

## **Minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

### **Of the National Federation of Plus Area's**

**Held at the The Hind Hotel, Wellingborough on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

#### **1 Open Conference**

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.

#### **2 Vice President Address**

Gerry Edwards welcome the delegates to 70<sup>th</sup> conference of PLUS. Said the NEC are a hard working people who spend a lot of time on meetings and thanked Corinna and her team who work behind the scenes at this conference.

#### **3 Election of Tellers**

##### **3.1 Nominations of Tellers**

Kathy Morris – Solihull Plus  
Ian Crawshaw – Cheswick Quest  
Richard Thomas – Midland Area HLM  
Geoff Buller – Lincs Quest

Proposed by NEC

Carried Unanimously

##### **3.2 Establishment of Voting Strength**

The Voting Strength of conference was established at 28

#### **4 Election of Ballot Paper Counters**

##### **4.1 Nominations of two Volunteers from the body of Observers**

Katie Hawkins – Barnet Observer  
Joan Clifford – Lichfield Observer

Carried Unanimously

Proposed By Stevenage PLUS

#### **5 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from the following groups

Barkingside Plus  
Leeds and Bradford Plus  
Didcot Plus

#### **6 Acceptance of the Minutes of 4<sup>th</sup> Annual National General Meeting**

##### **6.1 Points of Accuracy**

Corinna Teale (Sutton Coldfield observer) asked any spare copies for observers of the agenda and minutes. Francis Wallington (Lichfield observer, HLM) it was pointed out in the last AGM Joe Gurney used the title of Deputy National Chairman during the 13.2 debate. Adrian Barnard (National Chairman) pointed out this was correct.

The minutes of the last conference were read with no corrections,

## **6.2 Acceptance of Minutes**

The Minutes of the conference were  
Proposed by Slough, Windsor and Eton  
Seconded by Andover and Newbury

Carried Unanimously

## **7 Matter Arising thereon**

Leo Glover (Andover & Newbury Delegate) ask about Gary Schwimmer question in the minutes, about number of members split between PLUS and QUEST, It was pointed out to Leo Glover, that the question was answered at the end. James Oliver (HGS) wished to record the fact the Barkingside PLUS has now transfer over to Midland Area since the last AGM.

## **8 Presentation and Acceptance of the Federations reports for the year 2010**

John Smith (Northern Area Representative) issued 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. Francis Wallington ask were you can obtain the reports online, James Oliver (HGS) respond that all reports are online on Mark Hewson site and John Smith website, Corinna Teale (Sutton Coldfield Observer) ask Chris Mann (ASEA Chairman) about whether it is healthy to have 6 groups with five members or less, yes was the respond from Chris Mann they can survive with that membership. Groups will respond if there is a PNM to come down to that group night to boost numbers. Susan Glover (Andover and Newbury delegate) asked about the lateness of the NTCA report, Matt Dickinson apologies to conference for the lateness of his report. Kevin Crowfoot (Solihull Delegate) ask why Sutton Coldfield was only mention Erica Knight (Midland Area Chair) response was that Sutton Coldfield was the only group going forward at the time the report was written. upon. Corinna Teale (Sutton Coldfield Observer) raised a point of order why not let the delegate decide the North Thames and Chiltern Area report, included, Iain Parkes (Fareham & Gosport delegate) requested a recount, after the first vote as he was unable to hear what was been said.

To exclude North Thames and Chiltern Area report from the main block.

For – 2  
Absention – 0  
Against – 26

Therefore it was agreed to include the North Thames and Chiltern Area report in the vote.

Proposed by Coventry Plus  
Seconded by Barking and Dagenham Plus

For – 19  
Absention – 0  
Against – 7

Two delegates did not vote.

Carried by Majority

### **9 Presentation and Acceptance of the Federations Accounts for the year 2010**

Income £ 3,169.00  
Expenditure £ 4,657.00  
Deficit for year. £ 1,488.00

Mark Harrington (NFO) said that congratulations are in order to Becki Cooke for taking on Brean after attending last year Activities workshop, Mark Harrington gave some of the highlights of the year, moving bank accounts to Natwest, has help increase the money received as interest, BACS payments for expenses, Mark commented that during 2010 he only received nine risk assessments of which eight came from Corinna Teale or Francis Wallington. Mark Harrington 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 (Lichfield Observer & HLM) ask Mark Harrington the Cheque payments ending in 2018, Mark Harrington said that perhaps the Areas need to start to address this issue will be action at the next NEC meeting, in May. Gavin Peachey (Solihull Delegate) ask membership card, and expired members. Mark said they are covered so long they renew quickly after the date of their membership runs out.

