

National Council for Metal Detecting

Member of: The Central Council of
Physical Recreation.

NCMD News and Views. Summer 2005

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

Email editor at.

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NCMD Membership.

Information about the benefits of NCMD
membership for individuals and clubs may
be obtained from Trevor Austin, NCMD
General Secretary, 51 Hilltop Gardens,
Denaby, Doncaster, DN12 4SA.

E - mail: trevor.austin@ncmd.co.uk

NCMD Website: www.ncmd.co.uk

Notes from the NCMD General Meeting
held on 20th February 2005.

1. Finance.

Phil Talbot (NCMD Treasurer)
recommended that it is not
necessary to increase
subscriptions for the forthcoming
year, 2005/6, and asked for
support on this issue.
The proposal was seconded by
Midlands. Vote : 18, Unanimous.

Civil Liability Insurance - At the
beginning of the financial year
April 2004, the NCMD took the
step of increasing the Civil
Liability Insurance cover from £2
million to £5 million in line with the
current requirement advised by
Local Authorities and other
bodies.

We have received a renewal
report by Perkins Slade, our
insurance brokers, in which they

state that there has been an
increase of 10% in the premiums
for this year. This is the general
increase which has been seen
right across the board for the
majority of our own personal
insurances

2. Review of Correspondence. General Secretary

Items of correspondence received
included:

Letters from various Councils
regarding Byelaws.

Correspondence from Ian Potts at
BBC advising their current series
of programmes, 'What the
Ancients Did for Us'.

Correspondence on the funding of
the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

Letters requesting information on
metal detecting on footpaths and
beaches.

Information from the Port of
London Authority (PLA) defining
its rules and licence fees for metal
detecting on the Thames
foreshore. The NCMD had been
invited to comment on the PLA
proposals and the General
Secretary had done so.

3. CCPR report. (Central Council for Physical Recreation)

Barry Morgan (Yorkshire) and Del
Samuels (South Wales) gave a
report on CCPR activity. Barry
Morgan is now shadowing Del
Samuels in preparation for the
handover when Del retires from
the position of delegate CCPR
representative at our AGM.

Del advised that we must be selective on which CCPR meetings we attend as the subject range of that organisation is vast and much of its business does not have any impact on our hobby.

4. Communications

Harry Bain, '*The Searcher*' and Alan Golbourn, '*Treasure Hunting*', offered to post News and Views in their respective magazines. This was welcomed by all.

'News and Views' is to be posted in both magazines and on the NCMD website and Detectornet for 6 months trial. Proposed by Yorkshire Region and seconded Anglia Region.
Vote : 17 in favour (1 abstention).

Factual NCMD information is to continue to be posted on the UK Detectornet (internet). This has been well received, as the information is available to a wide audience – NCMD members, archaeologists and detectorists. It was agreed this is benefiting the NCMD and the NCMD cause.

5. Review of Coroners Services

Trevor Austin gave a report on the Review of Coroners Services.

Trevor Austin had attended a meeting with the Home Office at very short notice. It has still not been confirmed whether they plan to remove Coroners completely from the Treasure Act. One proposal from the Home Office is to have regional coroners who work exclusively with treasure. The NCMD aim to have proposals prepared for discussions with the Home Office.

The Home office confirmed its commitment to consultation, before they agree anything. It was proposed by Bob Whalley, Western, that NCMD should again write to the Home Office stating that the NCMD had an interest and would like to be consulted on the new proposals as part of the consultation for the Coroners Review. Seconded by Ken Willcox, Anglia. Vote:18, unanimous.

6. Robin Hatt Trophy Rule amendments

A trophy for the 'Hoard Category' was discussed and it was agreed that the new trophy for hoards would be called the 'Karolyn Hatt Memorial Trophy'.

It was proposed by Yorkshire, seconded by North West, to purchase a trophy. Vote 14 in favour and 3 against.

A proposition that a Hoard would be defined as under the Treasure Act was proposed by the Vice Chairman and seconded by Midland Region.
Vote. 18 unanimous.

The Northwest Region agreed to put forward some possible new rules to be discussed. The Hoard category would take effect from the AGM so would not be used until June 2006.

7. Midlands Portable Antiquities Regional Group

Bob Baldock and Steve Critchley reported on a very useful meeting with Roger Bland, Michael Lewis and the local Finds Liaison

Officers for the Midlands and Lincolnshire Areas.

Items discussed included Liaison with Battlefields Trust, Nighthawking Assessment Project, eBay problems, contact with landowners, Liaison Groups, Future of Coroners within the Treasure Act.

A proposed joint article regarding bequests of finds from people who have left the hobby or died was discussed. The subject will be submitted as an early NCMD agenda item with a view to further discussion with PAS.

8. DEFRA CSS / ELS Update

Bob Whalley reported on the continuing lack of response by DEFRA to the NCMD submission about Countryside Stewardship. A meeting promised by DEFRA for March/April last year still had not been set up.

There was to be a meeting of the Portable Antiquities Reporting Scheme Advisory Committee on 22 February at which Bob Whalley and David Barwell would attempt to apply pressure for a response via that meeting. There had been no response to the letter written to Estelle Morris by the PAS Board Chairman (Chris Batt). It was quite clear that the hobby was losing patience because of the continued delay. Bob Whalley also advised that entry into the Countryside Stewardship Scheme had ceased but the scheme agreements would continue in force for another ten years.

The new Entry Level Agri-environment Scheme would be introduced in March 2005.

Note. Since this report a meeting of NCMD, DEFRA and PAS has been arranged to take place in June.

