

**NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR METAL DETECTING
Minutes of the NCMD Annual General Meeting
Held on 29th June 2025**

THOSE PRESENT- POLICY COMMITTEE

Alan Tamblyn (General Secretary) AT1
Siobhan Lihne (Treasurer) SL
David Millington (Membership Secretary) DM
Dave Crisp (Communication Officer) DC
Matthew Lines (Policy Committee Officer) ML
Ralph Green (Policy Committee Officer) RG
Stuart Greatorex (Policy Committee Officer) SG

THOSE PRESENT- TRUSTEES

Adrian Tyrrell (Chair) AT2
Marrtin Brickell MB
Stuart Wilkinson SW

No Apologies

WELCOME

AT1 welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanking them all for giving up their weekend to attend. The meeting began with AT1 outlining the result of the recent PC and Trustee election. There were several interviewees, and 7001 members took part in the vote, returning the incumbents, SW and ML. However, all the unsuccessful interviewees have stated their interest and commitment to working alongside the PC as working party members. AT1 led the PC and Trustees in congratulating ML and SW.

GENERAL UPDATE ON PROJECTS AGREED AT AGM 2024

Reference the following files
[NCMD Projects for 2025.docx](#)
[Future Strategy of the NCMD.docx](#)
[Code of Conduct for Event Organisers.docx](#)
[APPAG Inquiry notes.docx](#)

Presented by AT1

RE-SKINNED WEBSITE AND UPGRADING OF FINDSPOTS ON NCMD APP

Launch of re-skinned website, including branded merchandising, some historic documents are still needing to be added, information on the website has been updated, ALMOST COMPLETE. The monthly traffic to the website has increased hugely, to a figure of some 5,000 visits by members per month.

FINDS RECORDING PORTAL

Find spots are now much more accurate than previously, with the addition of satellite view. The portal has been designed to allow members to report their finds to the PAS without the need to make appointments to see their FLO or hand in items until/unless the FLO asks for them.

PRODUCT INFORMATION VIDEOS

Updating the cartoon videos proved to be extremely expensive and therefore infeasible. However, to update them until removal, notes were added to inform members of any changes etc. In their place the PC commissioned Emma Youell Designs (EYD) to make a new series of videos.

A series of 9 were created; to promote the Hoard/Excavation hotline, the importance of recording finds and/or treasure, amongst others. One of them, the instructions on how to make best use of the App has been delayed mainly due to issues surrounding the chosen venue, the British Museum. The discussion around this to be held later in the AGM.

APPAG INQUIRY

As part of the inquiry, AT1 and DC created a report (then approved by the PC) and sent it to Lord Redesdale the chair of the APPAG inquiry. He emailed back to say that he understood the issues and agreed with points raised in the report. The inquiry was postponed for a while due to the election but has now begun. Further discussion will be held later in this AGM.

INFORMATION LEAFLETS

New information leaflets have been drafted, suggestions made have been implemented, and the resulting new leaflets will be sent out to all retailers to be put into the boxes of each detector they sell.

MEETINGS WITH NFU

The NFU rep told the NCMD how impressed he was with the information that is available for both detectorists and landowners, namely the Code of Conduct, the Insurance, and the Search Agreement. They discussed events etc. that take place on farmland and explained how allowing events on their land can provide the funds required to feed their stock throughout the winter months, making events a valuable income stream. Farmers are also aware of how these events protect and uncover the nation's heritage.

ENGLISH HERITAGE

The NCMD are in constant talks with English Heritage on how to combat 'nighthawking' and other rural crimes committed by detectorists (almost always non-members of NCMD).

TREASURE TROVE REVIEW IN SCOTLAND

NCMD are playing their part in working with KLTR in the review and implementation of the same. It has been a great success, with KLTR being immensely grateful for their input into the Scottish Code of Practice, and for sharing KLTR information with NCMD members living in Scotland. They are building a new electronic system for recording finds, and it is built around the NCMD recording App.

They have invited the NCMD to be part of an advisory group, that will meet twice annually. The first of these meetings took place in May and initially, AT1 would have attended via Teams, but KLTR asked AT1 to attend in person as there were people that he should meet.

