

FINAL REPORT

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
GREAT BRITAIN

Fortieth
General Service Conference

22 - 24 April 2005
Exhibition Centre
University of York

*Recovery
and
Service*



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

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FORTIETH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2005

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DIGEST OF AGENDA

Friday 22 April 2005

Registration and Reception

Opening Session

Nominations - Conference Chairman 2006

Committee Meetings Commence

Presentation of and questions on
General Service Board Reports

(Session 1)

Saturday 23 April 2005

Committee Meetings Continue

Presentation of and questions on
General Service Board Reports

(Session 2)

Open Forum

Sunday 24 April 2005

Presentation of Committee Reports

Election of Chairman for the Forty-First General Service Conference

Ratification of
Board Members Elect

Closing Address

FRIDAY 22 APRIL

The Fortieth General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain was held at Exhibition Centre, University of York, with all plenary sessions being held in the Lecture Theatre of the Exhibition Centre.

Registration and distribution of folders commenced at 2 pm and was followed by a reception which, as usual, provided an ideal opportunity for delegates to familiarise themselves with the venue, to renew friendships and to share with those delegates attending for the first time. After the opening session, Committee proceedings commenced at 5.30pm including welcome and introduction to Committees.

The Conference comprised 96 delegates from sixteen Regions; two delegates from Jersey Intergroup, one delegate each from 'Share' and 'Roundabout', 18 members of the General Service Board, John D - Conference Chairman, the General Secretary and 9 members of staff. Also in attendance were 3 Observers from Europe

Total in attendance 127.

Opening of Conference by John D (Conference Chairman 2005)

The first full session, which commenced at 4.00pm, was opened by the Conference Chairman, John D (South East Region). He asked for a moment's silence and called upon Rachel M (South East Region) to read the Preamble.

John went on to welcome all present and invited the General Secretary, Ann N, to read the Twelve Traditions, the orientation containing last-minute changes and the National Convention dates, which are as follows:

- Scottish Convention – 29th April – 1st May 2005
- Welsh Convention – 6th May – 8th May 2005
- Southern Convention – 9th – 11th September 2005
- Northern Convention – 31st March – 2nd April 2006

Conference Steering Committee Report

Richard H (Eastern Region), Alternate Chair

Good evening Conference, my name is Richard and I am an alcoholic. I am your alternate Chair, and so have the responsibility of giving you a report regarding the work of the Steering Committee for the year 2004/2005.

The Committee met on four occasions, in May, September and October in 2004 and finally in February 2005. The committee discussed the itinerary for Conference 2005

and also reviewed all questions received at GSO by the deadline of August 31st 2004.

There were 59 questions that were reviewed. These included the Jersey question, which had been originally scheduled to return to Conference in 2004, but was put back a year with the agreement of the Steering Committee for the 2004 Conference.

There appeared to be a concern emerging amongst the questions submitted that focused on the regional structure of Alcoholics Anonymous. As the Jersey question and the Welsh question were allocated to two committees, it was decided to divide up one long question that was submitted into four separate questions concerning the Regional structure. Thus every committee was given the opportunity to in some way clarify the conscience of AA with regard to regional structure.

The breakdown of questions accepted or rejected was as follows:

1. Accepted as suitable for Conference without alteration – 5
2. Accepted with merge of two questions – 4
3. Accepted with minor drafting or textual amendments – 2
4. Rejected – discussed in 2003/2004 – 5
5. Rejected – referred to GSB/GSB sub committees/GSO - 10
6. Rejected – covered in AA literature/videos – 16
7. Rejected for reasons other than above - 17

The Presentation of Board reports is again planned over two evenings, as in 2004, as it was felt that this worked well. The Open Forum is again part of the Conference itinerary – it was felt that it was worth trying this again, as some delegates will have experienced in 2004, and so will arrive prepared for it this year.

The agenda produced was felt to be the best use of the available time without overcrowding an already busy weekend.

John continued with the presentation of his Keynote address:

Good evening everyone, I am an alcoholic, my name is John and I am a very grateful active member of Alcoholics Anonymous. This tells you what I am, who I am and what I do about what I am. I would like to extend a welcome to you all, to this, the Fortieth General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain.

Just over a year ago I was in this auditorium and it was announced that I would be Conference Chairman for 2005. The emotions that hit me at that time are hard to explain, there was elation, fear and the overwhelming feeling that I could not do this thing well, as I was not good enough. This was my disease kicking in, after trusting to my Higher Power and talking to my sponsor it was plain that I could only do my very best; Alcoholics Anonymous will never ask anymore of me than that, the one beauty is I can only get it wrong once.

This was not my original theme but I heard on the television news that the President of the USA changed his inaugural speech 21 times that made me feel a bit better. As service has been a most rewarding part of my sobriety I thought it would be an apt theme for Conference. I was volunteered for service very early on in recovery, albeit I didn't know it, I thought my talent had been recognised such was my ego, which would swing between, too good and not good enough. It can still be the same today although it is better than it was, as I was promised it would be.

The past year has been a roller coaster of experience, I am the proud owner of a new Hi tech hip which was a great relief after being in constant pain for 18 months, things look good for this year as well I am having a knee replacement, soon there won't be a lot of me left. This may seem irrelevant but I would never have had these things done if it wasn't for AA and the sobriety that my Higher Power has seen fit to endow me with. When I was drinking I did not go to Doctors for fear of being found out in the double life I was living, one at work, and the one at home, which was everyday life of chaos, confusion and deception. Then the one I was living inside myself which knew the truth about the facade I was putting up to make life tolerable, in that life I could be anybody or anything I wanted to be, or more to the point what I thought you wanted me to be. It was not what I wanted to be but I didn't know any way out, I was in total denial of my alcoholism and too proud and scared to admit defeat or ask for help.

Through a series of situations, loss of my job, my wife finally leaving, a drunk driving conviction, a total loss of self respect, in short, a rock bottom, I arrived at Alcoholics Anonymous through the phone service. I did not know what to expect I had no idea of the change in my life that would take place. I shall be ever thankful to the phone service for being there when I needed it.

The first thing that I found was that nobody worried about what I had been, they were only interested in what I was, an alcoholic. They explained the disease concept of alcoholism and what actions they had taken so as not to drink one day at a time. I met some wonderful people who could talk about their emotions and fears; these were things I did not understand. I only knew two emotions when I was drinking they were anger and jealousy but I never recognised either, everything that was wrong in my life was everyone or everything else's fault, not mine and certainly not alcohol.

My first sponsor explained the steps of recovery to me, he advised me this was an ego deflating programme and that I would have to work harder at sobriety than anything else I had ever done in my life. He advised me that to do that I would have to mix with sober company, stay out of wet places, find a power greater than myself, have the courage to change and most of all to go to any lengths to achieve and maintain sobriety. He advised me to read/study the Big Book, he guided me through the Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. The turning point for me was my formal Step Three, which was very emotional and which was taken in a beautiful country chapel, on leaving the chapel he gave me a card with the message "You never need to be alone or to ever drink again". He said you have made a pact with your Higher Power and it need

never be broken.

He explained to me that to keep what I had been given freely, I would have to give it away. I was then guided into service at group level, this was an exciting time, I went to places beyond my wildest dreams. I went on Twelve Step calls, spoke in schools, visited a juvenile remand home and spoke at a Royal Naval training establishment. Through all this I realised I had not taken a drink or wanted to take one, what I had been promised had happened. I was not so preoccupied with myself, my life outside of the Fellowship had improved, I was promoted at work, my marriage took on a new lease of life, I was happy within myself and all because I followed a few simple instructions.

My service continued when I was sponsored onto the visiting team of the Local NHS alcohol treatment facility, I also became a prison sponsor and a telephone responder, this was a most rewarding service, it was the way I had found the Fellowship so I felt it was only right that I should give something back in that area. Service continued when I was elected to be Group Service Representative, this got me interested in the history of Alcoholics Anonymous and the structure. I had read the literature but I became fascinated with "AA Comes of Age" it satisfied my thirst for knowledge by informing me of how the Traditions had come about and how they had been hammered out on the anvil of experience. It explained the Recovery in the Twelve Steps. The Unity in the Traditions. The Service in the AA principles of service, later these were expanded by Bill to the Twelve Concepts of World Service. I was elected as a Regional Representative which exposed me to Regional assemblies where there were a lot of very sober members, it was here that I saw the Traditions and the Concepts working. I completed my three years at Region, I was then elected as Conference delegate, this has been a very rewarding time in my service, this task of Conference Chairman has been difficult at times but rewarding it has also been a learning experience, I still cannot believe that it is happening.

Service has been at the centre of my programme, it gives me the opportunity to pass the message of sobriety onto people who have not been as fortunate as I have to be introduced to this Programme of Recovery and the actions required to get sober and to maintain it. What has been the outcome of this experience of this member of Alcoholics Anonymous, I owe everything I have physically, mentally, spiritually and materially to this Fellowship of men and women. I have an obligation to the Fellowship to pass on the benefits of service as an enhancement to sobriety, not everyone has the ability to do every service job, but I have never met anyone in AA that could not contribute something whether it be stacking chairs, washing up, or talking to the Tri Service Commanders reference how AA may be of help to serving serviceman with a problem with alcohol.

I look at the vacancies in our service structure at every level and I ask myself where has our gratitude gone? Have we forgotten where we came from? Has our service commitment got too large? Has the Fellowship not got the resources to maintain our

service commitment? Do we need to restructure to meet the demands we have put on ourselves? I do not pretend to know the answers but I know the answer is within AA, under the guidance of a Higher Power as it is manifested in our group conscience.

I have to remember the words of Dr Bob: “Our twelve steps when simmered down to the last, resolve themselves into the words **‘love and service’**. We understand what love is and we understand what service is, so lets bear those two things in mind”.

Finally I would like to thank AA, for everything I have today. As my first sponsor said it would be, it has been hard but very rewarding work. I believe with continued effort on my part doing things that are totally against my nature, not drinking, admitting my faults, making amends, staying active in service and praying to a power greater than myself, that I accept but do not understand, then my life can be enjoyable and acceptable.

NOMINATIONS FOR CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN 2005

The under-mentioned were proposed and seconded for the Chairman of the Fortieth General Service Conference 2006:

Martin B	-	Scotia Region
Yvonne C	-	Midlands Region
Peter G	-	South East Region
Richard H	-	Eastern Region
Miranda Mac	-	London Region

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 5.15pm with John asking everyone to join him in saying the Serenity Prayer.

FRIDAY EVENING

John opened the second full session of Conference at 8.30pm with a moment's silence and the reading of the Preamble, and called upon Willem V-H (Acting Chair, GSB) to present the General Service Board Report.

General Service Board Report

Mr Chairman, Conference 2005, good evening. My name is Willem and I am an alcoholic.

I am here deputising as Chairman of the General Service Board in the absence of Maurice B. who is unfortunately ill and has sadly had to resign on medical grounds on the 5th of April 2005.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the delegates here today, especially those attending for the first time. Also to our Observers from Denmark and German Speaking Europe, the staff members from GSO, the Northern and Southern Service Offices and the Share and Roundabout representatives, the General Secretary and all the Board Trustees present. Some of them will be leaving after this Conference and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all the staunch work they have done during their terms of office.

I consider it a great privilege to step into Maurice's shoes and to introduce the Annual Report of the General Service Board. This is my eleventh and last Conference; it is also the end of my six year term as a member of the General Service Board. With it came a wealth of experience and many mistakes. I was trusted with the most daunting jobs but benefited by the support and unconditional love of my fellow Board members. I often reminisce on some of the Non Alcoholic Trustees and their enormous input over the years, the General Secretaries, and not forgetting the devoted and very patient staff at all three of our Service Offices. If only the Fellowship as a whole could see and have the opportunity to appreciate the amount of work done by so few.

In the past year we saw the new General Secretary taking up her role. This was another and long awaited change to have our first woman at the helm, slipping into the role as if she has done it all her life.

The General Secretary and I [as third and final year delegate] will be attending the second Sub-Saharan Meeting which will take place on the 3/5th June, 2005. We shall have the privilege of working with the South African General Service Board who are the hosts. As agreed at the preliminary meetings, together with the United States and Canada, AA in Great Britain will again finance the event through the Development Fund.

At the November 2004 Board Meeting we had the pleasure of the company of Greg M, General Manager of AA USA & Canada, who was our guest for a few days. The exchange

of ideas was healthy, but most inspiring was his words of praise in the way we conduct our affairs.

The Board had a very full year and achieved a lot. I do not want to go into too much detail, as the Trustees are individually reporting tonight and tomorrow on their individual remits. I will however highlight a few key parts.

The four year plan of the Archive Road Show has now come to fruition.

The Literature Sub-Committee have implemented the “Message for Professionals”, “The Group Service Representative” pamphlets, and also some existing items into other languages.

There is a noticeable reduction in the cost of the Telephone Service because of the work done by the Trustee for Telephones interfacing with BT.

