

FINAL REPORT

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

GREAT BRITAIN

Thirty-Sixth General Service Conference

6 - 8 April 2001
Wentworth College, University of York

2001 ONE PRIMARY PURPOSE



General Service Office of AA
PO Box 1, Stonebow House, Stonebow, York YO1 7NJ

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
GREAT BRITAIN

Thirty-Sixth
General Service Conference

2001
ONE PRIMARY
PURPOSE



THIRTY-SIXTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2001

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DIGEST OF AGENDA

Friday 6 April 2001

Registration and Reception

Discussion Groups

Committee 1 : Internal

Committee 2 : External

Committee 3 : Finance

Committee 4 : General Purposes

Committee 5 : Literature

Committee 6 : Fellowship Services

Opening Session

Nominations - Conference Chairman 2001

Committee Meetings Commence

Saturday 7 April 2001

Committee Meetings Continue

General Service Board Report

Workshop : "Communication - A Two Way Affair"

Sunday 8 April 2001

Presentation of Committee Reports

Election of Chairman for the Thirty-Seventh General Service Conference

General Service Board Report and Ratification of
Board Members Elect

Closing Address

FRIDAY 6 APRIL

The Thirty-Sixth General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain was held at Wentworth College, University of York, with the opening session on Friday evening, the Saturday night workshop and the final session on Sunday morning being held in the Lecture Theatre of the Biology Department.

On the Friday afternoon registration and distribution of folders was followed by a reception which, as usual, provided an ideal opportunity for delegates and observers to familiarise themselves with the venue, to renew friendships and to share with those delegates attending for the first time.

The Conference comprised 90 delegates from fifteen Regions; two delegates from Jersey Intergroup, one delegate each from 'Share' and 'Roundabout', 19 members of the General Service Board, Oliver G - Conference Chairman, General Secretary and 9 members of staff. Also in attendance were observers from the following countries:

Belgium (Flemish Speaking)	(1)
Denmark	(2)

Total in attendance 127.

Discussion Groups

At 4.30pm delegates attended the Discussion Groups where the following topics were covered:

Committee 1	- Internal	Committee 2	- External
Committee 3	- Finance	Committee 4	- General Purposes
Committee 5	- Literature	Committee 6	- Fellowship Services

Summaries of points discussed will be included in future editions of AA News.

Opening of Conference by Oliver G (Conference Chairman 2001)

The first full session, which commenced at 7.30pm, was opened by the Conference Chairman, Oliver G (London Region):

“Good evening my dear friends in fellowship and a Cead Mile Failte to each and every one of you. My name is Oliver and I am an alcoholic.

This is the Thirty Sixth General Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous -Great Britain.

It gives me the greatest of pleasure in welcoming our Overseas Observers, Board Members, General Service Office Staff, Regional Office Staff, Share and Roundabout delegates and all you seasoned conference delegates attending for the second, third or some perhaps for the fourth time.

It is to you the newcomers, the first time delegates, that we all bid a warm welcome. You are distinguished by the red dot. This is not a millstone about your neck; each of us here this evening began with the Red Dot, including myself and look what happened to me. So don't be surprised if one day you are standing here, hopefully not shivering and shaking like me. It also reminds us that like you each of us has given up this weekend to continue that great and wonderful Legacy of Service, to be open minded and to insure that A.A. continues to function as a whole.

Could we please have a moment's silence, to remember why we are here and to have a thought for the still suffering alcoholic both inside and outside our rooms”.

Oliver called upon Mary B (Glasgow Region) to read the Preamble and Eileen S (Wales & Borders Region), the Declaration of Unity.

The General Secretary, Jim K, was then invited to read the Twelve Traditions (Long Form), the orientation containing the very last minute changes and the National Convention dates, which are as follows:

Scottish Convention	-	4 - 6 May 2001
Southern Convention	-	26 - 28 October 2001
Northern Convention	-	28 - 30 June 2002

Oliver continued with the presentation of his Keynote address:

“My name is Oliver and I'm an Alcoholic. My home group is Tuesday night, Willoughby Road, Hampstead, London.

A little about me. I am going to do my best to keep it simple. In the healing process of recovery you elected me Chairman of this Conference and placed me in a position of trust. I have sought Spiritual Guidance to guide my words and actions, to have the humility in knowing that I cannot do this alone.

I am here as a servant of the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole, to help Conference and all the delegates, should you wish that help in any way.

The reason that I stand here 17 years after leaving down the last drink on the 20th March 1984 is that someone known as Bill W sought out another alcoholic and carried the message of sobriety. On a very cold and frosty night in Jan 84 when I fell down six steps to my first AA meeting in Patrick's Hill, I discovered through climbing up 12 steps that there was a way out and that my drinking would never be the same

again. Finally released from the bondage of alcoholism in March 84, I was set free from the insanity, despair and depression by receiving the message of recovery from grateful recovering alcoholics who invited me to join them on the road to recovery and sanity.

I had not been of sound mind for a long time. Alcohol had destroyed in me all the realities of life, care, love, guidance, protection, humanness and kindness; the list could go on. I was but an empty shell devoid of any spirituality or moral worth. I had, for a long time dwelt in the pits of hell and could not see a way out until that fateful night in Jan 1984, when a light from somewhere came and lit up, for a split second in my brain, the thought that there was a way out... The AA Way.

No human power could stop me from taking that first drink. I was enlightened by those who had travelled the road of happy and peaceful sobriety “ Do not take the first drink and you can’t get drunk” “ get a sponsor” “listen to learn” “Give time time” “The world record for sobriety is 24 hours” “Give it away to keep it”. The most important suggestion I learnt in AA was that willingness to be involved in service was the key to continuity of sobriety and growth.

Well, it took me 8 months before I truly realised what giving it away meant. On a particular Friday night in the jaws of despair and crying uncontrollably, a God of my understanding reached out, grabbed me and made me whole all at once. At that moment I knew that I had been given a new life and a new home and it was Alcoholics Anonymous.

I experienced a fundamental change that I can’t explain...only to say that I have never felt alone since then. I realised that I had been given everything I’d ever wanted, Love and Freedom.

Since that night Bill met Bob thousands upon thousands have carried that same message and today we have a 12-Step Programme of Recovery with Traditions, Concepts and Warranties. Alcoholics Anonymous has grown so much around the world since then. Yet as I stand here we are still only scratching the surface of the alcohol problem suffered by our fellow human beings. Yes, we have come a long way with Group, Intergroup, Regions, Board Trustees and Service officers throughout our Fellowship who give of their time freely to carry the message of recovery to the still suffering alcoholic. Trojan work is done by so few, that so many can live a new life. My heartfelt THANKS to each of them.

So why does APATHY reign so much throughout our groups? Why are Groups, Intergroups and Regions having difficulty in filling vacancies, because, for every vacancy that exists we fail to carry out our primary purpose?

I am an alcoholic 24 hours of the day. The first contact is usually the phone service and then we have to get the caller 12th stepped. The advancement of the telephone

systems is a marvel to behold and so helpful to our Fellowship, but the introduction of the answering machine leaves a lot to be desired. My experience of trying to place out 12 step calls is vast and it makes me wonder why people volunteer to do a 4 hour service and then use an answering machine. This is very very slowly changing with the introduction of workshops and Group, Intergroup and Region service officers reminding members at every meeting of our Primary Purpose when in a service position.

The suffering alcoholic is usually taken to an AA meeting and is encouraged to attend other AA meetings or taken to them for a while until they find their way in our Fellowship. They are given literature, a 'Where to Find' and a newcomers pack. Hopefully they get some phone numbers and perhaps a temporary Sponsor but above all are given Hope...as I was, something to cling on to when nothing else works.

Others have carried out our primary purpose, so can I.

Well, what is Our Primary Purpose? The short form of tradition number 5 is:

“EACH GROUP HAS BUT ONE PRIMARY PUPOSE - TO CARRY ITS MESSAGE TO THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS”

The long form:

“EACH ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS GROUP OUGHT TO BE A SPIRITUAL ENTITY HAVING BUT ONE PRIMARY PURPOSE - THAT OF CARRYING ITS MESSAGE TO THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS”.

The very life of our Fellowship requires the preservation of this principle. It is to be of service to others, to give away that which was freely given to us. It is not to be holier than thou or better or to look down one's nose at the circumstances or situations of the suffering alcoholic. It is not to be 'greater than' but to be loving and caring towards the alcoholic and not to entertain thoughts of a sexual nature or financial gain. We are not a dating agency, moneylenders, employment agency, marriage counsellors or medical advice centre. We are a bunch of ex drunks who through the Grace of God and commitment to the Programme of Recovery of AA are sober and well.

There is still a lot more to carrying out our Primary Purpose. This happens each day by those who hold service positions in Groups, Intergroups and Regions or are Board Trustees, those who give their time freely and ask for nothing in return. One of the most gratifying parts of this Fellowship is helping another alcoholic to get sober.

I go to meetings to get the message not to get my ego massaged. When I contribute do I mention the facts of how peace reigns between my ears? That I am not judge and

jury? I am not the star of the show? That I know longer play films anymore in my head? Do I explain how I got that peace? How I am happy with the circumstances of my life and that service in the Group, Intergroup and Region has all contributed to my sobriety. Also when I financially contribute, do I remember the costs of the rent, teas, literature, newcomer packs, the phone service, the upkeep of the Regional Service Offices and General Service Office. Am I still putting in what I put in 17 years ago? Up to a while ago, I was. Not anymore...now I give all that I can.