### **11 Election of National Chairman to serve from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011** **Nominee – Adrian Barnard**

Adrian Barnard 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. Steve Rolfe on behalf of Southern Area presented Adrian Barnard with a number of allegations in the form of a document. Adrian Barnard was asked about some allegations which were put to him in the document prepared by Southern Area, the allegations centred on Didcot moving to North Thames & Chiltern Area and questions over who wrote a letters from Steve Geary to Janet Rintoul. Iain Parkes

(Fareham & Gosport delegate) 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.

## **12 Elections of National Officers to Serve from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011**

### **12.1 Honorary General Secretary**

#### **Nominee - James Oliver**

Tracey Thorn (Dunstable delegate) mention that James will need support to do his job, mentions what the office used to do for Plus is just rested one person. Iain Parkes (Fareham & Gosport delegate) asked James would he keep Adrian In check. James Oliver said he would.

### **12.2 National Finance Officer**

#### **Nominee – Mark Harrington**

Mark Harrington stated next year he is considering standing for National Chairman as Sandra Brogan has been suggesting it to Mark.

### **12.3 National Training Officer**

None

### **12.4 National Activities Coordinator**

None

### **12.5 National Public Relation Officer**

#### **Nominee - Adam Redshaw**

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

### **12.6 National Internet coordinator**

None

### **12.7 National Publications Officer / Plus News Editor**

None

### **12.8 NEC Administrator**

None

Questions was asked which this position entails, Adrian Barnard mention that this was a typist for James

## **13 Motion**

This Annual General Meeting Believes:

- 1) That Plus is no longer a youth organisation.
- 2) That it is wrong for grade of membership within Plus to be dependent on the member's age at joining the organisation.

3) That the fact of such a high proportion of the new members successfully joining Plus doing so when they are already above the prevailing upper age limit makes a mockery of the organisation as it is today.

This Annual General Meeting Further Believes:

Motion: -

1) That an upper age limit of 55 for joining Plus should be implemented as this would be befitting of the organisation as it is today.

2) That all members of Plus should be full and equal members of the organisation.

3) That all groups within Plus should be full and equal groups within the organisation.

4) That existing members of Plus should be entitled to renew their continuing membership at any age.

This Annual General Meeting Resolves:

To instruct areas to implement the required rule changes as soon as is practical.

Before Erik Bean (Stevenage Plus delegate) presented the motion, it was pointed by Gerry Edwards (Vice President) the motion would be 50% but a follow up motion would be presented immediately to the conference which would require a 75% majority. 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 (Hillingdon Observer) said we do not get anyone younger now. Gary also said that that QUEST are happy been separate. Adam Redshaw (Coventry Delegate) said we must have a proper definition of PLUS and QUEST. Fil Bettis (Lichfield delegate) said that some QUEST groups have only one or two members strong. Iain Parkes (Fareham & Gosport Delegate) said this was a silly motion, mention joined City Socializing, that he was the oldest person there at a recent meal, which he - Iain - organized, Plus make sure it achieves its aims Iain continued. Corinna Teale (Sutton Coldfield observer) said PLUS must dictate an age for older members to move on or to QUEST. Gerry Edwards (Vice President) said they do, Richard Thomas (Midland Area HLM) urged delegates to guard PLUS ethos mention the future direction of PLUS. Gavin Peachey (Solihull delegate) 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 (Stevenage delegate) said we want a Federation move in the right direction 2/3 of NTCA over age limits.

Barnet formal seconded the motion on the floor.

