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**THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ROUND TABLES  
OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND**

**NATIONAL  
COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

**Saturday, 1 March 2003**

TO TABLE CHAIRMEN

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE MINUTES ARE SENT TO YOU TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF YOUR MEMBERS. NO OTHER SETS ARE SENT OUT TO INDIVIDUAL TABLERS.

**Fun, Friends and Fund-raising**



## **Minutes of the meeting of the National Council held at The City Chambers, Edinburgh on Saturday 1 March 2003**

PRESENT: Ken Donald (President), Chris Horsfall (Vice-President), Nick Lawton (Immediate Past President), Mark Newby (Honorary Secretary), Adrian Gibbons (Honorary Treasurer), Fraser Skells (Media and PR Officer), Arawn Johnson (International Officer), Andrew Hornby (Membership and Development Officer), Mark Gray (Community Service Officer), Paul Jay (Conference Officer), Mark Tipping (Marketing and Sponsorship Officer), Shaun Redman (Sports and Social Officer) and, in attendance, John Handley (General Secretary).

NATIONAL COUNCILLORS or Deputies: David Keighley (Area 1), Lloyd Thompson (Area 2), Chris Harness (Area 4), Ross Woodall (Area 5), Howard Farmer (Area 6), Ian Gibson (Area 7), Jon Sockett (Area 8), Nigel Patrick (Area 9), David Morrow (Area 11), Calum Macleod (Area 13), Paul Robinson (Area 14); Stephen Ault (Area 15), Hitesh Pandya (Area 16), Neil Levitt (Area 17), Richard Dean (Area 18), Simon Govier (Area 19), Jon Cook (Area 20), Gavin Parkes (Area 22), Gary Cook (Area 24), Peter Hirst (Area 25), Ron Shea (Area 26), Peter Walker (Area 30), Mike Holt (Area 32), Martin Johnson (Area 33), Esa Pirtijaarvi (Area 34), Howard Smith (Area 35), Steve Bolter (Area 37), Andrew Wayth (Area 39), David Lumb (Area 40), Kevin Ager (Area 41), Des Duffy (Area 43), Noel Tyler (Area 45), Howard Joseph (Area 46), Keith Martin (Area 47), Ian Pritchard (Area 49), Andrew Horswill (Area 50), Robert McCall (Area 51), Ronald Dougan (Area 52), Peter Jones (Area 53) and Neil Rose (Area 54).

Apologies were received from Dave Ellis (Sales Officer), Stephen Eagle (Area 3), Mark Boersma (Area 10), James Day (Area 12), Andrew Wickerson (Area 18), Jeremy Saunders (Area 23), Tim Hanton (Area 25), Neil Dashford (Area 37), and Bob Minto (Area 44).

Later in the meeting the National Council stood to greet Janet Wareing, NALC President, who brought greetings from her members and gave details of the horrific car accident that she had in January. In sharing her experiences she emphasised the value of Circle and Table friendship. She outlined the feasibility study being implemented to consider the options for location of their Headquarters and the Administration requirements of the Association. She confirmed there were four new Circles being Chartered which was excellent news for the future.

### **1. Preliminaries**

#### **(a) Notice**

The notice convening the meeting was APPROVED on a motion by Area 53, seconded by Area 46.

#### **(b) Communications**

Brian Ross (Area 39 Chairman) recited the Aims and Objects of the Association.

#### **(c) Minutes**

Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 October 2002 was moved by Area 35, seconded by Area 51 and were CARRIED.

#### **(d) Matters Arising**

There were no Matters Arising which would not be covered in the Agenda.

