

## NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR METAL DETECTING

### Minutes from the EGM

Held on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at the Holiday Inn Northampton

#### PRESENT

Wendy Howard	Chair
Alan Tamblyn	General Secretary
Siobhan Liehne	Treasurer
David Millington	Membership Secretary
Dave Crisp	Communications Officer
William Hargreaves	Assistant General Secretary

#### REGIONAL DELEGATES

Kevin Gorman	N/W Region
Catherine Lange	Central Register
Alastair Hackett	Scottish Region
Jackie Liehne	Scottish Region
Stephen Kerr	Scottish Region

#### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Tracy Messer	Digital media
Adrian Gayler	Competitions

### 1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

The Chair opened the meeting. Apologies were received in advance of the meeting, names are noted above.

#### BACKGROUND

For over forty years, the NCMD structure had consisted of a number of regions across the UK that voted on policy matters, with a national committee to deal with the day-to-day running of the organisation.

The policy matters were voted on by the delegates put forward by each region at meetings convened for the purpose by the committee but the committee members themselves had no voting powers.

Over time, more and more individual members were joining, and they were placed into a “central register”, as were individual clubs that joined the NCMD but chose not to belong to a region.

Eventually, the vast majority of NCMD members were in the Central Register and the total number of members in the regions became very much a minority, but under that structure they still held the voting power whilst the Central Register had only one vote so were very underrepresented.

Given that 4 regions had left the NCMD, there were only two regions remaining therefore the purpose of this EGM is to discuss, agree and vote for a proposed NCMD structure and constitution that is more in line with the current requirements of the organisation and its members.

### **EGM AGENDA**

1. To discuss and agree the revised Constitution and Structure document
2. To discuss the future structure of the remaining regions within the NCMD
3. To vote on the adoption of the revised Constitution and Structure document.

#### **1. To discuss and agree the revised Constitution and Structure document**

The proposed Constitution and Structure documents were compiled by Kevin Gorman and sent out to all committee members and regional delegates prior to the meeting, with a request for feedback and comments on the proposals ahead of the EGM.

The resulting feedback was incorporated into the documents that were put forward for final discussion.

KG explains that the reason for the EGM is that the work surrounding the NCMD management structure and new Constitution, which was proposed and accepted in principle at the June 2022 AGM is reaching its conclusion.

KG then walked through each section of the Constitution and a number of minor amendments were discussed, agreed, and then applied.

One key component of the new structure is the inclusion of Trustees to protect the 'fighting fund' that has been accrued over the years to cover legal costs in the event that we need to protect the interests of our members and our hobby. The Trustees will also oversee the financial reports and proposals concerning financial expenditure outside of the normal running of the organisation.

Another role of the Trustees would be to review any proposed changes to the Constitution to ensure that any such changes are in the best interests of the organisation and its members.

After much deliberation, it was finally agreed that we would source independent Trustees from outside of the hobby to ensure neutrality at all times, whilst the policy Committee will come from the membership of the NCMD.

KG explains that the sourcing of independent Trustees would happen as a matter of urgency but confirms that everything else is in place so the vote to adopt the structural changes and the new Constitution may go ahead in principle at today's meeting, to be ratified at the June 2023 AGM or sooner via an EGM if the Trustees are in place before June.

#### **NOTE.**

Following a meeting of the Policy Committee and the temporary Trustees, it has been decided that the new Constitution will accommodate the recruitment of Trustees from the membership and wider hobby. This decision will be ratified at an EGM on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

KG explains that the vote will not be ratified at the AGM if the Trustees and a full complement of Policy Committee members are not in place at the time of the meeting.

In the meantime, three of the current NCMD Executives will stand in as temporary Trustees until the actual Trustees are officially in place.

The subject of meetings was discussed, and it was agreed that in place of a quarterly Ordinary General Meeting, we would hold a monthly meeting which would include a monthly financial report along with an update of all actions and updates that had occurred during that month.

An update letter would then be sent to all members, either by email or hard copy as requested. These monthly meetings will be held via zoom and all NCMD members will be welcome to ask questions as part of 'any other business' via an email request to the General Secretary.

It was also agreed that the Annual General Meeting will always be held in person at an appropriate venue and again, members will be welcome to put questions forward for discussion and the meeting minutes will be ratified and distributed in a timely manner, rather than one year later as stated in the current constitution.

In the current constitution, it is a requirement that financial reports are provided once a quarter at each of the three OGM's and the AGM. Under the new constitution, these will be provided monthly and in addition, as everything we do is logged online via an electronic accounting system known as Xero, it was agreed that read-only access will be given to each member of the committee as well as to each of the Trustees rather than the current position, which is limited to the General Secretary and Treasurer.

This will ensure that everyone can see everything to do with our finances in real time rather than having to wait for three months as is currently the case.

In regard to the membership structure of the NCMD and the future voting structure, after much debate it was agreed that we will go forward as one organisation with no preference to the two existing regions.

This is a change to the current situation where there are only three votes, one for each of the two regions with the third vote being made on behalf of everyone else.

Going forward, each member of the new Policy Committee will have a vote on the running of the NCMD. The Trustees will have a vote on the major financial decisions as well as changes to the Constitution in order to ensure that everything is always done for the benefit and best interests of the organisation and its members.