I have no desire to be on the sidelines of sobriety. My wish and prayer is always to be of service to my fellow alcoholics and especially suffering alcoholics. To maintain the Traditions as laid out, not to dilute them or to be offensive to others who may not be aware of the Traditions but to kindly lead by example, by gentle explanation and not be an ego maniac. I would appeal to all groups to be tolerant of the newcomer. He or she maybe a smoker, smell of booze, be dirty and need a change of clothing, perhaps a little disruptive. Drinking alcoholics are not nice people and never were. But for the grace of God that could be any of us and perhaps in our last days of drinking it was. One definition of Love is “the willingness to accept other people exactly as they are, with no desire to change them”. We hope they will change themselves by the power of the AA Programme.

Before I finish I would like to make a special mention of the ‘Discussion Document’ that has been circulating throughout our Fellowship. I, as a member of Alcoholics Anonymous, welcome the ‘Discussion Document’ and add that it is long overdue and pray that Conference will take it onboard as the topic as per Section 10-2 in our Service Handbook for Great Britain for the General Service Conference ‘Conference Elements’. Conference Elements lists three essential parts to the General Service Conference. I would like to read the second one:

“Secondly part of each Conference is spent in the consideration of a major subject (or subjects) of topical importance affecting the Fellowship in the widest possible way. Any subject that is chosen for review should not be looked at from an abstract, theoretical point of view but as a matter of vital importance affecting our primary purpose to stay sober ourselves and carry the message of sobriety to the still suffering alcoholic”.

The survival of our Fellowship is dependant upon those in recovery that may feel that someone else will bring the message of recovery to the still suffering alcoholic. Well, the news is “it is up to everyone of us to give this message freely to those who reach out for help”. During each day there comes a time that I marvel at the great gift of a sober life, for without my sobriety I have nothing and to maintain that great and wonderful miracle of sobriety all I have to do is attend meetings, do service and freely pass on the message of sobriety, in other words to carry out our Primary Purpose”.

IT BEGINS WITH ME

NOMINATIONS FOR CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN 2002

The under-mentioned were proposed and seconded for the Chairman of the Thirty-Seventh General Service Conference 2002:

Andy C	-	Glasgow Region
Bill B	-	North West Region
Mallory R	-	Continental European Region
Roger B	-	Jersey Intergroup

The nominees signified their willingness to serve and each gave a brief summary of their AA service background. The formal election, by way of a modified Third Legacy procedure as recommended by Conference 1998, to take place at the final session of Conference.

The first full session of Conference ended at 8.30pm with Oliver asking everyone to join him in saying the Serenity Prayer, following which all delegates went to their respective committees to commence discussions on their Conference questions, reconvening and concluding on Saturday.

SATURDAY 7 APRIL

Oliver opened the second full session of Conference with a moment's silence and asked Pat H (Jersey Intergroup) to read the Preamble and Pam S (Eastern Region) to read the Declaration of Unity.

General Service Board Report

Mick W, Chairman of the General Service Board, welcomed all present, with a special welcome to first year delegates and commiserations to those in their last year and thanks for all their hard work.

Mick continued that it had been a tremendous year on the Board with an enormous amount of work done and he thanked all Board Members for their efforts.

Board presentations were to be:

1. Mike D - Finance report and www.
2. Sam W - Telephones.
3. Willem V-H - PICPC progress.
4. Ian H - update on Intergroup Inventories asked for at Conference 2000.
5. Gudrun MacK - Literature.
6. Finally Bill Y, our Vice-chairman, the Conduct Document.

FINANCE

(Mike D, GSB Treasurer)

Hello everyone, nice to see you all, especially the 'red dots'. I'm Mike D, I'm from North West Region and my home group is Barrow-in-Furness Saturday Step and Tradition Group.

As you're well aware, the Summary Accounts you have in your Annual Report reflect the last financial year to the end of September and we finished on a reasonably healthy note. Those Accounts were accepted by the Board and the Charities Commission and are now lodged with Companies House.

I'd like to say - drawing a line under them - that, all's well that ends well, but it wasn't the best way to run our financial affairs. As your Treasurers will have pointed out to you, almost 50% of contributions came in the last four months of the financial year. This

most definitely did not make things easy for us.

At the meeting of the Region Treasurers in December we fully discussed the accounts and tried to formulate methods of how we might improve the cash flow to the General Fund.

Some of the ideas the Region Treasurers came up with were the old tried and tested ways, like - finance workshops or trying to get the Fellowship to actually listen to their Treasurers when they report on finance. They did, however, come up with some new ideas, which I submitted on their behalf for consideration by the Board at their meeting in March.

I'm pleased to report that the Board has placed the suggestions of the Region Treasurers with the relevant Board Committees for feasibility studies. One suggestion was dealt with, and accepted at the Board meeting. That was to review and raise the maximum amounts acceptable from members in legacies, and for personal direct contributions to the General Fund.

The maximum amount has now been changed from £4,000 to £6,000. The revised guideline on Finance will reflect this.

The Region Treasurers also elected from amongst themselves a Chairman for their next meeting. I feel this is a good idea, as they will now set the meeting agenda for after the Audited Accounts are discussed. They represent the Fellowship and it's their meeting.

Region and Intergroup Treasurers have also received the Accounts and quarterly reports up to date, and will have been in a position to keep the membership, in their own area, well informed.

Anyway, to get back to the report, and as usual it will be a report and not a statistical analysis of accounts and trends of figures your Treasurers already have.

I'm pleased to say that the work on the PI/media initiative is still well under way by that Committee. Thankfully it didn't suffer too badly from the budgetary restraints I was forced to recommend last year, owing to the difficult cash flow situation. In fact, all the Board Committees have done an excellent job in keeping to their agreed budgets. I can report that the contributions are up this period, compared to the same period last year by a figure of 32.4%. But, and there's always a but, we're not out of the woods yet. Remember, that on the basis of last year's cash flow, which you all know was dreadful; it isn't difficult to be up 32.4% on last year's figures. So I'm not smiling yet.

We are gradually clawing back to what we should be holding in our financial reserve policy which was set by Conference and the Board and agreed by the Charities Commission and at present it's up to 71.72% of what it should be. It will be very

comforting when it's where it's supposed to be.

I wrote at the end of my Annual Report that we couldn't afford to adopt a complacent attitude towards our finances and this is still true. Last year we received various niggles and complaints about a flyer sent out to all groups asking for more money. As those of you know, who actually read the flyer, we did not ask for more money at all. We asked that whatever contributions were sent, could they be sent as a more regular cash flow. We've made a good start this year; hopefully we will keep it that way.

I usually give you a bit of an update on how I'm getting on with the Auditor regarding our submission to the Charities Commission. He is still completely fascinated, as are the Inland Revenue and the VAT people, by a Fellowship who are bound by all the legal instruments, who can continue to function with a mission statement of 'Our Primary Purpose'. Asks of its membership no more than it needs. Has no profit incentives or margins, no stockholders' dividends and yet manages to be quite cheerful when it ends every financial year on the brink of corporate poverty, without a clue about how the funds are going to be next year.

Seriously, I must offer my thanks to Mrs Jean Webb, our Management Accountant and 'civilian', who manages our somewhat alarming financial affairs in a most competent and professional manner.

My job would be impossible without the assistance of Jean, Jim K and the General Service Office staff and I give them my unreserved thanks.

WEB-SITE

From Monday 26th March 2001 to Sunday 1st April 2001 the total successful requests were 17,851. That is work that three years ago had not been done and in the short time that Conference recommended that we do it - that we set that site up, it's very laudable to think that we have in the region of 18,000 hits per week on our site.

0845 TELEPHONE SERVICE

(Sam W)

In four years we have seen the telephone service grow. Not only has it grown, it has been streamlined and the National Number is now truly national. London Region and South West Region came on board last year, April for London Region and June for South West Region. However, some Intergroups have still to come on board but all the Regions are covered from the Scilly Isles to the northern tip of Scotland.

We have a national number and we are the envy of some of our friends in the United States, after people who have visited here have said they wished they could do the same in their country but because of the way their telephone service is and how vast it is it's impossible.

We have been asked, since setting the telephone service up, for help from Ireland who are interested in setting up their own telephone service and just recently we received a letter asking for help from the Catholic Dioceses who are interested in setting up a helpline themselves.

The National Number and the Telephone Service are working extremely well regardless of the problems we have had over the last year with responders. We still have a lack of responders. It has brought unity to Regions and Intergroups - working together in many areas where they never did before. It is funded by the Groups and Intergroups and up to now it is running within what the 0845 Sub-Committee budgeted for.

We weren't actually a national number until June of last year and could not negotiate with BT as a national number therefore BT were still treating us as individual regions. However, two of the members of the 0845 Sub-Committee have recently held a meeting with Account Managers, we have our own Account Managers now, one for the 0845 number and one for AA's ordinary numbers. We have negotiated discounts with BT as follows:

Current Gross Call Spend	£ 20,561.22
Current Net Call Spend	£ 17,332.35
Current Discount	£ 3,228.87
Projected Gross Call Spend	£ 20,561.22
Projected Net Call Spend	£ 13,580.69
Projected new Discount	£ 6,980.53
Net New Savings	£ 3,751.66

Not only have we negotiated discounts for the national number and for the call centre lines, we have also negotiated for the General Service Office and the Regional Service Offices as well.

