

FINAL REPORT

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

GREAT BRITAIN

Forty-First General Service Conference

21 - 23 April 2006
The Riverside Suite
Park Inn Hotel, North Street, York

Love & Service



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FORTY-FIRST GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2006

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DIGEST OF AGENDA

Friday 21 April 2006

Registration and Reception

Opening Session

Nominations - Conference Chairman 2007

Committee Meetings Commence

Presentation of and questions on
General Service Board Reports
(Session 1)

Saturday 22 April 2006

Committee Meetings Continue

Presentation of and questions on
General Service Board Reports
(Session 2)

Open Forum

Sunday 23 April 2006

Presentation of Committee Reports

Election of Chairman for the Forty-Second General Service
Conference

Ratification of
Board Members Elect

Closing Address

FRIDAY 21 APRIL

The Forty-First General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain was held at the Park Inn Hotel (formerly the Moat House Hotel), North Street, York – a new venue situated in the heart of the City of York and only a few minutes walk from the Railway Station. All plenary sessions were held in the Riverside Suite.

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 new venue, to renew friendships and to share with those delegates attending for the first time. After the opening session, Committee proceedings commenced at 5.00pm including welcome and introduction to Committees.

The Conference comprised 93 delegates from sixteen Regions; one delegate from Jersey Intergroup, one delegate each from 'Share' and 'Roundabout', 20 members of the General Service Board, Peter G - Conference Chairman, the General Secretary and 7 members of staff. Also in attendance were 10 Observers from the following countries:

Belgium (French Speaking)	(1)
Denmark	(2)
Ireland	(2)
Lithuania	(2)
Poland	(2)
Portugal	(1)

Total in attendance 135.

Opening of Conference by Peter G (Conference Chairman 2006)

The first full session, which commenced at 3.45 pm, was opened by the Conference Chairman, Peter G (South East Region). He asked for a moment's silence and continued with the Preamble.

Peter 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	-	28 th – 30 th April 2006
Welsh Convention	-	16 th – 18 th June 2006
Southern Convention	-	15 th – 17 th September 2006
Northern Convention	-	30 th March – 1 st April 2007

Conference Steering Committee Report

Chris F (London Region South), Alternate Chair

My Name is Chris F and I am the Alternate Conference Chair 2006.

I would like to welcome you all to Conference 2006 especially the first year delegates. I am going to try to explain as briefly as possible the work done on your behalf by this year's Conference Steering Committee (CSC).

Each of the six Conference Committee's 2005 elected a member to Chair their Committee at Conference the following year, these six elected Committee Chairs make up the Conference Steering Committee. This process ensures that the CSC is made up of six new members every year.

Conference as a whole elects its Chair for the following year and he/she chairs the CSC.

The 2006 Conference Steering Committee met at GSO York on 20-21 May 2005.

In attendance: Chair of Conference 2006 Peter G, Ann N (General Secretary), Sharon Smyth (Conference co-ordinator), six Committee Chairs and two Board Members Dave C and Ian D (No apologies).

Conference Steering Committee:

Committee No.1	-	Dave D	(South East Region)
Committee No.2	-	Alex M	(Scotia Region)
Committee No.3	-	Rodger E	(South West Region)
Committee No.4	-	Allan M	(Glasgow Region)
Committee No.5	-	Jonno T	(London Region)
Committee No.6	-	Chris F	(London Region South)

Items Discussed:

History of Conference Committee (Steering Committee)

Conference Charter Sections 9 and 10

(Ann N General Secretary addressed the committee at this point)

The Open Forum

Conference 2006 itinerary

Election of alternate Conference Chair: *Elected* Chris F

Reviewed:

CSC Terms of reference

Conference 2005 recommendations

Example

The Committee discussed Conference 2005 at length; we agreed that there had been some unrest at the Conference, and that the love and consideration that is normally expressed was to some extent missing, this we believe was due to the frustration at some of the procedure, during Board reports. We concurred that the overwhelming feeling of Conference was that adequate time should be made available to reporting board members to make their presentations to Conference, and similarly Conference delegates should have time to ask relevant questions of the reporting officers, the discussion included the timing of information going out to the Fellowship. These matters as well as questions received for consideration for Conference 2006 will be discussed at our next meeting in September. Peter G, as Chair of Conference, chose 'Love and Service' as the theme for Conference 2006.

The Committee members were provided with a substantial amount of material from past Conferences, plus guidelines on choosing questions.

September 23rd/24th

The Committee meet for the second time, there were no apologies, Peter G opened the meeting Dave D read the 12 Traditions, Alex M read the 12 Concepts of World Service, minutes from last meeting were proposed and seconded. Correspondence to the Chair of the Steering Committee were read and matters arising addressed, one being the change of venue for Conference 2006 which will be held at the Moat Hotel Conference Centre in York.

The Committee started the process of reading and discussing questions submitted for consideration for Conference 2006. Ann N reminded the committee that it was their role to select suitable questions, not to try to answer them. The questions were read and discussed one at a time, if a question was not accepted a reason for non acceptance had to be given and a reply forwarded to the sender, approximately one third of the questions were addressed during the Friday night session.

The reasons for non acceptance are covered in the Terms of Reference and AA Guidelines. Other questions were deemed as matters for the Board or relevant subcommittees and were forwarded to them. (Copies of Questions not accepted for Conference can be obtained from the General Service Office in York).

9.00am Saturday morning the Committee reconvened, there was much debate during this session, as we headed toward the afternoon the Chair asked the Committee to consider whether a cut off time should be set and the remaining questions discussed at the next meeting in October, the Committee decided that all the question should be addressed at this meeting, and this was accomplished.

14th/15th October

The Committee sat for the third time. There were no apologies, Peter read the preamble, Allan the 12 Traditions and Chris the 12 Concepts, minutes of the last meeting proposed and seconded.

First task was to review the questions accepted for Conference 2006, we also looked for any themes that could be drawn from the questions to the forthcoming Conference. We agreed that the consensus of opinion from Conference 2005 was that changes needed to be made, and after much debate it was felt that the answers lay within the 12 Concepts. We concluded that the Conference needed to have a look at its relationship with the Board, and its relevance to the Fellowship as a whole, to this aim it was decided that we should have a group conscience.

Question accepted for Conference were allocated to Committees, correspondence to the Committee and its Chair were addressed, and any other matters arising were dealt with at this point.

The Committees at Conference 2006 would therefore have no titles; we will look at ourselves as a whole to determine how we are functioning as a Fellowship, and how well we communicate with each other and the Board using the 12 Concepts as our template. More time has been allocated for Board reports to Conference; this in turn will allow more time for discussion between the Board Members and the delegates.

3rd/ 4th February 2006

The CSC met for the final time, we discussed the correspondence from the Fellowship. One of the main points was that questions had been sent to CSC for Conference consideration regarding the 12th Stepping of minors. This is a very relevant and even an emotive subject and the reason for non acceptance was, at this moment in time, that there is a working party looking at this subject, legal reasons make this particular subject somewhat of a mine field.

We spoke at length about better communications between the Committee and the Fellowship as a whole, and it was suggested that more information could be given as to why a particular question is rejected and we recommend that the CSC 2007 take appropriate action on this matter. Some of the questions received for consideration this year were more in the form of statements rather than questions, the Committee using the Terms of Reference tried to find a question formula from these but were unable to do so.

The next item was to look at this venue and discuss the orientation of Conference 2007.

Peter G gave thanked to all the committee members for their participation and 100% attendance.

Peter continued with the presentation of his **Keynote Address**:

Hi everyone, I'm an alcoholic and my name is Peter, and my home group is Aylesford Sunday. I am truly amazed and awed that I stand before you sober and not needing to have a drink to remove the fears and that feeling of being vulnerable. So if you hear any knocking it is not someone trying to get in, rather they are my knees knocking together. Thank you for the honour that you and my Higher Power have bestowed upon me, I am truly honoured, and blessed, for I have never seen myself as a super sober or restored to sanity, whatever they are, so to be entrusted when you are not all there I find incredible, and hope that I am able to rise to the challenge.

May I take this opportunity to thank all at GSO for their guidance and patience and the Committee Chairs for their support and wisdom along with the encouragement and enthusiasm, it has been a joy working with you all. Last but not least to my wife and two Scottie dogs who love me unreservedly and look forward to my safe return.

A number of years ago I had the privilege of introducing Frank M. from GSO New York, who started his address with the secret, and there are four points to the secret, which I have used many times, and they are; **Begin where you are; Do the best that you can Gracefully, Step out in Faith and Expect God to Help**, and over the years I have found this concept very useful.

May I take this opportunity to thank all of you today for this sober day, the help and encouragement that has been given me throughout my sobriety. The examples of those who have gone before me who have inspired me and those of you here today who will make an impact on my life, for every day is a day of learning and experiencing life on life's terms and not running to the bottle to solve my problems.

