

MINUTES OF THE 213TH MEETING OF THE
NATIONAL COUNCIL
SATURDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2011. 2PM
HILLCOURT CONFERENCE CENTRE,
REDNAL, BIRMINGHAM

The National President welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES:

Allan Thomson	Region 2 Councillor
Nigel Cayne	Region 18 Councillor
Mark Fairchild	Region 22 Councillor

Late apology from:

Steve Bolter	Region 23 Councillor
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The President advised the meeting that Steve had had a recent bereavement, and a member of his family had recently had a serious operation. He had sent condolences on behalf of the Council.

The President commented on the e-mails that had taken place from Nigel Cayne after the National Executive had refused to accept his Nomination for a further term. He advised the meeting that Nigel's attendance was well below an acceptable standard and that offers of help had been declined. He would be replying to Nigel's e-mails in due course to correct the record.

The President welcomed Ian Mackenzie – Past National President to the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting on 2nd October 2010 at Dublin were approved. The approval was proposed by Richard Matthews and seconded by Terry Wells. AGREED.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. REPORTS

NATIONAL PRESIDENT – MALCOLM LOCKEY

As circulated with the following additions:

The President confirmed that a grant to Round Table of £5,000 a year for three years had been agreed for membership and development initiatives.

VICE PRESIDENT – VAUGHAN HARRIS

As circulated

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT – RICHARD MATTHEWS

As circulated

NATIONAL SECRETARY – MARTIN GREEN

As circulated.

NATIONAL TREASURER – MIKE TURNER

MT said he would be dealing with Accounts and Budget later on in the meeting

MEMBERSHIP & EXTENSION OFFICER – JIM SMITH

As circulated.

Affiliations and disaffiliations would be covered under 'Approvals'.

Barry Durman suggested the graphs should be reviewed as they gave a false impression. Jim agreed to look at this.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER – DAVID SMITH

As circulated.

INTERNATIONAL OFFICER – ANDY WAITE

As circulated.

CONFERENCE OFFICER – DICK STANLEY

As circulated.

SALES & MARKETING OFFICER – HUGH MILWARD

As circulated with the following additions:

The new Council Jewels were now available and all were to sign for them

NATIONAL COUNCILLORS REPRESENTATIVE – BARRY DURMAN

Barry updated the meeting with the matters raised at the Councillors Meeting. (Minutes attached)

At this point the National President asked everyone to stand for a moment's contemplation in respect of the passing of David P Woodworth – Past National President.

5. COUNCILLORS REPORTS

All National Councillors reports were taken as read with the following additions:

Richard Matthews awarded Ray Jones an award for the best Report

Mark Ramsey proposed that Martin Sexton should receive a Service Award. It was thought by some that this ought to be the Association Award. In the end it was deferred to the next Executive Meeting for discussion

The president advised the meeting that the Executive had agreed to present the Association Award to David Leon of LOTS. This was confirmed unanimously.

Barry Durman thanked Frank Venables for the card idea.

HONORARY WEBMASTER

David offered to take photos of Councillors in their new jewels for the website.

HONORARY SOLICITOR

Paul reported he had been asked to look into the criteria for Life Honorary Membership. He stated it was covered in Rule 4.7. He felt that this would never be difficult to decide as it would be obvious if someone was suitable.

He said he had continued to advise the Council and keep the President out of gaol!

HONORARY ARCHIVIST

David reported that he too was looking into Life Honorary Membership and concurred with the Solicitor.

He had made some progress on the Archives and now had three quotes for the scanning work, the dis-assembly of the books and re-assembly. He felt the final cost would be under budget.

David was asked to provide the three quotes to the Secretary for the Executive to decide.

Mike Turner advised that space was available to store the Archives at Marchesi House and this should take place as soon as possible.

6. AGM UPDATE

The Secretary updated the meeting on the various candidates for office and as new Councillors. He had re-advertised 6 regions with a closing date of June 1st 2011. He would be looking for 'caretakers' meanwhile.

There had been a detailed meeting to discuss the AGM on the previous day.

7. AGM PROPOSALS

Accounts

Mike Turner reported that there had been a number of cost increases this year especially the cost of the PR company, the 'buy-out' of the Round Table Sales contract and the increase of postage costs for the magazine.

There was an issue over the sales numbers and this was still being investigated. In the end the Accounts showed a small deficit.

Richard Matthews advised the meeting that decisions sometimes have to be made well after the budget was agreed.

Mike said he was concerned at the Councillors Expenses and referred them to the Expense Policy. He had looked on claims 'favourably' up to now – but would be tightening up.

