

## **JANUARY 2001 NEC MEETING SUMMARY**

This is a summary of the NEC Meeting held 27th & 28th January 2001 in Newent.

### **APPOINTMENTS**

No nominations had been received for the post of National Chairman. Andrew Bond was elected by the NEC to continue as caretaker National Chairman. Adrian Barnard was elected as Deputy National Chairman.

Other appointments made were:

National Finance Officer Tony Burgess  
Honorary General Secretary Donna Black  
TAG 2001 Coordinator Dave Orsler

### **FORMAT OF FUTURE ANC's**

Karen Grey had asked the Area Chairmen to discuss this item with their Groups and report back to this meeting. She had explained that previously that the Federation had managed to secure free venues meaning the delegate fee cost could be kept low. As it was no longer possible to obtain free venues, she had tried to keep the venue costs to a minimum. However, this meant that venues in the South of the country were cost prohibitive and therefore the ANC could not be moved around the country as in previous years. The NEC felt that the current format of the ANC based upon hotel accommodation with a dinner dance on the Saturday evening was ideal. Karen Grey agreed to investigate other possible venues and report back at a later meeting.

### **ANC 2001**

Karen Grey confirmed that this year's ANC will take place on Saturday & Sunday 28th & 29th April at the Britannia Hotel, Coventry. Booking forms have already been sent out and Karen Grey pointed out that bookings received after 16th March 2001 would incur a late booking fee. The ANC committee have organised the event in such a way that delegates can take advantage of the whole Conference package or just the Saturday night Disco.

### **BUDGET**

Tony Burgess reported that the General Purposes Committee had put together a budget for 2001 (based upon a decline in membership statistics and current expenditure) that showed a deficit. He suggested that the only way forward was to increase income as expenditure had already been cut to a minimum.

After some discussion, the NEC felt that the only way forward was to increase the membership fee to £40.

It did however feel that those Groups who recruit members should be rewarded. It therefore decided that 10% of the membership fee should be refunded by National to Groups.

The NEC will propose the above at the ANC 2001.

### **DIAMOND JUBILEE**

Karen Grey reported that numerous press releases had been published and information had been sent to HLMs. The evening entertainment would consist of an eight piece band called "Star" who would play music from 1940's to 2000's together with a disco.

The NEC agreed that "Diamond Jubilee Plus Products" should be available at the ANC and Jubilee Celebrations. Karen Grey had already approached several companies and obtained sample products. The NEC suggested that she go ahead and order commemorative mugs, teddy bears and coasters.

### **SECOND TIER OF THE FEDERATION**

Gerry Edwards had prepared a document outlining the way forward for a second tier. He reported that the second tier scheme, piloted at Hillingdon Group and called "Quest" had been successful. He felt that a second tier would be a good way of attracting new members and addressing problems that some Groups experienced with older members. The NEC agreed. Hillingdon Group will propose a motion at the ANC.

### **NATIONAL SPRING HOLIDAY**

The National Activities Officer confirmed he had received 193 bookings. He was still in the process of booking evening entertainment and asked the NEC for additional monies in view of the fact that the number of bookings out numbered those budgeted. The NEC agreed to allow extra funds to be used for entertainment.

### **ONE LIST**

The NEC agreed that the Onelist could be a useful forum for discussion and publicity of events. It was however concerned that the Onelist would not be used as a positive forum. It also felt that there was a lack of communication between the moderators and the NEC.

After some discussion, the NEC agreed to give official recognition to the Onelist. Adrian Barnard was elected as the NEC Liaison Officer.

### **NAME CHANGE COMPETITION**

At the last ANC, it was agreed that the NEC would ask members to come up with alternative names for the Federation. Donna Black confirmed that several members had entered the competition. After discussing the entries, the NEC decided that, subject to the necessary checks being made, the following would be offered (in addition to the current name) at the ANC:- Enigma, Activate and Active Plus.

### **WORKING PARTY**

Clive Bryant gave a presentation on the Working Party Proposals. He explained that the Working Party felt the Groups were the future of the Federation adding that they were the best vehicle for delivering the aims and ideals. The only suggested change at this level was to offer Groups the option of changing their current Group committee structure to that of a Chairman and (a minimum) of three Group facilitators. The tasks previously carried out by

the standard committee post holders e.g. publicity, activities, etc. would be apportioned amongst the Facilitators within four weeks of the group Bi-AGM. The NEC agreed this change of committee structure should be proposed at the ANC.

So far as Areas were concerned, the Working Party felt that no change was required. It believed the Groups needed a local committee to help with any problems they may have and to also organise publicity and activities. Clive Bryant confirmed that each Area would still elect a Chairman who would represent his / her Area at National Council Meetings (currently NEC meetings) The NEC felt that the "Facilitator" option could also work at Area level and agreed this should also be proposed at the ANC.

The main change suggested by the Working Party was at National level. It suggested the abolition of all National posts. The duties currently covered by these post holders would be divided between a National Co-ordinator and a National Treasurer. These people would be able to delegate such of their responsibilities as necessary

Additionally, the Working Party proposed that those funds held at National level should be divided up between the Areas (retaining sufficient to cover expenditure such as HQ). The Working Party felt that by giving the money to the Areas, it would enable the Areas to organise larger events and pay for better publicity campaigns.

The NEC decided to accept the Working Party recommendations. The NEC will propose a motion at the ANC 2001. Prior to that, Area Chairmen and NEOs will discuss the recommendations at Area Conferences / Forums etc.

*Donna Black*  
*Honorary General Secretary*  
*2nd February 2001*