The problem had been that at one time there were 80 odd numbers to look at and unfortunately we had not been receiving all of the discounts because all numbers were not under Alcoholics Anonymous and BT could not trace them. One was under "something" Intergroup, which meant nothing to BT, so when it was put up on the computer they didn't get the discount but that is all in process.

There were 26 major alterations to the service last year - plates had to be changed and in the next year we are envisaging at least 7 Regions needing plate changes.

We held a meeting of the 0845 Committee in February, it was planned to be in November of last year but because of the floods, we had to cancel it until February of this year.

However Conference of last year, Committee No. 2 decided they wanted changes to the 0845 Sub-Committee. This has not been discussed at national level because there has not been a national telephone meeting as of yet, but it was discussed by the 0845 Sub-Committee who made the following recommendation:

“It was unanimously agreed that the recommendation from Conference 2000, Committee No. 2 was not workable for the following reasons:

1. There is no mechanism in the Fellowship where one member can be appointed from 5 Scottish Regions and 2 members from the 9 English Regions.
2. The recommended Committee would not be a Sub-Committee of the Board and could not be financed by the Board.
3. No guidance was given by Conference regarding funding, maintenance and other expenses of such a Committee.
4. The recommendation centred more on representation than the essential purpose of the committee as detailed in the Terms of Reference”.

It is worthy of note that the second paragraph of the recommendation states “the current committee members should be retained until transition is complete in all Regions”. At the time of the Committee meeting although all Regions have adopted the National Number, almost 10% of Intergroups still remained outside. The Committee is unanimous in the suggestion that the Board referred this matter back to Conference 2001 for further guidance.

I believe that we have a wonderful telephone service. We have had problems. We have had out of area calls and most of the TLOs, responders or manners in Scotland are now dealing with them and know how to deal with them. One of the causes of these problems is mobile phones because they bounce off the satellite and BT have put up a pick up for that, but nobody could envisage the amount of mobile phones that have been sold, I believe this last year it was 25 million.

However, this is not within the remit of the 0845 Committee. All Regional TLOs have received numbers from British Telecom with direct lines to the people who can deal with them. We have contacted OFTEL, and OFTEL said it was a problem and they are aware of it and they also said that it was a BT problem. We are not the only ones having this problem - the Motorway people have that problem as well.

I believe that the work that has gone in and the dedication of all people involved in Telephone Service is a fantastic effort by our Fellowship. Yes, we get hiccups, yes we have problems, but remember this is a voluntary service, people do their best and they do a tremendous job. There is nothing better than to see someone walking in that room whom you had talked to on the phone that night or the day before and they get to a meeting and get sober.

The 0845 Sub-Committee have asked us to propose the following Resolution to Conference 2001:

“The recommendation that the Sub-Committee be allowed to continue to work and should be required to come back to Conference 2002 as per the Committee 2 answer and recommendation of year 2000”.

Conference 2000, Committee 2, Question 2:

2. *Now that the 0845 system has been adopted nationally, would Conference consider it to be more advisable and democratic to have the National Telephone Sub-committee comprising of elected Regional Telephone Liaison Officers?*

This would ensure proper rotation of the Committee as per service guidelines and make them more accountable to the Fellowship as a whole.

This Committee recommends that the current National Telephone Sub-committee be increased to 8 members, consisting of 4 members with technical understanding and financial capabilities and 4 current Regional Telephone Liaison Officers (TLOs) elected for staggered terms of 3 years. The TLOs shall consist of 2 members from England, 1 member from Scotland and 1 member from Wales.

The Committee also recommends that cross-training for all committee members is essential. The current committee members should be retained until transition is complete in all regions.

This Committee further recommends a review to be conducted in 2003, if not required sooner.

This decision is unanimous.

After discussion this resolution was seconded and passed with a majority vote.

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND CO-OPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

It is a privilege to report on the activities of PICPC and the results of teamwork throughout Great Britain and Continental Europe by so many people.

On pages 7-8 of "AA Today" we read the following:

"Why, at this particular point in history, has God chosen to communicate His healing grace to so many of us? Every aspect of this global unfoldment can be related to a single crucial word. The word is "communication". There has been a lifesaving communication among ourselves, with the world around us, and with God.

From the beginning, communication in AA has been no ordinary transmission of helpful ideas and attitudes. Because of our kinship in suffering, and because of our common means of deliverance are effective for ourselves only when constantly carried to others, our channels of contact have always been charged with the language of the heart".

The early members who left us this great legacy encourage us to use every channel possible to communicate, firstly among ourselves and then with the world outside, ever reminding us in the Twelfth Step:

"Moved by the spirit of anonymity, we try to give up our natural desires for personal distinction as AA members, both among fellow alcoholics and before the general public. As we lay aside these very human aspirations, we believe that each of us takes part in the weaving of a protective mantle which covers our whole Society and under which we may grow and work in unity".

There is great evidence of the work done by liaison officers in all areas of PICPC and it is encouraging to see how they address these issues where there might not be a liaison officer. Every group, intergroup and region has their individual ways of communicating with the community and the professionals who want to know more about Alcoholics Anonymous. A word of thanks to everyone who sends reports and tells us their news.

Through the General Service Office and the newspaper cutting service we have evidence of the many times the Fellowship is mentioned in newspapers and other publications. The National PI Committee and GSO handle storylines with the press, case histories, and coverage over Christmas and other festive holidays. It is exciting to read some of the very good things said in the press about us.

Television channels and the radio involve us with documentaries, plays, soaps, day and night time host programmes. It is found that they are respecting our tradition of anonymity once it has been explained and do allow us editorial overview in many instances. Some of these programmes have resulted in very busy help line activity.

I cannot speak on public information without mentioning the Sub Committee working with the Armed Forces. In this area it has been a good year and more people with experience in this sensitive area are being involved.

We owe our Non Alcoholic Board Members an enormous gratitude for their input in

their various ways and the emphasis of respect they promote among society and professionals in the outside world. They are able to lift the profile of the Fellowship in a way that we cannot do ourselves.

At Conference 2000 I reported on the National PI Committee and their work in progress. We did put into place “Aims and Structure”, Guidelines and an Anonymity Statement approved by the Board. Our guidelines allow rotation and assure that the Public Information National Committee to be an area of services that will carry on in an effective and informative way.

I would like to finish with the National PI Committee’s Anonymity Statement:

“Members of the Fellowship often misunderstand our principle of anonymity. Perhaps the following statement would clarify any doubts we may have.

Personal anonymity is fundamental to the individual members and the spirit of recovery. In a spiritual sense anonymity amounts to the renunciation of personal prestige as an instrument of national policy. This is the reason why no individual member of AA should publicise their membership at the level of press, radio or films (Tradition Eleven).

Our members are anonymous; the principles of the Fellowship are not. It is absolutely clear from the Traditions themselves that we have a responsibility to publicise the existence of our Fellowship, making use of the many avenues available to raise society’s awareness of Alcoholics Anonymous. To fail in our mission may result in many suffering alcoholics not being aware of the solution we can offer.

We should be in no doubt that the way forward for AA is to seek to utilise every means of publicity, whilst adhering to the guidelines set out in our Twelve Traditions.

Tradition Eleven (extract from the Twelve & Twelve, page 184).

“Throughout the world immense favourable publicity of every description has been the principle means of bringing alcoholics into our Fellowship”.

It could be said that Alcoholics Anonymous, as a whole, is not only anonymous but also appears to be invisible to many people in our society today”.

CONFERENCE QUESTIONS RELATING TO INVENTORIES - ANALYSIS OF THE FELLOWSHIP’S RESPONSE TO QUESTION 1, COMMITTEE 4, CONFERENCE 2000

(Ian H)

Introduction

Apart from Bill W’s words on the importance of taking a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves in Step Four and the list of questions contained under this heading in the booklet ‘The AA Group’, the word ‘inventory’ is not easy to be found

elsewhere in our Literature. Group Conscience, of course is (Tradition 2). It is felt in this sense - the definition of 'conscience' being 'a moral sense of right or wrong affecting our behaviour' - that we use the term 'Inventory' within AA to mean a list of associated checkpoints. Of course, we all also recognise that the General Service Conference represents the Collective Conscience of AA in Great Britain and acts to ensure that appropriate attention be given to these aspects at all levels within our service structure.

There have been three recent Conference questions on Inventories in the past two years and there is a fourth one tabled at this year's Conference. This frequency is seen by the Board to reflect the considerable interest of the Fellowship in this area. They are:

- (1) **Conference 1999 – Com 1, Q 3** - which requested each Region to hold a regular Inventory, using this to generate a list of ideas and actions as yardsticks. Regions were asked to consider using this list regularly and to share it with other Regions, with GSO/GSB and to have it given a wide distribution by way of AA News.
- (2) **Conference 2000 – Com 1, Q 1** - which encouraged active conscience and inventory meetings at all levels in the service structure, to be held on a regular basis.
- (3) **Conference 2000 – Com 4, Q 1** - which recommended an ongoing process of critical assessment, through Inventory, by Intergroups: further, that the results of these Intergroup Inventories be passed, **via the Region**, to the Regional General Service Board Trustee in preparation for this Board Report to Conference 2001.

Conference 1999

The response from the Fellowship to the request in (1) above was quite abysmal, in that only one Region – the North West Region – responded to it. This, among other matters, prompted a leader on Apathy & Ailment in the Autumn 2000 edition of AA News which was well received by the Fellowship.

The same edition carried a detailed account of North-West Region's approach to 'Taking Inventory and Conducting Group Conscience meetings', which will serve as a model to other Regions if and when they feel able to comply with the Conference 1999 request.

