

SUMMARY OF NEC MEETING - 16TH & 17TH OCTOBER 1999

AMMO

The East Anglia Area Chairmen announced that although AMMO '99 was a success, it would not be run again. East Anglia Area, generally, felt that the event had reached the end of its' life cycle. However, it is the intention of East Anglia Area to set up a Holiday and Events sub committee which would investigate and set up new events.

NATIONAL SCALE DATES - 2000

The following National scale events were agreed by the NEC:

Marlow Raft Race -21-23 July 2000

National Karting Competition -16 September 2000

AREA AND NATIONAL SCALE EVENTS - TIME TO CHANGE

The Midland Area Chairman explained that there had been a lot of discussion within the membership regarding niche events. He felt the way forward was for the Federation to be investigating and running smaller scale events aimed at 6-12 attendees. It was pointed out that many Areas/Groups did offer smaller types of events, but the issue seemed to more a lack of publicity before these events. It was agreed that niche events when organised should be more widely advertised, therefore offering more choice.

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

A proposal was submitted to the NEC to place the administrative responsibility of the National Diary with the National Activities Officer. The NEC felt that the National Activities Officer's role was to be pro-active and look at establishing National Activities rather than dealing with administration of the diary. The proposal was lost.

The National Activities Officer was asked to investigate National Activities and present to January 2000 NEC meeting.

NATIONAL PLAN

The NEC spent time updating the 1999 National Plan.

The Midland Area Chairman had been asked by members of the Onelist discussion forum to discuss setting up a strategic plan. He felt the strategic plan should look longer term eg 3 to 5 years and should deal with marketing plans, sponsorship etc. It was felt that external resources were best option for dealing with this, as the membership was much too close to issues facing the Federation. It was pointed out that surveys had been carried out in the past

eg Manchester and Westminster Surveys and the points raised had been ignored. The NEC, generally, realised the importance of planning, but felt the current National planning process was sufficient. It was now the time for doing, which the whole Federation should be involved in.

The Area Chairmen were mandated to present their Area plans for 2000 to January 2000 NEC meeting and bring ideas for the 2000 National plan.

AREA NAME CHANGE

The NEC formally agreed that Eight Rivers Area be changed to East Anglia Area.

PILOT SCHEME FOR SECOND TIER

Hillingdon 18 Plus wished to pilot a second tier to the Federation. The group had a large proportion of associate members within the group, which they felt was a potential barrier for recruiting young members. They proposed the following:

- Regular 18 Plus group nights for full and associate members up to the age of 40
- Associate members to create a second tier Group to meet on a regular basis
- The second to actively recruit members in the 36+ bracket. These members would be give associate membership to the Federation
- The second tier group to be funded by 18 Plus
- Weekend events could be arranged together if the 18 Plus group wished.

The NEC agreed that Hillingdon 18 Plus could go ahead with the pilot and present an interim report to July 2000 NEC meeting.

NAME CHANGE COMPETITION

The North Thames & Chilterns Area Chairman explained the name of the Federation was becoming an issue with the membership. He realised that that it was not quite as simple as changing the name, as the current logo would probably, also have to be changed.

The NEC agreed that a Name Change Competition should launched at the ANC 2000. A shortlist of 4 possible names would then be compiled at the October 2000 NEC meeting from the submitted entries. A motion based on the results, would then be submitted to the ANC 2001.

PUBLICITY AND DEVELOPMENT TARGETS

The NEC discussed the viability of setting Publicity and Development targets for the National Development Officer and National External Public Relations Officer. After a lengthy discussion, it was felt that any targets that would be set were essentially covered within the roles already. However, the NEC would give specific projects to either officers, when necessary.

INCENTIVES FOR OPENING NEW GROUPS

A proposal outlining incentives to individuals for opening new groups was presented to the NEC by the North Thames and Chilterns Area Chairman. These included:

- One year's free membership to the Federation
- A Gold Card which would entitle the holder to entry to free group nights and free entry to non-holiday dances up £5

It was agreed that Areas wishing to pilot the scheme should do so from January 2000. North Thames & Chilterns Area indicated that they would pilot the scheme.