9. Portable Antiquities Scheme.

Finds Data Transfer. We are within possibly 2 or 3 words of an agreement on the document that allows data to be transferred from the Portable Antiquities Scheme to the sites and monuments.

Note. This item will be progressed at the next PAS steering group meeting.

English Heritage Our Portable Past .

A report on this subject was presented by Steve Critchley. NCMD has prepared and dispatched a response to English Heritage.

Recent communications with English Heritage indicate that the NCMD comments along with those received from other consultees were discussed by their Portable Antiquities Group in January. The document is currently undergoing a redraft and will be circulated to the Portable Antiquities Group.

Code of Practice for Responsible Detecting. This is a CBA initiative, trying to sign up all parties, the NCMD, English Heritage, ALGAO, but at the moment there is no agreement on this. A number of responses have been received from regions and clubs but further discussions and views are required.

PAS Landowners Leaflet. Although there was a lot of

disagreement to the leaflet, it was pointed out that the Portable Antiquities Scheme is now taking an interest in Landowners, as called for by the NCMD. An initial reply has been forwarded to the PAS and all attendees were asked to submit further comment.

10. Scottish Treasure Trove Review

Trevor Austin reported on the results of the Treasure Trove Reviewing Committee in Scotland. NCMD had made several recommendations to the Scottish Executive including appointing liaison officers for Scotland, similar to those in England and Wales, but the Executive had decided not to follow this up. The responses to other recommendations were discussed.

There was much debate and it was agreed that the NCMD should promote the regeneration of an NCMD Scottish Region. There were a number of longstanding NCMD members in Scotland and more recently other clubs have joined, who need active NCMD support. It was recommended that Scottish representatives would be invited to discuss the way forward in Scotland.

11. Regional Reports

North West Region reported on three hoards which have been found which are well documented in 'The Searcher'.

Western Region reported that the Newsletter has been successful.

Midlands Region reported on the Portable Antiquities meeting that they had attended and felt was very worthwhile.

Ken Willcox, Anglia Region reported that they are determined to visit each of the 6 clubs in the Anglia region before the AGM.

Clive Sinclair, Southern Region, reported on the new West Sussex Liaison Group, which looks to be very successful. The group is chaired by Liz Wilson (FLO) and had a good turn out from local clubs and individuals and was attended by the County Archaeologists, SMR officers and museums. Local clubs are going to team up with museums to hold local displays. They had previously held an East Sussex Liaison meeting.

12. Other News.

Steve Critchley, Vice Chairman, reported on three documents recently issued by English Heritage which advised landowners on ways in which they could assist archaeology. There were no financial incentives offered and there was no mention of metal detecting.

He also reported on an article from the Kent Archaeological Field School Journal which was quite vitriolic with regard to the hobby. This was quite surprising as relationships between professional archaeology and the metal detecting hobby were extremely good in that County with a great deal of mutual co-operation.

Data Transfer Update.

The following arrangement was agreed for the transfer of PAS data to HERs.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), the National Council for Metal Detecting (NCMD) and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO) have now agreed the terms and conditions for the transfer of PAS data to Historic Environment Records (HERs) and Sites and Monuments Records (SMRs).

The agreement means that HERs/SMRs will be able to use PAS data for all their normal purposes, such as development-control work and research enquiries, but they will only publish findspots on the Internet in the same way as the PAS does on its finds database (see www.finds.org.uk). This is to say that no finds will be published on the Internet to more than at National Grid Reference (NGR) of 4 figures (1km^{sq}), and only at parish (or less) for Treasure finds and finds from sites where the finder, landowner, HER Officer or Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) believes that there is a conservation threat (such as the risk of nighthawking) if the findspot is published.



Conditions for the transfer of data from the Portable Antiquities Scheme Database to Local Authority Historic Environment Records

The following conditions apply to all who have access to the full data held within the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) Database

1. You will not reveal your password (if one is granted) to a third party.
2. The account is non-transferable (for example, do not log on for another person to use the database.)
3. As an interim measure Local Authorities will only publish PAS data online¹ to a National Grid Reference (NGR) level of precision no greater than 4 figures (1 km^{sq}). This will be reviewed on a regular basis. In the longer term all PAS reported data could be made available for public reference via Local Authority websites and elsewhere, with the overall approval of the Portable Antiquities Advisory Group,² including specific agreement from the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO) and National Council for Metal Detecting (NCMD).
4. For some PAS data, Local Authorities will only publish the locational information online to parish level (or less). These records include objects subject to the Treasure Act (1996) and sites where the finder, or the landowner, or the historic environment professionals (including Finds Liaison Officers and Historic Environment Record Officers) have reason to believe that a conservation threat to a site may result from more detailed online publication of locational data. Caution will be used/applied by the Local Authority in assessing the risk of a conservation threat. Concerns such as the perceived threat of further metal detecting being undertaken on the site without the landowner's permission with resulting loss of archaeological information will therefore be fully taken into account when such risks are being assessed.

This document can be superseded by a formal agreement ratified by the Portable Antiquities Advisory Group.

I agree to abide by the conditions outlined above.

Name:
Position:
Organisation:
Date:
Address:
Telephone number:
Email address:

On behalf of the MLA
Name:
Position:
Address:

Notes: As a user of the PAS data you will be subject to all relevant legislation such as the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Freedom of Information Act 2005.

¹. 'Online' means on the world-wide web.

². The following organisations are members of the Portable Antiquities Advisory Group: the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, English Heritage, the British Museum, the National Museums & Galleries of Wales, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, the Council for British Archaeology, the National Council for Metal Detecting, the Society of Museum Archaeologists, the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers and the Country Land and Business Association.



Portable
Antiquities
Scheme
www.finds.org.uk

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