The NW Region has also produced an accompanying list of their 'Regional Conscience Decisions' made since December 1997, thus completing all Conference 1999's requests.

Conference 2000

While we have no record of the response to request (2), apart from knowledge gleaned from our own attendance at our local AA meetings, the formal response from the Fellowship to the above request (3) has been little better than to the first one.

Three Regions seem to have sent response to GSO on Inventories, but it is unclear in two of them whether they are related to request (3) since they appear to be the minutes of normal Inventories taken at the conclusion to their Regional Assemblies.

At the same time, and in spite of a very carefully and explicitly worded question by Committee 4, some Intergroups have chosen to ignore their Region and send their Inventories direct to GSO, so bypassing at the same time their Board Trustee.

Response from Regions

Four Regions appear to have responded to the Conference request (3). These are the *London, South Midlands and South East Regions* with *North West* having more than adequately covered the request by their earlier submissions.

London Region submitted the results of a Group Conscience meeting held in January this year. This appears more concerned with Regional than Intergroup matters. In a covering letter, it directs their paper to a question in Conference 2001 (see later). They based their analysis on the set of questions relating to Group Conscience in the booklet 'AA Group'.

South Midlands Region also submitted an Inventory taken in February 2001 this year, which looked at Regional aims and responsibilities, rather than at Intergroups. However, some Intergroup Inventories from this Region have come to note, as addressed below.

South East Region took their Inventory on Intergroups in January this year by way of a set of 'Legacy of Service' questions aimed at Intergroups. Good and bad aspects were looked at. An account is given in a booklet of the minutes of their Regional Assembly of 28th January, in which Conference 2000 request (3) receives full and exemplary response.

In addition to the above, the five Intergroups of the *South West Scottish Region* are reported to have held Inventory meetings in the context of Q 1, Com 4, Conference 2000 and four Intergroups of the *South Midlands Region* appear to have prepared inventories.

Response from Intergroups

The following six Intergroups sent in accounts of their Inventory meetings directly to GSO, so bypassing both their Region and the Trustee in the process. In the absence of a formal Regional involvement or collation, we can but briefly record their

existence and content and refer them to Committee 5 for use in connection with Question 2 at this Conference.

South London (London Region) sent questions for use as basis for making an inventory

Cornwall, Devon Central (South West Region) sent questions and inventory respectively

Glasgow North West (Glasgow Region) sent an inventory answering five questions
Aberdeen & District, Fife (East Scotland) sent 'strengths & weaknesses' inventories

Intergroup responses originating from the *Severn, South Avon, South Midlands and Wiltshire Intergroups* within the South Midlands Region have come to note.

Conference 2001

Conference 2001 carries under Committee 5 the Question:

'Would Conference give guidance, including suggested topics, for inventories which are taken at the level of Intergroup and Region'

Many of the contributions received and discussed above bear a very close relationship to this question. Indeed, it is difficult to feel other than that they have been sent in as a form of preparation for it. We have, therefore, referred these to the attention of that committee.

Concluding Remarks

Any validity to the last observation would imply that the Fellowship's response to last years question (3) was even less than believed at first sight. Indeed, and bearing in mind the above comments on the responses from Regions, it may not be incorrect or an exaggeration to say that, in one extreme, only those Intergroups within the South East and North West Regions took part in answering Q 1, Com 4, Conf 2000. These two Regions represent 22 Intergroups out of the total of 122, or less than 20%.

If one takes into account the other 15 Intergroups responding in other ways we arrive at 30%, while if we do associate the South Midlands Region's reply with last year's question we come to 33%. The association of London also with the question would bring the figure to just under 50%, which is the other extreme.

Only those above Regions and Intergroups concerned can determine which one of these statistics is the appropriate one to use.

But one conclusion can be made without fear of correction:

Notwithstanding how one views these data, less than half of the Fellowship – possibly less than a quarter – and certainly only a quarter of the Regions, responded to a question seen to be of sufficient importance to be tabled on four consecutive occasions at the highest level of AA in Great Britain – the General Service Conference - which represents our collective Group Conscience.

Delegates may wish to dwell upon any significance they may attach to this.

NB – If and when more responses become available, it may be possible to do a more statistically meaningful analysis of them all and provide an overall Intergroup view on the additional recommendations itemised in 1 to 8 at the end of Q 1, Com 4 Conf 2000.

LITERATURE COMMITTEE

(Gudrun MacK)

The Literature Committee as it is comprised now started off as the Handbook Committee in 1994 and was disbanded as such in 1999. Its duties were then incorporated with the Literature Committee, which was newly founded in late 1998, and had its first meeting in January 1999. Currently there are six persons belonging to the Literature Committee being the Chairperson and five members from various Regions along with the support of one of the GSO staff members, Jeremy. Thanks go to all members of the Committee and Jeremy for all their hard work.

The Service Handbook for Great Britain

As recommended by Conference 1998 the Literature Committee will present to the General Service Conference a list of current amendments to the Service Handbook for approval each year:

1. Add Guideline 12 - Finance with the following amendment: **Delete** “The Board has set an upper limit of £4,000 per year direct personal contribution to the General Service Office and a “one-off” contribution by way of a legacy to the amount of £4,000” and **insert** “The Board has set an upper limit of £6,000 per year direct personal contribution to the General Service Office and a “one-off” contribution by way of a legacy to the amount of £6,000”.
2. Add Guideline 15 - Conventions with the following amendment: under Organisation in the third paragraph, last sentence: **delete** ‘a maximum of’ and **insert** ‘at least’ to read (GSB suggests that Trustee attend at least two meetings as agreed with the committee).
3. Replace Section 11

Recommendation: Conference 2000, Committee 6, Question 1

As per the above recommendation draft Guideline No. 16 - Violence has been produced and will be returned to Conference 2002 for approval.

Furthermore, the following three revised pamphlets were presented:

The AA Group
Inside AA
15 Points from the Starter Pack.

The work of the Literature Committee continues to be ongoing and it is a slow process because of the way it has to pass to the Fellowship and Conference and there is no time scale for the completion of some items. We are currently looking at a number of projects that are still outstanding.

Important Information

For the past several years Conference has requested that the Literature Committee produce this leaflet or amend that pamphlet, change the appearance of yet another one and I have been informed by GSO staff that often the Fellowship does not purchase the new titles which have been prepared and printed, and they often remain very high stock on the shelves. Therefore, I must ask if you think it is wise and prudent for us to use Fellowship money in the production of literature that remains sitting on a shelf collecting dust.

Additionally, there is also great assistance you can give to the Literature Committee and that is by refraining from producing your own literature and using that of the Fellowship instead. By doing that you will help reduce losses in revenue, which are currently being experienced.

CONDUCT DOCUMENT RESULTS

(Bill Y - Vice Chairman)

Everyone present will have had in their Conference Pack a copy of the document entitled 'Personal Conduct in AA Meetings and our Common Welfare'. As you are aware Conference 2000 agreed that the Discussion Document on Member Conduct should be distributed to all groups with an invitation for views on the document to be submitted through the structure or direct to GSO. Suffice it to say that I would like to thank you for your group and individual replies - the response has been enormous - there has never been any document, to my knowledge, in the Fellowship in this country, that has been discussed so widely and that is a tribute to this Fellowship, that the concern for this issue is there.

A very significant majority agreed with the document in principle, and the document you now have has been compiled taking account of the many suggestions that were

received.

The document will be used as the basis for a new guideline and it would be our intention to issue the draft (reproduced over the next few pages) to all Regions together with Conference questions for Conference 2002. This will enable Conference delegates to discuss the guideline fully at their pre-Conference workshops with their Regions. We propose to submit the guideline to Conference 2002. That will be probably done as a presentation with plenary discussion but that has yet to be decided.

Draft Guideline

Personal Conduct in AA Meetings and our Common Welfare

Introduction

History and Background

In recent decades, society has become progressively more concerned with the rights of the individual and that awareness has been reflected in recent changes in the law. The Protection against Harassment Act, 1997 and the Human Rights Act, 2000 are particularly relevant.

Like every organisation, AA is accountable under the law. Both of the above Acts highlight the 'duty of care' and since each Group is autonomous, accountability and responsibility for member conduct at Group level will lie at Group level. The potential of litigious action is of concern to AA, as it is to any organisation.

The reality is that every AA Group makes an open invitation to any member of the public who has a desire to stop drinking, to attend its meetings. In doing so, it accepts an implied duty of care towards those attending and that duty will mainly rest with the Group chairperson/lead officer.

Every AA Group ought to recognise and accept the legal position, and its members should agree to a guideline for dealing with errant behaviour, is long overdue.

Pre-Conference 2000

This issue was raised as a matter of priority, within the General Service Board, in September 1999 following the report of several incidents of interpersonal misconduct, involving our members, into which the authorities had commenced or were considering investigation. Together with knowledge of a raft of internal complaints about unacceptable member behaviour, the General Service Board decided that the Fellowship had to be made aware of the dangers of failing to address the problem.

Resulting from the above, together with concern for individual members, Groups, their leaders and the overall good name of AA as a respected Fellowship, a draft discussion document was prepared by the Board in time for Conference 2000. Conference agreed to the distribution of the document to enable the widest possible discussion throughout the Fellowship in Great Britain.

Post-Conference 2000

Following agreement by Conference in April 2000, a 'Discussion Document' entitled 'Conduct of AA Members' was circulated to every Group throughout the Fellowship of AA in Great Britain; it was also reproduced in the Summer 2000 edition of AA News at the request

of Conference 2000.