Someone said that God gave us five senses and he put four of them in our heads and that was a bad place for them to be, I can identify with that, for that is where my problems are, in between my ears. My dictionary at home describes **an alcoholic as someone who is addicted to alcoholic liquor and alcoholism as the disease that comes from that addiction**. That is me, and that disease was there long before I took that first drink. With alcohol it just came to the surface.

I learnt too that there are two powers in AA, one is a malign power who is out to destroy me (**King Alcohol**) and the other is a benign power (**God or Higher Power**) who loves and cares for me and wants me to get well and stay well, and that I had better learn to manage my disease, through the power of God's grace, the directions of the 12 step program of Alcoholics Anonymous and the support of its Fellowship, and that I could have permanent sobriety on a daily basis, and need never drink again. What a gift, for I experience **pearl harbours** every day, sometimes they are big but often it is the small things that drive me insane. Thank God for this program.

When I drank I got drunk, sick, and in all kinds of trouble, and I thought that coming to AA was the end of my life, and truly today I know that it was the beginning of a new one. All the living problems are still there and a few new ones have come along, but through the practices and teachings of these Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, my life and my disease have become more manageable.

This address started in my mind after Conference 2005, on the way home I wondered whether or not I would be able to not only to give a fine speech but what would I say, how would I deliver it and would you like it, the list goes on. You have all been there, and if you haven't then you still have that to come.

In the published article, **Love and Service**, I expressed a view that I deeply felt, they were my thoughts and feelings, I do not talk for AA or for anyone else, please feel free to agree or disagree, that's the amazing thing about AA we can agree to differ. It was not directed at any individual, but to all of us within our Fellowship, at whatever level of service or indeed anyone who is a member of Alcoholics Anonymous for sometimes it is not only what I say that counts, it is also how I deliver it that matters. When I was a child and my parents and teachers asked me my view and I told them, they didn't like them, so after a while I started to tell people what I thought they wanted to hear, and they didn't like that either, so I couldn't win either way, but it created so much conflict within me that I was never sure of which way to turn. So I try to be as honest and forthright as I can without intentionally going out to hurt, but as so often happens sometimes you hurt or offend others just by being you.

Thank you those of you that had kind comments and wrote nice letters and those of you that wrote not so nice letters and had unflattering comments they certainly generated a lot of thoughts and feelings.

Some thought that a retraction or an apology was necessary, but if I did that I would only be doing that to appease, not because I felt that. I am sorry, yes, that some took it personally, but I am not responsible for how others think and feel, I used to think that way, and lived a life of tremendous guilt, because I thought I was responsible for everything.

With sobriety and working an honest program comes responsibility, when I am asked I give an honest view, trying to keep my personal feelings out of it and keeping to the principles that this Fellowship gave me, and that, is not always easy, but sometimes living sober and trying to stay sane is not easy either. It was suggested that there was not a lot of Love in my expression, but it was because of that Love for this Fellowship that I felt those words, for if we do not look after it, it will crumble, and for me it is already leaking at the seams and that has been expressed throughout our Service structure, the minority are looking after the majority, and because of the lack of willingness and commitment to serve our Fellowship, to keep it strong and healthy to **carry the message** to the still suffering alcoholics within this Fellowship as well as outside, to pass on our experience so that others may rediscover a new way of living.

As a secretary of a meeting, recently on three occasions, speakers who had been invited to share had not shown up, yes, they could have been ill or forgotten, but to not even bother to ring and apologise is rude and old behaviour. What kind of examples are we setting? It is often too easy to say let it go, but not for me, as good behaviour generates good responses and bad behaviour generates bad behaviour, one is unacceptable.

Many times I hear, especially when the questions come out, the moans and groans, why do we need these questions? Why do we need Conference? Are we becoming a Fellowship of wingers?

The late Bernard B. Smith, a non-alcoholic, the then chair of the board of trustees and one of the architects of the Conference structure, answered that question soberly in his opening talk in 1954:

“We may not need a General Service Conference to ensure our own recovery. We do need it to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to ensure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined for alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelve Steps, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in AA that rebirth that brought us back to life.

We need it because we, more than all others, are conscious of the devastating effect of the human urge for power and prestige which we must ensure can never invade AA. We need it to ensure AA against government, while insulating it against anarchy; we need it to protect AA against disintegration while preventing over-integration. We need it so that Alcoholics Anonymous, and Alcoholics Anonymous alone, is the ultimate repository of its Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, and all its services.

We need it to ensure that changes within AA come only as a response to the needs and the wants of all AA, and not just a few. We need to ensure that the doors of the halls of AA never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these halls unasked and feel welcome. We need it to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks of anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is”.

I hope that in the days ahead, we will not **squander this great inheritance** that has been bestowed on us all, for we are all everyone of us custodians of **The Twelve Steps, The Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts**, hoping that we can put, **principles before personalities, love each other, be friendly with ourselves and our friends, respect the views of others and serve our Fellowship as it deserves to be served.**

Well I think I have said enough, and probably said too much. The scene has been set, the players are in place and it only requires the action. I hope you all have an

enjoyable weekend, and that when you leave here you will have been spiritually uplifted and enlightened as I'm sure that I will have been.

God Bless and thank you.

The London Regions Progress Reports

In accordance with the recommendation by Conference 2004 London Region, now renamed London Region (North) and London Region South submit full progress reports to Conference 2006, and are as follows:

London Region (North) (Miranda McD)

London Region (North) accepted the decision of Conference 2004 to reform and has moved forward positively. Service positions that were vacated due to the reform were quickly filled.

Some liaison officers have found that the reform makes it easier to communicate ideas and attend regular liaison meetings. There has been continuing enthusiasm at Region meetings and good representation from the majority of Intergroups.

London Region (North) is keenly fulfilling its obligations to represent London within the General Service Structure. The six Conference delegates reported a unified approach with London Region South in representing London as a whole during Conference 2005. We demonstrate a firm commitment to the Traditions and Concepts and are looking forward to the future.

London Region South (Jackie M)

Conference 2004 agreed the reform of London Region into two regions and confirmed that the proposed London Region South be accorded full representation at Conference and General Service Board level.

Prior to and awaiting the decision of Conference 2004 the six intergroups south of the river, (in addition to fulfilling their commitment to London Region) had formed themselves into a "shadow region in waiting". This enabled the new London Region South to have the inaugural meeting on the 14th April 2004. We continued our service commitment to London Region and agreed a handover period of six months to enable London Region to fulfil the service posts previously held by members south of the river.

LRS has all service posts fulfilled including Dave C. as Trustee, six Conference Delegates and alternates, an archivist and web master!

Within LRS there are 195 groups and financially we have just under £4000 as a prudent reserve.

Both London Regions continue to work together in joint collaboration as evidenced by the London Telephone office.

We are also close neighbours with South East Region and during the past year representatives from both of these Regions have attended each others regional meetings.

South London Awareness Campaign took place in May 2004. A number of billboard sites were displayed throughout South London with the question “Is alcohol costing you more than money” giving the helpline number.

We ran two radio advertising programmes specifically aimed at ethnic communities.

We were delighted to create and produce the new urban video entitled “Journey to AA”.

London Region South with National PI held a reception hosted by MP's in the House of Commons. Many professionals working in the field of alcoholism attended this historic event. We are already working together with our London Region neighbours towards a second House of Commons reception designated for April 2006.

The six Intergroups within London Region South collaborated in putting together the celebration “70 years of AA” at Crystal Palace on June 11th 2005. Over 1000 tickets were sold.

We organise bi-monthly Telephone responder workshops when each of the six Intergroups take their turn in sponsoring the event.

Although it is early days we have enjoyed a proactive first year as a newly formed Region. Thank you Conference and in particular we thank London Region and South East Region for their continued support and encouragement.

NOMINATIONS FOR CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN 2007

The under-mentioned were proposed and seconded for the Chairman of the Fortieth General Service Conference 2007:

Dave D	-	South East Region
Chris F	-	London Region South
Alexis K	-	South West Region
Jonno T	-	London Region (North)

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 4.45 pm with Peter asking everyone to join him in saying the Serenity Prayer.

FRIDAY EVENING

Peter welcomed everyone and opened the second full session of Conference at 7.45 pm with a moment's silence and handed over to Ralph A, Chairman of the Board, to present the General Service Board Report.

General Service Board Report

Good evening Conference, my name is Ralph and I'm an alcoholic and I'd like to welcome everyone to the 41st General Service Conference. I'd like to make just one update to the Annual Report, Chris F made reference to it in his Conference Steering Committee report and that is the subject of Twelfth Stepping Minors. There is a meeting scheduled for June 2nd so it is really ongoing and we will keep everybody informed.

There is no point in me pre-empting the Trustees who are about to give their reports to Conference with their updates and proposals so I will leave it there. Thank you.

