

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR METAL DETECTING

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting
Saturday 10th July 2021

Attendees

Officers

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| Wendy Howard | Chair | Anglian region |
| Alastair Hackett | President | Scottish region |
| Hilary Fagen | Vice Chair | North-West region |
| Siobhan Liehne | Treasurer | Scottish region |
| Catherine Lange | Communications Officer | Central Register & Individual members |
| David Millington | Membership Secretary | North-West region |
| Kevin Gorman | General Secretary | North-West region |
| William Hargreaves | Asst General Secretary | North-West region |

Delegates

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| Dave Edwards | | North-West region |
| Lesley Sleith | | Scottish region |
| Jack Liehne | | Scottish region |

Apologies

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| Tommy Allinson | | North-East region |
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The interests of the individual members and the Central Register were represented by Communications Officer, as an individual member, General Secretary, Asst General Secretary, and Membership Secretary.

The meeting had been called for the specific purpose of discussing the behaviour and subsequent consequences of the individual Delegates within the following regions. Southern region, Western region, Midland region, and Yorkshire region

ITEM 1

The meeting was opened by the Chair Wendy Howard who welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The attendees were reminded that a) there was a quorum of Executive Committee members present so the meeting could proceed. b) the contents of the meeting should not be shared on and social media platform

ITEM 2

The attendees introduced themselves by Office and Delegate status.

ITEM 3

Overview of current situation

3.1 Clarification of roles

The general secretary outlined the roles of the Executive Committee (EC) and the Executive Officers (EO)

Executive Committee. It is the role of the EC to govern the NCMD. The EC is made up of all the regions, including the Individual members and the Central Register clubs each having one vote.

Executive Officers. It is the role of the EO to run the day-to-day business of the NCMD. An EO does not have any voting powers, the day-to-day business can be hectic especially during renewal months with all officers kept extremely busy, apart from their everyday work, it is within the role of the EO to plan for the future of the NCMD, to detail those plans along with related costs and propose them to the EC for approval, only after a vote has taken place, and the majority of the EC have approved any project or spend, will the NCMD go ahead.

The purpose of this EGM is to discuss the events of recent month regarding the behaviour of five regional Delegates, they are Brian Vaughan and David Rees (Western region) John Wells (Midland region) Clive Sinclair (Southern) and Syd Hallam (Yorkshire). For clarity we are referring to the five named individuals and not their respective regions, the NCMD will protect its members at all costs including those who joined via a region.

The individuals named have for some months referred to themselves as the four regions and all correspondence from them has had the four regional names listed at the end of each document.

The Officers of the NCMD have received several letters from these regions over the last seven month's each one littered with inaccuracies, untruths, sometimes scurrilous content. All of them answered if full, with indisputable facts, this did not however, deter them from continuing to send such correspondence.

These five individuals have for several months attempted to block any and all proposals put before them by the Executive Officers.

In February 2021, the planned zoom AGM was cancelled at their request, move forward to June 2021 and the next zoom AGM, and again they demanded this be cancelled. The Constitution dictates that the AGM must take place by the end of June annually, and so it did, they refused to attend and did not use their proxy vote.

As the weeks have passed the correspondence from these five individuals has become increasingly disturbing, culminating in a message from them on 8th June 2021 accusing two Officers and a third named person of a profoundly serious allegation, this was not true and extremely distressing for the people concerned. All five individuals were written to on two separate occasions asking if they were aware that this post had been made, and if they were aware of the content, on both occasions none of them replied, and so we can safely assume that they were aware of the malicious content within the message.

This message alone is damaging and completely unacceptable behavior at any level, however on June 13th 2021, the Officers were faced with the following.

As we approached the June 2021 AGM the time limit for Officer nominations which was midnight on the 13th of June was approaching, at 11.26pm on the 13th an email was received from the five individuals stating that the nomination form that had been supplied was illegal, and they had completed a legal version. The timing of this was clearly designed to render all other nominations except their own inadmissible and therefore with the obvious time restrictions, their own delegates would take the officer positions unchallenged.

The flaw with their plan was, that the nomination forms were perfectly good, plus, they did not send their own nomination form with the message and so midnight came and went.

