

## **The National Federation of Plus Areas'**

### **6<sup>th</sup> National Annual General Meeting**

**Held at the Beverley Hotel, Walsall, on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

#### **1 Opening of Conference**

The Deputy National Chairman Matthew Dickinson called the meeting to order at 10.30am to welcome the National Chairman Adrian Barnard, along with Honorary General Secretary James Oliver and Vice Presidents Francis Wallington and Gerry Edwards.

#### **2 Opening Address by the National Chairman**

Before conference the started the National Chairman Adrian Barnard asked the meeting to observe a minutes silence for **Paul Stark of Hillingdon PLUS** group who died this week on Thursday.

#### **Vice President Address Francis Wallington**

Francis Wallington Vice President then gave his address to the conference delegate attending, told them that this is his first speech to conference in his capacity as Vice President of PLUS, welcome the delegates to the historic town of Walsall, once the centre of the leather industry in the UK and the world. Mention about the historic pictures you will find in the Art Galley, the arboretum, and Chasewater which is near by to Walsall for those who wished to have a leisurely walk on Sunday. Francis said that there is still places' available on the Sunday event about team leadership which would you worth any walk around Chasewater. Said that important motion will be discussed in the afternoon, about the future training for the next generation of PLUS organizers. Would like to good honest debate and to leave any arguments that you might have over the day to the conference day only, remind delegates that you are power the in Federation for the day use it wisely.

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

##### **3.1 Nomination of Four Tellers from the body of the Observers**

Steve Rolfe  
Ian Crawshaw  
Richard Thomas  
Geoff Buller

Proposed by Andover & Newbury  
Seconded by Lichfield

Carried

##### **3.2 Determination of the Voting Strength of Conference**

The Voting Strength was established at 22

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

##### **4.1 Nomination of Ballot Paper Counters from the Observers**

Nicky Ansell of Southern Area  
Erica Knight of Sutton Coldfield Plus

Proposed by Andover & Newbury PLUS  
Seconded by Lichfield PLUS

## **5 Apologies for Absence**

The following groups issued an apology

Sheffield PLUS Group  
Didcot PLUS Group  
Mr Mark Harrington

Voting Strength of Conference was 21

## **6 Acceptance of the Minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference 2011**

### **6.1 Points of Accuracy**

Ian Crawshaw mention that the minutes had the name of his group Chiswick spelt Cheswick through out the minutes

No other points of accuracy apart from minor spelling mistakes

### **6.2 Acceptance of 6<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting Mintes**

The Minutes were  
Proposed by Andover & Newbury  
Seconded by Slough

Against – 2  
Absention – 2  
For – 17

Carried by Majority

Voting Strength of Conference is now - 22

## **7 Matters Arsing thereon**

### **7.1 Challenged to National Chairman Ruling**

Gary Schwimmer of Hillingdon PLUS challenges the decision of the National Chairman to rule out his motions from the agenda. Adrian Barnard National Chairman explained his decision to rule the motions out, as the motions from Hillingdon are not area motions they do not have group seconding the motions. The motions which Gary wished to be discussed were then read out to conference

Motion 1:

We propose that provision should be made for the introduction of a reduced annual membership fee for first time Members to the National Federation of Plus Areas and that Article 9.1.1a be added to the Area Constitution that would read thus "The annual membership joining fee for first time Members only shall be determined by the NEC or Delegates of an AGM of the Federation from time to time".

Proposed by North Thames & Chilterns Area

Motion 2: *"This motion would be withdrawn if Motion 1 is lost"*

We propose that the Annual Joining Membership Fee be set at £10.00.

Proposed by North Thames & Chilterns Area

Motion 3: *"This motion would be withdrawn if Motion 1 is lost"*

We propose that Article 9.1.1. of the Area Constitution be amended to read "The annual membership renewal fees for Full and Associate Members shall be determined by the NEC or Delegates of an AGM of the Federation from time to time"