The document contended that damaging behaviour on the part of a small minority of members was not only harming vulnerable members and potential members, but also threatening the Fellowship by laying it open to undesirable publicity and controversy.

Groups and individual members were encouraged to participate in the discussion by sending their views and suggestions to GSO.

Outcome

As was recently reported through AA News, the response was sufficient to clearly indicate positive support for the document in principle. A substantial majority of written views were in favour of the need for guidance in this area, and account has been taken of many excellent suggestions in preparing this material for a draft Guideline.

It is anticipated that Conference 2001 will agree to the distribution of this draft within the Fellowship and, subject to minor amendment, Conference 2002 will finalise the Guideline.

This document will be subject to ongoing review in the light of experience gained within the Fellowship.

AA and Society

While Alcoholics Anonymous seeks to maintain its singleness of purpose, and its simple principles, society is growing increasingly diverse and complex. Indeed, AA can sometimes seem like a refuge, set apart from the harsh realities of 21st century living.

The healthy AA Group is largely self-regulating, operating under an unwritten code of conduct that is founded in love, with our Steps, Traditions, Concepts and Legacies underpinning our recovery. By regular examination of collective Group Conscience, the healthy Group enjoys good behaviour at both individual and Group level.

However, there are a few groups in which 'a loving God' is never given the chance to 'express Himself in our Group conscience'. In such groups, unacceptable behaviour, e.g. bullying and harassment of the vulnerable member or potential member by other members, needs to be addressed. In accepting that AA is an integral part of society and therefore governed by the law, we must address the question 'how do we protect the vulnerable?'

About our behaviour

- Bullying and harassment are negative and unacceptable forms of discrimination that are in conflict with the AA message and our way of life in recovery. Any such behaviour needs to be taken seriously and sober AA members must deal with it as it arises;
- Whether or not the behaviour is intended to be hurtful is irrelevant, the important point is that it is offensive;

- AA members, within their Groups, need to recognise the power and importance of their behaviour in their relationships with other members of the Fellowship and with potential newcomers;
- Members in recovery will understand that the behaviour we choose to adopt influences the behaviour of other people. Recognising that we can control our behaviour, we have a responsibility to set a positive example;

Vulnerability and Vulnerable Situations

The risk of harassment is greater in certain one to one situations such as

- Giving & receiving lifts;
- Home visits;
- Telephone duty, etc;
- and even Sponsorship

Members should be alert to such risk situations.

Action against unacceptable behaviour

1. Criminal Behaviour

If the offensive behaviour constitutes clear criminal conduct, e.g. rape, serious physical abuse, hostage holding, etc. then appropriate action is to contact the Police or a legal expert. Members *and Groups* should be aware that harassment may be a criminal act and conviction can result in a custodial sentence/heavy fine.

2. Personal Action

The recipient of unacceptable behaviour, for the main part, wants whatever is happening to stop and acceptable behaviour to replace it so: -

- a) It is often sufficient for the recipient to raise the difficulty with the person creating the problem by pointing out that his/her conduct is offensive. Anyone has the right to challenge unacceptable behaviour of any other member of AA, at any stage, and request that the behaviour stop;
- b) The recipient should clearly state their objection and what they want to happen in future;
- c) Support and help - it should be possible for the recipient to prepare for this conversation with the help of his/her sponsor or another member if s/he wishes. Should the recipient find it too difficult or embarrassing to raise the issue with the person creating the problem, it may be appropriate for the recipient to have the conversation with his/her sponsor or another member present.

3. Group Action

- a) When a personal approach fails or the recipient feels that this method is inappropriate, the recipient should approach the Group chairperson, or other trusted servant for help and advice in the knowledge that any complaint of bullying or harassment will be considered as a serious matter;

- b) The alleged offender should be told of the complaint as soon as possible;
- c) Both parties should be advised to share their feelings and call on the help and support of a sponsor or responsible Group member;
- d) Providing that the matter does not constitute a criminal offence and that both parties are willing, then a mediation meeting could be held with both parties to resolve the difficulties. The Group chairperson should chair the meeting and one other mutually acceptable member should be present;
- e) Confidentiality of those involved is important; resolution of the matter at the lowest level of intervention, and as swiftly as possible, will be best for all concerned;
- f) If the situation is sufficiently serious or complex, it may be necessary to involve members from outside the Group

4. At Group Meetings

- a) This document should be adopted by the Group and referred to regularly;
- b) Members should be encouraged to choose a Home Group in which true bonds of fellowship will lessen the need to fear irregularities in behaviour;
- c) Group conscience meetings should be held regularly (many groups hold them every 3 months at, say, the first meeting in March, June, September and December) *plus* additional conscience meetings as they become necessary;
- d) Where unacceptable behaviour (verbal abuse, swearing, discriminatory jokes, disparaging remarks etc.) occurs in a Group situation, members in recovery have a responsibility to intervene and ask for the offending behaviour to stop;
- e) An explanation of the dangers of unacceptable behaviour in AA should be given at the time, or at the end of the meeting;
- f) Offensive behaviour should not be condoned and it should not be a matter for debate. Failure to challenge and stop inappropriate behaviour gives the offender permission to repeat the offensive behaviour and encourages others to follow suit.

Safeguards and Sensible Suggestions - at a personal level

- Recognise that newcomers to the Fellowship may be severely damaged 'victims';
- Don't travel alone with newcomers of the opposite sex*;
- As a newcomer, don't travel alone with an existing member of the opposite sex*;
- Don't 12th Step or home visit newcomers or potential newcomers alone;
- When making home visits, leave details of where you are going with a trusted friend or relative (in a sealed envelope to protect confidentiality if necessary). Make sure this person knows when to expect you to return and inform them that you are safely back;
- Be aware of the heightened risk of misread sexual intentions when talking to newcomers and members who are struggling;
- Be aware of the dangers of opposite gender Sponsorship: man to man and woman to woman Sponsorship is strongly recommended*;
- Never respond to offensive behaviour in a like manner;
- Should someone speak to you about your unacceptable behaviour, listen to his or her criticism, think about what they have said and react appropriately. You may even at a later stage wish to thank them for pointing it out to you!
- Treat other people with respect and dignity.

Safeguards and Sensible Suggestions - at a Group level

- 1 Adopt this document at a Group conscience meeting and draw attention to it at Group conscience meetings. Hopefully your group will never have to prove the diligent discharge of its duty of care, but this document will prove very useful if ever it does!
- 2 Your Group may wish to discuss and agree, at a Group conscience meeting, upon a 'clear statement' to display. The following are examples, but write your agreed statement on suitably sized card and place in a visible position at all Group meetings:

This Group says 'NO' to

- **Bullying**
- **Harassment or**
- **Discriminatory behaviour**

OF ANY KIND

Bad language often offends...
But its absence never does

*** Please Note:**

Notwithstanding this, care must be taken to give equal consideration to gay and lesbian situations. Sexual orientation is a basic human right and it is an offence to discriminate on such grounds.

After discussion, a vote was taken and it was the conscience of this Conference that the Draft Guideline 'Personal Conduct in AA Meetings and our Common Welfare' go out to the Fellowship through the Groups, Intergroups and Regions. This Conference authorises this document.

Finally, just prior to the workshop, a number of questions were asked regarding the Spring edition of AA News. These were concerned with the validity of the analysis of the Fellowship's response to the 'Conduct of AA Members' document as given by the Editor in this edition. The Editor's explanation of the statistical propriety and significance of the analysis was overwhelmingly accepted by Conference.

ANNUAL REPORT 2000 UPDATES

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

The Committee met on February 16/17 2001, and examined a number of important issues. The video venture with the students from Leeds has not yet been fruitful. Joe H. has, however, investigated the possibility of getting help on the project from two recently qualified members of the college. They and Joe H. have prepared a well researched document into feasibility and costs, and the Committee is asking that this be further considered by the full Board at the March Meeting as there are financial considerations not originally envisaged.

The appointment of a replacement for Barbara T. was deferred after considering several possible candidates: it was agreed that the new member needed to have DTP skills in order to carry on the publication of Past Particles. As we did not know who had these skills and who would be willing and able to take this job on, it was left to the Chairman and Board Archivist to research the matter and to report back as soon as possible.

The possible re-siting of the Annual National Meeting of Regional Archivists to four different venues around England in the subsequent four consecutive years was considered. This would enable nearby observers to attend each site during part of the session for exchange of ideas and showing of selected archives. It was agreed that it might be the best way forward to eventually staging an Archivists Convention similar to that held in the USA; and inviting other archivists to attend from abroad. We noted that a group of archivists from this country had attended the Archives Convention in Seattle last year, and that the US Archivists were keen to invite AA in the UK to apply for the setting of that Convention over here sometime in the future. This would need full Board approval and backing, and at present we felt it was more appropriate to move toward setting up our own National instrument in the first place.

We have acquired several Big Books with provenances of great interest to the Fellowship during the year, and we are gratefully indebted to the members, friends and families who have contacted the Archivist to donate them. The routine work of indexing and classifying continues, as does the transfer of records to electronic storage. A major issue for the near future will be finding an effective policy for storage that is economical of AA money.

AA NEWS

AA NEWS continues to be the principle vehicle for communication with members of the Fellowship in Great Britain on service matters and has been published quarterly through the past year. It is planned to continue in that way.