Archives

(Polly M-P)

Good evening, my name is Polly and archives has always been of great interest to me.

Why does an anonymous programme need Archives?

Carl Sandberg explained "Why", he said: "Whenever a society or a civilization perishes, there is always one factor present: they forget where they came from."

In 1957 Bill W. wrote that AA's past was "still veiled in deep fog" he expressed a desire to preserve the Fellowship's original papers and artefacts. "It is highly important that the factual material be placed in our files in such a way that there can be no substantial distortion."

America founded the first Trustees' Archives Committee in 1971. Its mission was: "To give the Fellowship a sense of its own past and the opportunity to study it and to keep the record straight so that MYTH does not predominate over fact."

By 1978 every state in America and many provinces in Canada were collecting archival material and there were interesting collections in England, Ireland and South Africa. Today there are permanent archival collections, many of them open to the Fellowship, in more and more countries.

Archives in the UK

There is a national Archives network across England, Scotland and Wales. Regional Archivists work with teams of Intergroup Archivists to stimulate interest at the local level. We need to be talking to our oldtimers and reading as much as we can of their writings.

The core of the National Collection “The Crown Jewels” are housed in G.S.O. in York. If you want to see “The Crown Jewels” you will have to go and see them. We cannot carry them around the country and people were beginning to expect that it would be possible, at all Conventions and Gathering, to take from York, from the glass case, the items we put on display at the Jubilee Convention. This is really not possible every time we have a Convention because some of those things are very precious and things do go astray, and get broken and are much safer in the glass case where they are now. We are hoping that soon we will have a proper Archives Room to put things on complete display.

The General Service Board appointed the first Fellowship Archivist in 1985/86 and an Archives Committee answerable to the GSB was formed.

Regional Archivists meet annually.

The Annual Meeting of Regional Archivists

These meetings provide both for the interchange of ideas and for the workshop type “hands on” activity which illustrates techniques of preservation.

We constantly highlight the work of Archivists in using information.

The last four Regional Archivists’ Meetings have been Roadshows “moveable feasts” in that we have taken workshop type activity to four co-terminus groups of Regions. This year we are coming back to York and taking our place in the service calendar, so the next meeting of Regional Archivists will be in September at The Lady Anne Middleton Hotel and invitations to that meeting will be sent out shortly.

Main Working proposals for the future of Archives in Great Britain

- The GSB were asked to consider: a) Employing an individual on a contractual part time basis in order to create a functional working Archive at GSO and this is being put into operation.
- Implementation must take into account time needed to plan a workable strategy and decide on the priorities for such matters as digitisation, preservation and display.
- b) The inclusion of Archives as Service topic on the menu offered to Regional Forums.

- c) The appointment to the Archives Sub –Committee of a member qualified to develop & maintain the Archives section of our web site.
- It is wise to consider the storage policy for Archival material.
- Also the Development of an Archival Acquisitions policy.
- There is a stirring of interest in Archives in the Fellowship, there are also many misunderstandings, “Lets have an Archives Display“ seems to be such an easy thing.....and it is “a goode thinge” BUT.....there is so much underpinning to do and I ask the Board to support our very hardworking Fellowship Archivist, our very hard working and space starved GSO staff and the members of the Fellowship who wish to carry the message into tomorrow.

Proposals

It is proposed that Conference approve the offer to the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous Storage in Trust of:

- AA literature of historic and intrinsic value to the Fellowship.
- Business Records – Regional and Intergroup Minutes and the Minutes of their Sub Committees.
- Group and/or Intergroup Minutes.

Conference approved the above proposals with a two-thirds plus majority vote.

Armed Services

(David M)

Good Evening Conference. My name is David and I am an Alcoholic.

It has been a great privilege for me to serve as the Trustee for the Armed Services and a pleasure to work with all the Members of that Committee. They have carried out a great deal of work in carrying The Message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the Armed Forces.

The Committee met twice during the year in York, once for the Committee Meeting and once in January this year for the Workshop. This Workshop was disappointing as only one Region sent a representative and he was interested in joining the Committee. There would appear to be an idea throughout the Fellowship that PI can handle this work. We do not wish to detract from the work done by PI but to enhance it by having ‘Horses for courses’ with Ex-Service Members reaching out to Service Personnel.

Work has continued with the Royal Navy Alcohol Treatment Unit in Portsmouth and Devonport and with the RAF at Gloucester University. A talk was also given at RAF Shawbury in Shrewsbury to Line Managers and it is hoped that this Presentation will become part of their Training Programme.

Because of the awareness of GSO Staff of our need to carry the Message, we now have contact with the Army in Germany. A lady from the Army Mental Health Unit in Wegberg contacted GSO for some AA literature. Her contact details were obtained and passed to me and a letter written offering assistance. The result was that on 18th March 2006 I travelled to Wegberg, met up with Roger, the Secretary of the Armed Services Sub-Committee and three Members from Continental Europe Region. A Presentation was given and a copy of the Big Book presented to their library. The result was that there is now a Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous actually on the Base which started on Monday 10th of April 2006 and we have been asked to do something similar with British Forces in Northern Germany. This is a huge leap forward both for the Sub-Committee and Continental Europe Region in carrying the Message.

The Armed Forces 12th Step List is now almost complete and will be circulated to Region TLOs shortly.

We are still looking for Service Members and Ex-Service Members to 'Share' their stories for the up date of the pamphlet 'AA and the Armed Services'. We have a few but not enough.

I have been involved in giving Presentations on Alcoholics Anonymous at 'Reaching out to Veterans' Conferences for the Veterans Agency in Liverpool and Newcastle. In both these Conferences I asked the local PI Liaison Officers to be involved and many useful contacts were made. Two further Conferences are planned one in Birmingham and one in Edinburgh.

All in all I consider that this has been a very successful year for the Armed Services Sub-Committee but there is still much work to be done. Thank you to all those involved for their hard work and commitment and for grasping any opportunity to 'Carry the Message' to the Armed Services.

Electronic Communications

(Archie G)

Good evening Conference, my name is Archie and I'm an alcoholic.

When I came to AA I was always told to share like there was a newcomer in the room, so I'd like to start at the beginning as there may be people in the room who may not be aware that the Electronics Communications Sub Committee started up following Conference 1998, Committee 6 recommendation that the Fellowship should swiftly embrace computer communications with serenity and courage.

We set this up to help carry the message by establishing a site as an online destination for active and recovering alcoholics, also to be used by professionals in the alcoholism field and for relevant media. Also to facilitate more effective communications within the AA Fellowship.

Online Literature Sales

At Conference last year we set out to bring Online Literature Sales to the Fellowship and the Web Team have been working towards that. It was tested between January until now and it is working quite successfully and will be available to the Fellowship following this Conference.

The Where to Find and what is currently in development with the Web Team 2006/7

The Online Where to Find facility was being updated weekly and I have just discovered that it is now being updated on a daily basis by GSO, so anything you look at online is completely up-to-date, as good as the information we get from the groups and Intergroups of course, and that is the message that we have to take back to our Regions and Intergroups that they must keep passing the information on.

Past Conference Questions

The Web Team are currently working on creating a website of past Conference questions. I saw a demo of this recently and there is the last three years currently on there with the intention of working back 10 years. This will be developed during 2006 and at present there is no implementation date.

Year of the Newcomer 2006/7

The intention is to populate this website or folder with .pdf files on:

- AA literature which is relevant to newcomers
- Members shares on the website to help people get identification
- Possibility of using Share and Roundabout contributions
- Online audio shares
- DVD/Videos
- Where to Find to mobile phones using Wireless Access Protocol
- Young Peoples Project
- Possibly the history of AA in Great Britain
- Information relevant to the Black & Ethnic Minority
- Possibly a description of what an AA meeting format is like so that anyone who does gets to AA via the website, it won't be alien to them
- Possibility of using past Share and Roundabout magazines in .pdf format.

One of the other things we are looking at is to post the Big Book on the website but that is being worked on at the moment.

Website Statistics

I will run through some of the statistics of the number of visitors that we are getting on the website since the last Conference:

205,000 people have visited the website since last year which breaks down to:

4000 monthly
1000 per week

From the professional community we are getting referrals from legal teams, medical teams, social working departments and there are significant referrals from members of the community working in the alcohol field.

One interesting fact from the figures on the website is that 80-85% of people visiting the website are always newcomers, which is roughly 174,000 people per annum and this can only be good for the Fellowship as it means AA is getting known.

One thing I will mention is that the figures peaked in January at 25,000 visitors in one month, so I spoke to one of the members of the team as to the types of things that would influence that and two things came from it, that it could be a breaking story, the likes of Charles Kennedy, or even a theme in a soap on alcoholism. These encourage people to come and visit our website.

