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Magazine of  
The National Federation of  
18 Plus Groups

Winter 2003

ANC News / WASH 2002  
/ National Karting 2002

& much more



National Karting, 7 December 2002, West Bromwich

# 2 EDITOR'S COLUMN



Hope the New Year has started well for you all and that 2003 brings everything you are wishing for and then some. As Natalie Imbruglia is getting married one of my resolutions has already failed, but never mind.

So what can 18 Plus look forward to in the coming year? Hopefully membership will increase and new groups will open (and stay open) but of course this needs commitment and hard work from all involved. I for one hope new blood moves upward through the ranks to fill the important roles, achieve reform where required and ensure the organisation's future.

I also hope that support for Plus News continues! That means writing articles and sending in photographs and plugging hard your events. Please, please, please let me get what I want in this respect!

The Spring issue is scheduled for roundabout the ANC. I am hoping that Plus News will enjoy a bit of a make over for that edition, so start getting excited and contributing NOW.

Ta ra a bit, Peter

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Contributions in this issue are from: Ed,  
Bekki Randall, Erik Bean, Paul  
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Hewson.

### THE SMALL PRINT

The views of individuals expressed in this magazine  
are not necessarily those of the editor or of The  
National Federation of 18 Plus Groups.



# NATIONAL CHAIRMAN'S

## COLUMN

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Hi folks.

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year. Now the festive season is over we're getting into a fresh year of Plussing, with another load of fantastic events to attend. I'm really looking forward to discussing the proposals from the National Restructuring forum. I know you've all heard it from your Area Chairmen, but it really is vital that you attend the ANC in force this year, as we will be shaping the Federation of the future.

Apart from that, there's the National Narrowboat holiday, a new National Event with the promise of great fun (I've booked on that already). Then there's Brean Sands, TAG, a fantastic new training weekend, the National Greek week, WASH, and much more. I want to go to it all (and I've already booked most of my this years holidays from work in preparation). See you all out there!

Bekki

## WASH 2002

In a way that is in almost no way at all reminiscent of Brigadoon, the time was upon us again for WASH, the home planet of the Plussers, to appear for its annual two and a half day existence.

Our journey up to Hunstanton was



remarkable only for the free child portraits being offered by the photographer in the supermarket that we stopped at for a late breakfast. Mid morning on a school day we can only assume that this was as innovative

new initiative by the anti-truancy squad.

Our hut turned out, uniquely, to be closer to the stage than the stage is to the bar. Thus it offered easy access to the venue coupled with little prospect of early nights.

Soon enough we were over at the venue. The first band of the weekend was "Tweekys Wind" a band of four men, two guitars, some drums and some singing. They were remarkable only for being named after their drummer's flatulence. The second act of the night, "The Blues Tubes", was a respectable jazz type band, good at what they did but an unusual choice for WASH.

Of course, when we got to the karaoke the following afternoon we were yearning for the musical normality of the previous evening. As ever, Plus karaoke showed itself to be very much like non-Plus karaoke.

There were many choices of activity afterwards; WASH quiz, clay pigeon shooting, etc. We chose to spend seven hours slowly consuming a picnic as we waited to be seen at the Kings Lynn hospital casualty department. Even better than that, at some point someone had decided that what the

4 waiting room there really needed was a number of xylophones for the hoards of frustrated and bored children to tunelessly bang away on for hour after hour after hour.



We got back to Searles just in time to catch the final act of the night, "Northern Xposure". On the face of it they were just another four-piece band as we had seen the previous night. They had something more about them though. I can't put my finger on exactly what but it was not just their spectacularly perfuse sweating.

I was disappointed to miss most of the Saturday night entertainment. After not being able to get a tweed jacket (with or without elbow patches) for my Mr Ransley school days costume last year, I had put a lot of thought into what to dress as this year. Obviously, when I first heard that the theme was beachwear, I had thought of costal erosion. Not wanting to over stretch myself I had decided to dress in the white colonial garb, which I tend to wear when inspecting Mediterranean beaches. When the time actually came, there seemed little point in changing so late in the day.

I was particularly disappointed to miss

"Katrina" - late of "the Waves" - though not, apparently, by much. I had wanted to see her for the part that she played in that unforgettable 1997 government changing, Eurovision winning weekend. At least now when someone mentions "Katrina and the Waves" I can honestly say that I would have seen her live if it were not for the chronic under funding of the National Health Service - not a claim that many can make.

Apparently the first band of the evening "The News of the Victory" was also quite well received. This was despite my having taken audience non-participation to a whole new level - actually having been in another town, over a dozen very rainy miles from the venue, at the time of the performance.