The National President welcomed National Council members and observers, including Area Chairmen Andy Kennedy (Area 2), Stuart Bizley (Area 6), Chris Bowers (Area 9), David Ward (Area 10), Niall Moore (Area 14), Massoud Aghassi (Area 17), Richard Dean (Area 18), Mark Chenoweth (Area 22), Peter Hirst (Area 25), Jez Cox (Area 30), Graeme Lister (Area 32), Steve Woolnough (Area 33), Bryan Ross (Area 39), Derek Tomkinson (Area 41), Michael Daley (Area 44), Chris Kibble (Area 46), Clive Pegram (Area 47), Neil Rose (Area 54), . Also attending were Richard Du Bois (Southend Conference

2004 Chairman), Mike Tully (Cardiff NSW 2003 Chairman), Paul Molley (Keele NSW 2004 Chairman) and Past Presidents Norrie Hood and John Fraser together with 15 other Tablers.

The National President extended a special welcome to the Lord Provost of The City of Edinburgh, Councillor Eric Milligan, thanking him for the hospitality extended to the National Council. The Lord Provost brought the greetings and best wishes from the people of Edinburgh and hoped everybody enjoyed their stay in the City.

On a motion proposed by Area 45, seconded by Area 15 it was AGREED that approval to address the meeting be given to observers and past members.

## **2. Reports by Officers.**

Officers gave updates to their reports in the Agenda for the meeting.

The President welcomed everybody to Edinburgh and thanked them for supporting the National Council and the Presidential Ball where over 440 were booked in.

He stated that at the 12<sup>th</sup> March was the date when the re-naming of the Anglia Railways locomotive *The Round Tabler* would be held in Norwich and then London. Over 70 Tablers have confirmed they will be attending and more will be greeting its arrival in Liverpool Street. Sir Steven Redgrave will now not be able to conduct the re-naming but another celebrity is being sought.

He had recently attended a Dinner at The Guildhall in London in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen for 400 Heads of Industry and Academia. It was greatly encouraging the Round Table were being invited to events such as these, all of which enhanced awareness of the Association.

Janet Wareing, NALC President had also unfortunately suffered a serious car accident in January that will result in her being off work until May. She will be joining the National Council later in the day and he was sure a hearty welcome would be given to her. Following the resignation of the NALC Association Secretary they are reviewing the current lease arrangements and IPP Sue Powell has written to the Honorary Secretary requesting information on what facilities could be offered to them from Marchesi House and the costs.

Meetings with Volunteers In Action have continued and a recent meeting looked at developing awareness of the various Associations, particularly in Government.

Andrew Horswill (NC Area 50) enquired if the level of Press interest in Round Table had increased over that achieved in recent years. The President confirmed that efforts to issue Press Releases etc had been successful. The General Secretary outlined the arrangements that had been made regarding the locomotive re-naming and the efforts to secure media coverage.

The President also thanked all the Tablers who had provided him with tremendous hospitality over the past months as he travelled throughout the country.

### **(b) Vice President – Chris Horsfall**

The Vice-President confirmed his report is as the Notice and Agenda but wished to add a few items.

His Diary for next year is filling up and he requested those Areas who have not confirmed a date for a Presidential visit to contact him soon. Any bookings should be made directly with his Diary Convener.

The Forward Planning Committee continued to meet and he gave an update on the issues that are being considered. A good deal of work has been undertaken to try and instill the true values of Round Table. He introduced Mike Holt (NC Area 33) gave details of the discussions that had been held. Much of the work that took place at the Vice Chairman's' Forums also had relevance to the rest of the Association. A booklet had been drafted giving lots of information to new Tablers and this will be released when it is finalised.

With regard to the initiative in Area 16 regarding Associate Membership he introduced Nick Taylor (Vice Chairman Area 16) who gave an update on the initiative. The Area felt that a "Junior" Round Table Club open to girls and boys aimed at say, local schools 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Form Classes, who have to undertake community service as part of their curriculum. The Area has been making presentations to the local schools to introduce the concept. Follow up will be maintained and the hope is that they will carry Round Table into Universities and their careers. He aimed to create five Clubs. In response to a question regarding any difficulties that may have arisen regarding the Dual gender issues he confirmed they were only speaking to Boys Grammar Schools.

The Committee has sought to promote attendance by Table delegates at the AGM at Conference or even at Area meetings.

