

Conference of the National Association of Language Advisers
Moat House Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon

Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 6 July

Item 1: Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Jim McElwee and Chris Gill.

Item 2: Minutes of the 2004 AGM

These were proposed and accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Item 3: Matters arising

There were no matters arising

Item 4: Officers' reports

President

David Sword reported that he had only been able to attend the executive residential meeting in January, when he had initiated a discussion re the role of the President. He announced that, due to pressures of work, he would step down when these discussions had taken place.

Chair

Peter Hall presented his written report. He focussed particularly on the internal and external issues which he wanted to tackle:

Internal issues: considering ways of streamlining the roles of the honorary officers; outsourcing some tasks and functions; the long-term future of the conference – all members are being asked for reasons as to why they were unable to attend the 2005 conference; particular issues affecting each of the regions and their structure

External issues: the drive to widen the membership in a view of the changing capacity of members to support the teaching and learning of MFL throughout the country; the need to raise the profile of nala as an agent for influence particularly as sometimes the strengths of the organisation and its large membership are hidden.

Peter thanked his colleagues on the Executive and nala membership for their support.

Hon. Secretary

Jim McElwee was unable to attend the meeting but thanked (by proxy) everyone who had supported him. He said he was happy to continue in the role of Hon. Secretary.

Hon. Treasurer

Adrian Finbow presented the accounts for the year ending 31 December 2004 which had been audited by Barrie Strothers of Bury MBC. Mr Strothers had expressed concern at the number of pre-signed cheques and steps were being taken to remedy this situation. After conference Adrian sent the nala membership list to NAEIAC and would receive in return a grant of £5.50 per member.

He added that it would take some time for the NALA and ALL subscription years to align themselves.

Adrian reminded the Regions that they had a nominal £500 per year to spend on activities.

Hon. Membership Secretary

Alison Gilvey presented a written report. She expressed her delight that so many new members had come to conference.

Hon. Information Officer

Chris Gill was unable to attend conference, but his written report had been incorporated into the most recent Update. He had asked that members be reminded that the website is now the

main means of communicating and that the information on it and in Update is dependant on members providing it.

Peter Hall thanked all the officers for the work they do, in a voluntary capacity, alongside their day jobs.

Item 5: Appointment of auditors

Adrian Finbow proposed that the same arrangement be maintained and that Bury MBC Internal Audit be appointed to audit nala accounts. This was agreed by those present.

Item 6: Role of Honorary President

This question had been raised by David Sword and the Executive were struggling to define it – does nala want an active, campaigning president or a figurehead in a titular position?

Who should be approached – someone who knows the field of MFL learning or a high profile figure?

Lid King suggested that the role should be profile-raising.

However this raised the question as to whether nala wanted to be a high profile lobbying organisation or an organisation which supports its members.

Jeff Lee suggested that the role should be more of a critical friend – someone to keep an oversight on what nala is doing, and to initiate slight changes of direction if need be.

Kate Green thought that it would be difficult to attract high profile people to a comparatively small organisation.

Rona Heald suggested that the role of the president could be an opportunity to strengthen links in certain areas – e.g. there could be a year for vocational languages, a year for primary focus.

John Lemon suggested that the embassies might be interested in supporting nala.

The issue would be discussed further at future executive meetings.

Item7: Elections to National Executive Committee

- (i) Hon Treasurer Adrian Finbow had come to the end of his 3 year term (not his first for the association) but was prepared to stay on. As there were no other nominations Adrian was duly appointed. Paul Whitelock took the opportunity to thank him for all his work on behalf of the association.
- (ii) Elected member to replace Paul Whitelock, whose 3-year term has ended. Jo Peach was nominated by Phil Dahl, seconded by Peter Hall and duly appointed as Elected Member. Paul was thanked warmly for his particular contribution during the past 3 years.

Item 8: Any Other Business

There was no other business and the meeting was duly closed.