

British Naturism
YORKSHIRE & EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSOCIATION

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT Yorkshire Sun Society on
Sunday 5th June 2016, START TIME 13:38**

1 CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS / APOLOGIES / THOSE PRESENT

- 1.1 Angie welcomed all and complimented Yorkshire Sun Society on their hospitality and facilities. Also welcomed the attendance of the BN President Angela Russell.
- 1.2 Apologies were received from White Rose Club
- 1.3 Present were Julie Udris (Region Secretary), Angela Russell (BN President), Clive Edwards (Region EC and Ashdene Rep), Jim Cole (YSS Rep), Peter Udris (BN Member), Brian Hallsworth (Region Treasurer), Mike Rolfs (Region Members' Rep), Andrew Calow (Region PRO), Darren Swindells (BN Member), Angie Cox (Region Chair & Sports Officer), Peter Robinson (BN Member), Brian Johnson (BN Member), Colin Wood (Candy Farm), Wendy Brooke (BN Member), David Gibson (BN Member), Andrew Davies (BN Member), Barry Fairbrother (LNG Rep), Stan Bates (BN Member).

2 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- 2.1 Andrew Calow proposed the minutes of last year's AGM at Ashdene on 17 May 2015 be adopted, seconded Clive Edwards, no amendments, all in favour and the minutes were duly signed for the records.

3 OFFICER REPORTS

3.1 Secretary's Report

The main area of concern has been the difficulty in obtaining copies of relevant club constitutions as required by the regional and national constitutions. Many clubs have not responded, only officially received two, aware one has been sent direct to national office and some clubs are now reviewing their documents, but many have not responded. Aware though following this mornings informal discussion that mainly centered around constitutions that Angela Russell hopes to be able to arrange for copies of records held by National office to be passed to the region.

The other area of frustration is how do we get more clubs and members actively involved with the regional committee, all too often emails and correspondence is sent out and no response ever received. Do clubs really only want to communicate with National Office, in todays world it is a lot easier now to email and make direct contact with the National Office.

Response from the floor to these points was to keep plugging away and continue to mail all the clubs and take the positive that if they are not contacting us then they at this time are happy and do not need anything.

3.2 Treasurer's Report

- 3.2.1 Figures were presented both for the current situation to date and also an annual summary for the 2105. Current balance held by BN on behalf of region £1156.43 and in petty cash held by treasurer £299.07 less an expenses claim of £68 made today.
- 3.2.2 Nudestock event accounting has been handled via National Office and so date there are no figures available for this event. However Colin and Angie indicated this will have been a close run thing as to whether any profit is shown.
- 3.2.3 Query was raised on why the annual accounts show Room Hire at £20 and then Meeting venue £20 - it was believed these both relate to different hirings of the room at the Commercial in Sheffield for meetings. Highlighted need for a little more details against the entries such as date of event.
- 3.2.4 Accounts were proposed for acceptance by Mike Rolfs and seconded by Peter Udris, all in favour of accepting the accounts.

3.3 Executive Councillor's Report

- 3.3.1 Child Protection policy has been updated and all clubs should have a current copy - agreed JU will check the BN documentation library and ensure latest copy is sent to the clubs.

Action JU
- 3.3.2 There is an excellent paper available entitled Children Deserve Better, a study that has been undertaken and the paper produced by Malcolm Boura.

There was a query from the floor at this point asking if documentation relating to protection of vulnerable adults is available and this was confirmed to be the case.
- 3.3.3 Constitutions - this mornings informal meeting had very much dealt with the proposed model regional constitution that National Office are looking for the regions to adopt. Appropriate comments and feedback has now been provided which will be considered at the next EC meeting, it is anticipated that the new constitution wording will be ready later in the year for implementation.
- 3.3.4 BN AGM is to go back to the convention type of arrangement and is to be held in Blackpool - 14th - 16th October, full details will be available in the next BN magazine which is due out shortly. Event will consist of workshops/entertainment and then the AGM on the Sunday.
- 3.3.5 Other events of note are Alton Towers on 18th - 20th Nov. The Great British Skinny Dip being held first weekend in September - aware White Rose, LNG, Edwinstowe are all participating. Also YSS advised that they are accepting requests from local people to be able to use their facilities for this purpose - pre bookings only. LNG are awaiting the official posters from BN to enable them to advertise the event at the Baths so it is open to all.

3.4 PRO's Report

- 3.4.1 In the past year we've had a mix of both old and new events which generated interest and publicity. First up was Nudestock which was mentioned in a range of publications with varying degrees of accuracy, it has to be said The coverage in the Daily Star was particularly over the top suggesting that thousands of naturists would

be watching the events from the giant hot tub.

In July there was the Helmsley Walled Garden visit on the 11th. This has now become an almost traditional fixture in the calendar and was enjoyed by those who took part. It received a short article in the H & E as well as BN.

August saw a new event in the calendar, the “Bare All for Polar Bears” at the Yorkshire Wildlife Park near Doncaster. A second event is taking part this year. It raised money for a good cause, but also encouraged the meeting of minds between naturists and non-naturists. In order to get sponsorship, it was necessary to reach out to the wider world. In time we may see more members; but this is a long term hope.

Last year the national BN AGM took place within our region at the Ashdene club.

The Chapeltown Swim has moved location to a more central location. Those who attended the first swim were enthusiastic about the new venue, but it costs more to hire and the next few months will be crucial to the long term continuation of the swim.

A couple of weeks back I visited the Leeds swim with a couple more members from Sheffield. We may well return as we had a friendly reception.

There have been regional newsletters put out at intervals and the regional website carries information about events when I hear about them. I intend to visit more clubs. Whether this will result in increased membership remains to be seen.