In the end the Accounts were agreed to be published as they stood – proposed by the Treasurer and seconded by the Secretary.

The Council also agreed that should the Auditors be happy for us to add in some of the 'found' sales money, this could be done without further reference.

Budget

Mike Turner detailed the plan for the budget and highlighted some increased and additional costs. There was also a falling membership number. He expressed concern on the cost of AVID PR.

Barry Durman stated that the Councillors had felt that the Capitation must remain at £10. The Secretary stated that the AGM would be in jeopardy if we had to re-work the Budget and get approval. To reduce it to £10 capitation around £36,000 would have to be removed. The President felt that making decisions such as this 'on the hoof' were very unwise.

A lengthy debate then took place on the budget which swung in opinion between reducing capitation to £10 to increasing it to £15.

A proposal from Donald Watson, seconded by Manny Martins was made to increase the Capitation to £15 and hold it for three years. They then changed this to remove the three year rider. This was LOST 12 for – 13 against.

In the end the original Budget was proposed by the Treasurer, seconded by the Secretary and was CARRIED 22 for and 4 against. 1 - Abstention.

It was felt that the budget needed to be sold to the membership before discussion at Ipswich. The sales pitch should focus on the plans for the future.

Resolutions

The Secretary advised the meeting that the Resolution to have a new Community Service and Welfare Officer on the Executive had already been approved in Dublin. However there was a need to adjust the wording.

The new wording would be:

National Council propose that a new Officer be elected to the National Executive called the National Community Service and Welfare Officer [CSWO] to promote and co-ordinate Community Service and Charity initiatives and also to manage Welfare matters throughout the Association.

This was approved by the meeting unanimously.

The Secretary then asked the meeting to make a final decision not to pursue Postal Voting at the AGM. This was agreed unanimously.

The Secretary then proposed a Resolution to increase the number of Proxy Voters to TWO. This may give more clubs a 'say' at the AGM. This was debated, then proposed by Lawrence Bamber and seconded by Jim Smith and agreed unanimously.

8. IT PROPOSALS

The Secretary then updated the meeting on his proposals for updating the Association I.T. systems.

He proposed:

- Leaving the hosting of CAS as it was.
- Writing a new Mailing List system linked to CAS
- Introducing Microsoft's BPoS to improve e-mail and file storage
- Leaving proposals on the website to the new Communications Committee to report to the July Council.

Hugh Milward presented some benefits as to following this proposal.

The cost of providing the Mailing List system had previously been agreed by the Executive and work would commence soon.

The Secretary then asked for approval to proceed with BPoS. This was agreed unanimously.

9. APPROVALS

The Secretary asked the meeting to approve an additional Standing Order for National Council Meetings.

6.3 (New)

In the event of a National Councillor being unable to attend a National Council Meeting, he may appoint a deputy to attend a Council Meeting on his behalf. That Deputy will be able to cast the vote for the Region on his behalf.

This was agreed unanimously.

The fact that Deputies could claim expenses was clarified by the Honorary Solicitor. The Secretary agreed to confirm the Expenses Policy reflected this.

Barry Durman reminded Councillors of the importance in providing Deputies if they were unable to attend.

Someone queried if sending a Deputy meant you did not have to maintain the attendance rule. This was not the case.

The re-affiliation of Rugeley Quarante-et-Un was approved.

The disaffiliation of the following clubs was approved:



Aberdeen Bon Accord - closing
Huntingdon – non-payment
Cairo – non-payment

It was agreed to defer the affiliation of Addis Ababa until April

It was noted that the number of disaffiliations due to non-payment were the lowest for many years. This was partly due to the sterling efforts by Beverley at Marchesi House who had been chasing payments. The Secretary was writing to her to thank her.

10. WORKING PARTY PRESENTATIONS

Each of the Working Parties gave presentations on the progress they had made so far with a structure plan. The information would now be collated by Richard Matthews and work would continue.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The President felt that this had been a very good and exciting meeting.
Ian Mackenzie updated everyone on the Ipswich Conference.
Andy Waite asked for his 'How to Organise a Dinner' paper to be placed on the website.
David Hewitt commented that we needed to improve communication especially on subjects such as the budget.
Hugh Milward confirmed that the 'old' jewels could be purchased for a minimum of £10 or given to the Archivist.

The meeting closed at 19:20.

The next National Council Meeting will take place on Friday 15th April 2011 at the Novotel, Ipswich, starting at 10:30 am.

Signed as a true and accurate record:

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National President

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Date