E-12th Stepping

E-12th Stepping is going well:

4,550 people made enquiries to the website in 2005 which is a 37% increase over the previous year. I know from looking at the charts that first quarter 2006 shows a further 15% increase over first quarter 2005 which is encouraging.

I'd like to end with these words of Bill W:

“The future success of Alcoholics Anonymous may rest on how well we are able to employ the colossus of modern communication”. (Language of the Heart, p 320).

When I first read this statement what struck me was how timeless it is. It's amazing that a man could come up with a thought like that back in the 1930s.

Finance

(Ann S, GSB Treasurer)

Good evening Conference, my name is Ann and I'm an alcoholic.

It is my privilege as your Honorary Treasurer, a position of trust, which I hope I can do justice to in reporting the state of the Fellowship's finances for the period October 1st 2004 to September 30th 2005 plus an update of the first six months of this interesting year.

We all sit here tonight mindful of our rich heritage of one alcoholic carrying the message of recovery to another and so it is with service. We carry on the excellent work undertaken by our predecessors knowing that our very lives depend upon it and our commitment is to keep this Fellowship safe and secure for everyone of us that suffer from the disease of alcoholism. No expenses are paid for face-to-face 12th Step work, we freely give of our time to give away what we have been given. However, to provide the Fellowship with the services it requires and requests today and in the future, we need money. Such an emotive word. It conjures up in your hearts and in your heads all those heated debates at every level of service, it conjures up the ideas of the things we can do that are going to cost a lot of money and it conjures up the fact that without it, we will do nothing.

The true value of money lies in how we spend it – not how you keep it in a Bank account. The Fellowship has once again delivered a very robust set of figures with a surplus for the year 2004/2005 of £154,565. Thank you, thank you to each and every one of you for your contributions, firstly in the AA Pot, then through personal contributions, Gift Aid, Convention Pots, Literature orders and through the legacies which have been left to us by those who are no longer with us.

Our investments are sound and have achieved a happy, steady growth. They have been invested well, our investment bankers provided us with a medium risk portfolio, it doesn't have spectacular highs, but what it does do is provide secure investment for the future of this Fellowship and part of the interest which has been received in the last six months has been re-invested to provide long term stability to our reserves.

Your General Service Board are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any one time the financial position of this Fellowship. The Accounts are independently audited at the year end and they are presented to the General Service Board and approved as a true record in November, and then in December when I have the pleasure of calling all the Regional Treasurers to York. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, you made it an exceptionally happy time because I am always nervous when I do something new in this Fellowship. It was presented to them and for them to pass it through the service structure to the Intergroups and groups. The Accounts are adopted as a true record at the Board's Annual General Meeting

held in March of the following year and this procedure gives accountability to the Fellowship as a whole.

Your General Service Board are also responsible for the system of internal audits and controls, safe-guarding the assets of the Company, tasked for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Finance Committee of the General Service Board has, as its main purpose and aim, to ensure the financial budgets and expenditure are planned and managed in the most effective manner.

Recommendations, from your good selves at Conference, from the General Service Board and the General Service Office for major expenditure by the Fellowship will be evaluated by the Finance Committee.

Business of the Fellowship has been carried out this financial year in accordance with our primary purpose, budgetary controls and reviews have ensured prudent use of our very valuable financial resources.

So that's really what we do, how it works and how we try to get the information from the cheques coming in to the General Service Office, from all of you, to be spent on our primary purpose and to be flowed through the system.

I would now like to give a short presentation which compliments the facts and figures on page 33-37 of your Annual Report.

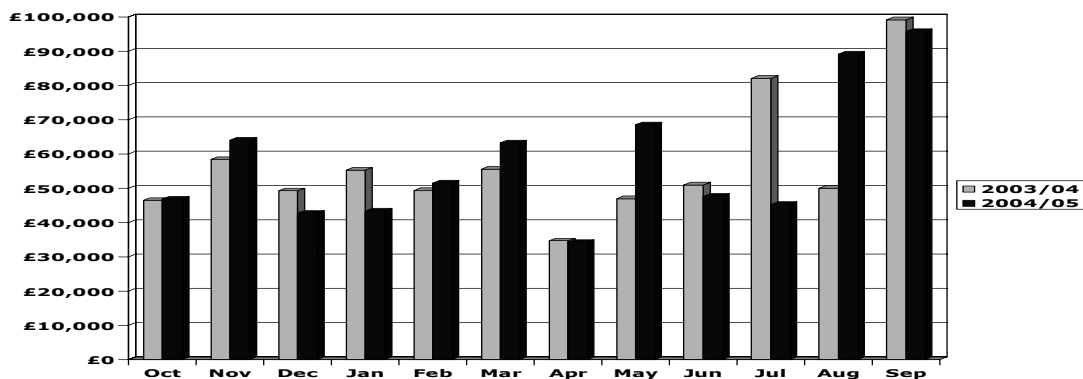
I am sure that you have noticed that some of the percentage figures in your Annual Report are rather exorbitantly high and I don't even think that the best alcoholic could have achieved that percentage increase.

The AA Pot

What does it conjure up to each and every one of us? So we have pounds and euros coming into our pots as well as the pence and any other coin that people put in, and they do! Do you know that after Toronto there were a plethora of Canadian coins – it was wonderful – but they were all very, very welcome.

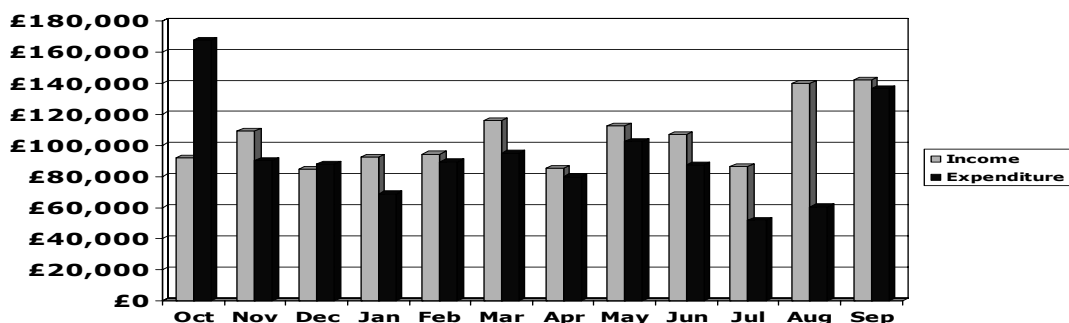
Tradition 7 – every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

Group and Intergroup Contributions



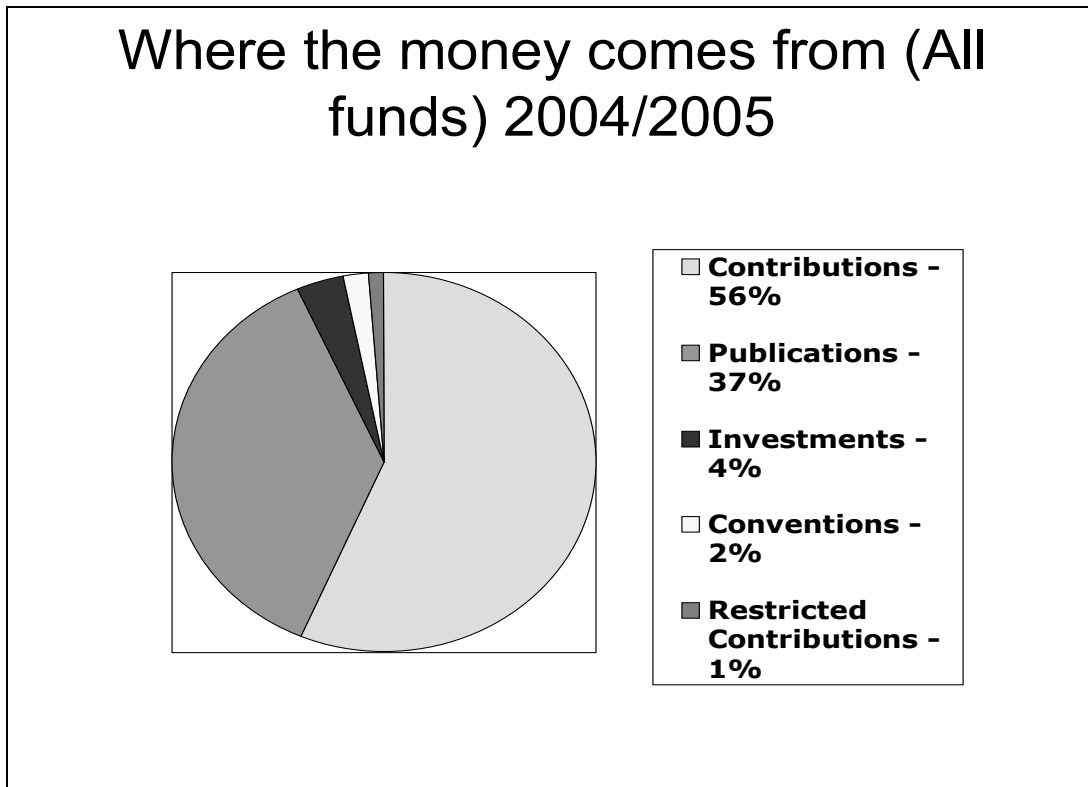
So, to your Intergroup and Group Contributions for the last financial year up until September 2005. I think it tells its own picture, those are the peaks, the troughs, the ups and downs so please don't ever ask me at any one particular time how we are doing because it can all change by the flick of a switch and by a huge cheque coming in. Just look, April must mean that the Fellowship is getting very, very busy – getting here for Conference because the cash and the cheques never get written. Come to September – empty the bank accounts. That's what it looks like and that is what we work on.