### **(c) Immediate Past President – Nick Lawton**

The Immediate Past President confirmed the position with the Marchesi House Staff Review. As at 14<sup>th</sup> February 2003 four staff left the employ of the Association. The two new staff, Matthew Piper and Joan Adams had settled in well and Ann Roberts, although stretched at the moment, she is coping well.

The President thanked Mark Newby and Nick Lawton for the hard and difficult work they had undertaken on behalf of the Association.

The Immediate Past President advised that with regard to Marchesi House this would be dealt with under the Motion received from Area 35 and he will reserve his comments for the debate. Ross Woodall (NC Area 5) felt that over the past few years the National Executive had reported to the National Council on decisions taken rather than bringing issues to the National Council for decision, particularly the changes at Marchesi House. The Immediate Past President confirmed the changes proposed were brought to the June National Council Meeting and updates had been given in October. It was not feasible to refer day to day decisions to a forum that only meets three times a year and once the decisions had been made to implement the changes they had to proceed.

### **(d) Honorary Secretary – Mark Newby**

The Honorary Secretary confirmed his report was as printed in the Notice and Agenda.

He advised the details of the letter received from Sue Powell and confirmed that a detailed response would be developed giving the options requested. This would be progressed and he would report back to the National Council over time.

He reminded all Tablers that requests for Presidential Representation at Charters etc. must in the first instance be sent to him.

The Honorary Secretary advised that the October 2003 National Council meeting would be held in Llandudno in Area 53 with an Area Charter held on the Friday evening.

He confirmed that the issue of the maintenance of the Website and associated costs of the IT systems was reviewed and a formal IT Strategy presented to the National Executive. This would move the IT Developments, including the membership database, forward and would seek to bring the maintenance of the Association's Website into Marchesi House. The Review also recommended the appointment of an Honorary IT Consultant to the Association which hopefully would be drawn from the Active membership and be co-opted to the National Executive, an initiative which had been successfully implemented by 41 Club, and advertisements etc would be issued soon detailing the key requirements

He outlined the process by which recommendations would be made by the National Council on the AGM Resolutions submitted by Areas and gave details of the two Resolutions received which would be debated later in the meeting.

Graham Lister (Area 32 Chairman) outlined the difficulties that had been experienced in registering a Charitable Trust with the Charities Commission. The Honorary Secretary advised that he had not heard of any similar difficulties and confirmed that the Administration Committee would be considering the advice to be given for the Scottish and Northern Ireland Tables. If Tables are having difficulties he would like to know about them.

Mark Chenoweth (Area 22 Chairman) felt that the use of English on the Website was poor and suggested that the Executive reports on the Web pages should be edited to ensure a professional appearance.

#### **(e) Honorary Treasurer – Adrian Gibbons**

The Honorary Treasurer confirmed his report was as per the Notice and Agenda and he wished to update the Council on a number of issues.

With regard to the Association's Accounts for the year ending 31 May 2002 these have been compiled and he distributed copies to the National Council. The Accounts show a loss of £87,263 that was expected and the various issues which impacted on the figures were explained. A significant reduction of £32,000 was shown in the Current Assets due to the fall in the value of the Investment portfolio.

Gary Smith (Area 35) suggested some changes to the presentation of the agreed budget for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations which the Honorary Treasurer accepted and would implement.

Further contributions were made by Bernie Skivington (Dartford & District RT 143) who stressed the need to ensure the key points of explanation are effectively made to the AGM by the Treasurer and by Jimmy Smith (Kinross-shire RT 814) who asked for clarification on the Investments shown in the Accounts. The Treasurer explained the Accounting treatment was correct and the fall in value was in line with the fall in the Stock Market. Most of the portfolio was invested in low risk Government Stocks with the consequent low returns. The Accounts would be included in the AGM Notice and Agenda.

The Honorary Treasurer then went through the proposed budget for 2003/04. Details of the current financial performance were given and he felt that from the information he has the Accounts for the year to 31 May 2003 would break even. Costs are under control and a breakeven budget was put forward for the year which should be achieved. The only issue relates to the Redundancy costs incurred this financial year and he will be propose that they be considered as a one off cost of approximately £40- £45,000 which will be met from Reserves.

