldfield

Carried Unanimously

10 Presentation and Acceptance of the Federations Accounts for the year 2009

Matthew Bonar Solihull Observer ask about the bank reconciliation for 2009 which was the outstanding cheque 4 Mark Harrington for NEC costs for this AGM. Matt also ask about the small deficit made 2009 Mark Harrington respond that this was due to an accounting change as area levis do not match the Federation accounting period.

Proposed by Fareham & Gosport PLUS
Seconded by Thatcham PLUS

Carried Unanimously

Janet Rintoul Reading Observer said a vote of thanks for Mark Harrington for putting accounts on website before the meeting today,

Mark Harrington also thanked John Smith and Mark Hewson for putting accounts on to their respective websites as well

11 Election of National Chairman to serve from 1st March 2010 – Adrian Barnard

Adrian Barnard in his speech only candidate reasonably experience in matters of PLUS, hoping to have more time in 2010 to do more PLUS activities.

Proposed by Sutton Coldfield
Seconded by Barkingside

12 Elections of National Officers to Serve from 1st March 2010.

Proposed by Sutton Coldfield
Seconded by Thatcham

James explain that he was co-opted on at the May 2009 NEC meeting, Iain Parkes Fareham & Gosport ask James Oliver how he will he keep Adrian Barnard in check, James Oliver said to make sure all the paperwork was up to date. Corinna Teale AGM Coordinator ask James Oliver about a formal bulk posting for groups, James Oliver said yes so long it was electronic postings, James Oliver said send me you posters I will make sure that they are distributive around the Federation.

12.2 National Finance Officer – Mark Harrington
Proposed by Sutton Coldfield
Seconded by Bradford

Mark Harrington said that he really enjoyed working apart of the NEC team in the last 12 months PLUS has invested in training such as Sunday workshop with will have manuals Francis Wallington ask about the changes to the management of accounts, Mark Harrington responses was that his employers has given the National Federation a laptop for use with SAGE 2008 installed on it for exclusive use of the Federation, and will tweaks the balances coming over to match the books accounts for 2006.

Robert Jones Bradford Delegate mention that Alison got a lot of support from him – Robert- in doing the accounts when NFO so it was a very good achievement to get two set of accounts passed at this meeting.

Matt Bonar Solihull Observer asked Mark Harrington if he wanted the latest 2010 version of SAGE account Mark Harrington said yes.

Iain Parkes Fareham & Gosport Delegate mention the fact the laptops get stolen ask if the data is encrypted Mark Harrington said it is password protected. Mention also about a purchase of a hard drive to leave it with a third party such as National Chairman or Honorary General Secretary.

12.3 National Training Officer

No Nomination

12.4 National Activities Co-ordinator – Emma Campbell

Proposed by Barkingside PLUS

Seconded by Sutton Coldfield PLUS

Emma Campbell Sutton Coldfield delegate said it has been a couple of years since she has last stood on National feels time is right for her to stand again, mention that she is an organized person and will keep diary up to date and would like to explore the different types of different events which the federation could hold which was not a holiday.

Robert Jones Bradford Delegate mention communication in PLUS Emma Campbell said communication is important this includes an update email list and contacting details and website we have a the tools lets use them.

Mark Hewson Solihull Observer on a point of information ask how will the vote be done for Emma Campbell Adrian Barnard explained the vote will be done by secret ballot currently prepared by the HGS and helpers.

12.6 National Public Relations Officer

No Nomination

12.7 National Internet Co-ordinator

No Nomination

12.8 National Publications Officer / Plus News Editor – John Smith

Proposed by Bishop Stortford PLUS

Seconded by Barnet PLUS

Thanked everyone for nominating him and NEC as well. Since the ballot papers have been printed John Smith Leeds Delegate said he will stand, but was unsure about standing this year. John Smith he was concentrating on the website as well as been PLUS news editor since website is sort of a publication, John Smith Leeds Delegate said PLUS news needs changing perhaps to an electronic magazine or video.

Iain Parkes Fareham & Gosport Delegate said we really need PLUS news believes it to be fundamental for a print copy to be in each group and should continue to be paper base asked John Smith about groups submitting articles John Smith said it is very difficult to get people to submit articles, John however has been proactive in getting articles from PLUSGROUPS.org.uk, FACEBOOK or the one-list from comments people have left after events, saying it was good to see a thank you in a magazine if you organized an event.

12.9 NEC Administrator

No Nomination

Adrian explained this is a typist for James Oliver HGS

13 Motions for debate

Southern Area would like to propose amendments to clause 9 of the standard Group Constitution

9.2 Nomination of delegates

9.2.1 The group should (not shall) nominate in writing to the Area Administrator two delegates to attend the area conference, or to the Honorary General Secretary two delegates to attend the National General Meeting

9.2.2 One delegate should (not shall) be the Chairman for the time being of the member group, or a representative appointed by him/ her (not them), and the other should (not shall) be elected by the votes of a majority of the full members of the Member Group voting at a general Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting of the Group

Proposed by Southern Area

Adrian Barnard read out the motion proposed by Southern Area.