Income and Expenditure 2004/2005



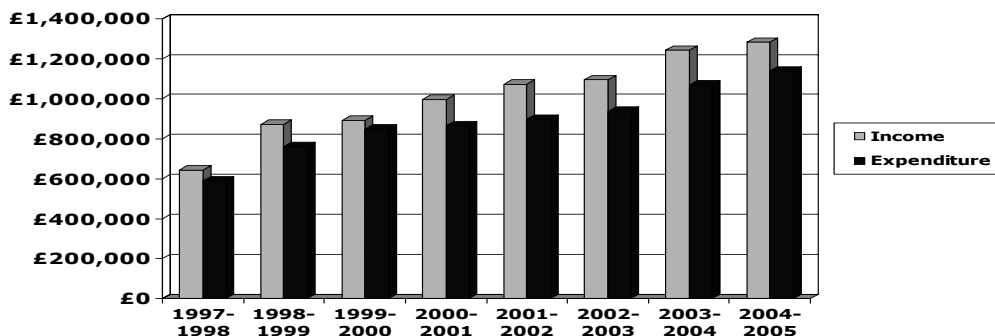
This is the Income and Expenditure during the year. The expenditure rises in October, the beginning of our financial year, when and as the things that normally Conference and General Service Board and projects take place at the beginning of our financial year, when we plough the money in and make it happen and take it through to fruition. Again, our bills, as all of you know

when you get paid on a monthly basis you know exactly how much is going to pay for your rent, gas, electricity, still have to be paid for our Southern and Northern Service Offices and our General Service Office and we pay our staff on a monthly basis – they cannot wait for one of your cheques to suddenly come in. We have responsibilities, we know that our expenditure, other than expenditure to carry this message, which in one month might be quite high when we pay a bill for a service that we require.



We gather it all in because we want to carry the message and where does it all go? We have to publish our publications so we have costs 28%, our Fellowship Services which is everything we do to try and carry out our primary purpose 44%, and the administration of our offices and staff 28%.

Income and Expenditure 1997/2005



I thought you might like to know where this Fellowship has grown and come from, a third of you are first year delegates so you are new to Conference, and you might just wonder what money and everything is all about. I have put together the above graph which shows from 1997, on the left hand side, and how we have grown over the years. Through those years our expenditure leapt up when we opened our Northern and Southern Service Offices and then it stabilized, then as we spent more on PI and other services and sent our Trustees to Conferences and Exhibitions, we started to explore new avenues – that you asked for – and new projects we spent a little bit more.

Income and Expenditure Figures 1997 to 2005

Year	Income	Expenditure
1997/1998	£644,250	£589,870
1998/1999	£872,641	£759,948
1999/2000	£891,920	£848,478
2000/2001	£996,124	£865,666
2001/2002	£1,072,315	£898,760
2002/2003	£1,094,729	£936,123
2003/2004	£1,243,310	£1,068,652
2004/2005	£1,283,845	£1,138,917

Our income in 1997 was £644,250 and last year it was £1,283,845. Our Fellowship has grown, your generosity has grown as well as our expenditure.

So that's where we are, from all my past predecessors who have come and reported at Conference and who have been a safe pair of hands for this

Fellowship, these are the reins that I have taken over with your trust and your love and that I am tasked with my fellow Board Trustees and with the help of the services of Helen, the new Financial Controller, in York. It is the staff at GSO who have produced all of this, I am just the messenger.

The Development Fund

The fund receives 8% of the royalties from the sale of the Big Book, The 12 and 12, and As Bill Sees It.

The Development Fund is designated for the use in furthering the message of Alcoholics Anonymous abroad.

During the financial year 2004/2005 your Board of trusted servants approved the expenditure of

£10,000

to the International Literature Fund to aid their work in the translation, printing and distribution of our Fellowship's literature into 70 different languages.

The Development Fund is immeasurably important to me in that we carry on the legacy that was given to us by Bill W of those Big Books that he gave to us and he gave them to us willingly without any royalties. He said this is your gift from me. If you take 8% of those royalties from selling the Big Book, The 12 and 12 and As Bill Sees It and you use that money and put it in a special fund and you are about to use that money to help another emerging nation. He did it to us, we do it to others. We carry the message and we will pass it on because our very lives depend upon it. The Development Fund is to further this message of Alcoholics Anonymous abroad and during the financial year your Board of Trusted Servants approved the expenditure of £10,000 and that was sent to the International Literature Fund to aid their work in the translation, printing and distribution of our Fellowship's literature into 70 different languages. Some of those languages are Greek, Hebrew, Latvian, Chinese, Hindi, Mongolian, Thai, Hungarian and the latest translation which is undergoing work at the moment is Oman. Therefore, when you buy a Big Book don't go to Amazon, don't go to another country, buy it here – buy it from your General Service Office and you get free postage and package! In buying it from us think of the person who wants the message of recovery who hasn't got a book in his language, that's what you give, that's what I give, that's what we give.

The Sub Sahara Zonal Meeting which you have read reports about in AA Service News and in previous Conference and Annual Reports received from the fund in the last financial year £6,325. This sum was matched by our friends in the United States with whom we are joint sponsees of this Zonal Meeting for the African nations.

To get to the meeting, the delegates walked on foot, hitched rides and they set out days before because there is no structure, there are no planes or trains to get them where they needed to go but, they want this message so badly, they did it. They came from the countries of Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Malawi, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Kenya.

Once again, thank you for buying our literature and our Big Book from GSO. You are the heartbeat of the Fellowship, long may the groups and the doors of this Fellowship be open to us all and the AA Pot be the moment where money and spirituality meet.

I hope this presentation has given you an insight of our Fellowship's finances. Firstly, the increases for this year reflect I feel the Fellowship's growing awareness of Tradition 7 and that self-support will always remain a most desirable and reasonable objective for this Fellowship to seek. Our sound budgetary controls allowed an increase of overall expenditure of 10% with many expenses remaining on line.

Your General Service Board has, for some time, been aware that considerable expenditure may be required for the provision of additional or new premises to enable the services of this Fellowship to be fully and more effectively developed and maintained over the coming years. A business plan was presented to your General Service Board for approval and negotiations are proceeding well for a new General Service Office in York. It will be a prudent use of our reserves that are over and above one year's running costs.

In our Memorandum and Articles of Association the role of the General Service Board in making provision for the working environment of the General Service Office states "to construct, equip, maintain and manage any building which may be considered directly or indirectly conducive to the Company's primary purpose".

The vision of your General Service Board is that the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous is to be housed in suitable premises, which will enable the expansion of services to the Fellowship, which will provide an environment that will allow staff to work as efficiently as they do now but in enhanced surroundings with more effective use of space, working and storage.

Our Literature Department will have the space it deserves, be better equipped to deal with the ever increasing volume of orders from yourselves, not just for today, not just for next week but for the years to come.

The provision of two meeting rooms to enable the more effective planning of Board Meetings, Sub-Committee Meetings and Liaison Meetings which will negate the need for us to hire outside facilities.

We are to create space to allow our Fellowship's archives to be stored safely and effectively, and an Archivist has taken up a one year part-time contract to

catalogue work, digitalisation and to oversee the safety and security of these documents. Selected items will be put on display so visiting members may enjoy these precious documents that track our journey of growth and recovery since 1947.

Your trusted servants of the General Service Board will implement these plans with probity and prudence.

Finally, and update on this financial year. Our expenditure is in line with forecast and committed to carrying out our primary purpose. Since October 1st our cash flow has carried on its unrelenting path of unpredictability. For example, October - the lowest since 1997, November – highest in the last 10 years! I don't know why, but I know I have a deep belief in the heartbeat of this Fellowship and in its generosity, as my graphs have shown in the previous years.

The money has always arrived by the year end but it would be a pleasure to return to Conference next year and say that we have stopped these peaks and troughs, it may happen, however, I think that the most important fact is that we continually financially support the structure at all levels, we give freely of our time and unite in our singleness of purpose.