Although the clocks said that it was the afternoon, it still felt very early when we made our way back to the bar for the Sunday afternoon of comedic entertainment. The session kicked off with some slick anarchy in the expected style from the "Big Wolff Oompah Band". After some further improvised silliness we were into the stand up proper. "Mr Brian Damage and Crystal" read the audience well with their tambourine-based humour.



Unfortunately Jeff Mirza's green suit centred humour seemed to slightly miss the spot.

I have long wondered why bands go to such great lengths to be able to reproduce original

recordings in live performances when the recordings can so easily just be played. "Marlo", the first act up on the Sunday night, was a case in point. The only thing to distinguish "Marlo" (who reproduced the original recordings very well) from so many others was the disproportionately large number of guitars that they used.

In contrast the last band of the weekend, "Hollywood", had a bit of fun with the music, moved about a bit and clearly found the audience very amusing. This, coupled with having Chris Page lifted onto stage to demonstrate his glove puppetry skills during their set, made them the best group

of the weekend.

As always with WASH the sunlight on the Monday morning seemed the brightest of the weekend as we stumbled around in it, loading up the car before WASH fades back into our memories for another year. As ever ducks that were hoping for the last of the bread surrounded us. Unusually though this was the first appearance that the ducks had put in all weekend. Not even the formation of a significant lake beside our hut during the rain of Saturday night had tempted them into an earlier visit - which was probably for the best.

Erik Bean

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## ***NATIONAL KARTING 2002***

On Saturday December 7th Solihull 18 Plus ran the National Karting at The Raceway in West Bromwich. Those who took part enjoyed a good deal of close racing over an excellent circuit with quick LPG powered karts. Solihull was the best-represented group with six participants out of the 15 members who took part. We had long distance participants from Hillingdon, Didcot, Billericay, Banbury and Brentwood. The other representatives came from Coventry and Halesowen.



On the day three non-members took part to bring the total number 18. After the heats Solihull were 1st and 2nd, with Paul Hampson leading from Jon Tall, with Clive Hampson a non member in 3rd. Jon managed to get himself black flagged for ramming and overtaking under a yellow flag, and thus earned the distinction of being disqualified while lying 3rd in the final.

Paul Hampson won the final to become National Karting Champion for the third year in a row and also managing to get the fastest lap of 23.00 seconds. Ian Robinson of Billericay was runner up.

Paul Hampson

### Result of final:

1. Paul Hampson, Solihull
2. Clive Hampson, Non member
3. Ian Robinson, Billericay
4. Mark Hewson, Solihull
5. Pete Mann, Coventry
6. Jon Tall, Solihull - disqualified during final

Fastest lap of the day: Paul Hampson, Solihull, 23.00s

Driver of the Day: Darren Pearson, Coventry

Ful results available on the web site.

# **6** 61st Annual National Conference 2003

15 - 16 March 2003 - Britannia Hotel, Fairfax Street, Coventry CV1 5RP

**Saturday night dance theme - 'Hollywood Oscars Ceremony'**

## **Costs for 2003**

One night package which includes accommodation, conference, dinner dance, Sunday breakfast & lunch is £74.50

A two night package is £99.50

The dinner dance only is £25.00

Dance only is £5.00

Sunday lunch only is £8.00

Single room supplement for Friday night is £10.00

Conference only is £2.00 per day

No bookings will be accepted after 14 February 2003

## **Accommodation**

The Britannia Hotel is situated in the middle of Coventry, next to the Cathedral. The hotel has excellent conference facilities and is well used to hosting events such as our ANC. As it also has 190 en-suite rooms. All the bedrooms are spacious and finished to a high standard. Most rooms have twin beds, but there are also a small number of double and single rooms. All are en-suite.

The hotel bar will be the meeting place for those people arriving on the Friday evening. It will stay open as long as people want to stay up drinking and this will also apply after the dinner dance. The hotel restaurant usually offers a cheap two course meal deal for those wanting to dine in on the Friday night.

The conference will take place in the Connaught Suite on the first floor of the hotel. This will also be the venue for the dinner dance. It will start at 1:30pm Saturday. The Cavendish Suite on the second floor, will be the venue for pre-dinner drinks and also where you can order wine to have with your meal.

Parking is available opposite the hotel entrance in pay and display car parks.

There's plenty to do in Coventry to occupy your time before the Conference starts. Both the Cathedral and the National Motor Museum are within easy reach, as are the shops!