Both the “Young People’s Project” and the “Ethnic Minority Project” have now been completed.

During the past year the first Regional Electronic Workshop took place in Hull.

The Armed Forces Regional/Committee meeting took place in York, removing it completely out of the South, thereby opening it up to the whole of the Fellowship.

The General Secretary, and the Board delegate attended the World Service meeting in 2004.

In 2005 our delegates will attend the European Service Meeting.

Because of Conference 2004 an “Annual Tradition Awareness Week” has been implemented around March 27th in celebration of the first meeting at the Dorchester Hotel in London on the 31st of March, 1947.

The June 2005 issue of Share magazine will be used to commemorate the 70th anniversary of AA and the Editor will be using some archive material in that issue.

The Editor of Share magazine received a letter from the Editor of Grapevine in New York praising the layout and content of Share. Share has subscriptions in twenty four countries world wide.

Roundabout has equally been successful and probably reaches the most far stretched places in Scotland the Highlands and Islands. Roundabout also have subscriptions in America, Canada, Germany, Australia, the USA and South Africa.

I am pleased to report that our sixteenth Region came into its own after Conference 2004 and is now fully functional. It is wonderful to have their six Conference Delegates with us here in York tonight.

I now come to a matter which has caused some concern in the Fellowship. The Board made a decision to allow the Public Information sub-committee, in addition to their valuable and highly successful work in various fields, to work with a Public Relations company. It was rapidly to emerge that, owing to insufficient understanding on the part of both the Trustees and the PR company, serious mistakes occurred which could have amounted to a breach of our Traditions. Clearly we could not let this continue and **as soon as this came to our notice** work was suspended and a committee appointed to examine the workings in detail. The committee quickly came to the conclusion that the GSB should stop working with the PR firm and at the first possible opportunity requested that they cease any work on our behalf. This they did.

We admit that this was a serious error and apologise for it. Fortunately, it has been swiftly corrected. Moreover, it also serves as a ready reminder that, as your trusted servants, we must curb enthusiasms and be more vigilant in serving the Fellowship and carrying out the wishes of Conference.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Trustees, David C., London South, Polly M.P., Wales and Borders and Jerry C., Continental Europe. I know that they all will be very capable during a very challenging time whilst the Board awaits nominations from five regions where vacancies have occurred because of rotation and resignations.

In closing, may I quote from “Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age”.

“In the years ahead we shall, of course, make mistakes. Experience has taught us that we need have no fear of doing this, providing that we always remain willing to confess our faults and to correct them promptly. Our growth as individuals has depended on this healthy process of trial and error. So will our growth as a fellowship. Let us always remember that any society of men and women that cannot freely correct its own faults must surely fall into decay if not into collapse. Such is the universal penalty for failure to go on growing. Just as each A.A. must continue to take his moral inventory and act upon it, so must our whole society do if we were to survive and if we are to serve usefully and well.”

[Bill W.; Four O'clock on Sunday Afternoon, the St Louis Convention.]

Finance

(Paul F)

Good evening friends. My name is Paul and I am an alcoholic. In my address to Conference last year I ended with the fervent expression that this year I would be able to say that the Fellowship is at last truly self-supporting. I fear I was, as so often happens, a bit ahead of myself; but not entirely so. Let's review the good news. As you all know,

all of you, that is, who have done your homework and read the annual report, I was able to state in the accounts that voluntary contributions sustained their increase, our investments were showing a better return and generally income was looking pretty good for the year. Not only that, but expenditure was remarkably stable and within budget, giving us a healthy surplus.

However, in the last six months income has been volatile and unpredictable and there was a two-month period at the turn of the year when, for no apparent reason, contributions fell rather dramatically. In both December and January they were, rather worryingly, at their lowest for three years. Then, as if to make up for this, in both February and March they leapt to the highest for ten years (with the exception of a freak figure in February 2001, when a treasurer paid in the contents of a very plump piggy-bank). So, for the half-year Group and Intergroup contributions are down less than one percent compared with last year, and that was a particularly good period. When one factors in the other income, particularly Gift Aid, which has almost doubled since last year and the increase in interest on investments, the total fall in income is less than ¼%.

Expenditure since September has no great surprises. Of the major items salaries, computer costs, printing and postage are all substantially down whilst travel expenses and rent and rates have increased. Altogether, if the budgeted media project costs are excluded, our expenditure is up by less than 5%, which is a very acceptable figure.

Overall, there seems to be an increasing awareness that, whilst we do not want or need great wealth, we must try to fulfil the tenets of our Seventh Tradition. We must never forget, nor must we ever allow others to forget, that a major part of our primary purpose is to carry the message and to do that we must have funds. Money is the life-blood of our work.

On the question of Gift Aid, I find it particularly gratifying that the amount given by members of the Fellowship, albeit small in comparison to Group and Intergroup contributions, has steadily grown. This type of contribution is not for everybody, but those who want to can not only show their commitment to the Fellowship but can increase their donation by the amount of the income tax they have already paid on that sum. To me this gives the enormous added satisfaction of directing the tax I have paid to a charity that I love and trust. In this way last year the £8377 donated by AA members grew to £10555 because we were able to reclaim the tax they paid. That is over two thousand pounds more that can be used to carry the message.

In early December the Regional Treasurers held their meeting in York – they are a thoroughly capable and dedicated group of men and women.

There were several points they highlighted and amongst these were:

- The responsibility we all have for the safeguarding of AA funds.
- The necessity of reviewing on a constant basis our relationship with our bankers and

particularly their charges.

- The cost of transferring money from overseas [particularly the • zone].
- The potential benefits available with internet literature sales. These last two items are currently being dealt with by the Electronic Communications sub-committee from whom you will be hearing more this weekend.

This is, if I include my being an observer at two overseas Conferences, my thirteenth! Unlucky for some, you might say, but it is also my last and this is my third and last address to Conference as Treasurer to the General Service Board. The time has come for one of our most valued precepts to be enacted and that is rotation of officers. It means that tomorrow I hand over the reins to my successor, happy in the knowledge that I have done the job to the best of my ability and that she will want to carry on the work in her way, serving our Fellowship as she sees fit. Ladies and gentlemen you have as my successor, I believe the first woman to have held the post and I am sure you will give Ann S of South East Region all the support you have given me.

I could not have done my work without the unstinting support of my fellow Trustees, our General Secretary, and Jean Webb, who has been the management accountant at our General Service Office for fifteen years and I must thank them not only for their help but for their forbearance. I know I have not always been the easiest Treasurer to work with, but that is no bad thing! I must also thank you and the other members of AA in Great Britain who have helped me in my task and those with whom I have crossed swords, for I think we have all learned and benefited from the experience.

As most of you know, Jean will soon be leaving us for retirement, which I think may be devoted to Mediterranean cruises and she tells me she will miss her friends of Bill W. However, she will take with her enormous experience and hers will be a hard act to follow, but when I saw the CVs for those applying for her job, I was delighted with the quality and felt sure that we would have someone really good to follow in her footsteps. It is therefore a great pleasure to welcome an AA member, Linda S, who has already started work at GSO and who will be ably handling the accounts and undoubtedly the many problems you throw at her.

Finally, to revert to the business of our funds. As Honorary Treasurer to the General Service Board, I am lucky to be able to report that we are now in the fortunate position where our investments and current assets are appreciating whilst our fixed assets – always a comparatively low figure - are depreciating. In other words we are solvent. I deserve no praise for this - it is not my doing, I have played only a tiny part in it. The praise is yours and the happy circumstance that the market in general is moving up and away from the deeply worrying time of financial crisis we had four years ago. My part in this is merely to have served the Fellowship wholeheartedly and to continue to do so in my home group. Thank you and God Bless!

Public Information

(Tim S)

Good evening. My name's Tim, I'm an alcoholic and trustee for PI.

Firstly I'd like to thank – on behalf of the General Service Board and I'm sure everyone here at Conference – the hundreds, probably thousands, of fellow AA members carrying the message in PI service for Groups, Intergroups and Regions every day of the year to local media, local organisations and the public. Nothing is more important and valuable, I believe, to fulfil our primary purpose, and I know that many people here today are very involved in your home areas. Thank you. My thanks also to the national PI team who have put in so much work over the last year.

Areas to Cover

These are the areas I'd like to cover in the time allocated:

- A bit of background.
- What we presented to Conference last year and what we've done, or not done, and
- What the General Service Board proposes for the next financial year, October 2005 to September 2006.

Key Influences

The subsequent 2002 Fellowship survey was a big wake up call. Less than 25,000 members. An ageing membership. I remember sitting in a GSB meeting and listening to our former NonAlcoholic Trustee Dr Jackie Chang telling us that anyone looking in from the outside would consider us to be an 'ailing organisation'. A Fellowship in crisis. And it was this reality that very much influenced the Conference 2003 recommendations that the GSB increased its national PI activity.

Key Goals

In terms of national PI activity, our goals for the last eight years, have been clearly stated:

- Raise awareness of AA
- Attract new members, pro-actively
- Improve our materials so we talk in a language non-AA's understand
- Help local PI initiatives when help is wanted
- Co-operate better with professionals and the media

Progress Report

So to what extent have we met these national goals in recent years? Have we helped to get AA growing again?

Many millions of people have heard and seen AA radio and TV ads since 2001. Effective local PI campaigns have run in Bristol and South London. Many other Regions are talking about following their lead and North West Region should be the next to go.

We won't know for sure what has happened to our membership numbers until we see the results of this year's survey in the summer but we do know many extra thousands have called for help because of our awareness campaigns. And it seems like we're growing again - I see it in my home meetings and I hear it around the country.

Co-operation with professionals is getting better – we're a long way from the broad acceptance that AA offers the most effective solution to alcoholism, or dependant drinking as the Government insists on calling it, but we're making real progress.

The Story so Far

Co-operation with Government Alcohol Strategy

The Government's new models of care for alcohol were issued for a final round of consultation at the beginning of April, and AA is clearly acknowledged and highlighted as the key self help resource, which may seem obvious to us but we have never had this formal recognition before. It's been a privilege to have been involved in this process for the past three years, and I think the understanding of AA has developed so that when the Government's Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy is finally launched this Autumn in England, we will be co-operating effectively within the spirit and letter of our Traditions.

And most importantly, that because of this, more and more suffering alcoholics will be finding the solution our Fellowship offers. What else?

PI Materials

The range of PI materials has been expanded, and are being used locally and nationally, with good effect.

Media

Working with the media effectively has always been difficult and remains a challenge.

Review of Past Twelve Months

Let's look at the specifics of the past year.

Our plans for the 2004/2005 year were presented to Conference last year:

- A second TV campaign
- Budget up to 10% of central revenue, double the previous year

- An external or internal PR resource to help us work more effectively with the media
- More liaison with national organisations and the Government
- More local activity and continued focus on B&ME communities and young people.

Last Year - TV Advertising

So what happened?

TV advertising ran in the same slot as the previous year with Sky giving us national coverage and ads running in the TV regions that missed out last year.

Again, we focused on early morning and late night, part for cost, part to reach either alcoholics (more receptive in the mornings) or their families (suffering in the evenings) and a significant proportion was targeted at young people (using music channels, MTV etc) and B&ME communities.

We had a significant increase in calls to our national helpline, over 40% up, but it was no higher than when last year's TV campaign was running, which was disappointing given the increased expenditure.

We've reviewed the phone stats against the campaign with AA's media agency AJA and there are things to learn for the future, but...

We also have to acknowledge just how difficult AA is to measure in 'advertising' terms. Our TV slots are 'information' messages based on our PSAs, they're not 'selling' ads. It's been suggested there may be a response ceiling for AA. Within a broad expenditure range, however much we invest we will only get a certain level of immediate telephone calls as a result.

.....And how many people saw the ads and have had the 'seed planted'?

It was also interesting to see that we saw a big increase in web activity and we know that more and more young people in particular are using the web to make their first contact with AA.

In advance of the campaign we were also aware that our regional TV budget for London and the South East was probably too small to create a big direct response, but we felt it was still important to advertise here so that such a big area didn't miss out this year on the benefits of overall awareness.

There were also some strange regional anomalies – in Granada, for example, only saw an 8% uplift despite a high level of TV ratings.

What we do know is that AJA did a good buying job. The value was 10% up on last year with a rate card value equivalent of £500,000 against an actual spend of £85,000 and **the ads were seen 44 million times, giving us a massive boost in AA awareness for suffering alcoholics, their families and professionals.**

Last Year - Public Relations

Finding the right way to co-operate with the media and ensure we are using this hugely cost effective way of carrying the message remains a problem, as Willem has already spoken of.

We know we need to be pro-active and find the resource to build one to one relationships with key media so that we avoid confusion over what AA is and isn't and increase understanding of the unique solution we offer. We need to 'harness' the help on offer from our friends and NATs.