Public Information

(Andy C)

Good evening friends, my name is Andy and I'm an alcoholic.

The main areas I would like to cover are:

- GSB PI strategy
- Conference 2005
- Review of current year
- PI proposals for 2006/2007

The key influences behind it all:

- Fellowship survey of 2002
- Apparent stagnation
- Conference 2003 request for action to GSB
- 10% national PI commitment since 2004
- Fellowship survey of 2005
- Return to growth

The key national goals:

- Attract new members
- Raise public awareness of AA

- Update PI material and support local activity
- Improve co-operation with professionals
- Improve working relationships with media

Activity in Recent Years:

- TV advertising for last three years
- National radio 2001/02
- Radio and TV PSAs
- Co-operation with Government Alcohol Strategy
- Support for local awareness campaigns
- Co-operation with professionals
- Co-operation with national organisations
- New PI materials (PSAs, Dr Jackie Chang video and 'urban video')
- Media, bursts of pro-active PR work

The specifics approved at Conference last year:

- Further increase in focus on co-operation with national organisations with targets to be broadened, plus a second House of Commons event
- Development or recruitment of a suitable, additional internal staff resource to handle pro-active PR
- Co-operation with implementation of Government Alcohol Strategy
- With maximum input and sharing of experience from Regional PI, review and expand existing range of PI materials to reflect recent development
- Maintain 2004/2005 budget levels to ensure we continue to carry the message nationally as the Fellowship starts to grow again
- Assess the 2005 membership survey and the lessons of the last year to deliver the most effective PI activity to meet our national objectives

Current Year Strategy

The ship is starting to turn

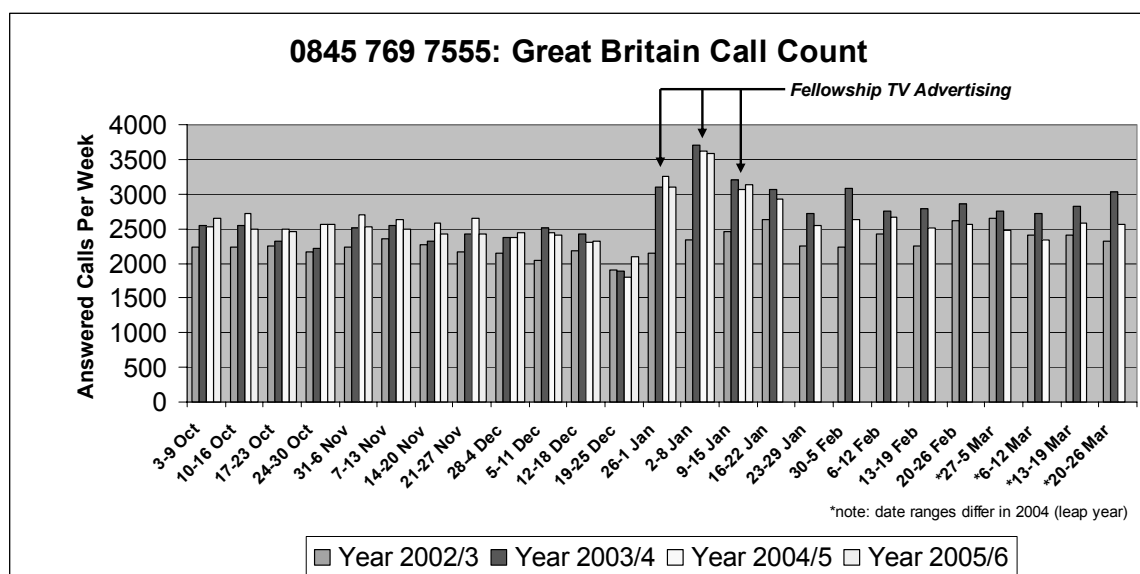
- Implementation by GSB of Conference 2005 approved activity for 2005/06 year
- Review of 2005 Membership Survey showed PI activity is helping to reverse the flat-lining highlighted in 2002
- Maintain TV/advertising activity, working more closely with Regions, Pilot campaigns
- Continuing with well established national PI activity as the most effective way of carrying the message nationally
- Delivered within a 10% national budget

Review of Current Year

TV Advertising

- Boxing Day to January 17th, Sky only
- Late night and mornings, 30 second and 10 second slots
- Specific Young People and BME focus
- Same helpline response levels as previous year despite decrease in spending
- Significant impact in awareness of AA for suffering alcoholics and professionals

TV Call Comparison

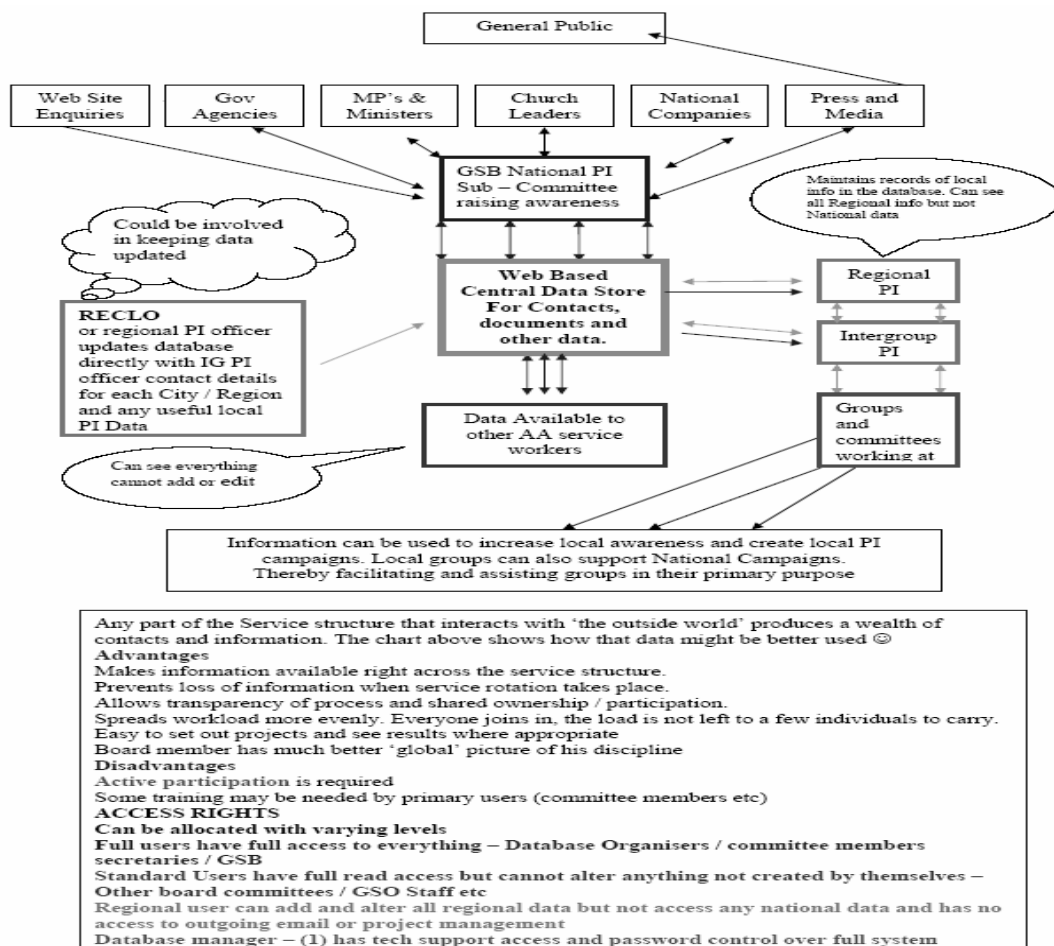


To show you everything that has happened with the Fellowship TV advertising, the above graph, which was prepared by the Telephone Committee independent of the PI Committee, showing you four year comparisons and it shows where we have the peaks of people calling the national helpline number.

Review of Current Year

- In-house PR resource in place, run from GSO with support of SSO and NSO - led by Office Manager and supported by three administrators at NSO, GSO and SSO.
- Proactive PR plus full support of our friends/NATs for media interviews - Non-alcoholic trustees to undertake training on a voluntary basis in readiness for public presentations and interviews.
- House of Commons event – May 24th
- Implementation of Government’s Alcohol strategy in England with AA focus – AA is mentioned favourably in the draft report.
- Scottish Executive
- Message for Professionals for Conference this year

- Contact with National organisations – the list is too long to read now but includes Phoenix House, BUPA Wellness etc.
- Preparation for the first Scottish Parliament Event 10th May – I am happy to say that preparation is going well and we have been sponsored into the Scottish Parliament by Janice Hughes MSP. The idea is that MSPs from every political party in Scotland have been invited to attend with a mixture of about 30 professionals, most of whom are all known to AA who we have been working with already. The Chairman of the Board and the General Secretary are going to attend.
- Trial of contacts and Data sharing system – the ability to keep records which can be accessed by everyone and the means of sharing expertise through a forum. Regional and Intergroup PI's can access the system as well as all offices PI sub-committee members and GSB.