It is worth noting the attitude of KLTR to NCMD and detectorists in general, is extremely positive and collaborative compared to that of PAS in Wales and England. The meeting was a great success, and AT1

introduced the idea of creating an information video explaining the Treasure Trove law and explaining the process and best practice use of that new system mentioned previously. This was welcomed. AT1 was then invited to a meeting to be held in Scotland, in September 2025, to promote the benefits of metal detecting, backdrop expected to be Edinburgh Castle.

This would be the ideal place and opportunity to create the video with senior members of Treasure Trove Unit (TTU) present to take part. AT1 was awaiting estimate of EYD's costs before the PC makes a final decision. Please note: AT1 received that on 28 June 2025, and it is circa £3,000.00 to £4,000.00. This would include everything save the narrator.

Proposal by AT1 is that the NCMD goes ahead and commissions EYD to create this video, in Scotland, at Edinburgh Castle, in September 2025, at an expected cost of circa £3,000.00 to £4,000.00. This would include everything save the narrator.

The vote was unanimously in agreement.

NORTHERN IRELAND AND CHANNEL ISLANDS

The gathering of information on detecting and laws surrounding the hobby in these territories is a work in progress.

NCMD FINDS COMPETITION

The Finds competition is underway and is proving a great success. The under 16's category had to be altered as there were so few items found and is now to be an annual category only. However, later in the AGM there will be discussion about something that could change the under 16's category status. The whole judging process is under constant review so it can be shown on the NCMD YouTube channel.

QUARTERLY UPDATES

NCMD is now issuing quarterly updates on its FB page and by email to all members, including information from PAS on the numbers of finds being made by detectorists. This means that NCMD members are always in possession of latest news. It has proved so successful that it is progressing to a monthly update that includes information about the Finds Competition and the monthly Treasure Report, plus other information that needs to be shared.

LAUNCH OF REGULAR PODCASTS

This will be discussed fully later in the AGM.

AGREED DEFINITIONS OF CLUBS

This has been done, there is a new Club Directory system on the website. It contains both Traditional Clubs (TC) and 'Online Detecting Groups'(ODG) hitherto not treated as clubs. It is key for the FB groups to be brought under the NCMD banner and to follow the newly drafted Code of Conduct. DC has drawn up a list of actions that organisers of ODG should undertake or put in place when organising events, broadly like those he drew up in the formation of the Rodney Cook events. It is hoped that these guidelines will become the norm across the hobby. It is anticipated that, eventually, event organisers will form their own workgroup under the banner of the NCMD.

SW asked if YouTubers were included as ODG but AT1 said that they were businesses and therefore not included. However, during the past year the PC had discussed and agreed to sending these people packs of NCMD branded kit to wear whilst being filmed. These packs are being put together.

INSURANCE

The need to bring ODG under the NCMD banner resulted in AT1 and SL discussing their organisers' inclusion in the Insurance cover with the Insurance broker. This was accepted by the Insurance Provider, and they are now included, at nil extra cost.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

17 applicants, 6 interviewees, 1 no-show. All remaining interviewees happy to help in any way needed. The voting resulted in 7001 members taking part. DC stated that the process of voting online had proved to be easy and accurate (efforts were made in the testing phase, to try and vote more than once and was spotted and countered, likewise non-members couldn't vote either) DM asked that consideration be given to increasing the number of PC Ordinary Members by two or more. MB then said that he had also planned to raise succession planning in AOB. The suggestion was parked to be discussed later in the AGM.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Reference the following file

[AGM 250629 Membership Secretary Report. docx](#)

Presented by DM

The NCMD has now increased its membership every year for 4 years at least, (doubling the membership since 2021) indicating the confidence members have in the current administration.

CLUB MEMBERSHIPS

Some clubs have now moved to asking their members to renew their own memberships rather than go via the club, as the varied options for members are causing headaches for club membership secretaries, albeit at the same time giving those members far greater choice.

CLUB DIRECTORY

The new club directory should encourage clubs to promote themselves at the same time as giving a visual breakdown, via the interactive map, to prospective members of clubs available across the country.

MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS

Often, members do not realise that our payment platform uses 2FA, and as a result believe the transaction to be complete when it isn't. DM simply takes a phone payment as it saves every one of them time and frustration.

LOGIN ISSUES

Members frequently forget they have changed their ISP or forget their passwords. DM updates their addresses and sends out a password reset link.

RETURNED UNDELIVERABLE CARDS

These were a real expense to the NCMD, with us having to contact the member, find out their new or correct address, and then post their card on, having already paid PCS to deliver them via Whistl. This is always due to member error. We no longer post them on, explaining to the member they will have to buy a replacement card at their own expense.

DEFAULT TO DIGITAL CARDS

This has resulted in confusion for some members who have not read the email informing them of the change to digital cards way back on 14 April. If they insist on receiving a card then DM arranges for one, taking payment of £2 either on the phone or advising the member to do this online.

It can be seen above that the vast majority of 'fixes' are occurring due to members' errors. The upcoming video explaining how to make best use of the NCMD App should resolve a lot of these problems.

Following the presentation MB mentioned the increase in membership over the previous year, that of 11.47% as he felt this was tremendous news. AT1 agreed and said that there was also a huge uptake in traffic to the website, all this reflecting the confidence members have in the current administration and the products on offer, and is an indication of the work the entire PC and Trustees put in.

FINANCIALS

Reference the following files

[AGM FR 250629 5 YEAR BUDGET WORKBOOK. Xlsx](#)

[AGM FR 250629 INSTRUCTIONS FOR 5 YEAR BUDGET WORKBOOK.xlsx](#)

[AGM FR 250629 BUDGET YEAR ENDING 2026.xlsx](#)

[AGM FR 250629 BALANCE SHEET.pdf](#)

[AGM FR 250629 FINAL ACCOUNTS. pdf](#)

[AGM FR 250629 PROFIT AND LOSS.pdf](#)

[AGM FR 250629.docx](#)

Holdings at the end of the year were substantially over £600,000.00. MB was quick to notice that although income had increased by some 500% over the past 5 years, the cash passed to savings had dropped to around 10% of income this past year. SL agreed that spending had been substantially more in the past year, but as our membership has increased by some 100% since 2021, so had the need to provide greater and better products. SL said that the greatest spends had been on the Website, App and Salaries.

AT1 pointed out that the first 2 are completed, and now simply require maintenance, and so the spend on those will be vastly reduced for at least a few years. As for salaries, there is now a huge workload on a small number of people, and the salaries were to reflect that commitment and accountability. The 2025-2026 budget SL produced includes a 10% increase over the last year's spend and with the initial spend on the Website and the App out of the way, the savings pot should enjoy a larger injection this year. With succession planning in mind AT1 explained that the one officer that so far that needs extra support is the treasurer. NCMD needs to provide additional support, and it was agreed, therefore, to create a financial team.

This past year has seen many other extra expenses and projects, some requiring an initial outlay such as the Trailer that will now carry all the NCMD display kit for taking to events. It will also carry camping equipment thereby reducing hotel costs for those officers attending.

The 4 paid Officers moved to employed status rather than self-employed as the NCMD accountants recommended that HMRC would be unhappy with so called 'volunteers' earning an income.

FEES

SL felt that the time had come to talk about fee increases for members, across all the year options. NCMD had held off doing this throughout the past 4 years, (even though the subject cropped up every year) because the organisation had been in a state of flux. In the interim the PC had raised a £2 levy on physical cards and that had been hugely successful in encouraging the uptake of digital cards, more so than hoped for. However, the fact remained that fees had not been increased for at least 13 years that SL could find out.

SAVINGS INTEREST

At present NCMD has several accounts with the savings spread through them. The monies held in bonds will hold the same interest level until maturity, but the monies held in club accounts are seeing interest earned at a downward trajectory. SL and ML will need to identify new accounts.