Nudestock VII has taken place in the past week. Closer magazine sent a freelance reporter and cameraman. From what I've heard the article will be worth reading. On the Wednesday, weather conditions were decidedly chilly – so much so that Radio Sheffield sent a reporter over to see clothed people. A news item went out on the Thursday morning followed by three live interviews with Colin.

Saturday (yesterday) saw a return visit to the Burrows Gardens. Those who went enjoyed the day. The sun took its time to arrive, but better late than never.

For the future, the SANER region are trying out having a Regional Campaign Co-Ordinator. We could also learn from this and I am proposing that we follow this lead.

3.5 Sports Officer's Report

- 3.5.1 Nothing to report except that events have been organised at Nudestock
- 3.5.2 Andrew Calow advised the meeting that Yorkshire region has been challenged by Lancashire to a Molkky competition - a skittle type game - was tried out at Nudestock - we will need a set of skittles and a team if to take this challenge up.
- 3.5.3 Angela Russell did comment that it is disappointing that the region are not well represented at any of the National sporting events.

We should try to encourage to clubs to send teams. This year GB is hosting the petanque at Broadlands, it does clash with the Skinny dip weekend but they are going to incorporate this into the event also.

- 3.5.4 Again the suggestion was made about trying to hold an inter-club swimming competition, we can only try and see if we can gain any interest for this and perhaps see if one of the swim only clubs is able to host.

4 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- 4.1 Julie U confirmed the following nominations have been received:-
Andrew Calow proposed for the position of Chair by Angie Cox and seconded by Edward Cox.
Peter Robinson proposed for the position of Treasurer by Andrew Calow and seconded by Angie Cox.
Angie Cox proposed for the position of Sports Officer by Andrew Calow and seconded by Edward Cox.
All the aforementioned are current BN members.
As no other nominations the vote was taken on block, all in favour of the aforementioned being appointed into the proposed positions.
- 4.2 Julie U proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing and long serving Treasurer Brian Hallsworth and also a vote of thanks to the outgoing Chair Angie Cox.

5 ACCEPTANCE OF ACTING OFFICERS

- 5.1 In accordance with the constitution the following positions are not up for re-election but just confirmation those in the posts are prepared to continue.
Regional Secretary - Julie Udris - prepared to continue.
PRO - Andrew Calow - prepared to continue
Youth/Family Officer - currently vacant - Angie Cox indicated she was prepared to be co-opted to this role for the forth coming year.

Meeting confirmed acceptance of these acting officers for a further 12 months.

6 REGION CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS

- Julie U advised the meeting that two amendments had been received from Andrew Calow, copies were circulated and Andrew was invited to present his proposals to the meeting.
- 6.1 Section 7 (c) - I propose amending the second sentence from "Agenda can only be obtained from The Regional Secretary" to read
"Agenda can only be compiled by the Regional Secretary".

In order to encourage greater regional participation, it is necessary for individual members to know what is happening. In an ideal world the Regional Secretary will be able to maintain lists of regional members, however this information is not sent to the secretary, going instead to the Regional Co-ordinators and Member Reps. There are other opportunities for agenda to be circulated i.e. Via the BN Members

forum and through the regional newsletter.

The proposal was considered and all in favour of the amendment to the Constitution accordingly. Action JU

6.2 Section 8 (a) - I propose adding an additional officer to the list and creating the position of Regional Campaign Co-ordinator, to be elected at the same time as the Secretary, PRO and Youth/Family Officer

BN is evolving into a campaigning organisation with more being done at the local level. The creation of the Regional Campaign Co-ordinator is being trailed in the SANER Region. I would like to think we can follow their lead. The precise nature of the role is being developed. Although national campaigning is still essential to secure legal protection regional campaigning to gain wider community acceptance is just as essential. The ideal is to see regional campaign coordinators in every region as the best people to campaign for facilities locally are the people who know the area and will be using the facilities. This has been proven in every region where local people have taken the lead, although the Campaign Director and legal team are still needed to give advice and back up when required.

It may well be the case that more details will be available by the time of our AGM, although this has not happened. The new RCC will need to complete a volunteer form unless one is already completed. This role is in keeping with the aims of the Regional Association, points 3(b) to improve and extend facilities for Naturism and (c) to promote and credibly represent Naturism in The Region.

Query from the floor - was it the intention someone was appointed this year? No to include the office in the constitution now, time for a role profile to be made available and appropriate people consulted with a view to being nominated and elected at next years AGM.

Angela Russell congratulated the region for being forward thinking and taking a lead on this aspect.

This proposal was considered by those attending the meeting and all were in favour. Action JU to amend the constitution wording

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No formal notification had been received of any additional items. However the following two aspects were accepted on the day.

7.1 Andrew Calow proposed a vote of thanks to Angela Russell for taking the time out to attend our meetings.

7.2 Query from the floor re LNG's possible proposal that they may make a considerable contribution to repairs of the Jacuzzi at the Bramley Baths - had this progressed -

LNG advised the meeting this has not progressed as at this time no guarantee they will have continued use of the premise and therefore at this time not seen as a wise use of club funds.

8 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT REGION MEETING AND 2017 AGM

8.1 Next regional meeting suggested date 30th October - at Edwinstowe - Colin Wood to confirm with owners - meeting details to be confirmed to all in due course. (since meeting the room booking has been confirmed)

8.2 2017 AGM - suggested date is Sunday 11th June 2017 - to request landed club to volunteer to host if possible - would be nice if a club in our extended area was able to host. Action JU

9 CLOSING REMARKS

9.1 Angie thanked everyone for attending and YSS for their Hospitality.

Meeting closed 14.40.

SIGNATURE OF ADOPTION CHAIR

DATE