As Willem reported, following Conference 2004, the GSB reviewed options and decided in September to appoint the agency Hill & Knowlton to help us. The subsequent appearance of an article in the trade magazine PR Week, that implied H&K would be working in ways that they most certainly wouldn't have been, created considerable concern and at the November GSB meeting we decided to put all media work with them on hold. As much as anything, I think the 'mis-reporting' of the H&K/AA relationship highlighted just how difficult it would be to work externally in this area and at our March GSB meeting we decided to reverse the September decision.

The need to work pro-actively with the media remains a priority. But the best solution is with an internal AA resource. In the meantime staff in our service offices and the PI sub-committee are taking responsibility for re-active work and, with national media mainly based in London, our SSO has done wonders here, taking the brunt of the calls and the pressure.

Last Year - PI Activity Review

There has been considerable national PI work in other key areas over the past year.

The programmes of meetings to explore co-operation with outside organisations continues.

We've attended NTA working party meetings on Alcohol Strategy and my thanks to our new NAT Sue Baker for her big input.

With our thanks to the teams from two London intergroups, we hosted an AA event at the House of Commons for MP's, Peers, civil servant and professionals, the people whose work brings them into contact with suffering alcoholics. Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat President, shared what he described as his amazing experience of working with

AA in his constituency, and asked us to encourage visits by AA members to all MPs to explain what we do. We were asked to repeat the event next year.

There was an excellent regional workshop in York in October with South London Region sharing their experience of the highly effective, billboard led awareness campaign. A suggestion from all Regional PI's was that, as a Fellowship, we should be allocating a standard 10% of revenue at every level, Group, Intergroup and Region, to PI work to carry the message.

Much time has also been spent by our PI sub committee on what are now the basics of national PI work – web response for professionals seven days a week, newsletters, workshops and much more. Again, my thanks to this team.

Plans for 2005/2006

So finally I'd like to turn to our next financial year.

The results of this year's membership survey are of huge importance. Have we reversed the flat-ling? Are we getting younger? Are we reaching all sections of our community? What's working and what isn't?

This information will help define what we do going forward. How do we best continue to carry the message? Do we, for example, switch from TV to radio advertising? Do we reduce the amount we spend at any one time but spread it over a longer period with two to three bursts a year? Do we invest more supporting local PI initiatives?

What we do believe, with the approval of Conference, is that our over-riding strategy for national PI should be to continue to carry the message in the most effective way to fulfil our primary propose, within our Traditions, with no reduction in commitment

Even if this year's survey results show we are starting to dramatically turn the tide, we will still have a long way to go. We're not America, **but if we were to one day be just half as successful as they are (pro rata for our populations) in carrying the message, we would have 150,000 AA members in Great Britain. I believe that this should be our goal for the next decade.**

PROPOSALS FOR 2005/06

To that end, we would propose the following for approval by Conference:

1. A further increase in focus on co-operation with national organisations with targets to be broadened, plus a second House of Commons event
2. The development or recruitment of a suitable, additional internal AA staff resource to handle pro-active PR, working with existing staff and the PI service structure
3. Co-operation with the implementation of the Government's Alcohol Strategy Harm Reduction Strategy

4. With maximum input and sharing of experience from Regional PI's, the review and improvement of the existing range of PI materials to reflect recent developments notably things like the Government Alcohol Strategy
5. The maintenance of 2004/2005 budget levels – 10% of central revenue – for 2005/2006 to ensure we continue to carry the message nationally as the Fellowship starts to grow again
6. And finally....for the General Service Board to assess the 2005 membership survey and the lessons of the last year and to then discuss, agree and deliver the most effective PI activity for next year to meet our national objectives within this budget, reporting back to Conference 2006.

After discussion Conference passed the proposals with a two-thirds plus majority vote.

AA Service News

(Roger B)

Good evening, my name is Roger, I'm an alcoholic and the Editor of AA Service News.

What is AA Service News for

- To share experience at all levels within the Fellowship
- Keep members informed of new developments and future events
- Carry Conference questions to members
- Inform members of answers given by Conference
- Encourage the observance of the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts.

How do we go about this?

- General Service Board Committees are encouraged to produce quarterly reports for their area
- Board members with service responsibilities are encouraged to submit accounts of activities in their discipline
- Delegates to European and World Service Meetings should provide accounts of the events
- Articles about service from members of the Fellowship are *particularly* welcome.

Who does the work?

The Editor

- I am the Editor and I am responsible to the General Service Board for the preparation and quality of AA Service News
- I am wholly responsible for the content and solicitation of special articles
- I am responsible for including reports from General Service Board members

and for ensuring that non-alcoholic Trustees are encouraged to access the facilities of AA Service News

- In conjunction with the Editorial team, that has now been in existence for a couple of years, encourage articles for AA Service News from members of the Fellowship.

The Editorial Team

Consists of:

- The Editor – appointed by the General Service Board and is a General Service Board member. Term of office 4 years.
- Designer – selected from nominations from Regions to the Nominations Sub-Committee. Term of office 3 years.
- Proof Reader – selected from nominations from Regions to the Nominations Sub-Committee. Term of office 3 years.
- System Support – GSO staff member.

Designer

- Assists the Editor as part of AA Service News team in suggesting improvements to the layout and design of AA Service News
- Helps in checking grammar, spelling and punctuation prior to being sent to the printer
- Encourages members to contribute material
- Encourages AA members to carry out their part in effective communications by reading AA Service News.

Proof Reader

- Assists the Editor in checking grammar, spelling and punctuation of AA Service News prior to being sent to the printer
- Helps the Editor as part of the AA Service News team in suggesting improvements to the layout and design
- Encourages members in their area to contribute material to AA Service News
- Encourages AA members to carry out their part in effective communications by reading AA Service News.

What's been Reported in the last Twelve Months

- Conference 2004 recommended the General Service Board organise and implement an awareness campaign on the Twelve Traditions
 - As part of that campaign AA Service News has published articles concerning the Traditions in every issue during the last 12 months
- In every issue:
 - Financial Contributions
 - Donations in Memory
 - Calendar

- What else has been reported:
 - Conference 2004 – answers to questions
 - Conference 2005 – Questions for Conference
 - Vacancies on Board Sub-Committees
 - Finance
 - Probation Liaison
 - Public Information
 - Electronic Communication
 - Telephone Liaison
 - Employment Liaison
 - Conference experience
 - Guidelines
 - Television advertising
 - Black & Ethnic Minority Communities
 - Non-Alcoholic Trustees
 - Prison Liaison

What needs to be Reported?

- Service experience at all levels within the Fellowship
- New developments and future events
- Questions to Conference
- Answers given by Conference
- Experience of the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts
- Articles encouraging observance of the Traditions and Concepts

The Next 12 Months

- In addition to the usual 4 issues per year it is planned to have 2 special issues:
 - Telephone Service
 - Communications within the Fellowship which I believe is vitally important.

The Future of AA Service News

- Depends on all of us
- Articles concerning SERVICE are welcome from all parts of the Fellowship (Individuals, Groups, Intergroups, PI/CPC Teams, Regions, General Service Board etc.)
 - This includes You!
- Inclusion will depend on amount received and suitability. Constructive comments will also be welcomed.

Conventions

(Ralph A)

The year 2005 will see in place, after a lapse of twelve years, four National Conventions, the Northern, Southern, Scottish and Welsh.

Pre Conference:

The 31st Northern National Convention took place at the Norbreck Castle Hotel Blackpool from the 1st April 3rd 2005. This Convention was well attended and the accommodation now very comfortable since the refurbishment of the Norbreck Castle Hotel.

Post Conference:

The Southern National Convention will be held at Brean Sands Holiday Centre Burnham-on-Sea from the 9th to the 11th September 2005. Please check the booking form for special offers on accommodation.

The 49th Scottish National Convention is being held at the Quality Hotel Perth from the 29th of April to the 1st May 2005.

After a lapse of 12 years, the Welsh national Convention will be held at the Metropole Hotel, Llandrindnod Wells, Powys from the 6th May to the 8th of May 2005.*

*As the Scottish National Convention celebrates its 50th anniversary from the 29th of April to the 1st May 2006, the Welsh National Convention will be held from the 16th to the 18th of June 2006.

The 2005 Survey of the Fellowship

(Bronwen Still)

My name is Bronwen a Non-Alcoholic Trustee of the General Service Board and this evening all I am going to do is give a brief overview of the survey which is going to be conducted this year which, in fact, is already underway.

Purpose

Is to obtain information about two things:

- About the growth or otherwise of the Fellowship – in other words it's a sort of a 'health check' on how well AA is doing in terms of its primary purpose.
- To obtain information about its members and there are a series of questions which will be asked on the form relating to age, sex, occupation, year of sobriety and the same questions which are asked every time a survey is done, because you need to be able to compare information from survey to survey. Except this year we have got a new question which we have not had before dealing with the subject of

‘ethnicity’. It was considered important to have a question on ethnic origin, particularly in light of all the work done recently on the project which has been set up to try and encourage great involvement of people from different ethnic backgrounds in AA. The categorisation that has been used for this survey is the category of ‘ethnic origin’ which is used by the Government.

History

The survey is done approximately every five years, and has been done approximately every five years since 1972. It was last done in 2002.

The results of previous surveys have shown:

- Significant slowing of growth of the Fellowship over the last 10-15 years
- That the Fellowship is aging

I will quote from the last survey which was done in 2002 which made fairly depressing reading, one of the conclusions it came to was *‘that the earlier rapid growth of AA in Great Britain has slowed progressively to a level today of very little or no growth at all, indeed the situation could be said to be characteristic of that of a fully developed and stagnating organisation in need of a re-vitalisation process to stimulate further growth’*.

Why Now?

There are a number of reasons but in particular we have had significant developments in the last three years regarding:

- Development of the website (it was two years ago that Dora M stood up and told everyone that the first person had been e-stepped into the Fellowship)
- The Ethnic minorities project
- The Young People project

On top of this there is all the work Tim has been doing on Public Information and all the other people involved with PI, reaching out to make the Fellowship better known to the world at large.

In the light of all this activity it seemed good time to try and ‘test the wind’ again this year to see if any of this has been having any impact on numbers within the Fellowship and growth within the Fellowship.

Process

The process which is being used is firstly, we have an outside company to help called Marketing Means. As said the survey is already underway to the Groups, the survey of the

individuals begins in May and it is estimated that the whole process will be complete by 30th June.

SATURDAY EVENING

Continuation of General Service Board Reports

Telephones

(John A)

Good evening, my name is John and I'm an alcoholic and this Telephone report will be given in three sections:

- Report from the Liaison Officers meeting
- Calls received to the national number
- Finance and inbound services

The Telephone Liaison Officers Meeting

The Regional Telephone Officers Meeting took place at York on the 3rd & 4th September 2004 and was very well attended. The Liaison Officers have pinpointed areas of concern which they would like the Fellowship to address, the main points being:

- That our Fellowship undertake to run a Raising of Awareness Campaign over the next two years to encourage members of our Fellowship to become involved in our telephone service, answering calls for help and taking Twelve Steppers from responders
- That training be given through regular Regional and Intergroup Workshops for all members who answer the telephone on our behalf
- To assist the members of the Board Sub Committee and make themselves available to attend workshops if and when required.
- The Telephone Liaison Officers recommend that Regions and Intergroups be encouraged to restructure some of our telephone lines, therefore multiplying the numbers of responders available while reducing the time on telephone duty.

Three Regions reported having problems maintaining and running their telephone services, this has to be addressed .

I can report to Conference that two of the three Regions reporting problems have received help from your inbound Service Committee and have made progress.

I, through the Telephone Liaison Officers, have been asked to remind the Fellowship that

the Fellowship adhere to Conference recommendations and give out only the Al-Anon National Helpline Number when calls for Al-Anon are requested.

Terms of Reference

I have also been asked by the Liaison Officers to reaffirm the Terms of Reference of the Board Sub Committee for Telephones and these are outlined as follows:

General Purpose Statement

To maintain the existing telephone system, to enable the suffering alcoholic access to a local contact through a single national telephone number, in a manner which is efficient, effective and economic.

To keep the use and cost of the system under constant review.

To be responsible for all changes to the system and to liaise with the system providers following consultation with Regions.

To investigate any new technology which may be beneficial to the Fellowship's telephone service.

To keep a constant review of the facilities offered by other service providers.

