

**National Council for Metal  
Detecting**

Member of: The Central Council of  
Physical Recreation.

***NCMD News and Views.  
Winter 2005/6***

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

Email editor at.

bob@ baldock48.freemove.co.uk

**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](mailto:trevor.austin@ncmd.co.uk)

NCMD Website: [www.ncmd.co.uk](http://www.ncmd.co.uk)

**Notes from the NCMD Ordinary  
Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2005.**

**1. Welcome to the Scottish  
Region.**

The re-structured Scottish Region  
was formally welcomed to the NCMD  
and their attendance was warmly  
received by the meeting.

A proposal to formally accept their  
membership was proposed North  
West Region and seconded by  
Midland Region. Vote: unanimous.

Colin Irvine, Scottish Region, said that  
the Region was looking to protect the  
hobby in Scotland as is done in  
England and Wales. The metal  
detecting hobby in Scotland was  
showing a large membership increase  
and Colin anticipated more clubs

would join the new NCMD Region.  
Colin explained that Scotland does  
not have FLO's (Finds Liaison  
Officers) and their work is carried out  
by the museum services.

**2. Extra Ordinary AGM**

Two items were deferred from the  
AGM, held in July, due to the  
proposing delegate being unable to  
attend. The items are as follows.

**Motion from the Southern Region.**

'That the Constitution Sub-  
Committee's recommendations laid  
out in it's review of the Constitution  
update, draft issue 3 dated 3rd August  
2002, with the exclusion of all  
references to the now redundant  
Executive Officers post of 'Co-  
ordinator Policy', be accepted subject  
to any final alterations being deemed  
necessary at a special meeting of the  
NCMD Management Team, to be  
convened as soon as possible after  
the AGM 2005'.

Clive Sinclair, Southern Region,  
explained that the document in its  
revised issue was ready for review.

Steve Critchley, chairman, suggested  
that this could be carried out at the  
next Management Team meeting to  
be held in January 2006.

The motion was proposed by  
Southern Region and seconded by  
Midland Region. Vote: unanimous.

**Election of Public Relations Officer.**

A proposal that Clive Sinclair,  
Southern Region, be elected as  
Public Relations Officer was proposed  
by Anglia Region and seconded by  
Midland Region. Vote: unanimous.

**3. CCPR Report.** (Central  
Council for Physical Recreation)

Barry Morgan, Yorkshire Region,  
circulated the CCPR response to a

report by Natural England, a draft strategy on access to land. The CCPR replied that it is imperative that access and recreation is specifically included within the strategy and look forward to commenting on these in due course.

Discussion followed on the creation of Natural England in October 2006.

Barry Morgan agreed to seek out any information concerning the possibility of changes to AONB's (Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) with the implementation of the new agency, Natural England.

#### **4. Maritime Bill.**

The impending 'Maritime Bill' was introduced by The Chairman who explained that this was a bill concerned with the management of coastal zones. Barry Morgan will monitor this situation.

#### **5. Battlefields Trust.**

Brian Pollard, Midland Region, reported on a proposed conference to be held in the New Year in Leeds and chaired by Lord Faulkner.

The NCMD has been requested to participate in this. Barry Morgan, Yorkshire Region, offered to assist Brian.

#### **6. Receiver of Wreck.**

Barry Morgan, Yorkshire Region, distributed information leaflets including:

'Notes on Wreck Law', 'Danger on the Shore' and 'Where to Turn To when you turn something up'

These leaflets and others are available from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

Look under 'Coastguard' in your telephone directory for your nearest office.

#### **7. NCMD Internet Forum.**

Clive Sinclair, Southern Region, introduced the potential setting up of an NCMD internet forum with the objective of improving communication to members and providing a medium that members could use and hopefully become more active within the hobby.

Clive has been discussing the project with John Wilson and Colin Irvine who offered to implement the forum and had already carried out a pilot for the committee to use and comment on.

John Wilson, North West Region, said a forum would provide an excellent communications tool.

The forum would be a private forum available only to NCMD members with public access to limited information.

A proposal that the NCMD create and implement a NCMD Website Forum was proposed by Southern Region and seconded by North West Region. Vote: unanimous.

Clive Sinclair our forum co-ordinator advised the meeting that the forum will be constructed by Colin Irvine (Scottish Region) and John Wilson (North West Region).

Further information about the proposed forum is appended to this newsletter.

#### **8. Landowners Leaflet.**

As previously reported A draft Landowners Leaflet has been produced by Michael Lewis, Portable Antiquities Scheme, designed to provide advice to landowners on the Portable Antiquities Scheme, metal detecting and searching for archaeological objects in England.