Children will, as always, be welcome to attend the Conference as long as they do not disturb the proceedings. However, for their own safety, children will not be permitted in the main dance hall on Saturday evening once the meal has finished.

*For further information contact Jo Woodhead on 01858 469166 or [jo.woodhead@mail.com](mailto:jo.woodhead@mail.com)*

## **2003 ANC Committee**

Chairman - Sandra Cawthra  
Bookings Officer - Jo Woodhead  
Treasurer - Linda Burgess  
Publicity - Peter Strawbridge

# **SOUTHERN AREA CHESS**

Thanks to all for turning up to make this the best attended tournament to date. A nail biting finish ensued in the final two games where victory was snatched from Oxford's grasp, the point therefore going to Coventry's Dave Filer. Oxford's dominance of the competition for the past five years has finally been broken.

Enjoyed Basingstoke's firework party too, especially the two ground detonating rockets.

Adrian Barnard

### Results:

- |                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| 1. Coventry    | 4 pts.  |
| 2. Oxford      | 3½ pts. |
| 2. South Bucks | 3½ pts. |
| 4. South Bucks | 3 pts.  |
| 5. Didcot      | 2½ pts. |
| 6. Basingstoke | 2 pts.  |
| 7. Coventry    | 1 pt.   |
| 8. Slough      | ½ pt.   |

# THIRD NATIONAL SPRING HOLIDAY

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Friday 4th - Mon 7th April 2003

Brean Leisure Park, Coast Rd, Brean Sands, Burnham-On-Sea, Somerset.

Just £48.50 for lots of entertainment, including live bands, real ale trip, karaoke, competitions and much more. Deposit is £18.50 before 7th February with final balance payable by 7th March.

For details contact your group committee or organiser Wayne Fenton at 4 Chatsworth Court, Stevenage, Herts, SG2 8DY. Telephone or fax 01438 241787 or mobile 07780 957553.

E-mail [waynefenton@hotmail.com](mailto:waynefenton@hotmail.com)

Booking forms also available from the web site.

## NATIONAL NARROWBOAT HOLIDAY

Saturday 7th Saturday 14th June 2003

A seven-day narrowboat cruise round the picturesque Warwickshire Ring. Just £140 per person, deposit £30.

Contact Mark Randall on 01606 333045 or email [northern.18plus@btopenworld.com](mailto:northern.18plus@btopenworld.com)

Booking forms also available from the web site.



## ROTHWELL & LEEDS CHARITY WALK



During September 2002 four members of Rothwell 18 Plus and two from Leeds successfully completed a ten mile sponsored walk around the Wakefield area to raise money for Wakefield Hospice. In the five hour walk they raised £400.

*Well done to them and keep that charity work going - Ed.*

# 8 NATIONAL GREEK WEEK *Zakynthos*

Thursday 25th September - Thursday 2nd October 2003

Price per person £309

Bookings are arranged through Sunset Holidays, and are subject to their booking rules and conditions. Your booking agent should be the lead passenger in Room 1 - if you want to book more than two rooms, send photocopies.

The Studios can sleep 2 or 3 people.

Deposit is £75 per seat to be paid by a Group cheque with the Booking Form - A confirmation will be sent by return, a reminder in May, with the balance due by 25/6/03.

The price includes all taxes including Aviation Security Levy - it DOESN'T include Personal Insurance.

Single Supplement - £49, Child Price - £79 (max age 16), Infant Price - £19 (under 2 on return)

Please indicate your preferred Airport on the Booking Form - all flights are Morning out/Afternoon return. If your preferred Airport is full, we'll let you know what's still left.

The Studios are on a 'First Come First Served' basis - when they're gone, they're gone.

Please Booking Forms and Cheques to, *National Greek Week, The Mayfield View, 155 Middlewich Road, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 7DB.*



## NATIONAL DIARY 2003

Feb 22, National Badminton - Maidenhead

Mar 15-16, Annual National Conference - Coventry

Apr 4-7, National Spring Holiday - Brean Sands

May 23-26, Now Get Out Of That

Jun 7-14, National Narrowboat Holiday - Warwickshire

Jun 28, National Treasure Hunt - London

Jul 4-7, National Raft Race - Henley

Jul 19-20, NEC Meeting - Newent

Aug 22-25 TAG

Sep 6-7 National Training Weekend - Alsager, Manchester

Sep 25-Oct 2, National Greek Week - Zakynthos

Oct 11-12, NEC Meeting - Newent

Nov 7-10, WASH - Hunstanton

**Full details of 18 Plus National & Area activities available from the web site**

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