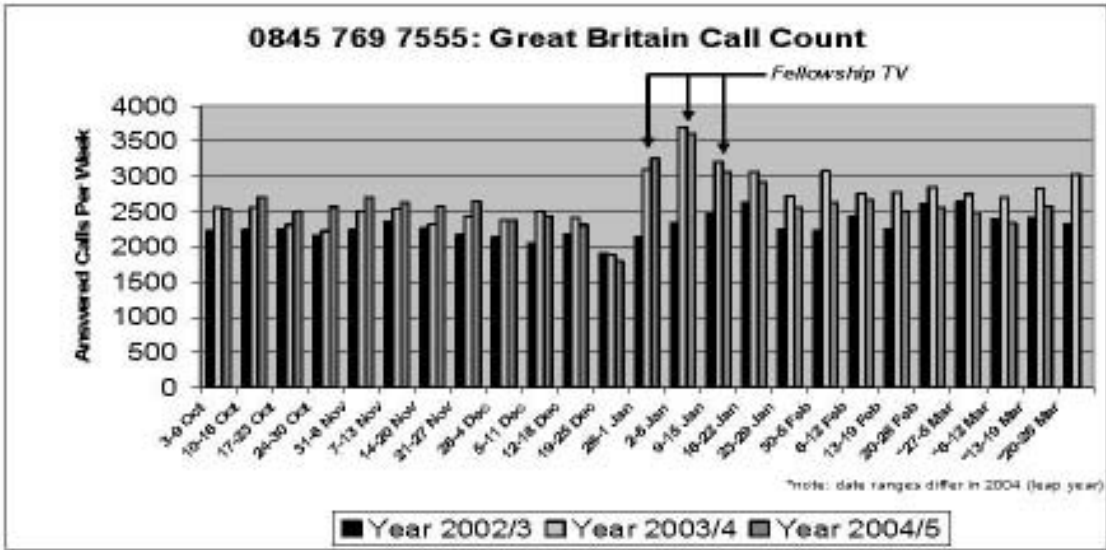
The committee is a sub committee of the Board and will be chaired by the Trustee with responsibility for the telephone service. Membership will normally consist of three members drawn from participating Regions, who will have suitable experience to participate in committee functions. Where possible this will recognise a geographic spread.

Membership of the Committee will be for a period of four years, allowing one year for sponsorship, thus the committee will be increased during sponsorship periods.

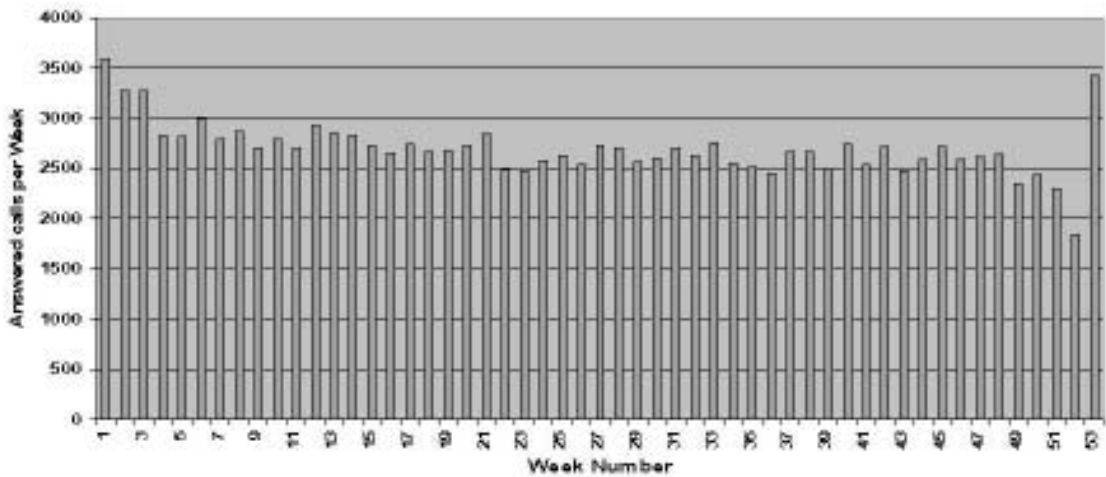
Inbound Services

I report to Conference that on 13th of April at our Southern Service Office, we met with our British Telecom Account Manager and were happy to sign a new one year contract.

Last year we answered 140,338 calls to the 0845 number, 5% more than in the previous year. This means that the annual increase in calls is slowing down. 2003 was 7.5% higher than 2002, which in turn was 10% higher than 2001. Total call minutes was 654,791. The average number of calls was 383, the lowest being 114 on Christmas day, and the highest being 664 on the 6th January.



0845 769 7555: Great Britain Call Count Year 2004



Calls Received to The Helpline Over The Television Campaign

0845 769 7555			
Daily Count of Answered Calls			
Date	2002/3	2003/4	2004/5
24 Dec	268	264	245
25 Dec	150	194	114
26 Dec	246	318	288
27 Dec	258	389	501
28 Dec	330	367	473
29 Dec	300	567	487
30 Dec	367	613	550
31 Dec	319	428	461
1 Jan	267	423	600
2 Jan	478	684	424
3 Jan	343	607	589
4 Jan	319	461	669
5 Jan	258	665	592
6 Jan	368	557	523
7 Jan	323	478	447
8 Jan	315	435	373
9 Jan	339	467	340
10 Jan	333	339	643
11 Jan	217	311	611
12 Jan	227	492	486
13 Jan	396	502	397
14 Jan	500	505	418
15 Jan	390	511	358
16 Jan	359	489	345
17 Jan	406	399	542
18 Jan	284	312	423
19 Jan	282	530	468
20 Jan	499	440	412
21 Jan	484	414	398

Calls to our helpline number dropped on nineteen of the twenty nine days that the television advertisement campaign ran, this despite an increase from £43,000 to £85,000.

As we can see from the figures, the campaign that ran in 2003/2004 had a very positive increase in calls to the helpline.

Our Board Sub Committee has met several times this year and continues to monitor new technology within the telecommunications industry .

Progress with another line server proved to be unworkable with our structure.

The committee felt that cost savings were no longer a major concern and felt our main aim is to maintain and enhance the telephone service we have at present.

The cost to the Fellowship:	pre-2001	?????
	2001-2002	£53,000
	2002-2003	£56,000
	2003-2004	£22,054
	2004-2005	£13,200
Projected cost:	2005-2006	£12,000

The Board Sub Committee recommends that we increase our mobile answering centres, we have eight at present covering the whole of Great Britain.

The above situation is resulting in an increase in engaged and lost calls in the areas that we feel are being over burdened with calls from mobile phones. At present 19% of all calls are from mobile phones and this is rising at about 1% to 1.5% per year.

At Conference 2003 Conference gave your Board Sub Committee approval to change telephone service providers without conference approval.

I, with your Board Sub Committee's approval, would like to recommend that we give the right of decision back to Conference.

Conference votes needed on three proposals

- that we undertake to run a raising of awareness campaign
- that the Fellowship expand our Mobile answering centres
- and that Conference approval is required before we can change telephone service providers.

After discussion Conference passed the proposals with a two-thirds plus majority vote.

Health

(Ann S)

Good evening Conference, my name is Ann, I am an alcoholic. I thank the General Service Board for the opportunity to give this presentation on Health, and to my fellow Trustee John L from Scotia Region with whom I have shared the joint Trusteeship of Health Liaison.

Statements on Alcoholism

The American Medical Association and the World Health Organization, as well as many other professional groups, regard alcoholism as a disease.

This quote is taken from a pamphlet published by the American Medical Association, and is contained in our literature, *Three Talks to Medical Societies* by Bill W

The World Health Organisation's tenth revision of the International Classification of Diseases defines harmful use of a psychoactive substance such as alcohol, as a pattern of use which is already causing damage to health. The damage may be physical or mental.

Many harmful drinkers may not have understood the link between their drinking and the physical or psychological problems they are experiencing.

We, who are recovering from this crippling disease, know that Alcoholics Anonymous has but one purpose - one objective only, to help other alcoholics to recover, and all those involved in Health Liaison have been carrying that message to the medical profession.

It has been an exciting year for Health, the highpoint being the Liaison Workshop held in York on January 28th/29th 2005. 14 of our 16 Regions were represented showing the Fellowship's increasing awareness of this vital work. You, of course will have read the Annual Report on Health, so tonight I will focus on the points brought up by the Liaison Officers as to the way forward for the year ahead.

They requested the General Service Board consider their proposal for a Health Sub Committee to be formed. The committee to be pro active in collating information and requests that come from Health professionals via our web site, General Service Office, the Northern and Southern Service offices, and then through the service structure inform the Fellowship of ongoing developments regarding the Government Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy, which under their Models of Care, Alcoholics Anonymous is now flagged as a referral/information point in three tiers of their procedures. The sub committee would be involved with the continued representation of Alcoholics Anonymous at the Nurses in Practice exhibitions, and Health Conferences that were deemed appropriate.

The committee to comprise of the Board Trustee responsible for Health, and 4 Regional Health Liaison Officers. At its conception 2 officers to serve for one year, and 2 officers to serve for two years, this will give the committee correct rotation.

I am delighted to report this proposal was agreed to, at the full Board meeting held on the 18th/19th of March 2005. Letters have been sent out to all Regions requesting nominations for the 4 committee members.

Some may say, not another sub committee, and why when Health Liaison is so active? the answer I believe is this. The momentum of the moment needs to be maintained, we need to oversee the progress made with our continued co-operation with Alcohol Action Teams, Practice Managers, Doctors and Nurses, Dentists, Hospitals the list can be endless.

We need to provide a seamless line of internal communication that will provide effective external communication.

We are tasked to provide quarterly reports that will be contained in AA Service News, thereby keeping the whole Fellowship informed.

The Workshop also recommended the following:

To be proactive in filling all Health Liaison posts at Intergroup and Regional level by the end of 2005.

Health Work to be actioned wherever possible by the Health Liaison officers. Encourage group members to join their Intergroup Health team, we know that sponsorship is the key.

Telephone responders to be advised that all calls from Health Professionals are to be directed to the correct Intergroup or Regional Health Officer, so that our internal and external communications are as seamless as possible.

Likewise telephone responders to be made aware of the Intergroup Health Liaison Officers name and contact number, to aid the vital process of passing a call from a Health professional to the correct point of contact. If the post at Intergroup is vacant, the calls to be channelled to the Regional Officer. We are all accountable to work together. Whilst we are a Fellowship of recovering alcoholics, we need to get it right when dealing with the varied requests that come from Health Professionals. It may be days, weeks or months since we wrote/visited them. Now they may want further information, a literature order form, a presentation, take up our invite to attend an open meeting, require copies of our 2 recent videos, which have been so well received. We need to get it right, and help each other to deliver a service to the professionals.

Neighbouring Intergroups and Regions can work together, as our self imposed AA boundaries do not always run parallel with Health Authorities and Alcohol Action Teams. Again I can only stress our internal communication have to be as seamless as possible, we owe it to this Fellowship that has given us continued sobriety. We have such a powerful message to deliver to the Health professionals, each member of our Fellowship who goes out and presents this message to them bears witness of their own personal recovery.

Let us continue to do what we do best, let us co operate with all external Health agencies, and internally join together in love and service.

Young People Project

(John L)

The last meeting of the Young Peoples Project was held in York on the 14th/15th January 2005, and I feel at this point we, as a working committee, have completed what the Board and Conference asked us to do. At Conference 2003, Committee No. 1 asked how the Fellowship could reach out more effectively to young people, as suggested a project team consisting of young people from various parts of the country, assisted by a few members of the Board, was set up to overhaul the literature for young people, how the internet can be of use, how we can co-operate with other organisations that help young people with drink problems and also the legislation regarding minors and Twelfth-Stepping young people. Terms of Reference were set, presented to and accepted by Conference last year and are set out below:

- 1 Review present literature for young people
- 2 Possible uses of Internet and texting or any form of communication used by young people.
- 3 Liaise with other organisations as appropriate e.g. social services, counselling services, youth organisations and educational establishments.
- 4 Liaise with P.I. Committee to review how the message of AA is presented in schools to young people.
- 5 If possible a list of young people in recovery to be held by local Intergroups, so they may attend if a young person requires help.
- 6 Guidelines adhered to when a minor asks for help e.g. parents or guardians consent required and always two people to attend the call a man and a woman.

A new booklet aimed at young people in the U.K. proposed, it will contain three maybe four personal experiences from the young people who are members of the Committee. It will be titled Younger People in AA. It would also include the Preamble, the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, a Self Score Quiz (similar to the one in Who Me) and a where to find A.A. i.e. National Telephone number and GSO.

Ann N, the General Secretary asked that all work still required on the new booklet reach G.S.O. by March 05, to be passed on to Literature Committee for their July meeting. All that remains is to thank all the young people who helped complete our task, so Melissa, Charlotte and Andy, thank you all, it was a little stormy at times, but in the end it all came together, it has been pleasure working with you all. To the other members of the Board who were involved in the project, for all your input, I thank you, and to Ann and the staff in GSO for all your help and kindness over the past two years, when we held our meetings in the office at York - thanks from all the Young People Team.

Prisons

(David M)

Introduction

Good evening Conference. My name is David and I am an alcoholic, I am also the Board Trustee with the responsibility of giving the Prison Report for the last year.