Proposed by North Thames & Chilterns Area
<p>Motion 4a: <b><i>"This motion would be withdrawn if Motion 1 is lost"</i></b></p> <p>We propose that the annual membership renewal fee for both Full and Associate Members should be equalised and that Article 9.1.1 be amended to read "The annual membership renewal fee shall be determined by the NEC or Delegates of an AGM of the Federation from time to time"</p>
Proposed by North Thames & Chilterns Area
<p>Motion 4b: <b><i>"This motion would be withdrawn if Motion 1 is won"</i></b></p> <p>We propose that the annual membership fee for both Full and Associate Members should be equalised and that Article 9.1.1. be amended to read "The annual membership fee shall be determined by the NEC or Delegates of an AGM of the Federation from time to time"</p>
Proposed by North Thames & Chilterns Area
<p>Motion 5a: <b><i>"This motion would be withdrawn if Motion 1 is lost"</i></b></p> <p>We propose that the annual membership renewal fee should be set at £20.00 per annum and that the implementation of this fee would be in line with Article 9.1.1. of the Area Constitution.</p>
Proposed by North Thames & Chilterns Area
<p>Motion 5b: <b><i>"This motion would be withdrawn if Motion 1 is won"</i></b></p> <p>We propose that the annual membership fee should be set at £20.00 per annum and that the implementation of this fee would be in line with Article 9.1.1. of the Area Constitution.</p>
Proposed by North Thames & Chilterns Area

Adrian explain that theses motions were not back by Gary area, North Thames & Chiltern Area and had no group backing therefore had to be ruled out from the agenda of the AGM. Barnet Plus announced that they would support Gary Schwimmer challenged seconded by Dunstable PLUS

Vote for the Challenged – 13

Against – 6

Abstention – 1

Total No of Votes - 20

No Votes – 2

National Chairman Ruling overturned Hillingdon motions will be allow on the agenda if they have a group seconding the motions

Gary Schwimmer Hillingdon Delegate asked who Richard Thomas is in the minutes Vice President Francis Wallington explained that Richard Thomas was sitting at the back of the room, National HLM with membership No 18. Richard was mainly involved in PLUS is the 60 / 70's serving the old central region which stretched from Yorkshire to the Midlands.

There where no other matter arising.

## **8 Acceptance of the Federation Reports**

Questions for the Federation reports excluding the Finance Report covered under item 9 Matthew Dickinson of North Thames and Chiltern Area apologies for the lateness of his reports to conference. John Douglas Sutton Coldfield delegate ask about the Northern Area net worth which is missing from John Smith report, John Smith reported that his area net worth was £1,865

Gary Schwimmer (Hillingdon Delegate) asked how many members does PLUS / Quest have and how many are new, Katie Hawkins replied after some quick calculations that PLUS has 418 members of which 321 where class as PLUS and 97 classed as Quest. The NEC told Gary that he would receive confirmation to the second part of Gary question as that type of figures was not to hand.

Gary Schwimmer (Hillingdon Delegate) ask how many members where split between 18 -35 and 35 over in PLUS. James Oliver Honorary General Secretary responded that information is not available in the reports. However it was agreed to action the area chairs to send this information to Gary later on.

Corinna Teale (AGM Coordinator, Sutton Coldfield Observer) raised a point of information that 11 groups were present with 2 members each present, that the conference was only just about in quota, members do not like to travel. Corinna Teale ask Martin Posner (Anglia & South East Area Chair) about the number of small groups in his area which are making it difficult for constitution requirements of the AGM to be meet, does his area committee wish to amalgamation some of these smaller groups. Martin responded that the groups themselves would be against the idea. Kath Good (Southern Area Chair) was asked the difference between PLUS and Quest was not apparent in Kath report. Kath said that PLUS is 51 members and Quest 13 apart from South Bucks Quest all other quest members are a member of their respective PLUS group.

Proposed by Hillingdon PLUS

Seconded By Barking & Dagenham PLUS

For – 19

Against – 1

Absention – 1

Carried

### **9 Presentation of the Federation Financial Report for 2012**

Leo Glover (Andover & Newbury Delegate) ask about the outstanding Northern Area Levies for 2011, James Oliver respond that they are been chased with Northern Area, John Smith concurred with this comment. Adam Redshaw (Lichfield Observer) asked about Mark Harrington access to the online accounts, James Oliver said that Mark has not been removed yet from access, however Mark can no longer make any payments and Mark card is the hands of the Federation Vice President. Corinna Teale (AGM Coordinator) commented the item relating the First Aid course which the Federation pay for Mark Harrington. Gary Schwimmer (Hillingdon Delegate) ask the monies outstanding from the National Holiday aboard last year, Adrian Barnard said that they people concerned know they have to pay ATOL monies will be recovered from Mark Harrington.