Voting Strength - 27

For - 10

Abstention - 4

Against – 13  
Motion Lost

## **14 Facility for National Debate**

### **14.1 Group Activities**

Francis Wallington (Lichfield observer & HLM) asked the General Purpose Committee of James Oliver, Adrian Barnard & Mark Harrington to be participants in a short game of Call My Bluff. The conference delegates were then asked to vote in standing up which one of the three was correct, Francis Wallington said this little show was designed 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 observer) mentioned that at a recent National AGM's he has not seen any groups programmes out, asked what has happened to them. Geoff Buller (Lincs Quest observer) continued by saying that most groups do not use the PLUS website, Christine Ticehurst (Kings Lynn delegate) said to tailor your programme to all members, they have to be varied in what you do. Having a programme does break the ice at a Group Night. Corinna Teale (Sutton Coldfield observer) said young members do not want to do activities, she highlighted the previous debate Corinna Teale (Sutton Coldfield observer) said her suggestion is 35 – 45 you can join either but at 45 and over it is QUEST. Gerry Edwards (Vice President) said that NEC has a mechanism to enforce the age limits in the Federation.

### **14.2 The Golden Circle**

John Smith (Northern Area Representative) gave the conference a short presentation about the marketing technique called "The Golden Circle" on how PLUS markets itself.

What – What PLUS is

How – How does PLUS do it.

WHY – WHY BECAUSE PLUS is FUN

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

### **14.3 Facebook**

Erik Bean (Stevenage Plus delegate) mentioned that Facebook allows for paid adverts. Stevenage group has recruited seven new members through Facebook paid ads. Erik Bean mentioned that Tom Seddon set up Stevenage Facebook ads to train others in how to set the ads. Helen Camm (Sutton Coldfield delegate) mentioned about meetup.com which is successful in the Midland Area.

### **14.4 Website**

Steve Rolfe (Southern Area observer) asked if people are using the new national website. Steve continued saying we should have one website, Mark Hewson said, not two websites. Janet Rintoul (Southern Area Chair) mentioned that Southern Area had 10 enquiries through the new website. Iain Parkes (Fareham & Gosport delegate) gave his thoughts on the new website. Leo Glover (Andover & Newbury delegate) complained that plusgroups is too complicated to use, Erik Bean (Stevenage delegate) complained that there are no links to external group websites.

Francis Wallington (Lichfield Observer National HLM) 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 (Northern Area Representative) said that he and Matt Dickinson are looking at using Drupal 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 using Drupal Commons which has a lot of features you have been asking for. Main advantages was that it allows RSS feeds to and from external websites and import data to any Facebook account, and you can import events from i-cal.(Google calendar)

### **15 Business Plan**

James Oliver will update this document in time for May NEC meeting, Gerry Edwards (Vice President) asked for a person to take ownership of this important document.

### **16 Announcement of results for the election of the National Chairman to serve from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011**

Adrian Barnard of Didcot Plus was elected

### **17 Announcement of the results of elections of the National Officers to serve from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011**

#### **17.1 Honorary General Secretary**

James Oliver of Solihull Plus was elected

#### **17.2 National Finance Officer**

Mark Harrington of Coventry Plus was elected

#### **17.5 National Public Relations Officer**

Adam Redshaw of Coventry Plus was elected

These other position remains unfilled.

National Training Officer

NEC Administrator

Plus News Editor

Internet coordinator

National Activities coordinator

### **18 National Chairman Address**

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

### **19 Elections of Honorary Officials**

#### **19.1 Independent Examiner of the Federation Accounts 2011**

Katie Hawkins of Barnet PLUS

#### **19.2 Vice Presidents**

Gerry Edwards (HLM Hillingdon Quest)

Francis Wallington (HLM Lichfield PLUS)

Carried Unanimously

Francis Wallington thanked the conference for the honour. John Smith said that he was not re-standing as a Vice President as he was elected Northern Area Chairman, in January

## **20 Any other Business**

### **20.1 Children**

Tracey Thorn (Dunstable delegate) asked about the presence of Children at Plus events, are they allow to attend Group Nights, Geoff Buller (Lincs Quest Observer) respond saying that younger children are not allow at Lincs Quest events. This point was back up by Corinna Teale (Sutton Coldfield observer)

### **20.2 PLUS Future**

Richard Thomas (Midland Area HLM) said that he was delighted with this conference saying both the 50, & 60<sup>th</sup> PLUS had been looking back, at the 70<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **20.3 Facebook**

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

### **20.4 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.

## **21 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.

## **22 Vice Presidential Closing Address**

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

## **23 Close Meeting**

Adrian Barnard close the meeting at 17.03