



Plus Gazette

A SUMMARY OF PLUS NATIONAL NEWS

National Federation of Plus Areas National Gazette

This National Gazette covers the decisions, information and discussions agreed by the NEC at the February 2007 (pre AGM) meeting and the Annual General Meeting, the first held under the new structure. It also covers other National information.

NEC meeting (Pre AGM) - 24th February 2007

Election of Deputy National Chairman

The NEC elected Northern Area Chairman, Robert Jones to the role of Deputy National Chairman, he will deputize for John Smith should the occasion arise.

Constitution

The NEC appointed Emma Dunning to be tasked to look at the new national constitution and identify flaws found during the past year and suggest ways these might be corrected.

Accountants/Auditors

Northern Area Treasurer, Alison Jones and Glen Anderson were appointed Auditors for the 2005 accounts. Glen is willing to help audit the 2006 and 2007 accounts, but the NEC is unable to appoint Alison as an Auditor as she is now an NEC member as per clause 4.5.2 of the constitution.

Therefore an additional Auditor is required; the Area Chair's agreed to identify someone.

Annual General Meeting 2008

National Activities Officer, Dave Filer agreed to organise and run the 2007 Annual General Meeting, he was assisted by Northern Area and Mark & Katie Hawkins.

The NEC is now looking for an AGM Co-ordinator or for an Area to Tender to organise and run the Annual General Meeting to be held in 2008. Please forward your nominations to the NEC.

Annual General Meeting (AGM) - 24th February 2007

The AGM took place on Saturday 24th February 2007 at Warwickshire County Council Staff Club, Northgate House, Northgate Street, Warwick.

The Annual General Meeting included on the agenda the elections of the Non-Executive Committee and the National Officers, and also the awarding of trophies etc. The agenda also included motions for debate, the Business Plan presentation and the facility for national debate.

NEC Report

Questions were asked about the accuracy of the Southern Area part of the NEC report and a motion was passed to split off the Southern Area part of the report and vote on it separately. The report was a single report to the AGM from the NEC therefore the National Chairman mistakenly accepted the motion.

The National Chairman apologizes to Southern Area, and particularly to Southern Area's outgoing Area Chair, Tina Bunyan for this error and for any embarrassment caused.

Accounts

Following the vote not to accept the 2005 accounts and the withdrawal of the nomination of accountants at the 2006 National Conference the NEC decided to appoint two Accountants to re-audit the 2005 accounts which were then presented and passed at the AGM.

A financial report for 2006 was also presented for information only; the 2006 accounts will be audited as soon as possible and will be presented at the earliest Area Conferences.

Election of National Officers

The following persons are now in post:
National Chairman - John A Smith
National Finance Officer - Alison Jones
Vice Presidents - Gerry Edwards and Sandra Brogan

The following persons continue in post into the second year of their two year term:
Publicity Officer - Kirsty Van Lieshout
Activities Officer - Dave Filer
Publications Officer / Plus News Editor - Richard Mahaffey

Positions Vacant:

Honorary General Secretary
Training Officer
Internet Co-ordinator

I would like to thank all those volunteers who made the commitment to stand and undergo the selection process.

Nominations for the posts remaining open should be directed to the NEC for election at the next NEC meeting.

Motions

Two motions were presented to the AGM; Gemma Battrum, London & South East Area proposed the first motion:

"To move the National AGM forward so that it sits in the first fourteen days of March every year, from 2008 onwards."

This motion was lost.

Joe Gurney, East Anglia Area proposed the second motion:

“The following sentence is to be added to the end of Article 7.9.2 of the National Constitution

“However this does not apply if a Member Area, in breach of this or it’s own Constitution and / or Standing Orders, fails to vote on such a Motion at two successive Area Conferences: in this case it will be deemed to have abstained on the Motion at the AGM by default”. i.e. so that the whole of Article 7.9.2 reads:

A Motion may not be voted upon unless each Member Area has voted upon an identically worded Motion at its own conference, and an Area Representative may be required to submit a Minute of that conference to the AGM to show this has been the case upon the request of any NEC member or observer.

However this does not apply if a Member Area, in breach of this or its own Constitution and / or Standing Orders, fails to vote on such a Motion at two successive Area Conferences: in this case it will be deemed to have abstained on the Motion at the AGM by default.”

This motion was passed.

Business Plan

Plus is at a crucial time with the change to the new structure and the new name, we all need to consider what the future of Plus should be. The plan is for the whole of the Federation and input will continue to be sought from everyone. This will be a five year plan, from 2007 to 2011 inclusive. (2011 is the Federation’s Platinum Jubilee).

Vice Presidents, Gerry Edwards, with help from John Smith and Emma Dunning made a presentation on the Business Plan. Everyone present was invited to suggest ideas for taking us forward. These included doubling the membership to 1,000, increasing the number of groups, better publicity, at least one more major activity, and reducing red tape.

Vice Presidents, Gerry Edwards and Sandra Brogan have volunteered to co-ordinate the national Business Plan and Ideas will be pulled together for the May 2007 NEC meeting.

Awards

The trophies and awards were presented during the evening as follows;

National Chairman’s Merit Award - Emma Dunning

Linda Street “Spirit of Plus” Award - Dave Filer

Treasurer’s Trophy - Katie Hawkins for North Thames & Chilterns Area

Charities Trophy - Slough, Windsor & Eton Plus

Gold Trail Trophy, (most novel charity event) - Slough, Windsor & Eton Plus

Recruitment Trophy - North Thames & Chilterns Area

Norbury Trophy, (Best Magazine) - East Anglia Area for “East Anglian Angles”

President’s Trophy, (Best Group) - Kings Lynn Plus

Cobb Duel Purpose Jug Mug, Best Area - Northern Area

National Plus

Brean 2007

Adam Redshaw was elected Brean 2007 Organiser by the shareholders, East Anglia Area, Midland Area and North Thames & Chilterns Area.

Brean saw the return of Pheonix the stage illusionist, karaoke, a RAT (a traditional Real Ale Trip), a return to Rich's Cider barn and a ten piece commitments tribute band.

Thanks to Adam and his team for another brilliant weekend.

NGOOT 2007

Fareham & Gosport Group, Southern Area are organising NGOOT (Now Get Out Of That) 2007 on Friday 4th to Monday 7th May 2007.

The price includes a BBQ; three full English breakfasts, a Buffet and various activities. Two nights cost £52 and three nights £62. The first ten bookings will receive a bottle of wine on arrival at the event.

WASH

Kings Lynn Group, East Anglia Area are organising WASH 2007 on Friday 2nd to Monday 5th November 2007 at Searles Holiday Park, Hunstanton.

The cost is £63.95, with a deposit of £20.00 payable by 31st July 2007 and the balance of £39.95 is payable by 30th September 2007.

Next NEC Meeting

19 May 2007 at Warwickshire County Council Staff Club, Northgate House, Northgate Street, Warwick.

Emma Dunning
Honourary General Secretary

John A Smith
National Chairman