Proposed By Barking & Dagenham

Seconded by Solihull

For – 16

Against – 3

Abstention – 3

Carried

### **10 Nomination of National Chairman to Serve from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012 to 28 February 2013**

National Chairman – Corinna Teale

Before the nomination of Corinna Teale no one stood however the Deputy National Chairman Matthew Dickinson ask for candidates from the floor or the position would be hold over the May NEC meeting.

Corinna Teale (AGM Coordinator) in her speech to conference in why she wanted to stand as National chairman stated that thing in PLUS can not be allow to go on as they are at present, Corinna would like to split PLUS and QUEST, we need a decision to be made for the

organisation, PLUS need to be self development on its own. Corinna mention that she herself has been a member for 25 years, so by rights should be in Quest. Corinna Teale believes that Quest should sponsor Plus. NEC needs to enforce the decision of the AGM and enforce groups with 50% membership over the 35 year old to become Quest groups, Gavin Peachey (Solihull delegate) mention that it would not be easy. Corinna Teale response was that hard decisions will have to be made, Corinna has not got all the answers to PLUS problems, none of these ideas are easy and will be cause hurt with some members, but they need to made for the sake of both organisations. Dan Smith (Sutton Coldfield Delegate) said that the younger member in his group – Sutton Coldfield – would expect support from the older members but they need to take charge of the Plus future.

Proposed by Andover & Newbury  
Seconded by Sutton Coldfield

## **11 Nominations of National Officers to Serve from 1 March 2012 to 28 February 2013**

### **11.1 Honorary General Secretary – James Oliver**

Erica Knight (Sutton Coldfield Observer) ask James if he was committed to role, it appears from reading his report that James was not committed, James response that the weekend that he wrote it had been a bad week, was committed to role would wish to make sure who ever was National Chairman did had some support on the NEC Iain Parkes (Fareham & Gosport Delegate) ask for James age which James told Iain and the conference.

Proposed by Slough, Windsor & Eton Plus  
Seconded by Coventry PLUS

### **11.2 National Finance Officer**

No Nominations would be held over to the May NEC meeting, very important role a constitutionally position of the Federation.

### **11.3 National Training Officer**

No Nominations would be held over to the May NEC meeting

### **11.4 National Activities Coordinator**

No Nominations would be held over to the May NEC meeting

### **11.5 National Public Relations Officer**

No Nominations would be held over to the May NEC meeting

### **11.6 National Internet Coordinator – John Smith**

I like of the motion which Northern Area is sponsoring I would like to stand. I would develop a new interactive website, using Drupal Common, and using the activity exchange website

Proposed by Barking & Dagenham PLUS  
Seconded by Solihull PLUS

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

John Smith said if elected I would look after the role of Plus News editor

### **11.8 NEC Administrator – Erica Knight**

Adrian Barnard explained that this is a typist for Honorary General Secretary in doing the NEC meeting minutes.

Joseph Gurney Barking & Dagenham delegate proposed suspending the Standing orders which require the election to be done on a secret ballot and proposed a show of hands for Erica election

For Suspending the Standing Orders – 18

Against – 3

Abstention – 0

No Vote – 1

Erica said that she was under 36

Proposed by Sutton Coldfield PLUS

Seconded by Lichfield PLUS

Voting Strength - 22

## **12 Motions for Debate**

### **12.1 That each area pays £500.00 each towards an Inspire 2 event to be run in 2013 onwards**

Francis Wallington Vice President, said that because areas that this area 8.6.2 that this motion was bring forward for the conference to decide the fate of the motion. What Francis is proposing is to run an inspire 2 type event in the near future, this event will be run at a university with its facilities on site and will cost more than what he – Francis – is currently asking. PLUS is a small organization currently but make a big noise, however running this type of training event will allow the Federation nationally train, the next crop of future event leaders and organizers, Gary Schwimmer (Hillingdon Delegate) ask about this relevance for the organization, mention the event will not bring publicity, does not believe that his group would benefit from such an event. Iain Parkes (Fareham Delegate) said that he went to the last “Inspire” event although believes it would not be of benefit to PLUS this time around. Adam Redshaw (Lichfield Observer) mention that it is important for PLUS to be people on to top table.

