



## National Council for Metal Detecting

Member of: The Central Council of  
Physical Recreation.

### ***NCMD News and Views.*** ***SUMMER 2007***

The National Council would welcome  
replies and comments on the  
information contained in  
*News and Views*. Email editor  
at:

[bobbaldock@btinternet.com](mailto:bobbaldock@btinternet.com)

#### **NCMD Membership.**

For membership joining applications,  
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John Rigby, Membership Secretary.  
Tel 01253 294643  
E mail: [jjrigby@aol.com](mailto:jjrigby@aol.com)

#### **Enquiries.**

For all other enquiries please  
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NCMD Website: [www.ncmd.co.uk](http://www.ncmd.co.uk)

NCMD Forum: <http://ncmd-forum.com>  
Or [www.ncmd-forum.com](http://www.ncmd-forum.com)

## **1. NCMD Annual General Meeting.**

The A.G.M. of the NCMD was held on  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2007 at 10.00 am at The  
Innkeepers Lodge, Northampton.

#### **Officers standing down**

Clive Sinclair - Public Relations Officer and  
Dennis Jordan - President.

#### **Officers elected**

Chairman:	Steve Critchley - re-elected.
Vice Chairman:	Bob Baldock – re-elected.
Co-opted Officer:	Clive Sinclair
President:	John Wells
Honorary Life President:	Dennis Jordan

#### **The following positions were not due for re election this year.**

General Secretary.	Trevor Austin
Ass General Secretary	Sue Austin
Membership Secretary	John Rigby
Treasurer	Dave Philpotts

Representative to CCPR: Barry Morgan  
Honorary Examiners for the Annual Accounts:  
Brian Pollard and Joe Rigby - (re-appointed).  
Competitions Manager. Hilary fagin

#### **Affiliated Members**

Treasure Hunting Magazine  
The Searcher Magazine.  
Minelab

#### **Constitution Changes/Amendments**

Minor amendments were made to Appendix A  
of the Constitution, the NCMD Code of  
Conduct, to cover the endorsement by the  
NCMD of the Code of Practice for  
Responsible Metal Detection in 2006.

In addition the inclusion of a statement on the  
Recording of Finds Data with Third Parties as  
an appendix to the Constitution was agreed in  
principle. A draft was circulated to officers  
and delegates for comment and a final form  
of words will be prepared for issue at the  
November OGM.

## **2. NCMD Forum. Have You Signed Up Yet?**

Take advantage of automatic e-mail of NCMD information. Find out 'Whats On' Look at members finds. Use the facility provided on the NCMD Forum.

Just log-on to [www.ncmd-forum.com](http://www.ncmd-forum.com), fill in the simple registration using your NCMD membership card number and you will receive NCMD News & Views automatically. Additionally you will have access to a vast library of metal detecting related information.'

## **3. Environmental Stewardship. Entry Level / Higher Level.**

The handbook for the Entry Level and Higher Level Schemes is to be updated. Amongst the changes will be a clarification of metal detection access procedures and inclusion of a reference to the voluntary Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detection. This will involve minor changes to the handbook itself, but Natural England, who administer and implement these schemes are seeking to produce a detailed Guidance Note to help Advisors interpret and implement the requirements for facilitating metal detection access.

Details were discussed at the Portable Antiquities Advisory Group (PAAG) on 21<sup>st</sup> June. As a member of PAAG the NCMD has submitted detailed comments to Natural England.

## **4. Portable Antiquities Scheme**

### **Landowners Leaflet.**

The Portable Antiquities Scheme have renewed their intent to produce and issue this leaflet last discussed in 2005 .Its intended purpose (according to the PAS) is to advise landowners and tenants of their rights with respect to people seeking to access their land to search for archaeological material including the use of metal detectors.

The NCMD have submitted detailed comments and observations. We remain concerned over a number of details surrounding the intended issue of such a

leaflet. It has not been made clear if it is intended to replace a variety of outdated and factually incorrect leaflets previously issued by other bodies and interested parties or merely to accompany these.