At this point it was felt that the trustees should take 10 days to study the financial documents and then write to SL with any questions/suggestions. SL had identified a particular problem with one of the currently held bonds, in that they had a policy of only allowing a maximum of 2 signatories on bonds, but NCMD had a policy stating that a minimum of 3 from a pool of 5 should apply. This means that SL cannot gain access to anything. This needs to be addressed at the July OGM. As stated previously, AT1 would arrange an EGM for the third week in July, about a week before the OGM set for 29 July.

The final point SL needed to raise was that of a 'float' in the NCMD current account held in Lloyds. It was unanimously agreed therefore that the float should be a maximum of £100,000.00, anything over that to be passed to a building society account.

PRINTING COSTS

DM asked how much had been spent on printing cards alone last year and it was determined to be circa £40,000.00. DM said that with the massive take up of digital cards, the cost of printing physical cards should go down by an equally massive amount but SL pointed out that smaller orders would bring higher price points, e.g. an order for 200 cards would cost more per card than an order for 500 cards, and that makes a disappointing difference, but overall SL agreed that there would be a drop in printing costs.

AT1 suggested that now might be the time to re-negotiate NCMD's contract with Certus (used to be PCS) and to look elsewhere for another source. AT1 to lead SL and DM in renegotiation of Certus contract or to source another supplier with more advantageous terms.

Unanimously agreed.

Approval of the financial accounts was unanimously accepted as a true and accurate record.

MERCHANDISING UPDATE

Reference the following files

[AGM FR 250629 Merchandising Figures Year End 2024 – 2025.xlsx](#)

[AGM 250629 Merchandise Sales Update.docx](#)

RG informed those present that the NCMD shop had now been in existence for 8 months exactly and had received 140 orders, taking in a gross sum of £3,003.00 giving a net profit of approx. £1,300.00. In the Christmas 2024 Prize draw 50 vouchers valued at £20 each had been given out as prizes, but only 8 had been used.

RG is constantly on the lookout for new products and adds them to the stock as and when takings allow, as the intention had always been for the Merchandise to be self-sufficient. The shop had been granted £10,000.00 to purchase stock.

There had originally been several hurdles to overcome in relation to carriers, but these had been overcome. RG would like to look at options to help promote sales in the shop. The items he sells are of good quality and this is reflected in the number of 5-star reviews. He would like to see more traffic to the shop. It is already advertised in Treasure Hunting magazine, on the website, the App, at the bottom of emails and in every update on the webpage.

AT1 pointed out that recently a decision had been made by the PC that the merchandise NCMD has could be used to promote the NCMD, by passing a few items to metal detecting influencers etc. The aim of this is to make best use of what is otherwise dead stock.

AT1 informed those present that some stock had been passed to him this day, to be taken to events and displayed. If those participating at the events wish to buy anything, AT1 and DC can show the customer how to buy via the website. In anticipation of there being no Mobile signal, NCMD is planning to invest in a dongle that will solve the problem, and the customer will be able to use it to purchase stock, and to peruse the shop.

At present RG is trying to source a good quality, well priced water bottle. At the end of RG's presentation, AT1 thanked him for his continued hard work.

RESTRUCTURE OF THE NCMD, THE WAY FORWARD (TWF)

Reference the following file

[AGM DD 250629 table mapping roles in CLG.pdf](#)

This presentation was to be given by SG but first AT1 wanted to make it clear that the undertaking of the restructure of the NCMD came about because of the NCMD accountants making it clear that the officers could not continue calling themselves 'volunteers' when they needed to be paid for the many hours they were putting in. The jobs had gone from a couple of hours a week to many hours daily. Subsequently the 'volunteer' officers became salaried employees, and this led to the re-structure of the organisation.

AT1 went on to make it clear that the working party, and in particular, were responsible for recommendations for the re-structuring and the other paid officers who played no part in TWF team. SG then took over the presentation. He began by informing those present that he had received some policy outlines from AT2 and was awaiting the Health and Safety Policy. Once he had that, the rewrite of all NCMD policies could begin.

After further discussion it was unanimously agreed that the steps laid out by SG and Wrigleys, towards NCMD becoming an CLG, with the aim of becoming a charitable institution eventually, is the right way forward. The process to follow will be, in the first instance, an email sent out to all members informing them exactly what NCMD is proposing and the reasons behind it.