He is proposing a Capitation of £43.80 (£43.20 in 2002/03) for 2003/04. This is an increase of only £0.60 which is less than the rate of inflation. This figure is based on an Active Membership of 9,500 and 1,000 New Members. He then detailed the key areas of the Budget variables, all of which show a reduction over this current year other than the Administration budget which is impacted by the increases in the Public Liability Insurance. He gave a breakdown of the Capitation fee, which would be also included in the AGM Notice and Agenda and commended the Budget proposed.

Following a number of questions and points raised by National Councillors the Budget resolution as stated was proposed by the National Treasurer and APPROVED for submission to the Annual General Meeting.

There are ten Tables who have not paid their Capitation for 2002/03 and have been expelled.

Workington 213	Blyth 218	Fakenham 265	Carrickfergus 492
Castleford 553	Burntwood, Brownhills 850	Cookstown 853	Huyton 856
Padiham 863	Limerick 1253		

#### **(f) Media and PR Officer – Fraser Skells**

The Media and PR Officer confirmed his report was as shown in the Notice.

He confirmed that there were instances where Table was featured on say television and these were welcomed.

He requested all National Councillors to remind their Areas that copies of their Table Newsletters and Area magazines etc. should be sent to him for consideration for the National Media and PR Awards. With regard to the growing number of Table and Area On-line magazines he again requested details of Websites so they could be entered in the National Competition and judged.

#### **(g) International Officer – Arawn Johnson**

The International Officer advised that his report was as per the Notice and Agenda.

He was pleased to announce that Round Table has extended into Russia and Turkey during last year and a further opportunity now exists for RTBI to assist with the further development of Tabling in Greece. He has received details of the Chartering of RT Athens and a good contingent from RTBI has already booked in.

He gave details of a number of Overseas Round Tables AGM where he would be pleased to hear of any Tablers who were attending so they could become the official RTBI representative. Unfortunately there were no funds available to support their attendance.

He requested Hitesh Pandya (NC Area 16) to assist in the "Travel Bingo" draw with a prize of a package to attend the AGM of RT Austria in 2003. The winning Area IRO was requested to hold a similar draw to allocate the prize to a Tabler in his Area. The draw was made and Area 34 was the winner.

The International Officer recommended Tablers to look on the RTI Web pages which contain details of lots of International Tabling events, not all of them AGM's.

He advised details of the Community Service Market that will be held at the EMA Meeting in June. If Tables wish to support an overseas project this would be a good opportunity to see a range of initiatives run by Tables.

Esa Pirttjarvi (NC Area 34) gave details of The John Watts Travel fund and requested any Tablers who wished to create say Twinning arrangements to apply for funding. Applications can be made by a simple form and he had a supply. Kevin Stewart (City of Edinburgh RT 193) gave details of his experiences visiting Holland to help mark the opening of RT 193 there and encouraged Tables to make applications. With regard to the Danish Axe Award Esa has full details and welcomed applications for this prestigious Award.

The President congratulated the International Officer on his election as the Vice Chairman of the EMA Region of RTI. The International Officer received the good wishes of the meeting on his appointment.

#### **(h) Membership and Development Officer – Andrew Hornby**

The Membership and Development Officer confirmed his report was as printed in the Notice but he would give an update.

There were many initiatives both ongoing and being developed and he encouraged everyone to visit the Membership and Development Website where the New Members form can now be downloaded.

Members inducted had risen to over 800 since 1 April 2002.

The Membership and Development Officer confirmed that all the Area Vice Chairmen in the Areas have been requested to organise meetings with the Table Vice Chairmen in their Area to plan diaries and co-ordinate the Area events etc. He will be happy to assist any Areas in hosting these events. He had written

to the Area Chairmen where no Area Vice Chairmen were recorded. It is not their fault that they do not have a replacement but it will become their problem if at the Area AGM a successor has not been found.

