

5th National Annual General Meeting Round-up 2011



The Hind Hotel, is a Grade II* listed building, is conveniently located in the centre of the thriving town of Wellingborough in Northamptonshire. Built in 1600's, the hotel is reputed to have provided accommodation to Oliver Cromwell and his officers prior to the Battle of Naseby.

The conference was opened at 10.30am by Deputy National Chairman Matt Dickinson was attended by 16 Plus groups and 4 Quest groups as observers.

The following people were elected as Tellers Kathy Morris, Ian Crawshaw, Richard Thomas (HLM, MALM) and Geoff Buller. As ballot paper counters Katie Hawkins and Joan Clifford were elected the voting strength of conference was established at 28 voting delegates.

The minutes of the last conference were read with no corrections, it was pointed out in the last AGM Joe Gurney used the title of Deputy National Chairman during the 13.2 debate.

A slight correction on the Northern Area report was issued as Full members should be 24 and Associate members 72 the total membership stayed the same. Corinna Teale ask Chris Mann about whether it is healthy to have groups with five members or less, yes was the respond from Chris Mann they can survive with that membership. The North Thames and Chiltern Area report which was issued late to conference, the conference agreed it to be included with the other reports when they were voted upon.

Finance

Income	£ 3,169.00
Expenditure	£ 4,657.00
Loss	£ 1,488.00

Mark Harrington said that congratulations are in order to Becki Cooke for taking on Brean after attending last year Activities workshop, Mark commented that during 2010 he only received nine risk assessments of which eight came from Corinna Teale or Francis Wallington. Mark urged the conference delegates to fill out risk assessments as it is a means of covering the event organizer if things go wrong i.e. the event organizer would be hold personnel liable for any compensation paid out by our insurers. Francis Wallington ask Mark the Cheque payments ending in 2018, Mark said that perhaps the Areas need to start to address this issue will be action at the next NEC meeting.

National Elections

Chairman – Adrian Barnard

Adrian stood as National Chairman in a change to the precedent of the meeting, Vice President Gerry Edwards took charge of this part of the meeting. Southern Area presented Adrian Barnard with a number of allegations in the form of a document, James Oliver mention that the Code of Conduct is not ratified in Plus it is just for guidance only. Adrian was asked about some allegations which was put to him in a document prepared by Southern Area, the allegations centred on Didcot moving to NTCA and questions over who wrote a letter from Steve Geary to Janet Rintoul. Iain Parkes said that Adrian wear too many hats in Plus. It was revealed that Southern Area allow for committee members to be group delegates as well at Area conferences.

Honorary General Secretary – James Oliver

Tracey Thorn mention that James will need support to do his job, mention what the office used to do for Plus is just rested one person. James Oliver also promise to keep Adrian in check.

National Finance Officer – Mark Harrington

Mark Harrington stated next year he is considering standing for National Chairman as Sandra Brogan has been suggesting it to Mark, to which Adrian said thank you once Mark had sat down.

National Public Relation Officer – Adam Redshaw

Adam announced that he is will stand for this post to coordinated the work through out the area's Tracey Thorn gave a speech to conference praising his work as Brean coordinator.

Motion

Erik Bean of Stevenage Plus presented the motion It was pointed by Gerry Edwards the motion would be 50% but a follow up motion would be presented immediately to the conference which would requiring a 75% majority. Erik mention that he has met both his wives through PLUS, Erik said that WASH this year the only birthday announced was for a 52 year old. Erik continued that only 11% of NTCA was under 35 year old. Gary Schwimmer said we do not get anyone younger now. Gary also said that that QUEST are happy been separate. Adam Redshaw said we must have a proper definition of PLUS and QUEST. Fil Bettis said that some QUEST groups have only one or two members. Iain Parkes said this was a silly motion, mention joined City Socialising, that he was the oldest person there at a recent meal. Plus make sure it achieves it aims Iain continued. Corinna Teale said PLUS must dictate an age for older members to move on or to QUEST. Gerry Edwards

said they do, Richard Thomas (AHLM & HLM) urged delegates to guard PLUS ethos mention the future direction of PLUS. Gavin Peachey said you can tweak age limits a bit, allow over 35's for about 10 years, current system is a complete mess. Katie Hawkins said we get all different members. Erik Bean said we want a Federation move in the right direction 2/3 of NTCA over age limits.

Voting Strength - 27

For - 10

Abstention – 4

Against – 13

Motion Lost

Facility for National Debate

Group Activities

Francis Wallington asked the General Purpose Committee to be participants in a short game of Call My Bluff. It was design to show those present at the conference that it is easy to put on a Group Night Activity. In the following debate Geoff Buller Lincs Quest mention that a recent NAGM's he has not seen any groups programmes out, ask what has happen to them. Geoff continue by saying that most groups do not use the PLUS website, Christine Ticehurst said to tailor your programme to all members, they have to be varied its what you do. Having a programme does break the ice at a Group Night. Corinna Teale said young members does not want to do activities, does highlight the previous debate Corinna Teale said her suggestion is 35 – 45 you can join either but at 45 and over its is QUEST. Gerry Edwards said that NEC has mechanism to enforce the age limits in the Federation.

The Golden Circle

John Smith gave the conference a short presentation about the The Golden Circle on how PLUS markets itself.

What – What PLUS is

How – How does PLUS does it.