Proposed by the NEC

For – 7

Abstain – 4

Against – 11

Motion Lost

### **12.2**

#### **That the NEC re-activate the new Plus web-site with immediate effect**

John Smith Northern Area Chairman in proposing the motion said that the National Website should not have been taken down after the November 2011 NEC meeting, the website which John Smith managed had 150 enquiries, during 2011 until the point it was shut down, at the moment it was switch off there was 35 guest on the site, Iain Parkes (Fareham Delegate) mention about incorporating the advance Southern Area website, Fil Bettis (Lichfield Delegate) said the website should be switched on it serves a purpose, if people use and it will then generate enquires for the Federation.

Proposed by Northern Area

For – 19

Abstain – 0

Against – 2

12.3

**That the following be added to Article 8 of the MODEL AREA CONSTITUTION**

“8.6 Exceptions To Membership Age Restrictions provided by Articles 8.1.1 and 8.2.1

8.6.1 The Area Committee may, in exceptional circumstances waive the age restrictions  
PROVIDED THAT

8.6.1.1 The exceptional circumstances are submitted to the Area Committee in writing on an individual basis.”

**The following be added to article 4 of the STANDARD GROUPS CONSTITUTION**

“4.1.2. Exceptions to Article 4.1.1 must be submitted to the Area Committee in writing on an individual basis.”

**And the following be added to Article 4 of the MODEL CONSTITUTION FOR SECOND TIER GROUPS**

4.1.1 Exceptions to Article 4.1 must be submitted to the Area Committee in writing on an individual basis

John Smith Northern Area chairman said that the reason these motion where been brought by his area that they would allow what really happens at group structure at present in PLUS be recognized by an area committee. Iain Parkes (Fareham Delegate) said rules are important but if these motions are passed then it would be chaos with regard, Corinna Teale (AGM Coordinator) said PLUS must define the age range issue passing these motions does not. Gary Schwimmer (Hillingdon Delegate) said PLUS spirit in its recruitment is younger people, Geoff Buller (Lincs Quest Observer) said that his group would be against the motions if they could vote upon. Dave Filer (Coventry Delegate) was against the motion David main concern was the definition of the word “Exceptional”. Richard Thomas (National HLM No 18, Observer) said this motion was wrong goes against the whole history of PLUS, Richard is personnel against the motion, Richard Thomas then mention the earlier question who he was and his history in PLUS which he gave to conference, Richard said at the last conference he went to in Wellingborough the impression he was left with was that PLUS was moving forward, however with this motion it fudges the issues, this motion does not do anything to recognised the difference between PLUS and QUEST. Richard Thomas message to the over 35’s is to “move over and move on” Richard Thomas then concluded this why this motion should fail.

For – 2

Abstain – 1

Against – 18

Total No of Votes – 21

No of No Votes – 1

**Motion Lost**

**13.4 1 Hillingdon Motions**

We propose that provision should be made for the introduction of a reduced annual membership fee for first time Members to the National Federation of Plus Areas and that Article 9.1.1a be added to the Area Constitution that would read thus “The annual membership joining fee for first time Members only shall be determined by the NEC or Delegates of an AGM of the Federation from time to time”.

Proposed by Hillingdon PLUS  
Seconded by Slough Windsor & Eton Plus

For – 5  
Absention – 2  
Against – 15

Motion Lost

13.4.2

**We propose that the Annual Joining Membership Fee be set at £10.00.**

Proposed by Hillingdon PLUS  
Seconded by Slough, Windsor & Eton PLUS

For – 5  
Abstain – 2  
Against - 15

Motion Lost

13.4 3

We propose that Article 9.1.1. of the Area Constitution be amended to read “The annual membership renewal fees for Full and Associate Members shall be determined by the NEC or Delegates of an AGM of the Federation from time to time”

Proposed by Hillingdon PLUS  
Seconded by Slough, Windsor & Eton

Joe Gurney Dagenham & Barking Delegate criticised the motion for making it legal there is a way to re word this motion without requiring a 75% majority

For – 12  
Abstain – 5  
Against – 5

Motion Lost [70%]

13.4.4

We propose that the annual membership renewal fee should be set at £20.00 per annum and that the implementation of this fee would be in line with Article 9.1.1. of the Area Constitution.