The PAS has acknowledged receipt of

comments from the NCMD, however they felt that it would be best to finalise the 'Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England & Wales' before proceeding further.

### **9. Treasure Annual Report and Portable Antiquities Scheme Annual Report.**

The launch of Portable Antiquities Scheme, Annual Report 2004/5 and the Treasure Annual Report 2003 was scheduled for 9th November, in London. Trevor Austin, General Secretary, attended as the Representative of the NCMD.

### **10. 'Draft Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England & Wales'.**

As reported previously a draft Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting has been produced by Mike Hayworth, Council for British Archaeology (CBA). This has been circulated for comments with a view to producing a document which is signed up for by all parties (NCMD / PAS / CBA and other members of the PAS Advisory Group).

The draft code was discussed at our last meeting and amendments suggested were taken back to the PAS, by Bob Whalley, Western Region, and Bob Baldock, Midland Region, for further discussion.

A revised draft has been received which was discussed at this meeting and certain changes agreed. Steve Critchley, Chairman, & Bob Baldock, Vice Chairman, will assemble the agreed changes into a document suitable for reply to the PAS.

The English Heritage Portable Antiquities Policy is close to being launched in its final version. Policies

within this document may well revise our response to the 'Draft Code of Practice'.

### **11. DEFRA CSS/ELS. Countryside Stewardship Scheme / Entry Level Scheme.**

Clive Sinclair, PRO, will monitor this item.

DEFRA has indicated that it will be sending a letter to the metal detecting magazines explaining the position regarding metal detecting on ELS/HLS land and will be placing CSS guidance information on the internet in due course.

### **12. NCMD Memberships.**

All Regions have reported an increase in membership.

John Rigby, Membership Secretary, welcomed the North Herts Charity Detector Club, a new club on the Central Register.

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### **NCMD Internet Forum**

#### **How will it all work.**

A decision has been made to launch an NCMD Members Internet Forum to run on a pilot trial basis from January 2006. The forum is currently under construction.

Before the site can be officially launched, we need to form a team of administrators who can spend a little time on their home PC's managing the site and moderating the content of posts from members.

It is not possible to predict how large or fast the initial take up of members will be, so we will need to be well prepared for the launch.

Members will register by e-mail and a check will need to be made on the validity of the data received from the person registering. This data will

consist of full name, NCMD membership number, full postal address and club (if applicable). To deal with the initial launch, at least one volunteer (preferably two) from each Region will be required to form an administration team. These people could be regional committee members or even just ordinary members. A request for regional nominations of administrator(s) / moderator(s) has been circulated.

A repository will be set up on the forum server for all registration requests and give automatic access as soon as the software has checked that the application has been completed (all necessary fields filled).

Each Regional administrator(s) can then, in their own time, check these against their own databases. Those applications found to be false will then lead to a query and the applicant being removed from the forum at the earliest opportunity if necessary.

Although this procedure is not ideal in that it allows access before validation, it should be practical and will allow applicants to get onto the forum quickly but allow the forum administrators to check through the applicants data at their own pace.

Regional administrators will have access to the range of membership numbers allocated to their Region on an annual basis, which can be used to filter out the applications that they need to process from the repository.

A forum 'Acceptable User Policy' (AUP) is currently being prepared and been circulated to Regional delegates for comment.

**The forum will have the following main sections: -**

## **Administration Section.**

### **NCMD News & Views:**

A full copy of the NCMD News & Views will be posted here.

This section will also be used to take opinion polls on issues relating to the hobby.

### **NCMD Members Discussion Section.**

**General Chat Room:** This is the main discussion area for all issues relating to the hobby.

**Suggestion Box:** For suggestions to improve the forum.

**Robin & Karolyn Hatt Memorial Trophy.** This section is for nominations for the national annual finds competition in the memory of Robin & Karolyn Hatt.

There are three entry categories: Artefacts, Coins & Hoards. The competition will be judged at the NCMD Annual General Meeting.

**FLO's Section.** This is a 'read only' area where Finds Liaison Officers can post news about the Portable Antiquities Scheme and related matters.

### **'Whats On'.**

This is where Clubs, Regional Organisations and Individual Members, can advertise events and activities.

It is also intended that the forum should provide an opportunity for Regions and Clubs to set up their own private chat rooms should they wish.

If members have any ideas for additional sections, then please pass your suggestions to Bob Baldock,

NCMD News & Views Editor. If you wish to help as a Regional Forum Administrator and / or Moderator then please send an e-mail to Clive Sinclair, Forum Co-ordinator at:

[clive.sinclairc5@btopenworld.com](mailto:clive.sinclairc5@btopenworld.com).

The launch of the pilot forum will be dependent on volunteers coming forward from each NCMD Region.