The following morning at 07.48 we received the same email this time with the nominations attached, they accused us of having problems at our end, this lie was repeated a number of times. Having been asked to show the proof by sending the original several times, the final insult was when they sent the original mail from 11.26

on 13th with a cut/pasted attachment in their final, feeble, attempt to gain control of all the officer positions, and so, control the NCMD,

Item 4

Representations from or on behalf of the five individuals

The following was received at 16.55, five minutes prior to the commencement of the EGM, it was read to the meeting Delegates, to be included in Item 5 General discussion

HOW THE NCMD SHOULD EXIST

Each Region holds their own regular meetings, and these meetings are attended by representatives and independents from the clubs in that region. The delegates to the NCMD of each region are volunteers appointed by a region to represent them at such as NCMD Council meetings.

What is most important to note is that everything these delegates put forward, or bring to the NCMD, may not always be their opinion or proposals, but they are duty bound to act as their region so requires of them.

It is the duty of all members of the Council to ensure that NCMD financial affairs are conducted in an open and transparent manner.

It is now very important that the accounts relating to a number of past years of the NCMD are fully available for inspection and auditing and be seen to be transparent to the whole membership.

It is of fundamental importance that the Constitution of the NCMD should always be guarded and adhered to, with the authority granted therein never abused.

The current General Secretary, has taken upon himself the role of individually managing the NCMD, and has side-lined the regions and other officers. This is in contravention of the present constitution and has created disputes and confrontation.

It was hoped to repair some of this when it was agreed and indeed promised by the General Secretary on 17th May 2021, at an informal meeting attended by delegates from the Southern, Midland, Western and Yorkshire regions to have a face-to-face meeting and discussion about some quite serious matters, including financial, prior to the next AGM.

The four regions understand that the pandemic has cast shadows on all our lives but presently there are no existential threats to either the NCMD or the hobby itself and therefore no actions of any import are currently required.

The present pandemic has been used for some past months, and right up to date. to avoid sitting round a table and having a discussion. That has always enabled the NCMD to conduct its business and continue for the past 40 plus years. You do need to consider this yourself, and not just take the thoughts and direction of one individual, that is what you are entitled to in a democracy.

Notable Northwesterners, John Fargher and Joe Rigby, past staunch supporters of the NCMD, would be appalled at what is being done in the name of their region.

Do you really believe that four regions containing founder members of the NCMD, past and honorary President, past Chairmen, and members with a wealth of experience in the hobby and business world, would feel the need

to make a stand unless they were concerned about the finances and the manner some existing officers are carrying out day-to-day management of the NCMD?

The almost blind and very questionable actions of one or two individual officers is damaging the NCMD. You do not have to just keep going along with the present diktat, and should consider carefully the need for full and frank open discussions and a face-to-face meeting as the four regions were promised.

We are not seeking confrontation but we are also not afraid of sounding alarm bells in order to protect the good name of the NCMD

We do hereby state that you are leaving us no alternative other than to make this past year, and everything we have endured fully public should there be no change of direction

Finally, we should meet together as was agreed, talk, and have the accounts fully investigated. No further steps should be made to take the NCMD into the world of business. It should remain a membership organisation overseen by honest, and honourable volunteers.

On behalf of the Midland, Western, Southern and Yorkshire Regions.

Item 5

General discussion

The discussion that followed took in every aspect of items 3 and 4, every delegate at the meeting participated in full, every detail of what was presented in items 3 and 4 were questioned and the answers dissected.

At the conclusion of the question time each delegate was asked, in view of the seriousness of the situation if they had any concerns or doubts about anything that had been said. All the delegates confirmed they fully understood the situation.

ITEM 6

Path forward

The Delegates were asked two questions, a) do you consider that some form of action should be taken against the five individuals b) if yes, what action.

The first question was voted on, the result of the vote was unanimous in favour of action being taken against the five individuals named in these minutes.

A discussion followed on what action could be taken. The majority of the Executive Committee are aware that the regional representatives are voted into the position by the NCMD members, who joined via their regions. Under no circumstances will the NCMD attempt to change that, our members are our priority.

With all this in mind we have reached a point where the disgraceful behaviour of these individuals has brought about a situation that can no longer be tolerated by the majority of the Executive Committee, it is impossible to work with individuals who lie and threaten the very people who work so selflessly day in day out for the good of the NCMD.

It was decided that the majority of the Executive Committee will no longer recognise any of the five individuals named in these minutes as members of the Executive Committee.

Brian Vaughan, David Rees, John Wells, Clive Sinclair and Syd Hallam will all be informed of this decision by letter, they will be asked to report this back to their committee and members thereby allowing other Delegates from these regions to be the primary Delegate who will work with the rest of the Executive committee.