

## RESTRUCTURE PROPOSALS IN CLUB LAW

The transitional arrangements for the implementation of the Area Lead Option, as agreed by the NEC, will be as follows:

- On the same weekend as the January 2006 NEC meeting, there will be held the Inaugural Meeting of a new "National Association of 18 Plus Areas", which will eventually form the new National Tier. The new Constitution of this National Association will be ratified and implemented *at the Inaugural Meeting*.
- Between the Inaugural Meeting and the ANC 2006, each Area will hold a Special Area Conference, in order to implement a new Area Constitution.
- There will be an ANC 2006 after all - at which the NEC will propose two motions:
  - Firstly - to transfer ownership of all the Federation's property (the Reserves, intellectual property rights, etc) to the new National Association; and
  - Secondly - to close the "National Federation of 18 Plus Groups of Great Britain".

Thus, for a short while - from the January NEC meeting to the end of the transition period, there will be *two* bodies existing side by side - the old National Federation, and the new National Association. Once the Federation is closed, Areas will remain members of the new National Association only.

### FAQs

Q. What is this "National Association?"

A. It is a "Club" which will only have 6 members - i.e. the Areas - and the annual membership fee will be £500 per year! It will assume the functions of the National Tier and replace it completely after the ANC 2006.

Q. What will happen to *my* membership?

A. As an individual, you will become a member of your Area, not of the National Federation. When each Area passes its new constitution, each Area will mutually recognise the validity of each others' members. Hence you will continue to be able to visit other Areas and attend National-scale events as before.

Q. This sounds like a complicated way of doing things. Why?

A. Tax reasons mainly. It avoids a lot of complicated issues to do with VAT that were identified at the July NEC meeting - which we would otherwise have incurred had we just simply attempted to amend the existing National Constitution to implement the Area Lead Option.

Q. Why isn't the new National Constitution being debated at the ANC?

A. By law, when a Club's Constitution is implemented for the first time, it must be voted on by the Members of that Club. However, because the National Association will only have 6 members - i.e. the Areas - it is only the representatives of *those 6 members* who will be entitled to adopt the constitution of the National Association. Hence, the new National Constitution can be implemented by holding the Inaugural meeting of the National Association during the January 2006 NEC meeting.

Q. Why will Special Area Conferences be held?

A. Each Area must adopt a brand new constitution, so that it can assume its responsibilities under the Area Lead Option. Its new constitution will recognise the new National Association, so it can start dealing with it properly. Most importantly, without a new constitution, the Areas will not be empowered to collect individuals' membership fees!

Q. What if an Area does not implement its new constitution?

A. Then it will go bankrupt and close. Because it will have committed itself to pay £500 per year to be a part of the National Association, but it would not be able to collect membership fees from its members to make up for it.

Q. How will this affect individual groups?

A. Each Group will have to amend its own constitution, to replace the words "National Federation of Eighteen Plus Groups" etc to the name of its own Area. I.e. as far as the Group is concerned, it will be its Area which takes over the role formerly taken by the Federation. Otherwise, the Groups will be the least affected throughout the whole process.

Q. What will happen to National HLMs?

A. Provisions will be written into the new Model Area Constitutions so that their privileged status will be continue to be recognised by the individual Areas. However, there will not be any new National HLMs under the new system.

Q. Will the new National Association be a Charity?

A. No. But we intend to at least allow the possibility to become one at some point in the future. Parliament is currently changing the law on the subject, so it would be best to wait until that is finished before applying for charitable status.

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## **NOMINATIONS FOR THE ROLES OF POST-HOLDERS IN THE NEW NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF 18 PLUS AREAS**

The Inaugural Meeting of the new National Association will take place on Sunday January 29<sup>th</sup> 2006 at 8-10 Church Street Chambers, Church Street, Newent, Glos, GL18 1PP. At this meeting, the following positions will be elected:

### The Non-Executive Committee

Chairman

Administrator

National Finance Officer

### National Project Officers

Public Relations Officer

Publications Officer

National Web Manager

Training Officer

National Executive Officer(s)

To be considered for the any of these posts a candidate must be a member of an 18 Plus Group (nb: NOT a direct member).

The Nomination of a Candidate who is aged 36 or over will not be accepted if there is at least one Candidate aged 35 and under standing for the same post.

Note that the National Association is a separate organisation to the National Federation of 18 Plus Groups of Great Britain.

Post-holders in the National Association need not necessarily be the same as that of the National Federation.

Should current Post-holders in the National Federation wish to stand for office in the National Association, they should make this clear by submitting a nomination.

Please send all nominations by either email or first-class post, to arrive no later than December 31<sup>st</sup> 2005, to:

John A Smith,

Convener, The National Association of 18 Plus Areas,

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