WHY – WHY BECAUSE PLUS is FUN

Emphasise in PLUS has been on WHAT, however John Smith said we should concentrates on WHY - BECAUSE PLUS IS FUN

Facebook

Erik Bean mentioned that Facebook allow for paid adverts. Stevenage group has recruit seven new members through Facebook paid ad's. Helen Camm mention about meetup.com which is successful in Midland Area.

Website

Steve Rolfe ask if people are using the new national website. Steve continue saying we should have one website, Mark Hewson site, not two websites. Janet Rintoul mention that Southern Area had 10 enquiries through the new website. Iain Parkes gave his thoughts on the new website. Leo

Glover complained that plusgroups is too complicated to use, Erik Bean complained that there is no links to external group website. Francis Wallington pointed out there is people in this room who design websites not professional, but websites but up to a very high standard – John Smith. John Smith said that he and Matt Dickinson are looking at using Druggle Commons which offers similar functional to Facebook. There was two ideas to do with plusgroups one is to scrap it complete but this was rejected as it would take a lot of time to get the new website updated with the old content. Therefore he and Matt are are using Druggle Commons which has a lot of features you have been asking for. Main advantages was that it allows RSS feeds and you can import events from i-cal.

At the November 2010 NEC Meeting, Matt Dickinson NTCA said that Groups with outdated external websites should either delete them or update the websites.

75th Anniversary

Unfortunately the conference did not have time to have a discussion on the 75th celebrations in 2016; Groups, and Areas should perhaps start to think about how to celebrate with ex members and ex staff.

Lets start the Planning for the 75th now!

Business Plan

James Oliver will update this document in time for May NEC meeting, Gerry Edwards ask for a person to take ownership of this important document.

National Results

Chairman

Adrian Barnard of Oxford Plus was elected

National Officers

Honorary General Secretary

James Oliver of Solihull Plus was elected

National Finance Officer

Mark Harrington of Coventry Plus was elected

National Public Relations Officer

Adam Redshaw of Coventry Plus was elected

These other position remain unfilled.

National Training Officer

NEC Administrator

Plus News Editor – John Smith will do the role in the interim

Internet coordinator

National Activities coordinator

Adrian Barnard thanked the conference for re electing as National Chairman.

Elections of Honorary Officials

Vice Presidents

Gerry Edwards

Francis Wallington

Francis Wallington thanked the conference for the honour.

John Smith said that he was not re-standing as a Vice President as he been elected Northern Area Chairman.

Independent Examiner of the Federation Accounts 2011

Katie Hawkins of Barnet PLUS

Any other Business

Children

Tracey Thorn asked about the presence of Children at Plus events, Geoff Buller respond saying that younger children are not allow at Lincs Quest events.

Richard Thomas said that he was delighted with this conference saying both the 50, & 60th PLUS had been looking back, at the 70th this conference PLUS has been looking forward, that he – Richard – has enjoyed the day, no one has come up with anything better than PLUS, Richard Thomas urged groups to grasp the future of PLUS & QUEST, Richard finished that its look a good future for PLUS.

Corinna Teale mention about members using Facebook to attack groups in PLUS, believed it is not a a proper forum, rather people should use the area's conferences.

Gifts

Adrian Barnard gave to the following people gifts

Conference Organizers

Corinna Teale

Richard Teale

Vice Presidents

John Smith

Gerry Edwards

General Purpose Committee

Mark Harrington

James Oliver

National Chairman

Gerry Edwards Vice President then gave Adrian Barnard a gift on behalf of the conference.

Date, Time and Venue of Next Annual General Meeting

Date is 18 February 2012, the conference will start at 10.00 venue to be confirm Area's to get your tenders in by the May 2011 NEC meeting.

Vice Presidential Closing Address

Gerry Edwards gave the conference a short round up of the meeting,

Close Meeting

Adrian Barnard close the meeting at 17.03

The Party afterwards After the conference had finished nearly all delegates and observers head for the nearest pub to down a pint or two. In the evening there was the meal, PLUS where then entertained by Dan Smith of Sutton Coldfield Plus as the DJ, and by duo 2 to go an X-Factor finalist from series one (2004).

National Trophies



*Gary Schwimmer -
Linda Street Spirit of
Plus Award Winner*



*North
Thames and
Chiltern Area
- Best Area*

Best Group – Lincs Quest

2nd was Sutton Coldfield

Best Area Treasurer - Katie Hawkins of North Thames & Chiltern Area



National Charity Trophy Winner – Slough Windsor, & Eton Plus

Other Entrant was Lincs Quest

Gold Trail Trophy – Lincs Quest

Other entrant was Slough, Windsor & Eton

Norbury Trophy – Barnet Flyer

Recruitment Trophy – Lincs Quest

Charles Padgham Training Trophy – Anglia and South East Area

Publicity Trophy – Lincs Quest

Other entrants were Redbridge and Slough, Windsor & Eton.

Best New Group

This trophy has not been awarded since 2004!

On the Sunday about five teams went around Wellingborough on a Treasure Hunt to build paper aeroplanes and build bridges with the winning team of Fil Bettis, James Oliver, Kathy Morris, Mark Hewson and Adam Redshaw coming first. One of these individual get to look after the 18 Plus Community Service trophy. The cost was a donation to Breast cancer care which raised a total of £43.00.



Participates of the Treasure Hunt with the different bridges which were design and built.

James Oliver would like to thank Lucy Smith and Nick Grant for the Plus photos used in this document

James Oliver

25 February 2011