A request had been received from Pontypridd RT 972 wished to change their name to Pontypridd & Rhondda RT consequent on the closure of Rhondda RT 675 which was APPROVED.

He announced the winners of the Quarterly Membership Trophy were Hungerford RT 1109, Area 25 and the President presented the Certificate and Trophy on their behalf, to the Area 25 Chairman Peter Hirst.

The Membership and Development Officer confirmed that at 28 February 2003 the number of Active members was over 11,000, which was a continuing increase.

He explained in detail the manner in which the Membership Initiative Funding is being operated and confirmed details are on the Website.

Keith Martin (NC Area 47) raised the desirability of speaking to people rather than just e-mailing them the letter sent to Area Chairmen outlining the options available where no Area Vice Chairmen is appointed. They have secured Vice Chairmen for the next two years.

Ross Woodall (NC Area 5) sought clarification on the application of the New Members Joining fee which was a pro-rata fee based upon the annual Capitation Fee.

#### **(i) Community Service Officer – Mark Gray**

The Community Service Officer advised his report was as per the notice.

He introduced Howard Farmer (NC Area 6) who gave an update on Round Table Children's Wish. He encouraged Tables to seek out wishes in their Areas that RTCW could support and send details to the team in Bournemouth. He advised the RTCW "Sahara Cycle Challenge" which involved a nine day challenge from 8-16 February 2003 had been attended by 24 Tablers and full details would be advised soon.

Paul Hamilton has been appointed Community Fund Raising Manager at RTCW and is seeking Network members and anyone interested should contact RTCW. RTCW have Golden Bond places for the Edinburgh and London Marathons and if anybody wishes to participate then again contact RTCW.

In addition he gave details of the Children In Need Appeal which took place on 15 November. Tables have got involved in taking Pudsey Bear to the local pubs and clubs and trying to raise some money with excellent results. Round Table was reported as the biggest fundraiser on the day

Howard Smith (NC Area 35) gave details of the Trek on 23 October 2003 to Peru. This will be a solely RTBI Trip and 20 – 24 places are available at a sponsorship cost of £2,800. They are struggling to fill this event and have suggested it be opened up to Ladies Circle. He has spoken to Janet Wareing and will send details to her for consideration.

With regard to The Sir Steven Redgrave Charitable Trust he advised that meetings have been held with the main Trustees and plans are underway for various events. One of these is a Round Table "Big Splash Day" at Holmes Pierpoint in Nottingham on 13 September 2003, which will be a family day involving all sorts of Water Sports. An EBay auction will be held for an opportunity to race with Sir Steven and it is hoped this will be a good fundraiser. Coverage will be given by Trent FM and the local BBC.

With regard to the situation with TOFS (Tracheal Oesophagus Fistula) who are a charity that has been supported through the 75th Anniversary Appeal. They have a ten year anniversary and Round Table were able to sponsor all of the leaflets in every Maternity Hospital, G.P.'s surgery etc. around the UK. The CSLO Committee thanked Tablers in Areas 7,9 and 35 who are near the charity's operating areas.

Howard Smith encouraged all Tablers to support the "Monthly Charity Draw" as a means of raising Charity

donations within the Association. He requested all National Councillors to promote the Draw and increase the number of participants. He handed out packs to National Councillors containing five application forms and asked them to sell these in their Area. The next Monthly draw will take place on the locomotive The Round Tabler on 12 March 2003.

The Community Service Liaison Officer then gave details of The 4X4 Challenges being organised with RNIB. These will involve driving Landrover vehicles around various obstacles etc and events will be held around the country with a final held in South Wales during NSW Cardiff weekend. The cost is £100 and details are available from Andrew Wickerson (NC Area 18)

Ian Pritchard (NC Area 49) gave details of the Denis Tizard Trust, which had monies available for holidays for children and he encouraged Tables to make applications, as there was £30,000 plus available for holidays. Details are available on the CSLO Website or from him.

Finally he gave details of the Stuart Devlin Trophy and requested Tables to submit applications for this National Award.