For each edition a Theme which is considered to be a topical one and of general interest to the Fellowship has been chosen by the Editor. It is emphasised that suggestions for

future themes may be submitted to the Editor at any time by individuals or from within the service structure.

Themes in the year 2000 have been:

- The General Service Board and its Trustees – Spring 2000
- The General Service Conference 1999 – Summer 2000
- Inventory and Conscience, Apathy & Ailment – Autumn 2000
- The National PICPC Committee – Winter 2000

The Theme for the Autumn edition was chosen to stimulate a deeper awareness and interest within the Fellowship on the importance of giving service throughout the Fellowship's structure – i.e. a form of repaying our debt and gratitude for all that the Fellowship has given to us. This edition was very well received and the GSO stock became rapidly depleted by additional requests for copies. However, and while one member wrote in to say that the article omitted to cite Twelve-Stepping as the ultimate service given by members, another felt the edition was dictatorial and arrogant. While acknowledging the former as indeed being our Primary Purpose, we would like to feel that the latter was the view of a minority.

The Winter edition, having as its Theme an account of the activities of the recently formed National PICPC Committee, also attracted considerable favourable comment. It was also timely, in that the subject was chosen for the Camber Sands 2000 Workshop. This choice will be repeated and updated at the Workshop at Norbreck Castle 2001.

Looking ahead, the Spring 2001 edition of AA news will be concentrated on the Response of the Fellowship to the "Conduct of AA Members" paper, which was distributed to all groups for comment during the last year: this issue will also contain further articles relating to the subject.

Also looking ahead, the Editor again emphasises that he will greatly welcome any topical articles relating to service within the Fellowship in Great Britain. Any member or Intergroup/Region is invited to submit a piece for consideration. Where your Region has an AA NEWS Co-ordinator, please submit it through them: where a Region doesn't have a co-ordinator, please would they consider the mutual advantages of having one.

Each year we conclude by reminding members that AA NEWS cannot carry any reference to meetings or events which are not wholly sponsored within the service structure of the Fellowship (Conference 1995).

CONVENTIONS

The Northern National Convention has resettled back into its favoured location at Norbreck Castle in Blackpool. The Convention held in April 2000 had as its usual theme “A new Beginning” and was successful and well attended. Unfortunately, it clashed with the General Service Conference, so precluding the attendance of some 120 Conference delegates.

A greater degree of commitment and support for the Convention from the three sponsoring regions - Northwest, Northeast and Midlands - has been secured by their putting together, via the collective Conscience of these three Regions, an agreed set of Terms of Reference for the Northern Convention Committee. This has enabled Convention 2001 to be planned and organised this year under the direction of a restructured and reconstituted Convention Committee. Planning for this year’s Convention, which is to be held again at Norbreck Castle from 30th March to 1st April – a date one week prior to Conference.

PRISONS

First of all thank you to all fourteen Regional Prison Liaison officers for their work over the last year. Overall, AA has been a success in the prisons.

AA is now in 118 prison establishments. This is certainly a great improvement. As reported in the Annual General Service Board Report, the bi-yearly meetings with the Prison Service and Prison Officers Association in Scotland, are held May and November of each year.

The Southwest of Scotland Region held an AA prison workshop and invited all Prison Liaisons from each Region in Scotland. This was well attended. Discussions were held on ways forward, with the Regions sharing information with each other regarding their respective prisons.

The prison postal service was also well addressed. The East of Scotland is holding the next prison workshop, and once again all Scottish Prison Liaisons will be invited to attend. Some Regions, in their half yearly report have stated that the prison video has been a great success.

The prison postal system is similar and some Regions are reporting that it is beginning to take off well, while other Regions are slow to get it off the ground.

AA is being accepted into more prison establishments. Although this is great news, it will be of no use to the inmates if we do not have the AA members to carry the message to those who need and want it.

Again, thanks to all the members of the Fellowship who carry out this service.

Workshop - “Communication -A Two Way Affair”

Discussion, proposals and voting on the GSB Reports went on till 9.43pm, swallowing the 1hr 15mins allotted to the Workshop on “*Communication: A Two-Way Affair*”.

The Conference Chairman sought and obtained delegates’ approval to allow a brief presentation till 10pm.

Mallory R and Tom A of Continental European Region enlisted the help of a line of delegates to show how ‘Chinese Whispers’ can distort any message. They also indulged in some witty and thought-provoking repartee to highlight the differences in American and British use of English.

They were followed by an equally uplifting – and much curtailed – presentation from Tom T of South East Region, whose communication skills were warmly applauded by delegates, ending the Saturday evening session.

SUNDAY 8 APRIL

Oliver opened the final session of Conference with a few moments silence followed by the Preamble read by Mary B (Glasgow Region) and the Declaration of Unity by Pam S (Eastern Region).

As agreed at Conference 1995 each recommendation will be voted on and whether or not it is a two-thirds majority will be recorded. Also, that the Committee Secretaries would act as tellers if required.

Oliver then invited the Chairmen of the six Committees to present their respective reports which were fully discussed and adopted.

These Committee Reports are included in this report on the pages indicated below:

Committee No. 1	Pages	33
Committee No. 2	Pages	35
Committee No. 3	Pages	37
Committee No. 4	Pages	39
Committee No. 5	Pages	11
Committee No. 6	Pages	43

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR CONFERENCE 2002

The nominations received on Friday evening were presented and, after a vote, Roger B (Jersey Intergroup) was duly elected.

RATIFICATION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Firstly, Mick W, Chairman of the Board, gave huge thanks to his colleagues on the General Service Board, having learnt so much from them over the past year and for their input into the Committees over the weekend. Mick gave special thanks to Jim K and the staff of the General Service Office in York. Special thanks too, went to Oliver G, Conference Chairman, who had been splendid over the weekend.

Rotating out:

Fred Edwards - non-alcoholic Trustee rotated out after eleven years service on the Board and we are very grateful to him for his experience over the years. Bill Y, Debbie R, Sam W and Gudrun MacK who also rotate from the Board this weekend. Mick expressed his sadness as he had worked very closely with them, gained so much from them, and how much of a pleasure it had been for him to work with each of them.

He went on to give particular thanks to Bill Y, Vice Chairman of the Board, for being such a dear friend. He and Bill rotated in on the same day, were on the Video Committee together, External together and various other things and had followed each other through. Bill had given him so much support over the past few years and worked long, sometimes late hours, on occasion until 2am in the morning, over the Internet. Thank you.

Rotating in:

Betty McN	-	Glasgow Region
Dianne C-T	-	North East Region
Dora M	-	Continental European Region
Peter L	-	East of Scotland Region
John A	-	Highlands & Islands Region
Lawrence Singer	-	Non-Alcoholic Trustee
Bronwen Still	-	Non-Alcoholic Trustee

Mick asked Conference to ratify the nominated Board Members, above, for which there was unanimous approval.

Lastly, Mick thanked everybody, saying that Conference this year had been splendid with a feeling of unity and love.

CLOSE OF CONFERENCE

(Oliver G)

“Firstly, I would like to thank the Committee Chairmen I had the greatest pleasure in serving with, they were: Tom, Greta, Mallory, Tom, Margaret and Andy, especially Andy as he was my alternate. On 31st August last year I suffered a stroke, the following Sunday a second one and five weeks ago another little one.

I want to tell the Fellowship of the amount of support that I got when I came round, there was seven alcoholics, three round my bed and four out in the hallway smoking fags and that was within seven hours of it happening! I also want to say that my first thought when I came round was a drink, just to show the actual consciousness of ourselves, alcohol never goes away. When the body becomes distressed the first thought was a drink. My second thought was thank you God; I'm still alive. My next prayer was that I would make this Conference and finish it and I am extremely grateful to my God for that. The people that I served with carried on the good work and their messages of support were just extremely touching, as were the messages of support from the General Service Office, the Scottish Service Office, London Region and London Regional Service Office. My dear friend John phoned the hospital along with many others, eventually the hospital asked me who was I? Was I in disguise? Could I pay for my treatment!

The road ahead, a day at a time, is going to be difficult for me and I want to say one thing, that is a really superb thanks to everybody in this Fellowship, not just here, but all over the world because of them I stand here today. A big, big, big thank you.

My thanks to the following as well: Jim K and his team, Sharon and her team, the General Service Board and London Region for electing me as a Conference delegate otherwise I wouldn't have got here. Thank you, all you wonderful people.

Over the past four years I have had a ball, I know you loved me the first day I arrived in Conference, I know it! It has been lovely - all of you whose lives have passed and touched mine, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

It has been a wonderful Conference and would you please join me in the Serenity Prayer which will be said by Roger B, next year's Conference Chairman".

Conference 2001 ended with everyone joining hands and saying the Serenity Prayer.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT CONFERENCE

The Thirty-Seventh General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain will be held at the University of York on 12-14 April 2002.

THIRTY-SIXTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2001

COMMITTEE No. 1

CHAIRMAN ANDY C GLASGOW REGION

SECRETARY JIM D SCOTIA REGION

The Chairman opened the meeting with a moment's silence and the preamble.

1. **Conference 1999 recommended a review of the structure and composition of Conference. Would Conference review and make recommendations on the following:**

Input into Conference

Selection of delegates

**eg Are the guidelines adequate and are they adhered to?
Are delegates the best available?**

- (a) This Committee believes that there is adequate guidance available for the selection of Conference Delegates as in Section 10 of the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain (Conference Charter Great Britain, Article 6), Section 9 of the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain (General Service Conference of AA in Great Britain, Article 7), Guideline 3 of the AA Service Handbook of Great Britain (Service Representatives) and Guideline 5 of the AA Service Handbook of Great Britain (Regions).