Francis Wallington Lichfield Observer ask for the motion to be explained into English, as the incorporation of should not shall does not make sense to him. Janet Rintoul Reading Observer explained motion was passed at the November 2009 NEC meeting what Southern Area want to do is change shall into should saying the intend of the motion is to make it a choice rather than a compulsion for groups to attend meeting.

Janet Rintoul Reading Observer explain we a Federation of volunteers we all do PLUS in our own time, we face difficult in getting members to attend meetings we should make it a choice rather than a compulsion. Southern Area is proposing to change the word shall into should. PLUS gets messy if we follow only bits of the constitution not every bit is used, this motion gives groups freedom not to attend meetings.

Matthew Bonar Solihull Observer said it needs to be explained more, by giving groups option to communicate attending the conferences it will mean that area's committees / conference will not know who will be turning up represent the groups.

Emma Campbell is for the motion PLUS is an voluntary organization booking forms do exist for AGM and conferences vote for this motion this make sense.

Robert Jones Bradford delegate gave a negative comment mention bits of the group constitution not followed already such as 10.1, 10.5, 10.8 saying PLUS does not follow exact wording on financial bits of the constitution the word should or shall does not make sense.

Jon Horswell Reading Delegate supported Robert Jones comments we all here are volunteers saying getting English correct should is a bit more demanding than shall.

Andy Campbell Barkingside delegate comment on Robert Jones remark saying that common sense should prevail; rules are there for a reason but should have a common sense approach into how we interpret them.

Iain Parkes Fareham & Gosport delegate what is the point of a constitution, a constitution is good principal, main issue is why change shall into should rewording of the motion seems to loose it ideal world it is who ever the group wants to send.

Fil Bettis Lichfield delegate appreciated the first part agree however the second part it should be the chairman warns of the situation of a member falling out with a group Fil Bettis does not like the way it is worded

Janet Rintoul summing up said that should is a much nice word than shall, disputes need to air. Southern Area is saying that if you don't write to confirm your attendance you can still come to the conference

A procedural motion was raised to split the Southern Area motion into two parts.

Proposed by Barkingside PLUS

Seconded by Bradford PLUS

50% majority required

For - 14

Against – 11

Abstentions – 4

Carried by majority

9.2 Nomination of delegates

13.1

9.2.1 The group should (not shall) nominate in writing to the Area Administrator two delegates to attend the area conference, or to the Honorary General Secretary two delegates to attend the National General Meeting

13.2

9.2.2 One delegate should (not shall) be the Chairman for the time being of the member group, or a representative appointed by him/ her (not them), and the other should (not shall) be elected by the votes of a majority of the full members of the Member Group voting at a general Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting of the Group

13.1

9.2.1 The group should (not shall) nominate in writing to the Area Administrator two delegates to attend the area conference, or to the Honorary General Secretary two delegates to attend the National General Meeting

Robert Jones Bradford Delegate mention that was not speaking against the motion is bit missed communication, also changing it not to a requirement stop areas from refusing the groups delegates say we vote for the motion.

Iain Parkes Fareham & Gosport Delegate said folk have to be organized the event, against motion as it would be anarchy, constitution is sensible and quoted from it, motion seeks to change that to “ we don't care if you turn up” saying you will run the risk of the organizers not knowing who will turning up to an event end result is AGM is cancelled changing from shall to should it will plague havoc with events vote against.

Barkingside raised a point of information off mic Gary Schwimmer Hillingdon delegate asked which part of the motion we are debating response was the first part of 9.1.

Emma Campbell with a point of information read out the version of 9.0 she had found on the website

9.1.1 The Group shall nominate in writing to the Area Administrator two delegates to attend the Area Conference, of whom one shall be the Chairman for the time being of the Member Group, or a representative appointed by them, and the other shall be elected by the votes of a majority of the full members of the Member Group voting at a General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting of the Group.

9.1.2 To be eligible to represent the Group delegates must be a full member of the Group.

Joe Gurney Deputy National Chairman respond that we are debating is version submitted for approval at the November 09 NEC meeting. Emma said that the newer version had not been updated to the websites, Barkingside propose an amendment to the motion however this was rejected as it would substantial change the original motion. Emma Campbell Sutton Coldfield delegate mention that the area and group constitutions would be in conflict with each other if this motion would be passed but area constitution would prevail national and area conferences are different. Ian Crawshaw Chiswick Quest observer said Emma Campbell made a very good point to think about all the different parts that need changing.

Voting as follow

For – 5

Against - 15

Abstentions - 9

Motion was lost.