#### **(j) Conference Officer – Paul Jay**

The Conference Officer, Paul Jay, confirmed his report was as contained in the Notice and Agenda.

Gavin Parkes (NC Area 22) gave an update on Newcastle 2003. The bookings received were progressing well and the Conference is almost sold out with only 180 places available. There are places for everyone at the AGM's and he asked Councillors to encourage Tablers to attend the AGM.

With regard to the Southend Conference 2003 then everything is going well. They are keen to commence marketing the Conference and have a good team.

The Conference Officer advised that a bid to host Conference based on Glasgow had been received and he had visited Glasgow on a Bid Weekend. The Committee's recommendation was that the Conference for 2005 be awarded to the Joint Scottish Areas, which was AGREED. In addition the proposed bid from Area 16 was under discussion and hopefully this would be firmed up soon.

#### **(j) Marketing and Sponsorship Officer - Mark Tipping**

The Marketing and Sponsorship Officer thanked everyone for their good wishes and messages during his recovery period from his accident, especially his Committee and the general Secretary and then gave an update to the written report.

The Marketing Pack was being developed and he hoped to bring this to a conclusion, including an updated Profile of Tablers by the end of his year.

He had been co-ordinating the various affinity deals and load all the new offers to the Website. There had been some new offers introduced and he encouraged all Tablers to use the offers. If they are not used they will be lost.

Deals are being negotiated with a supplier of second hand cars for late model ex hire vehicles which Tablers may wish to buy and details would be announced soon.

#### **(k) Sales Officer – Dave Ellis**

In the absence of the Sales Officer his report was accepted.

A presentation was made by Martin Johnson (NC Area 33) on the new Sales Website. The new Website pages for the shop have been developed over the last few months and the test site is operational and

includes a shopping basket system so goods can be ordered through this method although a payment facility will not be offered. Further work will be done to finalise the details of the merchandise etc. and he hoped to go live in the near future.

Richard Dean (Area 18 Chairmen) sought clarification regarding the continuance of the discounts given to the Area Sales Officer. The General Secretary advised the discount would still be offered provided the bulk order was made by the Area sales Officer.

### **(I) Sports and Social Officer – Shaun Redman**

The Sports and Social Officer confirmed his report was as the Notice and Agenda.

He called upon Stephen Ault (Area 15) to present a cheque for £7,000 being the return of the loan in connection with the NSW York plus a surplus of £2,000. Congratulations were extended to all in Area 15 on an excellent event.

The Sports and Social Officer gave an update on NSW Birmingham where an excellent event had been held which should give a good financial result.

Mike Tully (Chairman NSW 2003) advised that everything was progressing well and sponsorship had already been secured. He promised a superb event from the same team that brought you Cardiff Conference 2001 and requested all Tablers to book early.

The Sports and Social Officer confirmed a bid to host NSW 2004 had been received from Area 22. Paul Molley (prospective NSW Chairman) presented the bid, which was based at Keele University, to the National Council. The bid was recommended by the Sports and Social Committee and was APPROVED. The logo for the event was circulated and also APPROVED. Paul Molley then introduced the key members of the NSW 2004 team.

There were no any bids for NFW and he requested any Areas interested to talk to him as soon as possible and plan to submit a Bid by the October 2003 National Council meeting.

## **3. Nominations for National Officers**

A list was read to the meeting of members who had been duly nominated by Area Councils to stand for election at the AGM for the position of National Officers for 2003/2004.

President:	Christopher Horsfall	(Area 9)
Vice President:	Adrian Gibbons	(Area 24)
Honorary Secretary:	Mark Newby	(Area 7)
Honorary Treasurer:	Steve Cavell Gary Smith	(Area 4) (Area 35)
Media & PR:	Donal Mullane Fraser Skells	(Area 26) (Area 30)
International:	Blair Forrest Steven Parsons Esa Pirttijarvi	(Area 44) (Area 16) (Area 34)
Membership & Development:	Andrew Hornby	(Area 42)
Community Service:	Mark Bonham Mark Gray	(Area 2) (Area 14)

Conference:	Gavin Parkes	(Area 22)
Marketing & Sponsorship:	Howard Joseph Hitesh Pandya	(Area 46) (Area 16)
Sales:	Nigel Middleton	(Area 19)
Sports & Social:	Julian Frost Shaun Redman Sean Smith	Area 37) (Area 9) (Area 5)

#### **4. Receive Resolutions for Submission to the Annual General Meeting**

The National Council approved the Resolution submitted by the National Executive for the 2003/2004 Budget and Capitation Fees for submission to the 2003 Annual General Meeting.