At the conclusion of the discussions, the General Secretary offered his thanks to Kevin Gorman for all the time and effort that had gone into the formulation and creation of the new Constitution and Structure, also to the members of the current Committee and to the Regional Delegates for all their help and support.

## **2. To discuss the future structure of the Scottish Region**

### **Background**

The Scottish Region was made up of 2 clubs totalling just over 100 members, but in recent years, all individual members with an address in Scotland had automatically been added to the list of Scottish Regional members. No individual had been given a choice in this and it transpires that they had received little, if any, communication from the Scottish Region committee yet £2 per head was being claimed from the NCMD for every individual member to cover the running costs of the region.

The NCMD are moving away from the regional structure as only 2 regions were remaining and the structure had become ineffective, but Alastair proposed that we discuss Paragraph 5d & Appendix B, which relates to the future function of the regions within the NCMD.

Alastair requested that the current structure continues, along with the continued collection of £2 per head from NCMD membership fees to cover the running costs of the Scottish Region.

Alastair explained that over the years, he had been involved with various aspects of detecting in Scotland including contact with the Treasure Trove Unit and dealing with queries on detecting. He went on to say that he accepted that the region had accrued a large fund over the years and that going forward, was prepared to concede that the contribution from membership subscriptions into the Scottish Regional coffers could be reduced.

Catherine Lange asked for clarification on a number of points, the money aspect, the membership aspect and how members were recruited into the region. From the NCMD perspective, what would the benefit be to retaining the current structure and how will it affect members in Scotland if it was removed.

Catherine stated that ahead of the restructuring, the Scottish Region had been asked to provide a document to provide reasons why the independent Scottish members should continue to be automatically added into the region without any say in the matter, and what the disadvantages be to them if this practise was discontinued.

Alastair stated that all Scottish queries were handled by the Scottish Region, but this was disputed by Dave Crisp who stated that a large number of queries go to him as Communications Officer, to the General Secretary and also to the Membership Secretary.

Alastair stated that retaining contact with the Scottish Membership was extremely important. The General Secretary asked how much contact the Scottish Region currently had with its members. Siobhan Liehne stated that there had not been much contact recently because of covid, but now that we are out of covid restrictions, the plan is to continue as before.

Dave Crisp then asked how much contact there had been with members prior to covid and Siobhan replied that there certainly had been regular contact, but Alastair later admitted that there had in fact been very little, if any, contact with individual members living in Scotland outside of the two clubs that form the Scottish Region.

The General Secretary stated that one of the main reasons for re-structuring the NCMD was because there is currently a two-tier system in place, and that outside of the few clubs in the Northwest and Scottish regions, the vast majority of remaining members were not being represented and this had to change because it was unfair.

Alastair stated that going forward, they would look to organise a rally for Scottish members, paid for by the rebate they receive, but it was stated by many around the table that it wasn't fair on the rest of our membership. It was later agreed that given the size of Scotland and the geographical spread of members, that it would be unrealistic to have a meeting or event that everyone would be able to attend.

Dave Crisp suggested that a better way going forward would be for the regions to continue as they are, but when they needed funds for specific projects, they could apply for it from the central committee. Siobhan Liehne again confirmed that they were happy to discuss how the region was funded going forward.

The Membership Secretary pointed out that over the years, the members of the Scottish Region committee had every opportunity to reach out and engage with Scottish members, and even help to encourage them to form clubs, but this had not happened.

He went on to say that he constantly receives emails and calls from members living in Scotland, so clearly they are not all going through the Scottish Regional committee and therefore having a separate entity was not necessary, particularly as they weren't being given the choice to join the region in the first place nor were they being communicated with.

Catherine Lange pointed out that there had never been a vote on including everyone with a Scottish address, into the Scottish Region and that it had been done by stealth over the years, further stating that it was unfair to all members, even the Scottish ones because they had no say in how the Scottish Regional funds were being spent and the NCMD committee had no control over it either.

It was mentioned that Scotland has different treasure laws, but the Membership Secretary pointed out that so does Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, all of whom have members in the NCMD, so going forward we need a structure that represents all of these areas as well.

It was pointed out that whilst virtual clubs online were booming, bricks and mortar clubs are dying, as the numbers confirm. It was also confirmed that the Scottish Region had no digital presence on social media so had no interaction with any members living in Scotland apart from the members of the two clubs that attend club meetings.

Siobhan Liehne stated that the going forward, the Scottish Region would be happy to only take £2 per head from the club members to cover the running costs of the region providing that they could retain the £8,000 in the regions bank account. Siobhan further proposed that should there be a need for further funding, that this would be made available, which was agreed.

It was then agreed that going forward, the Scottish Region would consist of the 2 clubs only, that they would retain the £8,000 held in their bank account and that they would have the ability to email all NCMD members living in Scotland should the need arise.

### **3. To vote on the adoption of the revised Constitution and Structure document.**

The new Constitution and Appendices was proposed by Kevin Gorman to replace the existing Constitution, Appendices and Standing Orders. This was seconded by Dave Crisp.

The vote was unanimously in favour of accepting the new Constitution and Appendices with immediate effect.

This will be ratified at the AGM provided that the three Trustees are in place and that the committee consists of all seven members at that time. If either of these conditions aren't met, it will require an EGM to be convened once the conditions are met in order to ratify this Constitution and Appendices.

The General Secretary then thanked everyone present for their time and input and closed the meeting.