In general this Committee felt that the Guidelines were adhered to.

However, the Fellowship may find the following suggestions helpful:

- (i) Pre and post-Conference meetings can assist in the selection of new delegates.
 - (ii) Selection of Conference delegates could be considered as a subject for Intergroup or Regional Workshops, remembering that good communication promotes awareness.
- (b) Given the present climate within the Fellowship this Committee believes that the delegates are the best available from those nominated. However, if the Guidelines and suggestions as noted above are adhered to this position can only improve.

This Committee is aware that there are members with long term sobriety who would make good Conference delegates.

Conference Questions

eg Are they about matters of major importance to the Fellowship as a whole?

- (a) All questions that are sent to, or raised at Conference are to be considered prior to Conference by the Conference Committee and if they are matters of importance to the Fellowship as a whole they should be considered in Committee at Conference. If any question is deemed to be answerable by Guidelines or literature available to the Fellowship the submitter is given a reply to this effect.
- (b) Questions should be written in **PLAIN ENGLISH**. Conference Committee, in conjunction with the questioner, should work to achieve this.
- (c) A summary of the background material should be published in AA News together with the questions.
- (d) An explanation of question selection procedure should be included at pre and post-Conference Workshops.

Members' views

eg How well are they passed on to Conference?

Members' views, when given at pre-Conference workshops, are adequately passed on to Conference.

Attendance at pre-Conference workshops should be encouraged by groups, Intergroups and Regions.

The decisions of this Committee were unanimous.

2. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2002.

The Committee elected Jerry C of Continental European Region as Chairman of Committee 1 for Conference 2002.

3. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2002.

The Committee elected Nigel L of London Region as Secretary of Committee 1 for Conference 2002.

All recommendations on Committee No. 1 were passed with a two-thirds plus majority.

THIRTY-SIXTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2001

COMMITTEE No. 2

CHAIRMAN MALLORY R CER

SECRETARY DENIS C MIDLANDS REGION

The Chairman opened the meeting with a moment's silence and the Preamble.

1. **Conference 1999 recommended a review of the structure and composition of Conference. Would Conference review and make recommendations on the following:**

Preparation

eg **Are delegates and alternates personally sponsored into service?**

Are delegates adequately briefed?

How well are we, the Fellowship, assisting delegates and alternates to prepare for Conference?

This Committee determined that where the Guidelines and Service Handbook recommendations are fully implemented, delegates are adequately prepared.

This Committee makes the following recommendations:

Firstly, that Regions refer to and fully adhere to the Guidelines and the Service Handbook recommendations.

Secondly, this Committee suggests that best practice in preparation at Group, Intergroup and Region level should be identified and followed wherever possible. This Committee identified indicators of best practice, as follows:

- that a delegate should have served a term as an alternate delegate before attending Conference as a delegate.
- that alternate delegates should attend all delegate meetings.
- that there should be an alternate delegate for every delegate.
- that there should be a minimum of two delegate meetings in addition to the pre-Conference and post-Conference meetings.
- that the Board member be invited to attend all delegate meetings.

- that delegate meetings should include proposed Questions for Conference, Conference Question content and Fellowship feedback.
- that Conference should be on the agenda of all Group business meetings, Intergroup and Region meetings.
- that Conference should be discussed at Workshops, Convention Workshops and Regional Forums.
- that Groups, Intergroups and Regions be proactive in encouraging individuals into service.
- that Regions should invite immediate past delegates to remain involved for a period of one year to sponsor their replacements and to monitor the implementation of Conference decisions.
- that Groups, Intergroups and Regions should recognise that experienced members are a very valuable resource and should encourage and facilitate their involvement.

This list is intended to be indicative rather than exhaustive.

2. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2002.

The Committee elected Denis C of Midlands Region as Chairman of Committee No 2 for Conference 2002.

3. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2002.

The Committee elected Sally R of South West Region as Secretary of Committee No 2 for Conference 2002.

All recommendations on Committee No. 2 were passed with a two-thirds plus majority.

THIRTY-SIXTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2001

COMMITTEE No. 3

CHAIRMAN	TOM T	SOUTH EAST REGION
SECRETARY	DIANNE C-T	NORTH EAST REGION

The Chairman opened the meeting with a moment's silence and the Preamble.

- 1. Conference 1999 recommended a review of the structure and composition of Conference. Would Conference review and make recommendations on the following:**

Structure of Conference

- Eg**
- Is the number of Committees appropriate?**
 - Is the use of Committees appropriate?**
 - Is the composition of Committees appropriate?**

This Committee was unanimous in its belief that the structure of Conference requires significant change.

- i.** This Committee recommends that the number of committees is appropriate and should remain at 6. There was a minority view which was expressed and appreciated that the number of committees should be reduced to four.

We feel that **EACH** committee should be responsible for the following:

- (a) to safeguard our primary purpose by harnessing past and present experience.
- (b) to act as the conscience of the Fellowship.
- (c) to discuss initiatives and make recommendations.
- (d) to address problems and opportunities as they arise.
- (e) to act as a forum for the sharing of experience.
- (f) to review and assess the implementation of relevant Conference recommendations.

With the retention of six committees we feel that the composition of committees is appropriate.

The remit of the Committees could be:

- 2 dealing with external matters.
- 2 dealing with internal matters.

1 dealing with finance.
1 dealing with special issues.

- ii. We further recommend that the Conference Committee should be renamed The Conference Steering Committee and will be chaired by the Conference Chairman. This Committee will now need to adjust its Terms of Reference to facilitate the new way of working for Conference Committees.

Not only will it select Conference questions, it will also recommend initiatives and invite topics from the Fellowship for discussion.

The Conference Steering Committee will set the itinerary for all of Conference.

This view was unanimous.

2. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2002.

The Committee elected Victoria G of Continental European Region as Chairman of Committee No 3 for Conference 2002.

3. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2002.

The Committee elected Guenter G of Glasgow Region as Secretary of Committee No 3 for Conference 2002.

All recommendations on Committee No. 3 were passed with a two-thirds plus majority.

THIRTY-SIXTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2001

COMMITTEE No. 4

CHAIRMAN GRETA T SOUTH EAST REGION

SECRETARY STEVE R CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN REGION

The Chairman opened the meeting with a moment's silence and the Preamble.

1. Would Conference consider the needs of the disabled to participate fully in our service structure? Make recommendations.

It is of the utmost importance for all A.A. members to participate in all three of the Legacies of A.A. The legacy of Service must be fully available for everyone, whether or not they have special needs.

As with all newcomers, disabled members need to understand that their participation in service activities is not only welcome, but is necessary for their sobriety. It is of vital importance for members with disabilities to make their needs known.

This committee recommends, that A.A. in Great Britain undertakes a needs assessment with respect to services for the disabled within A.A.

Information is already available from many Governmental bodies and other outside agencies as to what can be done to assist the disabled.

This committee suggests that this assessment could be undertaken by Health Liaison Officers at local level. It is further suggested that they meet in National committee, which could be chaired by the Board Trustee responsible for Health Liaison, with a remit to present a progress report back to Conference 2002.

The views of the committee were unanimous.

2. Would Conference 2001 review the role and feasibility of Continental European Region within the structure of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain? Make recommendations.

The committee reviewed the role & feasibility of Continental European Region within the structure of AA in Great Britain. After a thorough discussion of all the issues involved, this committee recommends that Continental European Region remains within the structure of AA in Great Britain.

This participation in Great Britain's structure is believed to be of benefit to the still-suffering alcoholic. The needs of the English-speaking alcoholic in Europe can be best served by remaining within the structure of AA in Great Britain and by extending their existing efforts in liaising with the service structures of their host nations.

A minority opinion was expressed as follows:

Since Continental European Region cannot fulfil all aspects of the requirements of Guideline number 5, nor carry out the recommendations of Conference, it is suggested that they participate in their host nation's service structure.

3. Would Conference share its experience in the use of a PO Box number as a central reference point as an effective method of communication bearing in mind the continued rotation of officers.

This committee shared its experience on the use of PO boxes by the Fellowship. The experience of those Intergroups and Regions who have used post office boxes was generally positive.

Particularly positive aspects were in prison service activities, as it allows anonymity. Consistent addresses allow surety of mail delivery, which is valuable for anyone who needs to make regular contact with Intergroups & Regions.

Negative points raised included difficulties in the collection of mail caused by distances involved, particularly at Regional level. Intergroups however were seen as more suitable candidates for PO Box use, as distances are often shorter. The control of keys or ID cards to the box could be a problem, if they are not transferable. Sometimes boxes are not emptied and therefore post has been delayed.

Costs at £52-£104 per annum were not seen as excessive.

Groups, Intergroups and Regions may wish to review their own circumstances to see if the use of PO boxes can be of service in carrying the message in their particular area.

The views of the committee were unanimous.

4. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2002.

The Committee elected Steve R of Continental European Region as Chairman of Committee No 4 for Conference 2002.

5. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2002.

The Committee elected Peter M of East of Scotland Region as Secretary of Committee No 4 for Conference 2002.

All recommendations on Committee No. 4 were passed with a two-thirds plus majority.

THIRTY-SIXTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2001

COMMITTEE No. 5

CHAIRMAN MARGARET J WALES & BORDERS REGION

SECRETARY WINNIE C GLASGOW REGION

The Chairman opened the meeting with a moment's silence and the Preamble.