NEW MEMBERS PACKS

Jo Woodhead - NEO had investigated the costs of producing new members wallets. A minimum order of 5000 A4 wallets would cost £1100 or a minimum order of A5 wallets would cost £975. She presented some examples for the NEC to look at. There was some discussion about what should go in the wallets. It was generally felt that the contents would not necessarily meet the standards of the wallets themselves. The NEC decided not to progress wallets further at this stage.

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION

The HGS informed the NEC there had been some discussion within the membership about making the National Constitution more user friendly. She would be approaching Tracey Huxley who is a lawyer, to ask for her help with this.

OFFICE UPDATE

The NEC were informed by the HGS, that the office was now up and running with the new computers. The staff had received training and were in the process of ensuring all necessary documents were stored on the new PCs. The office e-mail (office@18plus.org.uk) was now operational. Currently the office were receiving no more than two e-mails per day, which was a surprise, particularly as a great deal of fuss had been made about the length of time taken to be operational. Individuals were also being approached to help produce a membership database to be used on the new computers.

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS TO 30 SEPTEMBER 1999

The National Chairman explained to the NEC that since February 1999 the decline in membership had slowed down and was starting to show signs of a gradual increase, until September 1999. Particular areas which showed large drops were East Anglia and Midland. The overall drop of membership was 13.72%. It was pointed out that the fluctuations between associate and full membership, caused by the age range change, should now settle down.

BUDGET 2000

The budget for 2000 was presented. It was pointed out that the National Officers budgets were cut to a bare minimum. The NEC looked at the income from National events and the Holiday levies. They decided to apply a levy of £1 per person upon all National Scale events excluding National Holidays. The current £2 levy applied to all National holidays still existed. The budget was accepted with a £6,855 deficit.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

A summary of the Capital Expenditure was presented. The profit from the sale of Nicholson House was £47,000. Approximately £18,300 had been used/set aside for projects which included:

- Service station publicity
- Free leaflets to groups
- Direct mail pilot
- Area money for opening new groups
- Budgeted deficits for 1999 and 2000

SIX MONTH MEMBERSHIP

It was pointed out to the NEC, that at ANC '98, a motion was passed to trial a six month membership scheme. This had not been discussed by the previous NEC and it was necessary to investigate progressing the scheme forward. All Area Chairmen were mandated to discuss with their Areas and bring back to the January 2000 NEC meeting ideas to progress the scheme forward.

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The ANC Treasurer presented the budget for ANC 2000 and the following prices were agreed:

- One night package - £65.00
- Two night package - £90.00
- Single room occupancy - £10 additional cost per night
- Group Levy - £35

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Linda Street - TAG '99 Co-ordinator informed the NEC that 94 attendees were present at TAG and feedback received, on the whole, was excellent. An overall profit of £234.38 was made.

NOW GET OF THAT - 2000

A budget was agreed for Now Get of That 2000. The cost for attending will be:

- Chalet accommodation (3 nights) - £35.00
- Camping (3 nights) - £25.00

PAID OFFICER S

The NEC had considered employing a Development Officer. The GPC had investigated the option and produced costs to the NEC. The costs involved proved that the option would not be viable at this time.

AWARD SCHEME

Rebecca White - Vice President had been mandated by the NEC to assess the current scheme and present some findings to the October 1999 meeting. Her recommendations included:

- All awards contained in one better quality booklet
- Widen the range of topics within the five categories
- Awards should be linked to encourage continuation
- Entry available at all levels regardless of membership length

The NEC mandated Rebecca to present the new Award Scheme to the January 2000 NEC meeting.

PUB LICIT Y

The NEC held a discussion on whether it was effective to have publicity grants per Area. There was some concern that Areas could not carry out effective publicity campaigns, as they did not have the funds. However, it was re-iterated that often the most effective form of publicity were often the cheaper and free options eg Word of mouth, library displays, press releases etc. The National External Public Relations Officer agreed to send out examples of press releases to the Groups and Areas and to work with the new Plus News Editor to produce an external communication strategy.

ELECTIONS OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

NEC Think Tank Representative-Tony Burgess

National Publications Officer -Pete Sharples

National Think Tank Co-ordinator -Tracey Huxley

Sandra Bradshaw
Honorary *General Secretary*
25 October 1999