Proposed Hillingdon PLUS  
Seconded by Slough, Windsor & Eton PLUS

Gavin Peachey Solihull delegate said £20 is a too low membership fee, Vicky Whitton Dunstable Delegate mention that PLUS needs to help members who are not working or in jobs with low salary. Corinna Teale (AGM Coordinator) mention that if passed would reduce an area income by £750.00 taking Midland Area as an example

For – 7  
Abstain – 0  
Against – 15

Motion Lost

### **13 Facility for National Debate**

#### **13.1 Southern Area Website**

Steve Rolfe of Southern Area gave the conference a look at the new Southern Area website which he had set up using the free tools on the web, the new website is able to process

memberships online through a PayPal account, allow members to book events online and pages with each group details and have a twitter feed. Mark Hewson (Solihull Observer) said that he welcome the new Southern Area website as he has maintained the pages in his website for years with information not been updated for a period of time. Mark Hewson mention a few problems with the new website, which Steve respond how Southern Area intents to deal with these issues, Joe Gurney (Barking & Dagenham Delegate) found the presentation very good, however would like to read it in his own time would like for a copy to be left on the website so that he could download it to his computer.

### **13.2 Best group for PLUS & Quest**

Gary Schwimmer from Hillingdon PLUS said the Best group trophy should be split between PLUS and Quest groups The general opinion of the conference was this was a great idea which should be done if the NEC agrees.

### **14 Business Plan**

Gerry Edwards Vice President mention that in light of decision taken today the Business debate would be postpone to the May NEC meeting and will being to rewrite the plan.

### **15 Announcement of election Results of National Chairman to Serve from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012**

Corinna Teale of Sutton Coldfield PLUS was elected to serve as National Chairman

### **16 Announcement of results of election results of the National Officers to serve from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012**

16.1 Honorary General Secretary – James Oliver

16.2 National Finance Officer - None

16.3 National Training Officer - None

16.4 National Activities Co-ordinator - None

16.5 National Public Relations Officer – None

16.6 National Internet Coordinator – John Smith of Leeds PLUS

16.7 National Publications Officer / Plus News Editor – John Smith will cover

16.8 NEC Administrator – Erica Knight of Sutton Coldfield PLUS

### **17 National Chairman Address**

Adrian Barnard in a speech to conference thanked delegates and observers for some lively debates this year, and wished Corinna Teale good luck for the year ahead. Mention that this is his last year in PLUS as when he renews is membership he – Adrian – is transfer to QUEST, said it about others did the same as him so at next year conference you will see him down at the end in the observers section.

Adrian presented the following people with gifts of appreciation

Gerry Edwards

Francis Wallington

Dave Filer

Richard Teale

Corinna Teale

James Oliver

James Oliver Honorary General Secretary present Adrian with a gift on behalf of the conference

## **18 Election of Honorary Officials**

### **18.1 Vice Presidents**

Nominations by the NEC of  
Gerry Edwards of Hillingdon PLUS and  
Francis Wallington of Lichfield PLUS

Both Francis and Gerry said that they will offer the NEC advice and support to the new incoming National Chairman

Carried Unanimously

### **18.2 Independent Examiner of the Federation Accounts**

Katie Hawkins of Barnet PLUS

Carried Unanimously

## **19 Any Other Urgent Business**

Richard Thomas present two ideas to conference the first was to hold a EGM with all the different age groups in PLUS 18 – 25, 26 – 35, 35- 44 and 45 + to see what these age groups do and rebuild the organization around them, the second was for the NEC to offer a cash prize of £500 to a group of four people who are able with year to open and run a PLUS group and that PLUS group to have 10 new members to the Federation

## **20 Announcement of the Date for the Annual General Meeting 2013**

The next AGM will be held in February 2013 venue to be confirmed.

## **20 Presidential Closing address by Francis Wallington**

Francis Wallington thanked conference delegates for a lively and constructive debates thanked Gary Schwimmer for the use of Citrine during his the meeting,

## **21 Close of the Meeting**

Adrian Barnard National Chairman closed the meeting at 5.20pm