Report

Once again this year a great deal of work has been carried out on behalf of the Fellowship in Prisons throughout U.K and the enthusiasm and dedication to the task was well reflected in the number of Region Prison Liaison Officers who attended the Annual P.L.O.s Meeting in York in November. Only two of our Regions were not represented and the 'sharing' of experiences and problems encountered was tremendous. One area of concern was expressed once again, which was the slowness of obtaining security clearance for new Sponsors. This is an ongoing problem that will probably not be improved by tighter Prison Security.

Alcoholics Anonymous had a stand at the 2004 NOMS Conference and I attended the CLINKS Annual General Meeting in London. Both these occasions helped to keep AA's name prominent within the Voluntary Sector in a spirit of co-operation.

The Prison Service Alcohol Strategy has now been published and is to be welcomed as it is designed to reduce the negative effect of alcohol abuse on offending and re-offending behaviour and in particular because AA participation in the programme is both formally recognised and encouraged.

The Service Level Agreement, which is up and running in some prisons and eventually will be in all of them, will help as it will allow access to decision makers who can sort out problems as and when they arise. A great step forward.

To close I would like to 'share' two experiences of mine.

1. A man came to Dartmoor Prison under a cloud from another prison. When he was sentenced he got Life with a Tariff of 8 years before he could apply for parole. He had served 26 years up to that date. He attended the AA meetings and grabbed the Recovery Programme with both hands. Having had a Parole Board, two years later he is now in an 'Open Prison', is trusted to attend AA meetings outside on his own, and has been given a date of April next year to assess his suitability for release.

2. Last year I was walking through Brean Sands at the Southern National Convention when I saw someone that I thought I recognised but he disappeared into the crowd. Sometime later there was a tap on my shoulder and there stood the same person that I had seen, who I had met when he was an inmate in Dartmoor Prison at the AA meetings and he was now out, attending meetings in Bristol on a regular basis and was attending his first Southern Convention.

Two stories of success in Prisons. The work must continue but there will always be a need for more volunteers for this very satisfying area of service. God Bless everyone involved.

Armed Forces

(Ann S)

Good evening Conference, my name is Ann I am an alcoholic, and now it is my honour to inform you of the activities regarding the Armed Forces Sub Committee.

Conference 1997 Committee Two Question One stated that a review of experience at that time, suggested little change in contacts with the Armed Forces, and recommended a high level approach by the General Service Board and a redraft of the pamphlet AA and the Armed Forces.

Subsequent Conferences have been informed of the sure and steady progress the Sub Committee has achieved, doors that were tightly shut, have been opened and this is solely due to the commitment of the dedicated members who have now rotated from the committee, the present Committee, members from Public Information teams that have assisted geographically and the continued support from the Board.

I can not speak highly enough of the work they have achieved, they have communicated in a way the Tri Services accept, and worked tirelessly to attend month in, month out the Royal Navy Training Unit at Portsmouth, year in, year out at the Royal Air Force Training Course at the University of Gloucester, and many other establishments. I salute them.

The guidelines within which the Sub Committee and members of the Fellowship and the Armed Forces may work in co-operation are:

- ◆ Provide clear, concise information to unit authorities on what AA can offer, especially regarding adherence to the principle of confidentiality.
- ◆ Co-operate fully with unit medical authorities.
- ◆ Be available to unit command, disciplinary and medical authorities for any advise and assistance they may request, but will not interfere with, or criticise military decisions.
- ◆ Not state any opinion on unit command or disciplinary issues.
- ◆ Will not enter into any discussion or dialogue on outside issues, in particular they will not advance any views on the social enjoyment of alcohol.
- ◆ Provide lists of members for security clearance as may be requested.
- ◆ Appoint an AA member to be the primary point of contact with unit authorities.
- ◆ Provide support to recovering alcoholics within the unit, by enabling them to attend meetings, study and use the 12 Step Programme and provide such sponsorship they might request.
- ◆ Provide such literature as may be appropriate for display, and the distribution to administration and medical centres.
- ◆ Through these guidelines the sub committee will continue to work.

The Royal Air Force in its Management of Alcohol Misuse states:

“Alcohol is a powerful addictive drug and a potentially lethal poison. Alcohol misuse is preventable and recoverable, and even those who are alcohol dependant can be reformed. It is the Services aim to rehabilitate individuals as quickly as possible so that they remain wholly productive members of the RAF. Successful rehabilitation needs a significant and sustained commitment from the individual to be abstinent of alcohol consumption, or to reduce drinking to moderate levels that accord with safe working levels”.

The Royal Air Force now has an effective alcohol policy.

The Sub Committee has also liaised closely with Armed Forces Welfare Agencies, and I had the pleasure to attend on behalf of the General Service Board the Veterans Agency Conference in London in December 2004. We are so glad you are here, was the welcome I received, so believe me when I say to you Conference, Alcoholics Anonymous is seen and known as resource of help and support for those suffering from the disease of alcoholism. These agencies who help and support ex servicemen and women, St Dunstons, who care for the blind, The Limbless Association, SSAFA and The Royal British Legion are only too well aware that alcohol problems beset their members. We will continue to provide literature, presentations when requested, and strengthen our channels of communication with them, the doors are wide open with these agencies, we must fulfill our commitment, and we need the Fellowship's support.

Previously the Sub Committee was largely based in the South East, new members from South West and Continental European Regions have expanded it geographically, and all meetings as from February 2005 are held at the General Service Office in York, thereby conforming to General Service Board guidelines. Members representing London, South East, London South, North East and Scotia Region joined with the sub committee for a Workshop on February 25th/26th 2005. We would have appreciated a greater response from the Regions to our letter of invitation, however, those present gave valued suggestions and commitment.

I do sincerely hope that those members who attended will come forward and those from other Regions to fill the vacancies that will be advertised in AA Service News in June 2005. All Regions have been sent the full documentation from the Workshop so that the whole Fellowship is informed about what the sub committee has achieved up to today. I also wish at this point to recognise the invaluable help we have been given by members of Public Information teams that have assisted in carrying the message to parts that the committee could not reach.

In conclusion, I share with you the following to touch on the progress made, the Royal Fleet Auxilliary who have very close links with the Royal Navy and is adopting a more “military role” with larger numbers of Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel embarked on their ships, requested information, and a list of all AA meetings that are held in every port nationwide that they use, so if you find a serviceman in your home group, it is because the Royal Fleet Auxilliary holds its own mini Where to Find.

Electronic Communications

(Archie G)

Good evening Conference, my name is Archie, I'm an alcoholic and I'm here to give the Electronic Communications Committee presentation on behalf of Dora M who, unfortunately, could not be here today. I'm just here as the messenger - all the work and effort gone into this has been done by Dora, Steve the Webmaster and the team that worked with them.

Before I start, just for anyone who doesn't know, the Electronic Communications Committee was set up in 1998 following Conference 1998, Committee 6, Question 1 and has moved on quite considerably since that time.

Moving forward

Just seven years into our joining the "Information Superhighway", our National website has undergone several transformations:

Our New Look



The latest was done by a volunteer member of the Fellowship who wanted to lend a hand to our webmaster.

Branding

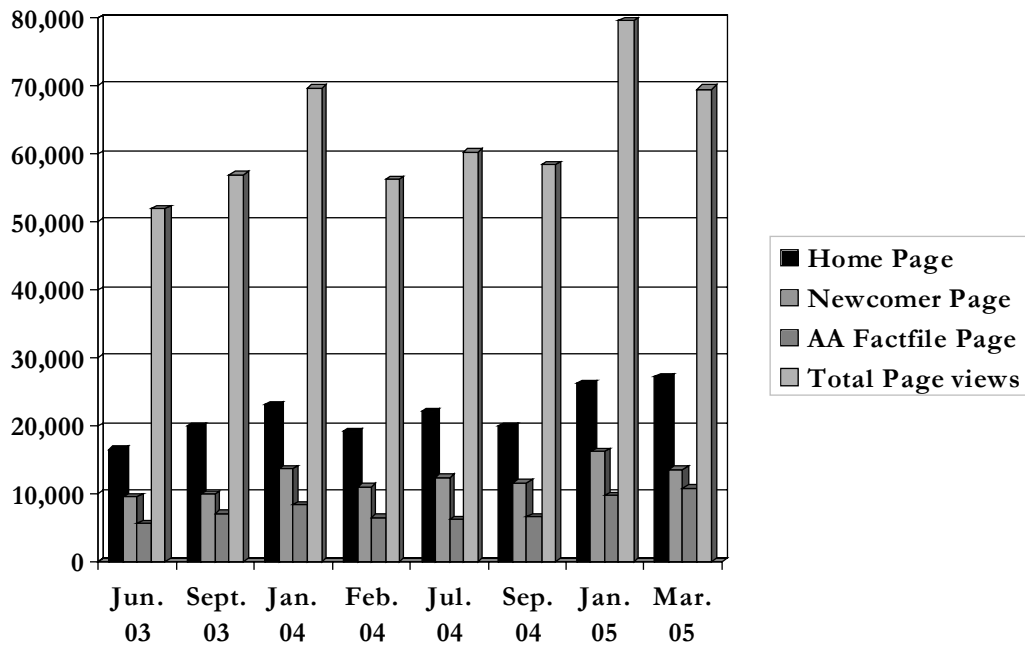
The term “Branding” refers to the different colors and titles which remain constant throughout the website on its various topics. For instance, the service website carries the green branding and has the same series of menu choices on the left side. This helps in ease of navigation. It is also intended to give the website a modern look and feel.

E-12th Stepping

There are continuing to be about 30 or more requests daily for help via the website. The primary purpose of the newcomer site is to put the still sick and suffering alcoholic in touch with a face to face meeting with live alcoholics either through a call to the national helpline or by getting them to a meeting. It is now possible to apply to do this service on the website.

The form is found within the service website under Site services and Forms. Once submitted, the E-12th step coordinator verifies the application with the Intergroup and the new service worker is given an orientation to the work. At each Intergroup and Region meeting, members should be encouraged to apply to do this service work. The traditional methods of application are still there - there is no intention to change this.

Statistics



Visits to the website continue to grow. The burst in activity in Jan. 04 and Jan. 05 may be linked to the PI campaign after the holidays. Internet activity continues to be higher this year than ever. This electronic medium may indeed be the way of the future of attracting the newcomer to AA.

The Way Forward

The Procedures and Terms of Reference that the Web Team drew up are actually very tight and they have rotation in all of the positions, this document was shown to WSO who now pass it out to other country's GSOs to use as a model.

The other items the site can be used for:

- Communications with Fellowship members
- Adoption and dissemination of Guidelines
- Utilizing Old-timers in service

Proposal

Literature Sales

At Conference 2003, Regions were asked what they wanted to see on the website. Most Regions reported that they would like to see online literature sales. At the time, it was not practical. However, now the way is clear and the Electronic Communications Sub-committee had a task force look into the feasibility. It has been a slow, careful process and will not be put into affect until all aspects have been researched prudently. The task force has reported to the full Board that we would like to begin offering online sales beginning at the earliest Jan. 06. All work has been done with the Traditions in mind.

We ask for your continued support as we move forward to carry the message electronically.

After discussion Conference passed the proposal with a two-thirds plus majority vote.

Literature

(Roger B)

Firstly I would like to thank Ruth I (Board Trustee & Chair of the Literature Committee) for all her hard work and commitment to the working of the Committee and I have to report that unfortunately due to ill health, she will not be able to continue with her work at the General Service Board. Hence my appearance here today!

The Committee have worked hard over the year and have had changes in membership of the Committee – with more changes to come this year – a new Chair and new recruits to the team.

The committee has produced texts of the following documents which have been distributed to you all in your Conference packs.

These consist of –

- Alcoholics Anonymous – A Message for Professionals.
- Pamphlet – The Rewards of being a GSR
- Multi Language Poster – Have you got a drinking problem?

These are the items I am going to go through individually at the end.

In addition the following material is being considered by Conference Committees:

- AA Service Handbook Section 17 – Public Information Committee Three
- Guideline No 7 – Public Information Committee Two
- Guideline No 18 – Regional Forums Committee One
- Guideline No 19 – AA and Electronic Communications Committee Six
- AA Service Handbook Section 11-5 – The General Service Board Committee Five

The Literature Committee also has considerable work in progress for the coming year. This includes:

- Guideline 10 – For AA members employed in the Alcoholism field.
The task has proved to be a lengthy one and Conference is informed that research is still ongoing. It is expected that the Guideline will be available for Conference 2006.
- two pamphlets –
 - one tentatively called “Picking up the Phone”
 - one aimed at suffering alcoholics who have not yet contacted the Fellowship.

Items requiring Conference Approval

1. Alcoholics Anonymous - a message for professionals

After discussion Conference rejected this document with a two-thirds plus majority to be returned to the Literature Committee.

2. Pamphlet - The Rewards of being a GSR

After discussion Conference approved this pamphlet with a two-thirds majority plus with the following amendments:

- a. Question 1 in the answer remove last sentence which reads ‘It is better to have a willing candidate than no one at all’.
- b. The answer to Question 5 to be re-worded by the Literature Committee.