1. **The term GSR was originally coined by Bill W. as the abbreviation for General Service Representative when he stated**

“The strength of our whole AA service structure starts with the group and with the General Service Representative (GSR) the group elects. I cannot emphasise too strongly the GSR's importance.”

Over some years and as recorded in several Conferences since 1973 the term GSR has been used in Great Britain to mean Group Service Representative but it seems this interpretation is not uniquely accepted.

While the GSR's responsibilities in the USA and in GB may differ somewhat in detail (cf AA-USA Leaflet P-19 “GSR-General Service Representative”) would Conference debate and consider whether it is appropriate that the Fellowship in GB uses other than Bill W's interpretation for the important term GSR?

The term Group Service Representative is indeed appropriate for the Fellowship in Great Britain.

We feel that there is no need for change.

This was a majority opinion by 10 votes to 7.

The minority opinion was that we use Bill W's interpretation.

2. **Would Conference give guidance, including suggested topics, for inventories which are taken at the level of Intergroup and Region?**

The Committee agreed that the best guidance for Intergroups and Regions is contained in the Guidelines and, if adhered to, many topics for discussion could be raised as an ongoing process. A suggested list of topics for inventories was published in the Autumn 2000 issue of AA News.

3. **Conference 1997 recommended that Public Information & Co-operation with the Professional Community (PICPC) Committees be formed at Intergroup and Regional levels. It was hoped that these would be more effective for our Fellowship and that working as a team they could cover areas where posts were vacant. What experience**

has been gained and how can we make these committees more effective?

What experience has been gained since Conference 1997 with regard to Intergroup and Region PICPC Committees?

- a. **Are records available thus ensuring continuity of communications?**
- b. **Are members being sponsored into service?**
- c. **Is the AA message being carried when posts are vacant?**

Discuss and make recommendations.

Much experience has been gained where PICPC Committees are in place and

- a. Yes - records are available thus ensuring continuity of communications.
- b. Yes - members are being sponsored into service.
- c. Yes - the AA message is being carried even when posts are vacant.

Experience gained:

1. Where PICPC Committees are in place our primary purpose of carrying the AA message is best served.
2. Where there are vacant posts other serving officers sponsor members into service.
3. Interchange of experience and enthusiasm is facilitated when a team is in place.

The Committee recommends that all Intergroups and Regions be encouraged to form PICPC Committees.

4. Would Conference consider the content of the Directory of Intergroup and Regional Officers for Great Britain, Continental Europe and General Service Board Great Britain? Is this still necessary? Make recommendations.

The Committee agreed that, yes, the Confidential Directory is necessary in its present format and there is no need for change.

This was a majority decision. There were none against and one abstention.

5. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2002.

The Committee elected Chris A of Eastern Region as Chairman of Committee No 5 for Conference 2002.

6. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2002.

The Committee elected Ruth S of South East Region as Secretary of Committee No 5 for Conference 2002.

All recommendations on Committee No. 5 were passed with a two-thirds plus majority.

THIRTY-SIXTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2001

COMMITTEE No. 6

CHAIRMAN TOM A CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN REGION

SECRETARY BOB McG ROUNDABOUT

The Chairman opened the meeting with a moment's silence and the Preamble.

1. **Conference 1999 recommended a review of the structure and composition of Conference. Would Conference review and make recommendations on the following:**

Communication and implementation of Conference Recommendations

eg How can recommendations from Conference be better communicated, implemented and monitored within the Fellowship?

What part should be played by Conference Delegates, Region, Intergroup and individual members?

What changes need to be made at each level?

It is the Committee's opinion that the best way of communicating Conference decisions and recommendations is clearly set out in the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain (Section 10 - Paragraph 6 Delegates - c. Preparation - d. Reporting back - Paragraph 9. Implementation of recommendations) and would recommend that there should be closer adherence to these Guidelines as defined. In particular, as a matter of routine, Conference delegates should arrange to attend Intergroups before and after Conference without waiting for an invitation.

At every level, communications could be improved by:

1. Simplicity of language
2. Speed of transmission
3. Use of the best available means e.g. AA News, Sponsorship, etc.
4. Glossary of abbreviations inserted in Conference Report.

The above recommendation is unanimous.

2. **Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2002.**

The Committee elected Bob McG - Roundabout - as Chairman of Committee No 6 for Conference 2002.

3. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2002.

The Committee elected Ian D of North East Region as Secretary of Committee No 6 for Conference 2002.

All recommendations on Committee No. 6 were passed with a two-thirds plus majority.

THIRTY-SIXTH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2001

LIST OF DELEGATES

CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN: **Oliver G** (London Region)

GENERAL SERVICE BOARD

		COMMITTEE NUMBER	TERM OF SERVICE
Mick	W		
Bill	Y	2	
Mike	D		
Maurice	B	1	
Michael	C	6	
Stan	F	6	
Paul	F	3	
Ian	H	5	
Gareth	L	2	
Gudrun	MacK	4	
Ronda	M	3	
Debbie	R	1	
Clifford	S	4	
Willem	V H	5	
Sam	W	4	
Geoffrey Brown		6	
Henry Pomeroy		3	
Lawrence Singer		2	
Bronwen Still		1	

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE STAFF

Jim K General Secretary
Sharon Smyth
Anne Drummond
Ann N
Elaine Pickering
Angela Varley
Jean Webb
Jeremy S
John H
Charlie S

SHARE

Del	H	3	2
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ROUNDAABOUT

Bob	McG	6	2
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		COMMITTEE NUMBER	TERM OF SERVICE
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EASTERN REGION

Alan	H	1	2
Pab	K	2	3
Alan	L	3	1
Bill	B	4	2
Chris	A	5	2
Pam	S	6	A

LONDON REGION

Nigel	L	1	1
John	TT	2	1
Guy	C	3	A
David	C	4	1
John	A	5	1
Marion	O	6	1

MIDLANDS REGION

Hester	A	1	2
Denis	C	2	2
Dave	O	3	1
Mike	B	4	3
Charles	W	5	2
Lesley	P	6	A

NORTH EAST REGION

Alan	H	1	3
Peter	K	2	1
Dianne	C-T	3	2
David	F	4	3
Roland	B	5	A
Ian	D	6	1

NORTH WEST REGION

Bill	B	1	3
Peter	K	2	A
Joyce	M	3	3
Liz	B	4	2
Nancy	K	5	A
Bryan	H	6	1

**COMMITTEE
NUMBER**

**TERM OF
SERVICE**

SOUTH EAST REGION

Anne	S-P	1	A
George	R	2	3
Tom	T	3	3
Greta	T	4	3
Ruth	S	5	1
Dick	M	6	2

SOUTH MIDLANDS REGION

Bob	B	1	2
Isabel	B	2	2
Tim	S	3	3
Sandy	A	4	3
Maggie	S	5	1
Michael	S	6	3

SOUTH WEST REGION

John	K	1	1
Sally	R	2	2
Wayne	P	3	1
Malcolm	B	4	2
Mike	D	5	2
Sherry	D	6	1

WALES & BORDERS REGION

Ralph	A	1	1
Val	S	2	3
Janice	W	3	2
Eileen	S	4	2
Margaret	J	5	3
Barry	P	6	3

EAST OF SCOTLAND REGION

Mari	M	1	1
Merle	C	2	2
Dougie	O	3	1
Peter	M	4	1
John	S	5	2
Gordon	C	6	3

**COMMITTEE
NUMBER**

**TERM OF
SERVICE**

GLASGOW REGION

Andy	C	1	3
Frank	N	2	3
Guenter	G	3	2
Fraser	McD	4	2
Winnie	C	5	2
Mary	B	6	1

HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS REGION

Derek	B	1	2
Andy	Y	2	3
John	D	3	2
Myra	S	4	1
Allan	McI	5	A
Duncan	MacD	6	2

SCOTIA REGION

Jim	D	1	3
Michael	C	2	1
Chick	McA	3	2
Ron	McE	4	1
Denis	C	5	2
Michael	B	6	1

SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND REGION

Billy	B	1	1
Shona	P	2	1
Archie	G	3	3
John	H	4	3
John	T	5	1
Philip	B	6	2

CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN REGION

Jerry	C	1	2
Mallory	R	2	3
Victoria	G	3	2
Steve	R	4	2
Jeff	Van Den B	5	3
Tom	A	6	3

**COMMITTEE
NUMBER**

**TERM OF
SERVICE**

JERSEY INTERGROUP

Roger	B		3	3
Pat	H		6	A

OBSERVERS

Jozef	D	(Belgium Flemish Speaking)	4	3
Ebbe	J	(Denmark)	3	2
Per	B	(Denmark)	6	1

Glossary of Abbreviations used in this report

<i>AA</i>	-	<i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>
<i>BT</i>	-	<i>British Telecom</i>
<i>GSB</i>	-	<i>General Service Board</i>
<i>GSO</i>	-	<i>General Service Office</i>
<i>GSR</i>	-	<i>Group Service Representative</i>
<i>PICPC</i>	-	<i>Public Information and Co-operation with the Professional Community</i>
<i>TLO</i>	-	<i>Telephone Liaison Officer</i>
<i>www</i>	-	<i>World Wide Web</i>

The Twelve Traditions

1 Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.

2 For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

3 The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.

4 Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.

5 Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

6 An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

7 Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

8 Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centres may employ special workers.

9 A.A., as such, ought never be organised; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

10 Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name never be drawn into public controversy.

11 Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.

12 Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.