13.2

One delegate should (not shall) be the Chairman for the time being of the member group, or a representative appointed by him/ her (not them), and the other should (not shall) be elected by the votes of a majority of the full members of the Member Group voting at a general Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting of the Group

Fil Bettis Lichfield delegate said groups should know who there delegate are. Iain Parkes Fareham & Gosport Delegate mention that PLUS is a democratic organisation by changing to this we would let PLUS be run by a few members.

For – 6
Against – 19
Abstentions - 4

Motion was lost.

14 Facility for National Debate

BREAN

Adam Redshaw Sutton Coldfield observer mention that BREAN deposit deadline now extend by one week gave a quick run down of what will be expected over the course of the weekend, told conference how to contact Adam if you had any questions.

Communication in PLUS

Emma Campbell Sutton Coldfield Delegate said communication in PLUS is poor with a lot non productive, communication is key in PLUS since the office has closed, praised the hard work of producing the National directory would like people ideas about communication. Kath Good Southern Area chair mention that if you put events on the website you still can get one member who was refuse membership turning up to them. Robert Jones Bradford delegate gave a counter argument to Kath Good statement. Iain Parkes Fareham & Gosport PLUS said sometimes we have to communicate that we are not happy with a situation such as the one-list we air our views across even when it is not the best way of doing, but if we all work together then we can make the Federation better. Dave Filer Coventry delegate mention that some advice for Emma we had a lots of different diaries in PLUS we need to get rid of all of them bar one

WASH 2010

Christine Ticehurst King Lynn Delegate ask to say a few words about this year WASH, Christine is a member of the WASH committee but can not say that her views are the same as the committee. Christine thanked the groups for the past support of WASH, 176 attend the 2009 event however Seale's have told WASH that to keep the event at Searle's they WASH will need to guarantee at least 250 members attending this year event, to keep it with the wow factor for new members important relationship with Searle's over the past years but Christine is more open to suggestions about letting know about the entertainment on at WASH, however the bottom line is that WASH committee have guarantee 250 places at Searle's this year and would like for groups to push the event to get it over 250 for 2010.

Corinna Teale AGM coordinator said that all holiday are struggling however about incentive for area's to attend WASH or any other holiday by taking a block of berths guarantee and then selling to members with excess places been sold to other area who have high demand for tickets as it would give event organizers up front income. Emma Campbell Sutton Coldfield Delegate said Long Live WASH and other National holidays we don't talk to every new member about theses holiday such as WASH, BREAN or SADY etc.

Robert Jones Bradford delegate understood Corinna Teale idea said it was taxing the areas to attend an event most of his area does not want to attend, would be opposition from area, telling an area having to promise x% of the berths at a holiday is not a good idea.

Francis Wallington Lichfield Observer said some you love to organize activities mention about the training workshop of Sunday with people who have organized these types of holiday to give to people who wish to learn.

Iain Parkes Fareham & Gosport delegate said he loved WASH everyone in this room has been to WASH need to encourage newer members or groups who never been to go to WASH mention that transportation is a big issue for some members.

Gary Schwimmer Hillingdon delegate WASH is a great event lots of personnel reasons, can not understand only the bands are not advertise when compare to other PLUS events.

Adrian Barnard National Chairman mention some of Gary Schwimmer earlier points said that Searle's is a big place also mention that BREAN is funded by shares, perhaps if WASH shares are offered to the groups or Area's, Adrian is sure it would be popular the Federation.

Mark Hewson Solihull observer said a few people only join the PLUS just to go to WASH Mark Hewson also said that all holidays are a big part of PLUS. Mark Hewson continue saying he had a few issues with the WASH committee, such as advertising the bands on over the weekend, he would prefer not for WASH to keep it a secret as it has in the past, or the themes for fancy dress. Mark Hewson finished by saying that WASH has relied on its past reputation too much.

Janet Rintoul Reading observer mentions that WASH needs over 50% of members in the Federation to attend, suggested that every group recruit new members and get theses members to WASH, WASH is a great event.

Christine Ticehurst King Lynn Delegate thanked everyone for their comments, saying there will be more information given out to groups. Funding has been discussed by the WASH committee not needed at present, but opening to other areas might occur in the future as we – WASH – have funds for this year event.

Anglia & South East Area

Andy Campbell Barkingside delegate mention to the conference about the decline in membership figure from his area, Andy commented that it was 109 when he – Andy – was chairman now down to 76 members, the old London and South East had 40 members now it is down to just 15 members, Andy Campbell Barkingside delegate mention that he was very concerned Joe Gurney Anglia and South East Area chairman respond by saying the decline is due in part to a rival organisation poaching PLUS members and in part to some groups not holding regular group nights.

Plus 70th Jubilee

Sandra Brogan Vice President mentions that 2011 will be PLUS Platinum jubilee would like ideas from the floor for ways to celebrate it.