3. **Multi Language Poster – Have you got a drinking problem?**

After discussion Conference approved this poster with a two-thirds majority plus.

Due to time constraints the following three presentations were given on Sunday morning but are reported here for continuity.

Probation/Social Services

(Charles W)

Good morning, Conference. I am Charles. I am an alcoholic.

It is my privilege to speak to you on Probation/Social Services liaison. In assuming Trustee responsibility for the service area I consider myself extremely fortunate in two particular ways.

Firstly, one of our Non-alcoholic Trustees, Carol Titley shares responsibility with me for the service area. Carol is a Probation Officer and she has been enormously helpful in updating me on the Probation Service today and in identifying approaches to co-operation with them.

Secondly, the welcome and support I have received from Regional Liaison Officers has been wonderful. Unusually there were two Regional LOs meetings at York in 2004. So I had a double opportunity to get a picture of what was and was not happening around the country and to learn of the difficulties and successes being experienced.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Carol and to the Regional Liaison Officers who have shared their experience with me.

You have the Annual Report and the update prepared jointly by Carol and me. My early impression of current liaison in Probation/Social Services is of a mixed bag. There are areas where active co-operation is resulting in offenders getting to the Fellowship and others where little or nothing is being done. In the main there has been much frustration at unrewarded effort of knocking on professional doors. That appears to have been the picture for such a long time.

One RLO told me, “We live in interesting times”. I agree.

Political and public concern for the problems of alcohol abuse is raising awareness generally. In the wake of the Government Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy, we are seeing responses from health, prison, probation and social services agencies. AA is mentioned positively in all of these strategy documents. There are challenges and opportunities as a consequence.

Within the Fellowship, the ongoing national PI campaign will increase public and

professional awareness of the availability of AA. In our PI, armed forces, health and prison service areas there is increased activity.

There is an energy currently in Probation/Social Services liaison. The atmosphere at the November Regional LOs meeting at York was electric with the enthusiasm to address the issues reported and to identify appropriate actions. To take one topic as an example, the results of the review of the chit system showed a number of factors contributing to the under-use of the scheme and agreement was reached on ways to re-evaluate and revitalise the chit system. Those are in process in the Regions.

The standard letter to Probation Officers is now in use. The first issue of the Probation/Social Services Newsletter has been distributed and seems to have been well received.

The momentum is continuing and is supported by a flurry of email exchanges between RLOs in recent months. Routine liaison reports to Regions are being exchanged. Members new in the service area are posing questions and receiving support. Problems are getting an airing and initiatives shared. Intergroup LOs are expressing interest in this medium for sharing.

May I offer two illustrations? A regional alternate at the Nov RLOs meeting was new to regional service. Afterwards she wrote, "I would like to add how enthused I have been from the whole experience. It has really reinforced my faith in the Fellowship to see so much work is being done on a national scale. Everyones presence at the meeting filled me with excitement and enthusiasm, which is a real motivator for action".

Recently, an Intergroup Social Services LO contacted me. She is about a year in post and had been feeling disheartened by the lack of response from Probation Officers. On reading the article in AA Service News on the National Probation Seminar she had in, her words, "felt inspired". Her Intergroup has agreed to her attendance at the seminar at Beaconsfield in May. She is looking forward to learning more.

We do indeed live in interesting times. There are vacant posts at Regions and Intergroups. Any member joining us in the service area is sure of a welcome and of support if that is wanted. Serving Liaison Officers are in good heart and positive in outlook. With growing cohesion we will better meet the challenges and make the most of the opportunities presented. I am optimistic in looking forward to the year ahead.

Thank you Chairman. Thank you delegates for your attention. Enjoy the rest of Conference.

World Service Meeting

(John A)

October 2004 saw the 18th world service meeting convene in New York, USA. For five days delegates from 35 countries worldwide came together to share experience under the

banner of 'One Message – Many Languages – One Fellowship'. From the first delegates were given such a warm welcome and hospitality, everyone from the volunteers of New York Intergroup to the staff of GSO, New York, made the delegates feel at home right away and ready for the tasks ahead.

In an inspiring welcoming address the Chairwoman of the US/Canada General Service Board spoke of how the international AA community helps to carry the message to new areas of the world, '...against formidable challenges such as language, culture and geography.the hand of AA has been extended to places where alcoholics previously were without hope.'

Ten minutes is not enough time to cover the four days of intensive sharing of experience both informal and formal, or to give justice to the 27 presentations made on a variety of topics, the five Committee reports, four workshop reports, service highlights from each participating country and from five zonal meetings. It is intended to feed the reports, sharing and recommendations into our Service structure from the final report of the World Service Meeting.

It is remarkably difficult to select highlights, but here goes.....

The Agenda Committee drew up the blueprint for the 19th World Service Meeting and recommended that the theme be 'Anonymous but not Invisible' and recommended presentations and discussion topics as well as workshop themes to be part of the 19th WSM.

The Literature/Publishing Committee reviewed a service piece entitled 'Country to Country Sponsorship', and recommended that this be produced by AAWS and be available for distribution to the Fellowship worldwide.

Lithuania, the Dominican Republic, Ukraine and China were first time participants whose applications had been approved by the Policy/Admissions/Finance Committee although sadly only Lithuania and the Dominican Republic were able to attend. The Committee also recommended that delegates' fees remain the same and expressed the hope that this would encourage more first time participants.

The remit of the Working with Others Committee covered several topics from Co-operation with the Professional Community and PI to Correctional and Treatment Facilities.

Our second year delegate, John A gave a presentation on reaching ethnic communities in Europe, our first year delegate, Ann N presented service highlights and a full report was made on the European Service Meeting by Eberhard K, ESM delegate.

The Mexican delegate shared on country to country sponsorship and spoke of the hurdles facing AA in Cuba. Mexico has sponsored Cuba primarily in the area of service structure

and the exchange of experience on the three legacies, but because of a trade embargo it is difficult to send literature in any great quantity. The Cubans, who recently celebrated the opening of the 200th group, take turns and share the little AA literature they have.

The delegate from Poland shared how the message of AA was passed to his country and is now in turn being passed to countries in Eastern Europe. He spoke of the borders, cultural differences and language being no obstacle to country to country sponsorship because the twelve step programme is one of spiritual development that stems from love and a sincere heart.

Remarkable success stories such as group members painting halls and gardening to ‘pay’ for venues demonstrated the growth of AA in the countries participating in the Sub Saharan Africa Zonal Meeting.

The Site Selection Committee recommended Dublin as the site of the 19th World Service Meeting to be held on 15-19 October 2006 with Mexico as the alternate site and this was unanimously approved.

The personal sharing of delegates proved to be an emotional and inspirational experience with potent reminders of the disease of alcoholism, a reaffirmation of the AA way of life and of how passing the message to the still suffering alcoholic remains our primary purpose. And this sharing reflected the keynote address of Keith K of South Africa who expressed his feelings at the start of the 18th World Service Meeting with ‘.....We speak from the heart. This week we have come home. We are indeed family.’

Traditions

(Ian D)

After asking Conference to read the Declaration of Unity with him, Ian gave his Traditions presentation.

Conference 2004 charged the General Service Board with raising the awareness of our Twelve Traditions within the Fellowship.

AA’s Traditions influence all our lives whether we have been in AA one day or one thousand days, and experience shows that when the Traditions start to be discussed in a meeting, people often find they know more than they first thought. These words influenced how we would run this campaign with:

- 1 Traditions Week
- 2 Traditions Pack
- 3 Articles in AA Service News
- 4 Workshop Pack/Leaflets
- 5 Share & Roundabout Articles
- 6 AA Web Site.

1. An Annual Traditions Week around March 31st

This was not my idea or anyone else's, it was Bill's idea in 1949 suggesting to the American Fellowship that they have an annual Traditions Week round about Thanksgiving Day.

I do emphasise that I would like it to be an annual celebration.

This will be a celebration of the Fellowship's Unity and AA's anniversary in the UK, suggesting that this celebration takes the form of each meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous in the UK, around the week of the 31st March each year, devoting that week's theme to the sharing of experience and understanding of AA's Traditions.

2. In the Traditions Pack

- AA Traditions and how they were Developed
- The Twelve Traditions Illustrated
- Covering Letter
- Flyer & 12 Traditions Check List
- Traditions Pack has gone out to all Groups Intergroups and Regions.

The response to the pack has been very positive, we have had a number of calls saying thanks and asking for more copies and we have sent out all we had.

3. AA Service News

My colleague Roger was helpful in including this in:

Autumn – we ran the Long Form of the Twelve Traditions

Winter – the Twelve Traditions personal experience

Spring – the Traditions Week and there was an excellent archival article on Traditions.

4. Workshop Pack

Awareness Topics on the Traditions for Intergroups and Regions, Workshops/ Forums

- a List of Tradition Literature
- b A Suggested Traditions Inventory
- c Suggested list of Traditions Topics
- d 12 Traditions Checklist

The suggested Traditions Inventory, suggested list of Traditions Topics and the 12 Traditions Checklist came from the Fellowship. I had an immense amount of material being sent to me, it was very encouraging.

5. Share and Roundabout

Share ran articles on the Traditions for the last 12 months and, hopefully, maybe Roundabout will do it next year.

6. Website

There is a Traditions folder on the website and the Webmaster tells me that it has recorded the biggest hits/downloads ever. There was 550 downloads in the Traditions folders.

The feedback has been tremendous, some Groups and Intergroups have run their own campaigns and I received material from them as well.

The cost of the project was £4,000.

Proposal

That the Traditions Awareness Campaign is run again next year in the same format.

Conference passed the proposal with a two-thirds plus majority vote.

ANNUAL REPORT 2004 UPDATES

Archives

(Betty Mac)

In 1987 the GSB established the Archives Sub Committee, a group of experienced Archivists that would form the Group Conscience to which the Fellowship Archivist would be accountable. The Chair of this subcommittee, the GSB member for Archives, acts as the communication link to the GSB, keeping itself and through its Annual report to Conference, Conference informed of archival work at GSO and the wider Fellowship.

When the GSB took this step they also established archival work in AA as significantly different to other service areas, in that it exists outside the service structure of the Fellowship but runs parallel to it, and yet as a service function is subject to the prudent application of the Traditions and Concepts. This step was taken due to several factors, mainly the time scales involved in the work, the skills needed to be acquired, and the safety of records to be collected, stored and analysed. All this was judged by the GSB & Conference to be best carried out by a person in a 'non-rotational' role, but one who had no authority in the service structure of AA.

Policies and procedures then began to be formed. The following sets out Conference and GSB policy on archives, which is accepted by the GSB as the Archives Committee terms of reference:-

“These words represent one good reason why the GSB (and Conference) re-affirm their commitment and support for archival activity as a vital and integral part of the healthy life and growth of the Fellowship in this country. Just as each of us feels that it essential to recall and appreciate where we came from, and how we got here, so it is with the Fellowship as a whole.

The GSB recognises the urgent need for accurate records to be rescued, retained, collated and used in a manner, which will serve to dispel some of the myths, which swirl distortingly around our past. Thus allowing us to obtain a truer perspective, and reveal to us our real heritage, so that our future may be ensured.

Archive activity may be regarded in the same light as the myriad (but minimal) support and services which we provide, in order that we may fulfill our primary purpose to the best of our ability. This is a responsibility and a debt, no less, which we owe to ourselves, and to others; it is as richly endowed with the simple spiritual principles of humility, sacrifice and prudence as the rest of our work.

It is also an act of practical simplicity, and efficient business practice. Sound and prudent performance cannot be achieved on a basis of chaotic business records, or the absence of a database. Planned and coordinated records are an essential tool to efficient administration and the basis of any history to come.

This combination of practical and spiritual simplicity, can now be cemented by, the continuity and commitment of its trusted servants, the flexibility of its form, and the support of the GSB.”

On form of this support by the GSB is, on behalf of the Fellowship, the safe keeping of archival material lodged by the Fellowship. Ten fireproof double cupboards and four display cases are exceedingly close to capacity storage and the time is approaching when discussions will need to take place on how safe storage can be provided in years to come.

Over the years AA issues have been addressed in light of their application to archives work in AA. These included ‘Anonymity in Archives’; Copyright; Ownership of AA material; and the Access to Archival Material at GSO. Other support documents have been added, such as Job Descriptions for Intergroup and Regional Archivists. These documents form the policy and procedure manual which is the collectively agreed platform for Archival work in GB. It is based on the commitment of Conference and the GSB and serves to support the needs of practising AA archivists appointed by their Group Intergroup or Region. The current edition, which has been reviewed this year, is available from GSO.

Gradually the number of Regional Archivists has grown and they in turn have recruited Intergroup archivists. At present the vast majority of Regions have an Archivist, as do 43 Intergroups. These people form a support network that is based upon sharing experience.