- PI Sub Committee - The sub committee is now meeting in York and has welcomed some new members with Sandra, Rachael, Bob and Peter having left. Thanks to all.
- Pilot Campaigns - the PI Committee met in February and looked at past campaigns it was felt that a means of measurement of how effective or not a campaign is would be desirable. The only measurement tools we have in place Telephone and Web statistics, we have no actual way of quantifying those because we don't ask people when they phone up. What we are going to do is a series of pilot campaigns and we are going to use a separate 0845

number supplied by the Telephone Sub Committee (working with them) and a separate web address supplied by the Electronic Communications Sub Committee, so they are involved as well and they will give us measurement of who phones that number and who visits that website. We will run four or five of these with all major areas covered TV, Radio, etc. etc. We will then know how many people call that number and visit that website. We will run campaigns in smaller geographical areas, say with a population of between 5,000,000-7,000,000 and we will get definite results which I can present to Conference next year.

- Regional Liaison Officers Meeting – November 5th took place in York and was well attended.
 - New posters both general and specifically aimed at Young people. Dave C from Literature Committee attended this meeting
 - Regional campaigns - Items discussed Bristol, South London and Glasgow campaigns – including Radio campaigns aimed at ethnic communities, Billboards and Underground.
 - Feedback on Region and Intergroup activity

Proposals for 2006/2007

- Pilot campaigns covering the main areas – Press, Radio, TV, Posters and Transport
 - 3rd House of Commons event
 - 2nd Scottish Parliament event
 - Welsh National Convention in June – have asked if PI could be involved in the workshop and I am happy to say that two members of the sub-committee will be attending.
 - Include PI Officers in data sharing system
 - Regional Liaison Officers meeting will be 13/14 October
 - Work with GSO and NAT's to improve our relations with the media
 - 60th Anniversary activity – Press release
 - To continue to raise public awareness of Alcoholics Anonymous.
 - Proposal – Continue funding Public Information at 10% of contributions received throughout our service structure
-
- When I need a Spiritual Uplift
I'm fortunate now that I'm on the Board because somebody at GSO, I don't know who, highlights little bits of Regional and Intergroup minutes and they send them to you for your particular discipline, for me PI, and I look at the work they are doing, putting up posters, chatting at doors, speaking at schools and all the PI stuff. There is one guy in one Intergroup who has 17 schools and he is in regular contact with those 17 schools and he speaks at them.

Finally, I would like to thank Tim S for all the hard work he has done in PI before handing the baton to me.

Conference approved the above proposal with a substantial majority vote.

Health

(John L)

Good evening Conference, my name is John and I'm an alcoholic.

In my annual report to the General Service Board I said that we have some problems in Health, the old problem of positions at Intergroup and Regions not filled so I will ask right away that delegates and Board members, when you return home at your next Region meeting check and find out if your Health posts are filled at least at Region level.

That's my moan past; the rest is constructive and positive. Glad to report that in spite of what I said about posts at Intergroup and Region that excellent work is being carried out in all Regions and Intergroups, by dedicated people who make sure that hospital groups run and patients are given the chance to attend meetings. We also have many requests for speakers from different bodies in the health field which are always covered and always we find that doctors and nursing staff's idea of AA and alcoholism change after attending a few of these meetings where AA members share their experiences with alcohol. I am not saying they are all converted to the AA programme but many do start to encourage their patients to attend our meetings so the message is carried and that is the main reason for hospital groups.

The first meeting of the Health Sub Committee was held in York on 9/10 December 2005. Terms of Reference were agreed and were presented to the General Service Board and will be proposed for approval at Conference 2006.

Terms of Reference

- Adhere to the Traditions and Concepts of AA
- Continue to review all Health literature, media resources and guidelines
- Stimulate interest and encourage sponsorship into the role of Health liaison officer
- To review and respond to future proposals related to Health from workshops and the Fellowship as a whole and co-operation with outside health professionals in the field of alcoholism

The Health Sub Committee will consist of four Regional Health liaison officers and the Board trustee for Health, at a later date a non-alcoholic Board member will join the committee. For the purpose of rotation two officers will serve for 2 years and two officers will serve for 3 years. The committee will meet three times a year in York. If the terms of reference are accepted by Conference then

the committee will write to AA Service News to inform the Fellowship what we are doing, or hope to do in the future.

We will collate requests and information that come from health professionals via GSO and our service offices and inform the Fellowship on ongoing developments in government Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy. The committee would also be involved in the continued representation of Alcoholics Anonymous at the Nurses in Practice exhibitions and any health conferences that are deemed appropriate. The committee hope to have a resource pack ready by December.

Government Health Strategy

In the **Scottish** document launched in 2003 there is a whole section on AA and a section on the 12 Steps.

In **England** AA is mentioned first on the list of resources. There have been several consultation events through the country, but AA was not mentioned as frequently as in the Scottish document. **Wales** have a document of their own.

I feel that the new sub committee for Health will be an asset to the Fellowship as we continue our efforts of co-operation with government and health professionals in carrying the AA message, always mindful of the Fellowship's Traditions and Guidelines.

SATURDAY EVENING

Continuation of General Service Board Reports including those carried over to Sunday morning.

Literature

(Dave G)

Good evening Conference, my name is Dave and I'm an alcoholic.

The main areas I would like to talk about are:

- Current Status of the Literature Committee
- Strategy that we hope to put in place over the period of the next twelve months
- Proposals

Current Status

- Terms of Reference

These give the Literature Committee responsibility for protecting the integrity of our literature particularly in regard to the Twelve Traditions,

Twelve Steps and the Twelve Concepts. We are responsible for all of the written word and we are responsible for:

- Handbook Revision
- Guidelines
- Electronic Communications – this one we are working on with the Electronic Communications Sub Committee to establish protocols.

Strategy (for the next 12 months)

- Create and publish a 5 year rolling review of existing Literature – if you have read the Annual Report you know that I speak very highly of our textual expertise in terms of writing literature, but we are not always terribly good in the way that we present it. We need to review in many respects a lot of the work that has already been done and our role is to take a proactive look at our literature so that we can bring it back to you to ensure that it meets the needs of the Fellowship in today's world.
- Create and develop a standard glossary – we are in the process of creating and developing a standard glossary which is about ensuring that we will always work to the same standard. That the language we use in our literature will always be to a standard that is universal and goes right across the board. For example, AA - it won't be AA in one piece of literature and A.A. in another. It is about trying to re-establish this standard.
- Improve design presentation – one of the issues I have is design and a perfect example of our design difficulty is Message to Professionals, a piece of literature which was rejected by Conference last year. We had two different bodies trying to create the same piece of literature and while there was goodness in both of them, certainly the design of the one by the Public Information Team far out-shone the other. It just proved a point that if our literature is to 'hit the spot' in terms of our dealing with professionals it has to be designed to the standard.
- Improve communication with Fellowship – one of the most important facets of the Literature Committee is to improve our communication process with the Fellowship. When I was asked by the Board last year would take on Literature, I could have written on a postage stamp what I knew about the Literature Committee. I knew that I loved our literature and that I had grown up with it being part and parcel of my recovery process since I came to the Fellowship but damned if I knew where it came from. I knew there was a Literature Committee but it was like a secret society in some respects. What I am talking about here is giving literature back to the Fellowship, in many ways so that you and our fellows in our meetings can have a real input into ongoing work, so that when we come here to Conference with a piece of literature its not going to be a surprise to anybody. Its process will have been in the public domain, by that I mean the AA public domain, from its inception right through the whole process.

- Utilise more fully Service Liaison Groups to harness their expertise – to do this I have come to realise very quickly that expert as we are on the Literature Committee, we don't always have the practical experience that those working in a particular service area have and what I am talking about doing is not so much us writing literature any more but fully utilising the Service Liaison Groups, whether they be Service Liaison Groups or Sub-Committees of the Board, that are working in service areas. It is their expertise that would probably correctly put together the literature that they need, in many respects much easier than people who have a general idea as we do on the Literature Committee.
- Minimise the time delay from conception to delivery of new/revised literature – the time for us to produce a piece of literature stretches from here to London and back again. If we have a piece of literature like, for instance the Message to Professionals which was last year rejected, this has been two and a half to three years in the offing and we can't wait for literature. If we require literature, we require it to be available as soon as possible. I don't want to go down the road of making it available so quickly that we don't have in place the 'checks and balances' that are required to ensure that it meets with your approval, so there is no question of us producing literature, passing it through and getting you acceptance of it at a later date. What would help us considerably, in terms of telescoping the period of time, would be to ask you to accept our literature textually, so that we would put together the text, which we are pretty good at, and ask you Conference to accept the piece of literature in its raw form. What we would do after that is to look at the design process at a different level, and I will come back to this shortly.
- Utilise the Web and AA Service News to continuously inform the Fellowship of ongoing Work – when I talk about giving literature back to the Fellowship I am talking about utilising some of the tools that are available to us. The web service pages are shortly going to have, with the help of a good webmaster, a Literature Committee set of folders where we will actively put up on show some of the work which is in progress, so that you know what we are looking at and the little bit I have gleaned from people I have been talking to over dinner, I think there is a lot of work in store for the Literature Committee over the next twelve months. Whatever plans I had to do proactive work, it may be that the reactive stuff that you are creating for us may well occupy us for a short period of time. My dream is that instead of being 'knee-jerk' reacting to, we should be thinking ahead and continuously reviewing what's available and continuously bringing it back in.

