

RCM Report to ASC July 2023 – from Newcastle

RCM: Ben G

Alt RCM: (Vacant)

Ben G attended both days 09th and 10th July 2023 in Newcastle

Next Region: September, Brighton

DAY 1

- Service Prayer
- 12 concepts
- Introductions
- Reading of 3rd concept and discussion.

Ratification of UKCNA service positions

- Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer
- Concept 4 read out,
- Chair: John provided his CV. Standard questions read out to John and then questions from the floor. John was voted in.
- Vice Chair: Adam provided his CV. Standard questions read out to Adam and then questions from the floor. Adam was voted in.
- Treasurer: Anna provided her CV. Standard questions read out and then questions from the floor. Anna was voted in.

Opening Balance: ca, £31K

Area Reports: Highlights:

Use of card readers in NA...issues with tax implications, anonymity. This will be looked into by UKSO.

There was a discussion around the sharing of Region Admin committee minutes: it was agreed that they would be available.

Question raised re: Audits, Adam explained current QC procedures. Checks by accountants etc. A system of triple checks is done.

Maybe an RCM workshop next Region.

North London has 'NACHO NA Community Homeless Outreach'

SUSSEX

DISTANCE SPONSORSHIP: Initially this was held by FD, but it moved to UK Comms when FD folded. After this, not many people were volunteering for service, then the pandemic came along, distance barriers fell and so it fell out of favour. Eventually – people on it were asked whether they wanted to do Prison Sponsorship, those that did were retained and those that did not were deleted to comply with GDPR.

(See Prison Sponsorship)

KEYRINGS: Response from NAWs re changing plastic keyrings for more environmentally friendly alternatives:

The topic has come up on several occasions before. As you might imagine, many factors must be considered, starting with the reality that, we as a Fellowship having no opinion on what for us by principle is an outside issue. Then there are the practical matters, including production and raw material availability. The World Board is currently not considering changing the composition of the key tags.

Offline I the description of this as an outside issue was described as 'jarring'.

Sam (European delegate) elaborated: e.g. UKSO received 10,000 keyrings that were individually wrapped in plastic. They expressed their horror at the WSC and received a similar message. The delegate felt that there were a number of people who were passionate about this, and it will consistently grow as a priority, becoming hotter and hotter until there is action – it's just that things really take time. The problem is at the moment that there are problems enough sourcing keyrings full stop let alone choosing what they are made of. UK are not alone; Australia have raised this too.

After the meeting, Ben spoke to Craig and Sam (alternate delegate and delegate). They explained that Region does not put forward motions to WSC, but they as delegates represent the will of Region. They had raised this at the WSC earlier this year and they had also emailed the World Board about this including the chair of the world board. It has been acknowledged, WSC knows this is on the mind of the fellowship. Unfortunately the feeling is that we need to wait. Sam felt that Region had accepted that there was little choice around keyring suppliers at this time. Perhaps the next thing to do is to ensure it gets put on the next CAR survey so WSC can establish how much of a priority this is to the world fellowship.

UKCNA: There was £15,555.94 profit. Some people paid up front out of their own pocket and had to be paid back – not ideal but a great demonstration of trust. There was a lack of funds, some displeasure about lack of support from RSC. There was a lack of sacrifice by committee members, e.g. paying for their own travel etc.

UKSO: Nothing much to report. ESO/WSO closed for stock take but UKSO well provisioned.

DAY 2

Ben put forward the bid for the Holiday Inn which was approved.

There was some discussion about why UKSO had three people here, some were worried about too much influence. This turned into a wider conversation about the balance between the respective influence of the subcommittee's vs the RCMs.

Tam said that his area would be putting forward a bid to hose Region in Preston in November.

FD:

Stuart: Only 2 FD committees on ASCs around the country. Going to Devon Campout to do a presentation on building stronger homegroups. GSR workshop was held at the UK Convention. 40+ attendees in the room. Very low cost! Was felt to be very productive. Proposal: RCMs to get together, promote to local GSRs and do another next year. Some leaflets are being produced. There was a lot of appreciation of their work. Discussion around them as a 'non travelling entity'.

FD have requested a stipend of £500, RCMs were generally supportive of this, but Treasury raised the point that an increase of Regions prudent reserve would reduce the of funds to WSO and EDM.

UKCNA: Discussing next year's convention. Will be back in Blackpool; we could get the whole hotel. The retention of £9,505.13 for next years convention was approved after some discussion.

Prison Sponsorship: Ellis: Need Sponsor Liaison...would need to monitor emails, mostly a tech-based role, good comms skills required. The backbone of the committee. Current position will be taken over by vice. In 6 months and a backup will be required. Still difficulty getting literature in....only Amazon is an accredited supplier. Seeking gender fluid sponsors....at least one ...as a result of a request for an inmate. Plenty of welcome packs being sent in.

Long Distance Sponsorship: Can Prison Sponsorship take this on board? Currently no knowledge of any historical data. Ellis will ask if they can take it on board.

UKH&I

Fil: Meeting has changed time. Vice Chair, Vice Treasurer, Liaison Office all required. H&I also sends literature to prisons.

Archive

Ian: They met Steve who shared experience from WSO archive. A big task is ahead! Terms of service under discussion. Anyone interested in the history of the fellowship would be very welcome as they need people willing to serve.

UK Comms

Kerry: Website has urgent vacancies. 01772 342640 is the number to call.

UKPI:

Digital and Social Media experience required. Did a presentation at UKCNA. Many people put themselves forward for service there. They have done quite a few events. Presentations done for Polish communities. Please can RCMs let PI and H&I know who the ASC contacts are.

RD:

Sam: European Conference in August: Treasure, Vice Treasurer, Secretary, PR chair and vice chair, media coordinator.

2024 World Convention: Washington

www.na.org/subscribe if you want to subscribe to daily readings.

www.na.org/audio if you want to listen to Basic Text audio files.

New WSC conference cycle has started. Will be F2F in 2026 with an interim online conference (date TBD).

Gender neutral language: Partial progress made from WSC motions,

In September, both Regional Delegate and Alternate Delegate positions will open up for election.

Treasurers Report:

Still having issues with NA as an entity.

£22,539.23

Close with Serenity Prayer