In an attempt to bring practical support for Archivists in sharing this experience, the GSB

accepted a costed plan submitted by the Archives Committee in May 2001, at which the Annual Regional Archivists meeting would be open to all those interested, and held in different parts of the country over a period of four years. This has become known as the Archivists Road Show and has been held thanks to the hosting Regions in Hereford, Oban, and The Wirral, with the final one scheduled for Baldock on September 3rd.

At these events a combination of workshops, members displays, and an Open AA meeting are held with the aim of developing new recruits to the archivists network, sharing experience in developing group histories, analysing business records, and developing aids to decision making at Intergroup and Region. This work forms the core activity of an archivist, turning stored information from one form into another, in order to better carry the AA message.

A Digest of Intergroup Decisions is a typical example, taking the decisions and recommendations an Intergroup has made over a period of time, and compiling them into a handy working reference document. This can be used to save a great deal of time at I/G and more efficiently carry the AA message. In another area, the recording of our heritage is of immense importance, the collecting of information from records and existing members has in some parts of the country been developed to the point that booklets detailing Group and Intergroup Histories have been professionally produced.

The Road Show has raised the awareness of what archives work in AA is about, and has also raised many issues which the Archives Committee are now addressing in the form of an evaluation report to be submitted to the GSB by September 5th 2005. One such issue is to develop the Archives section of our web site to provide wider access by the Fellowship to memorabilia, and group histories lodged at GSO.

To sum up, no one person can develop our historical heritage in order that we can systematically refer to our past, and learn from it, in order to make prudent plans for the future. The ideal would be to have every Intergroup with a working archivist, in real terms this may be a pipe dream, however I would ask members of Conference to go from here and encourage Intergroups within their Region to appoint an archivist. Support and information is readily available from GSO and through the Network, and more literature is planned within the next 12 months that should provide further support.

I began this presentation by referring to the start of the Archives Committee. Sadly the two founding members of that Committee, Noel F (S W Scotland Region) and George R (N E Region) have recently died. Another Archives Committee member sadly taken from us some time ago, was Barbara T (S Midlands Region).

These people were archives leaders in the true sense of Bill W's essay on Leadership in AA. They worked selflessly to bring our heritage to life. They had vision and lead by sharing that vision, a vision that I feel the Fellowship today throughout GB is prepared to build on for the future, in order to inform those in need who are still to find our rooms.

Roundabout

(Betty Mac)

“Reports of Roundabout’s demise are grossly exaggerated”

You will recall that this was quoted at last year’s Conference, because we had been operating without an Editor for a few months. As was reported then, this rumour had circulated around Scotland for a wee while, but we were able to assure the Fellowship that all was well and that even without an Editor, the Team would still produce ‘Our Roundabout’ as it is lovingly referred to in Scotland.

We were able to produce the magazine, because the dedicated Editorial Team is so structured that we do not splinter if any one of the Team is unavailable for varying reasons. As stated, we are a Team of a self-supporting Fellowship magazine.

Obviously, we are more efficient with the guidance of an Editor, and when the General Service Board approved of our nomination in late May, the Team were delighted. We can now report that, yes, Roundabout is alive and well! Our Editor is highly efficient and we are sure that his innovative ideas have been noted by our faithful band of Fellowship readers. In February we had our annual meeting of Roundabout Liaison Officers, which, in comparison to other service disciplines was very well attended.

At these assemblies, as well as reports from Officers, we carry out a **SWOT Analysis; (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats)** a sort of in-depth structured group conscious meeting. Great enthusiasm is shown for this analysis and the results are always interesting and helpful. We feel that these sessions help to enthuse the Liaison Officers. Maybe others Service disciplines could find these SWOT analyses useful.

The Team are happy to report that we never have to use re-print articles (except for historical items, e.g. ‘The Jack Alexander Articles’) because the flow of articles and letters is constant. This is a tribute to the Liaison Officers and the Team’s vigilance in continually making requests for items. ROUNDABOUT has been produced in Scotland for over 50 years now. We (the team and our readers) thank our forebears for leaving us this great legacy, **“OUR ROUNDABOUT”**.

Time was given for questions from the floor following each presentation.

Open Forum

The final session of Saturday evening was given over to an ‘Open Forum’, with contributions from the floor ranging over a wide spectrum of AA’s service structure.

The evening ended at 10pm with John asking all to join him in saying the Serenity Prayer.

SUNDAY 24 APRIL

John opened the final session of Conference with a few moments silence and the reading of the Preamble.

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.

John 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	48-49
Committee No. 2	Pages	50-51
Committee No. 3	Pages	52-53
Committee No. 4	Pages	54-55
Committee No. 5	Pages	56-57
Committee No. 6	Pages	58-59

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR CONFERENCE 2006

The nominations received on Friday evening were presented and, after a vote, Peter G (South East Region) was duly elected.

RATIFICATION OF BOARD MEMBERS

(Willem V-H -Acting Chair GSB)

Before welcoming the new Trustees I have to give my thanks for some of the Trustees who I had the honour to serve with on the General Service Board, and to bid them farewell and to wish them all the very best for the future, with one proviso "remain involved, the carrying of the message has to continue. In recovery and service we never retire".

We are saying goodbye to:

JohnA - Highlands & Islands Region
Betty Mac - Glasgow Region
Dora M - Continental European Region
Paul F - The Honorary Treasurer

I would like to welcome the new Executive members of the Board, they are:

RalphA - Vice Chair
AnnS - Honorary Treasurer

I now have to ask Conference 2005 to ratify the following new Board members:

Polly MP - Wales & Borders Region
Dave C - London Region South
Jerry C - Continental European Region
Andy C - Glasgow Region
Sue Baker - Non-alcoholic Board Member

I would like, personally and on behalf of the Board, to thank the Chair of Conference and all the delegates for the excellent work done at this Conference exemplifying, yet again, the spiritual values of service and recovery.

On behalf of everyone here present today I would like to congratulate Peter G for his Chairmanship at Conference 2006.

I want to thank Ann N, the General Secretary, for all her help, co-operation and patience especially over the past two weeks. Nothing is ever too much for her in the way she serves this Fellowship.

Also I want to thank you all for your trust in me over this weekend and for the trust of the Fellowship as a whole allowing me to serve you over the past six years.

CLOSE OF CONFERENCE

(John D)

That is the end of business for the Conference 2005, before we finish I have a few personal, "Thank you's".

Firstly, to the staff of the General Service Office who work tirelessly for our Fellowship.

Secondly, to the Trustees of the General Service Board who give us such good service, I would also like to make a special mention for our Class A Non-Alcoholic Trustees who we are privileged to have on the Board.

I would also on your behalf like to thank Willem, our outgoing Vice Chairman for his work on the General service Board and to wish him the very best for the future.

So thats it! We are at the end of Conference 2005. I hope you have all enjoyed it as I have. I have mixed feelings at the moment, relief that it has gone without any major disasters and regret that it is my last Conference as a representative of South East Region. I have looked forward to Conference every year for the last four years. Over the last two years on the Conference Steering Committee I have worked with some wonderful people. It has been a fantastic experience. I have learnt a lot about myself also about the Fellowship that it is a privilege to be part of.

Thank you Conference for allowing me the opportunity and honour to be your Chairman. It has been beyond my wildest dreams. Thank you again.

John closed the Fortieth General Service Conference by asking all present to join him in saying the Serenity Prayer.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT CONFERENCE

The Forty-First General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain will be held at the University of York on 21-23 April 2006.

COMMITTEE No. 1 - INTERNAL

CHAIRMAN MIRANDA M LONDON REGION

SECRETARY CHAS G MIDLANDS REGION

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

1. **Would Conference make recommendations on a specific Guideline for telephone 12th Steppers in addition to the Hints & Suggestions for 12th Steppers card?**

Some members of the Fellowship, after they receive a 12th Step call from the AA helpline responders, are using their telephones to do the 12th Stepping instead of arranging a visit.

This committee does not recommend a specific Guideline for 12th Stepping by telephone.

We draw the Fellowship's attention to the principles of the **Hints and Suggestions card for 12th Steppers** that a face to face visit is always preferable "*They (the suffering alcohoLics) need to see you and hear your experiences*".

The **Hints and Suggestions card for 12th Steppers** has been acknowledged for its simple and comprehensive guidance. Awareness of, and familiarity with, this card needs to be emphasised throughout the Fellowship by the following good practices:

- Sponsorship;
- Distribution of the card at group level;
- Distribution of the card at regular Intergroup 12th Step Workshops;
- Publication of content of the card in *AA Service News*.

The committee acknowledged minority views.

2. **Would Conference consider whether the current geographical Regional Structure as set out in Guideline No. 5 fulfils the aims for Regions namely:**

- **To promote communication and co-operation between neighbouring Intergroups, thus implementing our tradition of Unity and creating service boards or committees where needed.**

Whilst the current geographical Regional structure enables good communication and co-operation to take place between Intergroups it does not guarantee it.

The experience of this committee is that such difficulties that have arisen have been overcome as a result of the commitment of our trusted servants, for example, the appointment of Host Nation Liaison Officers within the Continental European Region, on Conference recommendations.

In order to promote better communication and co-operation the following have been found, through experience, to be helpful:

- Sponsorship into service;
- Regional workshops;
- Regional forums.

The decision of the committee was unanimous.

3. Review Guideline No. 18 'Forums'.

The committee approved Guideline No. 18 'Forums' subject to the following amendments:

Para 1 after 'service', insert 'including current Board members'.
Line 5

On page 2 delete colon after 'Suggested Topics:' and add 'to cover all service disciplines and principles.'

Then delete 'Internal Communications' and 'External Communications' and full stop after 'Sponsoring into Service', then add

AA Service News
Concepts
Electronic Communications
Health
Prisons
Public Information
Telephone Communications
Telephone Service
Traditions
Warranties
Young People.

The Committee commends the work of the Literature Sub-Committee in producing this Guideline.

4. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2006.

The Committee elected Dave D of South East Region as Chairman of Committee No 1 for Conference 2006.

5. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2006.

The Committee elected Christine E.S. of North East Region as Secretary of Committee No 1 for Conference 2006

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

COMMITTEE No. 2 - EXTERNAL

CHAIRMAN	YVONNE C	MIDLANDS REGION
SECRETARY	SUE B	NORTH EAST REGION

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

1. **Would Conference 2005 consider the formation of a Welsh Region?**

Mindful of Tradition 4, this committee suggests that the question be referred back to the relevant Regions (Midlands, North West, South Midlands and Wales and Borders) so that full consultation takes place with all groups, Intergroups and Regions affected by any proposed changes.

The committee also suggests that their collective conscience could be brought back to Conference, if necessary.

The decision was unanimous.

2. **Could Conference share experience on how the Fellowship uses Electronic Communications in such a way that members of AA are not excluded from communications within the Fellowship due to lack of access to electronic media.**

The committee feels that no member of the Fellowship should be excluded from communications due to lack of access to electronic media.

We recommend all written communications remain available in hard copy.

The decision was unanimous.

3. **Review Guideline No. 7 'Public Information'.**

The committee approved Guideline 7 subject to the following amendments:

Para 1 Line 4	Delete 'workers' substitute 'services'; delete 'probation officers'.
Para 3 Line 1	Delete 'Intergroup is the body', substitute 'Intergroups and Regions are the bodies'.
Para 5 Line 3 Line 4	Delete 'Hospital', substitute 'Health'. Should read 'Prison, Probation\Courts & Social Services in Scotland'.

Para 7 Delete 'Committee', substitute 'Officer'.
Line 5

Para 18 Delete 'Committee', substitute 'Officer'.
Line 3

Para 19 Delete 'latter', substitute 'letter'.
Line 2

The decisions were unanimous.

4. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2006.

The Committee elected Alex M of Scotia Region as Chairman of Committee No 2 for Conference 2006.

5. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2006.

The Committee elected Isabelle S of Continental European Region as Secretary of Committee No 2 for Conference 2006.

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

COMMITTEE No. 3 - FINANCE

CHAIRMAN MARTIN B SCOTIA REGION

SECRETARY HARRY S WALES & BORDERS REGION

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

- 1. Would the Fellowship be served better by having just one new Fellowship Journal for Great Britain instead of the current situation of two, SHARE and ROUNDABOUT, with their two parallel infrastructures and their resultant direct and indirect costs?**

No. Having considered all the evidence and options, Committee No.3 recommends that the status quo prevail. Our primary spiritual purpose of carrying the message effectively is best served by retaining both publications.

This was a unanimous decision.

- 2. Would Conference consider whether the current geographical Regional Structure as set out in Guideline No. 5 fulfils the aims for Regions namely:**

- To ensure that the Region recognises areas that are sparsely served by the Fellowship do not remain in "no-man's land" but become part of that Region's responsibility.**

Yes. Committee No.3 agrees that Guideline No.5 fulfils its aims in respect of this question. Whilst the current regional boundaries do create areas that are more easily served than others, in the absence of any better structure the present system does work.