Once the members have been informed the committee will hold an EGM to agree and vote on next steps and as always, any proposed amendments will be cascaded to the trustees for their consideration.

FINDS COMPETITION

AT1 began this discussion/update by thanking DC for the work he has put into forming and running the Finds Competition (FC). AT1 also wanted to make clear that Tracy M (TM) had put a tremendous amount of hard work into this and other projects, sight unseen. She has moved from a position where she was waiting for instruction, to a position of driving things forward.

The NCMD is immensely grateful for TM's input, and the PC agreed. DC informed those present that the format of judging the Finds Competition (FC) is under constant evolution. The FC is receiving an average of 71 entries a month now. The job of weeding out removals is done, unseen, by TM before they go to judging. There are at present, 6 hoards to judge (hoards are only judged annually). DC expressed his thanks, to TM and to the judges, who willingly give up their time, twice a month, once to do the judging and once to do the podcast.

TM was responsible for ensuring a voting system that is as fair as it can possibly be. The plan going forward, is for the podcasts to be edited and shown on the NCMD YouTube channel. The annual competition will be held in November each year. RG reminded the PC that at the last OGM he had asked if merchandise could be used for second and third prizes. The PC had agreed to this but on reflection RG felt that shop vouchers would be more appropriate. This will be discussed at the August OGM.

FUTURE PROJECTS AND STRUCTURE

Reference the following files

[AGM DD 250629 Future Strategy of the NCMD 2025.docx](#)

[AGM DD 250629 table mapping roles in CLG.pdf](#)

A vote was taken on whether all present were in favour of following the steps set out by SG and the lawyers in the table listed above i.e. (from non-profit to CLG with a view to charitable status). Unanimous therefore carried.

EXCAVATION FUND VIDEO

This discussion was led by AT1. The first item was a project suggested by EYD for a hoard video. EYD suggested that a video about the excavation fund was a good idea but also that showing it 'in action' would be good press. AT1 said that the PAS community especially, lack knowledge of the fund. The costing is likely to be of the order of £3,000.00 to £4,000.00 but could reach as much as £5,000.00 depending on the circumstances and any extra work needed.

ML asked exactly what the NCMD excavation fund covers and AT1 explained it covers the cost of retrieving the hoard from the ground, performed by an archaeologist, saving FLO's weeks and weeks involved in sourcing funds from museums. AT1 then asked if all present were happy, in principle and subject to the EGM on Financials, to go ahead with this video. It was unanimously agreed to, in principle.

PODCASTS

AT1 led this discussion which centred around the suggestion that NCMD produces its own podcasts. AT1 felt that anything produced by NCMD had to be top quality and this would necessarily bring costs. The PC could produce one itself, in a back bedroom at virtually nil cost, but would lack a level of professionalism that AT1 felt the NCMD membership deserved.

After much discussion it was agreed that a pilot podcast be produced for NCMD, with a move to perhaps quarterly podcasts and based on various subjects. Membership to be asked for their opinion of the pilot episode and their preferred subjects.

Unanimously accepted.

WORKGROUPS

The aim of this discussion is to ensure the trustees are happy with the layout of workgroups. That a PC member would be in overall charge of each workgroup created in much the same way as the TWF workgroup is run.

Following the discussion a vote was taken.

That AT1 goes back to each interviewee and asks if they would be willing to be part of a workgroup and to report back to the PC. Next steps to be decided following that. **Unanimous.**

PAS/APPAG

There are several contentious issues being discussed with the relevant bodies. At the forefront of these is the APPAG inquiry being held in the House of Lords in July. AT1 and DC are leading on these discussions and would fully brief the committee and trustees and membership of any developments.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

AT2 asked how succession planning was going. AT1 answered that the priority now was a support team for the treasurer.

SG asked that it be minuted whether members had replied to the NCMD's request for items and queries to be sent in, for discussion at the AGM. DC replied that there was only 1 query, from someone he happened to know and that it was dealt with prior to the AGM, and apart from that there were no emails at all.

DATE OF THE NEXT AGM

28TH JUNE 2026

MEETING CLOSED