

SUMMARY OF NEC MEETING - 29th & 30th JANUARY 2000

NATIONAL PLAN

The 1999 National plan was undertaken and some outstanding actions were carried over the 2000 National Plan.

The Area Chairmen were mandated at the October 1999 to bring ideas for the 2000 National Plan to the January 2000 meeting. There seemed to be a general feeling amongst the NEC that the groups did not feel the National Plan was relevant to the groups as they were more interested in their own areas or that Areas were more involved in more urgent matters.

However, some ideas were submitted to the table and added to the plan for 2000. These included:

- Developing an internal lottery
- Searching for support from other organisations
- The National Activities diary to be included in Plus News
- Applying to the Millennium fund
- Applying to the European Social Fund for Training and Publicity
- Development of Niche events

A 2000 National Plan will be circulated to the groups in due course.

GROUP NIGHT STRUCTURE

Area Chairmen had been mandated at the October 1999 meeting to feedback from their Areas, ideas and opinions about the group night structure. Overall, it was generally believed that the majority of groups held a traditional group night structure. There was some concern that some group night events were not of a high standard. The Area Chairmen were mandated to work with their groups to continually seek to improve group night events.

Some concern was raised on how groups dealt with enquiries from new members. Again, Area Chairmen were mandated to discuss with their groups.

UPDATE ON PILOT OF SECOND TIER

It was reported that the Hillingdon pilot of the second tier to the Federation, would be starting on Tuesday 15 February 2000 would be known as Quest. Membership will cost £40 per individual or £60 per couple. Members will be associate members of the Federation, therefore £15 of the membership will be forwarded to the office. It is intended the group meet fortnightly and no subs would be charged.

AREA PLANS

Each Area Chairmen gave a summary of their Area plans for 2000. Members can obtain copies from the relevant Area Chairmen.

KICKSTART 2000

The NEC discussed whether Kickstart should go ahead for 2000. It was decided that it was no longer viable in its' present format. However, the NEC felt that it was necessary to launch to a new style weekend, allowing for open discussion, swapping of ideas etc. This would be called the 'National Open Forum Weekend' and would be launched at the ANC.

ArT 2000

Although the Area Chairmen recognised the importance of training for Area Officials, there was some concern as to whether ArT was still the right forum for this training. The cost of the weekend and the travelling was putting individuals off from attending. It was agreed that that ArT would not go ahead for this year. However, Area Chairmen would contact the current trainers within the Federation with regard to setting up individual training days for Area officials, possibly jointly with neighbouring areas.

SIX MONTH MEMBERSHIP

The Area Chairmen had been mandated at the October meeting to discuss with their areas the six month membership scheme. The feedback was as follows:

- Northern Area - Thought the scheme was good, particularly for carers
- London and South East Area - Not keen on the idea
- North Thames and Chilterns Area - Current rules okay, but should be open to everyone and no levy imposed on attending National scale events.
- Midland Area - Not been discussed with the groups. However, the Area Chairmen had spoken to some individuals. Although some in favour, overall the scheme was not worth pursuing.
- Southern Area - Did not think it was a priority

The National Chairmen re-iterated to the NEC, if they decided to pursue the scheme, they must publicise and promote it. After some discussion about what would be the right criteria, and how it would be operated, the NEC decided not to progress the scheme.

THINK TANK

The Think Tank submitted some new actions to the NEC. The NEC did not wish for the Think Tank to take any more tasks on a present, until the current actions were completed. Expected timescales for completion were given to each current action, which would be feedback by the NEC representative - Tony Burgess.

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND DIARY

- **National Five-a-side Football Competition and Dance** - 2 December 2000
- **National Skiing Holiday** - 13-20 January 2001
- **National Spring Holiday @ Brean Leisure Park** - 30 March 2001 - 2 April 2001
- **ANC 2001 @ Buxton** - 21 & 22 April 2001
- **Now Get Out of That** - 26-28 May 2001

NEC MEETINGS

The following dates were set for NEC meetings for 2001:

27-28 January 2001

7-8 July 2001

20-21 October 2001

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Membership statistics to the end of 31 December 1999 were presented by the National Finance Officer. It was noted that they did not include late returns. The National Chairmen congratulate the Southern Area for their increase in membership and also commended the Midland Area. She stated that she believed the decline was slowing down and would eventually halt.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL TROPHIES

Area Chairmen were reminded that the deadline for the majority of nominations was 10 March 2000. They were reminded to actively campaign for trophy nominations.

NATIONAL AWARD SCHEME

The Area Chairmen, again, had been mandated to seek opinions on what should be included in the Award Scheme and feedback to Rebecca White, Vice President by Christmas. However, she never received any feedback. The National Chairman expressed her unhappiness at the lack of discussion in the areas. After some discussion, the Area Chairmen agreed that the scheme should not be progressed. All those members on the scheme currently, should be allowed to continue.

ELECTION OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

National Executive Officer Gerry Edwards

National Executive Officer Donna Verrall

TAG 2000 Co-ordinator Linda Street

TAG 2000 Co-ordinator Sandra Bradshaw

Sandra Bradshaw

Honorary *General Secretary*

21st February 2000