The Committee recommends that Regions, Intergroups and Groups examine their own conscience to fulfil their responsibility to ensure that no areas remain in no man's land.

This was a unanimous decision.

- 3. Review Section 17 of the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain.**

Having reviewed Section 17 of the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain, Committee No.3 concluded that the existing document best serves the Fellowship. The committee voted not to accept the revised Section 17 document. A minority opinion that a review is necessary was acknowledged.

4. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2006.

The Committee elected Roger E of South West Region as Chairman of Committee No.3 for Conference 2006.

5. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2006.

The Committee elected Roger W of Continental European Region as Secretary of Committee No.3 for Conference 2006.

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

COMMITTEE No. 4 - EXTERNAL

CHAIRMAN RICHARD H EASTERN REGION

SECRETARY JACKIE M LONDON REGION SOUTH

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

1. **Would Conference please consider the status of Jersey Intergroup with regard to Conference representation?**

It was the unanimous decision of the committee that the status of Jersey Intergroup with regard to Conference representation should be the same as that of any other Intergroup.

The representation at Conference should be through the AA structure, namely South West Region.

The Committee recommends the following changes are made to the relevant sections of the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain, namely:

Section 9 The Conference Charter. Article 2:

Delete the words "and two delegates from Jersey Intergroup (Channel Islands)";

Section 10 General Service Conference of AA in Great Britain:

Delete Section 3(b).

We recommend that the necessary changes to AA documentation be completed by GSB, GSO and the Literature Committee, as appropriate.

We recommend that in addition to the six Conference delegates from South West Region, the current Jersey delegate fulfils his final year as Conference delegate in 2006.

In considering this question we addressed the following key issues:

- The recommendation of the sub-committee of all interested parties which was set up to examine the matter and clarify the position. This recommendation was ratified by the full South West Regional Assembly;
- The minority view that the status of Jersey should remain as present;
- Concept 4 which deals with the Right of Participation;
- The contribution of the carrying of the message, financial and practical implications;
- The geographical position of Jersey;
- Regional participation.

2. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions. Would Conference consider how in this modern age of worldwide mobile, digital and electronic communication, can we best preserve Traditions Eleven and Twelve?

In considering a response to this question the committee used as its basic premise the principle that anonymity remains the same, regardless of the introduction of new technology.

We took the view that personal responsibility at all AA meetings was the best way to preserve Traditions Eleven and Twelve.

We would suggest that:

- Groups display and explain the *Let It Stay Here* card (Yellow Card) and the Anonymity Tent Card;
- The importance of Sponsorship is emphasised at both group and individual level;
- GSO sends out the afore-mentioned cards, preferably with the proposed Traditions Literature pack;

We should try to:

- Encourage the use of AA literature, particularly the leaflets *Understanding Anonymity* and *The AA Group*.
- Ensure members are aware of the need to keep “AA” out of subject titles within e-mails;
- Ensure members are aware of the need to use Blind Courtesy/Carbon Copy (BCC) when sending e-mails to multiple recipients.

As and when difficulties arise, we can seek guidance from the Electronic Communications sub-committee.

3. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2006.

The Committee elected Allan M of Glasgow Region as Chairman of Committee No.4 for Conference 2006.

4. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2006.

The Committee elected Penny A of London Region as Secretary of Committee No.4 for Conference 2006.

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

COMMITTEE No. 5 - SPECIAL INTEREST

CHAIRMAN JOHN D GLASGOW REGION

SECRETARY HAZEL H EASTERN REGION

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

- 1. Would Conference consider restoring AA's public anonymity by removing the letters 'AA' from the hanging 'symbol'? (The AA Meeting Room sign – Item code 3830).**

This committee recommends that the AA letters should remain in the hanging symbol (The AA meeting sign – Item code 3830).

The committee felt that the question was ambiguous in respect of "restoring AA's public anonymity".

The decision was passed by a substantial majority.

The minority view was that the reasons for the committee's decision should be more fully explained.

- 2. Would Conference consider whether the current geographical Regional Structure as set out in Guideline No. 5 fulfils the aims for Regions namely:**

- To share Intergroup experience in the field of co-operation with outside agencies, prisons, health services, schools, social services, alcohol abuse agencies, churches, courts, Probation Service (Social work department, in Scotland), industry, and any other appropriate institutions and areas of society.**

This committee unanimously agreed that the current geographical Regional structure does facilitate the sharing of Intergroup experience in terms of co-operation with outside agencies.

In the two Regions where Intergroup communication was not as effective as it could be, it was felt that changing the geographical regional structure was not the answer.

Recommendation

Guideline No 5 – Regions be revised to reflect the current geographical structure.

3. Review Section 11-5 of the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain.

The draft was rejected on the grounds of insufficient background information, and insufficient time for consideration by the Fellowship.

All draft literature should be distributed to Conference delegates, Regional and Intergroup secretaries and Trustees by the end of December.

4. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2006.

The committee elected Jonno T of London Region as Chairman of Committee No 5 for Conference 2006.

5. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2006.

The Committee elected Wyn J of North West Region as Secretary of Committee No 5 for Conference 2006.

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

COMMITTEE No. 6 - EXTERNAL

CHAIRMAN PETER S SOUTH WEST REGION

SECRETARY PETER G SOUTH EAST REGION

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

1. Should Regions have Electronic Communication Liaison Officer positions?

Yes, given the rise in electronic communication within our Fellowship there is a need for Regional Electronic Communication Liaison Officers (RECLO).

The committee recommends that the Electronic Communication Sub-Committee defines the role of the RECLO and advises Regions as soon as possible.

(Guideline No.5 to be amended to include this position).

The decision was unanimous.

2. Would Conference consider whether the current geographical Regional Structure as set out in Guideline No. 5 fulfils the aims for Regions namely:

- **To increase opportunity for members to participate in our Third Legacy of Service.**
- **To enable members with particular experience to serve a wider area.**

The unanimous view is that the current geographical Regional Structure works because the Fellowship makes it work.

However, the committee recognised the internal Regional Structure could be improved by individual Regions examining their conscience on a regular basis.

3. Review Guideline No. 19 'AA & Electronic Communication'.

The committee unanimously recommends the adoption of Guideline No.19 "AA & Electronic Communication", with the following amendment:-

All references to Electronic Communications Officer (ECO) should read Electronic Communications Liaison Officer (ECLO).

The committee commends the work of the Electronic/Literature Sub-Committees in producing this guideline.

4. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2006.

The Committee elected Chris F of London Region South as Chairman of Committee No.6 for Conference 2006.

5. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2006.

The Committee elected Sheila D of North East Region as Secretary of Committee No.6 for Conference 2006.

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

FORTIETH GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2005

LIST OF DELEGATES

CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN: **JOHN D** (South East Region)

GENERAL SERVICE BOARD

		COMMITTEE NUMBER	TERM OF SERVICE
Willem	V H		
Paul	F	3	
John	A	2	
Ralph	A	4	
Roger	B	5	
Ian	D	1	
Archie	G	3	
John	L	1	
Betty	MacN	3	
David	M	4	
Ann	S	5	
Tim	S	2	
Charles	W	6	
Bronwen Still		5	
Carol Titley		6	
David	C (Elect)	6	
Jerry	C (Elect)	4	
Polly	M-P (Elect)	2	

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE STAFF

Ann N General Secretary
Sharon Smyth
Chris North
Elaine Pickering
Angela Varley
Jean Webb
Paul K
Sophie Perring
John H (Southern Service Office)
Caroline D (Northern Service Office)

SHARE

Malcolm	O	3	3
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ROUNDBOUT

Mick	H	3	3
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**COMMITTEE
NUMBER**

**TERM OF
SERVICE**

EASTERN REGION

Tony	M	1	3
Tony	W	2	1
Mari	F	3	3
Richard	H	4	3
Hazel	H	5	3
Barry	W	6	1

LONDON REGION

Miranda	McD	1	2
Jim	W	2	2
Robert	N	3	1
Penny	A	4	1
Jonno	T	5	2
John	E	6	1

LONDON SOUTH REGION

Kevin	Mc	1	1
Ron	B	2	1
Kevin	M	3	1
Jackie	M	4	2
Neil	K	5	1
Chris	F	6	2

MIDLANDS REGION

Chaz	G	1	3
Yvonne	C	2	3
Val	G	3	2
Ken	P	4	3
Marilyn	B	5	3
Bill	B	6	2

NORTH EAST REGION

Christine	E-S	1	1
Sue	B	2	3
Steve	E	3	1
Mary	S	4	3
Lewis	D	5	1
Sheila	D	6	2

**COMMITTEE
NUMBER**

**TERM OF
SERVICE**

NORTH WEST REGION

John	D	1	A
Lesley	T	2	1
Ingrid	K-K	3	1
Gerry	C	4	A
Wyn	J	5	1
Liz	MacD	6	2

SOUTH EAST REGION

Dave	D	1	2
Carol	B	2	1
Ian	C	3	2
Rachel	M	4	A
Peter	K	5	1
Peter	G	6	3

SOUTH MIDLANDS REGION

Kevin	B	1	1
Nick	G	2	A
John	G	3	1
John-Dominic	W-H	4	1
Neil	J	5	1
Derek	B	6	1

SOUTH WEST REGION

Tim	W-M	1	A
Nick	R	2	3
Roger	E	3	2
John	O	4	3
Alexis	K	5	2
Peter	S	6	3

WALES & BORDERS REGION

Owen	M	1	2
Beth	O	2	2
Harry	S	3	3
Vida	J	4	1
Jean	Mac	5	1
Sue	W	6	3

**COMMITTEE
NUMBER****TERM OF
SERVICE****EAST OF SCOTLAND REGION**

Sandy	O	1	1
Maureen	W	2	A
Hugo	D	3	2
Jim	R	4	A
Roy	M	5	3
Hugh	H	6	1

GLASGOW REGION

Roseann	W	1	1
Marilyn	C	2	1
Norman	B	3	3
Allan	M	4	2
John	D	5	3
Caroline	W	6	2

HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS REGION

Andy	Mac	1	3
Allan	D	2	1
Willie	G	3	3
Alex	P	4	1
Willie	Mac	5	1
Jeremy	W	6	1

SCOTIA REGION

Pat	L	1	2
Alex	M	2	2
Martin	B	3	3
Anthony	N	4	A
Eddie	G	5	3
Margaret	M	6	A

SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND REGION

Michael	O	1	2
Bryan	O'R	2	1
Anne	McD	3	1
Mary	M	4	3
Alasdair	MacA	5	3
Wullie	I	6	2

		COMMITTEE NUMBER	TERM OF SERVICE
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CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN REGION

Jan	BB	1	3
Isabelle	S	2	1
Roger	W	3	1
Beth	S	4	3
Barbara	G	5	3
Bill	R	6	3

JERSEY INTERGROUP

Alan	B	4	2
Susan	M	6	3

OBSERVERS

Lisbeth	C	(Denmark)	2	1
Soren	A	(Denmark)	5	2
Ingrid	F	(German Speaking Europe)	1	1

Glossary of Abbreviations used in this report

<i>AA</i>	-	<i>Alcoholics Anonymous</i>
<i>AASN</i>	-	<i>AA Service News</i>
<i>AAWS</i>	-	<i>Alcoholics Anonymous World Services</i>
<i>BME</i>	-	<i>Black and Minority Ethnic</i>
<i>CLINKS</i>	-	<i>Community Links with the Voluntary Sector in Prisons</i>
<i>CSC</i>	-	<i>Conference Steering Committee</i>
<i>ELO</i>	-	<i>Employment Liaison Officer</i>
<i>ESM</i>	-	<i>European Service Meeting</i>
<i>GSB</i>	-	<i>General Service Board</i>
<i>GSO</i>	-	<i>General Service Office</i>
<i>GSPIC</i>	-	<i>General Service Public Information Committee</i>
<i>GSR</i>	-	<i>Group Service Representative</i>
<i>NAT</i>	-	<i>Non-Alcoholic Trustee</i>
<i>NHS</i>	-	<i>National Health Service</i>
<i>NSO</i>	-	<i>Northern Service Office</i>
<i>PI</i>	-	<i>Public Information</i>
<i>PICPC</i>	-	<i>Public Information and Co-operation with the Professional Community</i>
<i>PLO</i>	-	<i>Probation Liaison Officer</i>
<i>PR</i>	-	<i>Public Relations</i>
<i>PSA</i>	-	<i>Public Service Announcement</i>
<i>SIGN</i>	-	<i>Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network</i>
<i>SPSHQ</i>	-	<i>Scottish Prison Headquarters</i>
<i>SSO</i>	-	<i>Southern Service Office</i>
<i>TLO</i>	-	<i>Telephone Liaison Officer</i>
<i>TOR</i>	-	<i>Terms of Reference</i>
<i>YPP</i>	-	<i>Young People Project</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.