### **Nighthawking Project.**

Data collection for this survey via online questionnaires and individual follow up contact is now underway subsequent to its launch on the 21<sup>st</sup> June. It has engendered much debate since its inception and following discussion within the membership and by the NCMD Executive Committee at its June Ordinary General Meeting the NCMD are re-evaluating its participation in the Project.

As members of the Portable Antiquities Advisory Group (PAAG) the NCMD has been involved in the preparatory discussions for the Project following the award of the contract to Oxford Archaeology in 2006. This is a potentially divisive issue and the NCMD is well aware of the difficulties for the hobby that may arise from negative, biased and mischievous media coverage.

The rumours of a future Time Team programme on the topic and a recent article in the Sunday Telegraph suggesting it will lead to new legislation are current examples.

NCMD officers attended a meeting of the PAAG in December 2006 where the Project was introduced and discussed. One recommendation from this meeting was the formation of a Steering Group to oversee the project. The latter was formed February 2007, has held two meetings and is composed of representatives from English Heritage, Oxford Archaeology, the Council for British Archaeology, the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers and the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Regrettably the NCMD was not included on the Steering Group nor even informed of its existence until (by chance) on the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2007 indicating that the Nighthawking Project is intended to be a purely archaeological one.

The NCMD is to discuss and review its continued involvement in the Project at its November OGM and in the meantime, under instruction from the Executive Committee, the NCMD representatives to the PAAG are only maintaining a watching brief on progress of the Nighthawking Project.

### **PAS Statements on Finds**

## Databases and Rallies.

The following statements were proposed, and include changes suggested by the NCMD, Society of Museum Archaeologists, Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers and English Heritage.

### Finds databases

The Portable Antiquities Scheme strongly encourages finders to keep records of where they made their finds, and this is consistent with individuals, groups or organisations maintaining their own database/s of finds. However, if you wish the information about your finds to add to our knowledge of the archaeology of England and Wales this can best be done by recording your finds (with the agreement of the landowner/occupier) with the Portable Antiquities Scheme, which has an agreement to transfer its data to Historic Environment Records (as set out in the *Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales*).

### Metal-detecting Rallies

*For people attending rallies:* The Portable Antiquities Scheme encourages finders to follow the *Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales* at all times, including whilst on metal-detecting rallies. This states that all archaeological finds should be recorded with PAS, with the agreement of the landowner/occupier. Your local Finds Liaison Officer will be happy to record your finds, either at the rally itself, if he or she is present, or subsequently.

*For those organising rallies:* The Portable Antiquities Scheme recommends that rally organisers should provide adequate resources for the recording of archaeological finds consistent with the spirit of the *Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales*. In particular, Finds Liaison Officers should be invited to attend all rallies. Where the Finds Liaison Officer is unable to attend, rally organisers are encouraged to provide maps of the area detected, so that finders can record finds with their local Finds Liaison Officer, with the agreement of the landowner/occupier. Rally organisers should also notify the local archaeological curator/HER of their event and liaise with them.

## 5. NCMD National Finds Competitions. 2006.

## The Annual Karolyn and Robin Hatt Memorial Finds Competitions.

The annual competitions are based upon metal detecting finds made by members during a calendar year 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December. The current competition is for the year 2006.

Entries are in three classifications – coin, artefact and hoard.

Regional Representatives are requested to arrange for regional entries to be available for the final judging to be held at the NCMD Ordinary meeting to be held on November 18<sup>th</sup> at The Innkeepers Lodge, Northampton. Further details are available from your Regional Representative.

The following information is requested for each entry.

Name, address (not for publication) and approximate age of finder. NCMD Region and Club name if applicable. A brief but accurate identification and description of the find, approximate date of recovery, type of site i.e. ploughed, pasture, beach etc. The general area of recovery, county or parish. Add any additional information you feel is significant.

Hoard entries should be submitted to Hilary Fagin, Competitions Manager, contact email shown below, accompanied by good, clear photographs including one photo of the complete hoard.