Big Bands

Website

1940's theme night

Page for each year in PLUS in the PLUS website

Media coverage, press releases, national or local newspapers,

Publicity drive

Fly on the wall documentary TV or cable TV station

Pull a Plane!

Family afternoon for those with young children

70's parties in 70 areas / groups

Roll call of past members

Target 70 new members

Iain Parkes Fareham & Gosport delegate said do we want this to happened he attended the 60th anniversary attend by older members but not new members, organization has contracted 70th is not the one to go for but 75th when compared with the 50th with lots of event 60th had just one event a meal, suggest we postpone it to give it a better shot at 75.

Robert Jones Bradford delegate agreed with Iain Parkes but said party is PLUS image suggested 70th theme events at the major holidays and area's not as a party for ex-members PLUS love parties but not one big event. Janet Rintoul Reading Observer should be celebrating our past or planning for the future. Andy Campbell Barkingside delegate suggested we celebrate both the 70th and 75th as well.

Fil Bettis Lichfield delegate said that they started planning for the 50th five years before the event let's have a party for the 70th but an even bigger one for the 75th.

Video Project

Iain Parkes Fareham & Gosport delegate mention videoing today proceeding and has a video at most PLUS event he attends whether at weekend or on the holidays and has done the PLUS DVD with input from Adam Redshaw and started doing podcast would like to update that the current PLUS DVD and would like to include footage of group night events on it ask if conference would email Iain clips of no more than 30 seconds for inclusion on the DVD, I Iain am happy to answer any questions, Gary Schwimmer Hillingdon delegate said that Iain deserve appreciation for the effort that Iain does with the video project in PLUS.

15 Business Plan

Gerry Edwards Vice President gave the conference a quick run of what is in the business plan will be updated and issued to members after the May NEC meeting

16 Announcement of election Results of National Chairman to Serve from 1st March 2010

Adrian Barnard of Didcot PLUS was reelected National Chairman

17 Announcement of results of election results of the National Officers to serve from 1st March 2010

17.1 Honorary General Secretary

James Oliver of Solihull PLUS was elected

17.2 National Finance Officer

Mark Harrington of Coventry PLUS was elected

17.3 National Training Officer

17.4 National Activities Co-ordinator

Emma Campbell of Sutton Coldfield PLUS was elected

17.5 National Public Relations Officer

17.6 National Internet Coordinator

17.7 National Publications Officer / Plus News Editor

John Smith of Leeds PLUS was elected

17.8 NEC Administrator

18 National Chairman Address

Adrian Barnard National Chairman said would like to thank conference for voting for him, and the committee for another year, Adrian is looking forward to next year and thank you for everyone for turning up today and playing their part

19 Elections of Honorary Officials

19.1 Independent Examiner of the Federation Accounts 2010

Nominated – Katie Hawkins

Proposed by NEC

Voting Strength - 28

Carried Unanimously

19.2 National Federation of Plus Areas Vice Presidents for 2010

Mr Gerry Edwards

Mrs Sandra Brogan

Mr John Smith

Proposed by NEC

Carried Unanimously

20 Any Other Urgent Business

20.1 Conference Gifts

Adrian Barnard gave gifts to the following people who have help in the running of the conference

Corinna Teale AGM coordinator

Richard Teale Sound Supervisor

Sandra Brogan Vice President

Gerry Edwards Vice President

20.2 Membership Fee

Mark Hewson Solihull Observer noted that membership fee mention in the minutes the motion was lost thus and queried the National Chairman and National Finance Officer who stated it should be £25 not £26, Mark Hewson Solihull Observer said it needs looking at, after a brief discussion Adrian Barnard National Chairman said that area's should still charge £25 until the next NEC meeting in May 10 when it will voted down it will be up to individual area's if they wish to charge the extra £1 until May. Joe Gurney Deputy National Chairman said the membership fee increase is not based on inflation however Anglia and South East Area voted ahead to keep it at £25.00.

20.3 Barkingside PLUS

Dave Filer Coventry delegate asked about Barkingside PLUS Adrian Barnard mention that is open for one day only to allow for smooth running of the conference, and then it will be up to the Federation to work for a solution by the next NEC meeting.

21 Announcement of the Date for the Annual General Meeting 2011

19 February 2011 venue to be confirmed remember bids to be in by the May NEC meeting

22 Presidential Closing address by Vice President - Sandra Brogan

Sandra Brogan said that it was a good conference, good debate over the two words should or shall, noted that there is a couple of key positions in the Federation still vacant which are Training Officer and Publicity Officer, it is a lot of fun at National level, Sandra continue that Activities are the backbone of the Federation, including the major holidays and then gave brief highlight's of the conference and plugged the activities workshop again with Francis on Sunday morning.

23 Close Meeting

Adrian Barnard closed the meeting at 4.36pm