A Resolution was received from Area 32 on disposing of the lease of Marchesi House and moving to share accommodation with Ladies Circle and the National Council voted to make a recommendation and accordingly voted to NOT RECOMMEND.

A further Resolution was received from Area 17 on Past Presidents and the National Council voted to make a recommendation and accordingly voted to RECOMMEND.

All Resolutions will be listed in the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting.

#### **5. Resolutions Submitted by the National Executive**

##### **1. Abolish the position of National Marketing and Sponsorship Officer**

This was proposed by the National Honorary Secretary on behalf of the National Executive and was LOST.

##### **2. Amend Rules regarding Visitors**

Amend Rule 8 (d) of the Standard Rules for Constituent Tables as follows:

###### **“8(d) Visitors**

Any member may invite a friend to any Ordinary Meeting of the Table but ~~the same guests shall not be invited more than four times in any one year unless he be a prospective member and no lady shall be eligible for admission to a meeting under this paragraph.”~~

This was proposed by the National Membership and Development Officer on behalf of the National Executive and was CARRIED.

#### **6. Resolutions Submitted by Areas**

##### **1. To End Positive Discrimination for Area Rationalisation**

“RTBI National Executive regularly promote via written and spoken communications the value and desirability of aggregating Areas into “Super Areas.”

RTBI should recognise the potential downsides of such actions, and give equal promotion to the development of smaller Areas or the retention of the status quo if more appropriate to the circumstances of that Area.”

This was proposed by Area 50, seconded by Area 22 and LOST

## **2. Marchesi House**

"National Executive are to commence marketing Marchesi House with immediate effect with a view to relocating to alternative premises more suitable to our staffing needs, at a reduced overhead cost and giving consideration to accessibility to members."

This was proposed by Area 35 and seconded by Area 18. After discussion and advices from the President that discussions were ongoing with Ladies Circle to consider the opportunity of locating their Head Office function at Marchesi House. He felt that some time is needed to allow those discussions to be concluded and an Amendment to defer consideration of this Resolution until the June National Council Meeting was proposed by Area 8, seconded by Area 47 and was CARRIED.

The Honorary Secretary reminded all proposers and seconders of Resolutions to the Annual General meeting to prepare their speeches which must be for a maximum of five and three minutes respectively.

Any Amendments submitted in accordance with the National Rules must be with the President before the commencement of the Annual General Meeting but it would be helpful if they were advised to him prior to then.

## **6. Any Other Business**

- i) Mark Newby, Honorary Secretary confirmed the date for the next National Council meeting which would be held on 9 May 2003, in Newcastle upon Tyne.
- ii) The President looked forward to seeing the National Council and their partners at his Ball and promised it would be a wonderful event.
- iii) The Immediate Past President, Nick Lawton awarded the Golden Gob Award for the best contribution to Martin Johnson (NC Area 33) and the Pigs Pizzle to David Keighley (NC Area 1).
- iv) Martin Johnson (NC Area 33) proposed a vote of thanks to the National President for the excellent manner in which he had handled the meeting and congratulated the rest of the National Executive team on all their hard work.
- v) The National President thanked the Administration Committee and General Secretary John Handley for organising the event and all National Councillors and observers for their contributions.
- vi) THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 3.12pm.







Distribution (1 copy for each):

National Executive  
National Council  
Area Chairmen  
Area Vice-Chairmen  
Area Secretaries  
Table Chairmen (for the attention of the Table)  
Chairmen of National Events (Conference, NSW, NFW)

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