There is still time for Individual NCMD members and those clubs not registered with a Region to submit entries to Hilary our competition manager.

e-mail: [alex182sa@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:alex182sa@blueyonder.co.uk)

Finders are welcome to accompany their entries to the finals. Speak to your representative regarding arrangements.

## 6. MAKING HISTORY: ANTIQUARIES IN BRITAIN. 1707 – 2007.

### Royal Academy of Arts, London. 15 September - 2 December 2007

This exhibition will explore the work and achievement of the Fellowship of the Society

of Antiquaries of London since its foundation in the early eighteenth century to the present day.

It will showcase for the first time, treasures from Britain's oldest Learned Society concerned with the study of the past. It will feature works of art, antiquities and manuscripts of unique historical importance, such as the processional cross of King Richard III and his defeated Yorkist army recovered from the battlefield of Bosworth (1485).

Also on show will be the earliest known medieval manuscript illustrations of Stonehenge, as well as drawings and records of other buildings and objects now lost, paintings of ancient sites and landscapes by Constable, Turner, Blake and an extraordinary collection of English royal portraits from Henry VI to Mary Tudor.

Since its foundation in 1707, the Society has been at the forefront of research in archaeology and the study of the historic sites, monuments and artefacts of Britain. Through objects and biographies of leading antiquaries, this exhibition will feature milestones in the discovery, recording, interpretation and communication of Britain's past and reveal how new discoveries and technologies have transformed our understanding.

The exhibition's guest curator, the celebrated historian Dr David Starkey FSA, says, "For me, history has always been as much about things - buildings, paintings, jewels - as written documents

Entrance Fees. Adult - £8.  
 Concessions (60+/Disabled) - £6.50  
 Disabled Carers – Free  
 Corporate Members &  
 Students (NUS) - £5.50.  
 12-18yrs/Income Support - £4  
 8-11yrs - £3, 7yrs and under – Free

Tickets: 0870 848 8484  
[www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk)

## **7. Portable Antiquities Scheme Appraisal Questionnaire.**

### **Have You Returned Yours Yet?**

Members are reminded that the deadline for the return of the questionnaires is the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2007. Completed questionnaires can be submitted via regional delegates or posted

direct to the NCMD General Secretary or the Membership Secretary.

### **Appraisal of the Portable Antiquities Scheme: 2007**

For several years' members comment and anecdotal accounts concerning the operation of the PAS have been brought to the attention of the NCMD Executive. A number of these were dealt with through liaison with the PAS management or through NCMD officers and regional delegates.

However it is now opportune with the approach of the PAS's tenth anniversary, to seek the comments of the membership on a more formal basis as a measure of the performance of both the scheme and the FLO's. A formal request from the Western Region made at the February 2007 OGM for the NCMD to carry out an appraisal within that region acted as the basis for the current issue of the questionnaire.

As a part of the NCMD remit we have a responsibility to our membership to ensure that they continue to receive a comprehensive, fair and accurate service from the PAS. It is regrettable that there continues to be some perceived difficulties with the operation of the scheme and the levels and quality of service it provides to our members.

In order to understand more fully the background to any such problems and their magnitude, the NCMD needs to have written comment and accurate details of any difficulties that have been experienced by its members in order for it to make representations to the PAS management if necessary.

There is no intent to carry out a "witch hunt", but merely to gain a more complete understanding (good or bad) of the operation of the PAS in relation to our member's needs and expectations.

Data from the completed questionnaires will be collated by an outside organisation to ensure that there is an unbiased presentation of the responses for discussion at the November 2007 OGM. Should it be necessary the NCMD may enquire further into individual situations hopefully with the full co-operation of the PAS management to seek to rectify any anomalous problems. It is also the intent to appraise the PAS management on the outcome of the exercise following

discussions of the result at the November meeting.

The outcome of the exercise may indicate new opportunities to expand the NCMD's liaison with the PAS for the benefit of the members. We will have to wait and see if the response is substantive and statistically sound. It is a first venture into uncharted territory and is as such very much a learning process and one that may prove to be a useful information-gathering model for the future.