Proposals Strategy

- That Conference endorses the strategy as set out above

- That Conference will agree in principle new/revised literature in basic text form allowing the literature Committee to introduce professional design as appropriate

Conference approved the above proposals by a substantial majority vote.

Proposals

Literature

- Message to Professionals (TEXT)
- Archives (TEXT)
- Younger people in AA

Conference approved the Message to Professionals (Text) with a two-thirds plus majority vote with two amendments:

1. *Remove the 0845 Helpline Number and replace it with the numbers for GSO, SSO and NSO.*
2. *Under the paragraph What Happens at an AA Meetings, 4th paragraph, add after contributions are optional “from AA members only”.*

After lengthy discussion Conference approved the Archives (Text) with a substantial majority vote.

After lengthy discussion Conference approved the Younger People in AA pamphlet with a two-thirds plus majority with one amendment:

In the answer to question 6 change the word “do” to “get”.

Probation

(Charles W and Carol Titley)

Good evening Conference. My name is Charles. I am an alcoholic. It is my privilege together with non-alcoholic Trustee, Carol Titley to make this probation/social services presentation.

The purpose is to seek your consideration and approval of a range of initiatives to develop probation/social services liaison and maximise AA’s response to the opportunities that will arise from the probation service alcohol strategy. Those initiatives are:

- Regions and intergroups are encouraged to seek to fill vacant probation /social services liaison posts. If this is not possible then to name an officer as a contact.
- Encourage closer working between prison and probation/social services liaison officers in carrying the message to offenders in prison and in the community.

- Update all probation areas in England and Wales and all social services departments in Scotland on AA contacts and availability
- Conference approval of the Thames Valley liaison model.

In the Board Annual Report to Conference 2005, the status quo of probation/social services liaison was described as one of deserts and oases with little or no contact with the probation service over much of the country and some 70% of intergroup liaison posts vacant. The good liaison work being done and the energy and enthusiasm of the liaison officers in the service area were emphasised. Details of the use being made of the Chit System and the Thames Valley Scheme liaison arrangements were reported. When presenting that report to Conference last year, I expressed optimism that the Government Alcohol Strategy and the changes in the criminal justice system would offer challenges and opportunities for carrying the message to offenders.

You will have read in the current Board report details of the internal and external activity over the past year. I believe the report shows clear evidence that optimism is beginning to be fulfilled. Probation officers are showing a new interest in what AA offers. Liaison officers are negotiating co-operative arrangements based on the Thames Valley Model. Most significantly the draft Probation Service Alcohol Strategy is very positive to AA and the Thames Valley Model is identified as, in professional language, a “model of best practice”.

The major disappointment is that intergroup liaison officer vacancies remain around 70%. That is a matter for serious concern.

Turning to the two probation/social services liaison types.

The Chit System was approved by Conference in 1987 and it's operation is detailed in AA Guideline Probation/Social Services adopted in 1998. It provides a means by which, within Tradition, a member can provide self-reported proof of attendance at AA to a probation officer. The review undertaken by Regional Liaison Officers in 2004 found a significant number of groups supporting the system. Though the number of Chits requested is small, general experience is that probation officers welcome the availability of the system. Passive and inflexible on its own, it is found to be particularly useful as part of actively supported liaison arrangements.

The longest running and most developed of those arrangements is that operated by Chiltern and Thames Intergroup and the High Wycombe Office of Thames Valley Probation Area – The Thames Valley Model. It is this arrangement that you are invited to give Conference approval. Carol has nurtured the liaison since 1992. She will now outline for you the operation of the scheme and update you on the draft probation service alcohol strategy.

Hello Conference, my name is Carol and I'm not an alcoholic.

The key elements of the liaison model are:

- The establishment and maintenance of active on-going contact between the intergroup probation liaison officer and the designated probation officer
- Probation officers are provided with a list of AA members willing to sponsor probation offenders
- The availability of the Chit System where proof of attendance is required

This core activity is supported by:

- Presentations to magistrates and probation staff in area offices
- Seminars for professionals in the criminal justice system, magistrates and AA members
- There are local guidelines for AA sponsors and probation officers
- Probation officer attendance at open AA meetings as part of induction process
- A questionnaire to aid probation officers to distinguish the alcoholic from the heavy drinker

The draft Probation Service Alcohol Strategy:

Police Court Missionaries, who were the original probation officers, came into being in the late 19th century, largely as a result of concern by the Churches about people abusing alcohol. It's clear then that the National Probation Service has a long history of working with problem alcohol misusers although in recent years the service has concentrated on drug misuse in line with Government priorities.

More recently the Government has begun to look more closely at alcohol misuse as a factor in offending behaviour and more widely as a community health issue. It has made it a priority to tackle two major problems associated with alcohol misuse: crime and antisocial behaviour in town and city centres; and harm to health as a result of binge and chronic drinking.

The probation service has an important part to play in tackling alcohol misuse within its wider role of protecting the public and preventing further offending by rehabilitating offenders. A great deal of good work is being done but existing provision is not centrally co-ordinated and monitored and evidence suggests that delivery is patchy and inconsistent.

The probation alcohol strategy will give the Probation Service a coherent, evidence-based approach to tackling alcohol misuse. It contains a number of commitments for the National Probation Directorate (NPD) and recommendations for areas to improve provision. In developing the strategy the NPD have worked closely with the Community Integration Unit and Drug Strategy Unit of NOMS (National Offender Management Service) and the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse.

The emphasis will be on consolidating the work already being done across the service and building on good practice within available resources e.g. the Thames Valley Model.

Charles and I have been involved at several stages in the development of the strategy document. The author contacted me with a draft at the beginning of the year for comment. I returned this document with several suggestions for the specific inclusion of Alcoholics Anonymous as a unique resource for problem drinkers e.g. at evenings and weekends when drinkers are often at their most vulnerable, AA is available. AA is the only community resource referenced within the strategy and is mentioned on three occasions. The strategy has done the rounds of all stakeholders and interested parties and received approval.

I think it is also significant to mention that the strategy has recommended improving training of staff. Specifically of interest to us, an understanding of the nature of addiction and the knowledge to assess and refer offenders appropriately.

Derbyshire and Wiltshire Probation have already adopted the Thames Valley Model as a template of good practice. The Chief Probation Officer for Thames Valley, one of the largest probation areas in the country, has agreed to speak at the Annual National Probation/AA Liaison Seminar in Beaconsfield in May, where he will make a commitment to rolling this model out throughout the area. It is anticipated that with the publication of the strategy more Probation services will be keen to adopt a model that has achieved such widespread approval and respect. AA must be ready for this. Perhaps Probation Liaison posts will fill as the task of liaising with Probation loses its thankless image and becomes an exciting and fulfilling way of carrying the AA message to the still suffering alcoholic.

Conference approved the above initiatives with a two-thirds plus majority.

Telephones

(Ian D)

Good evening Conference, my name is Ian and I'm an alcoholic. My home group is in Headingley, Leeds, I'm Trustee for the North East Region and I have the great privilege to be Trustee responsible for telephones. As I speak members are answering the phone on our behalf and I say thanks to them all – the TLOs, to the Intergroups and to the Telephone Sub Committee which I have had the privilege of being part of. One member has rotated out after four years of commitment and hard work and I really appreciated his friendship and he is here tonight, Chris F, thank you. Without the Sub-Committee I would probably have nothing to report.

I would like everyone to say with me the Declaration of Unity:

**THIS WE OWE TO A.A.'S FUTURE:
TO PLACE OUR COMMON WELFARE FIRST;
TO KEEP OUR FELLOWSHIP UNITED,
FOR ON A.A. UNITY DEPENDS OUR LIVES,
AND THE LIVES OF THOSE TO COME**

Conference 2005 Recommendations presented to you by John A last year:

- That our Fellowship undertake to run an 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
- That Training be given through regular Regional and Intergroup Workshops for all Members who answer the Telephone on our behalf. To assist in this Members of the Board Sub Committee will make themselves available to attend Workshops if and when required.
- 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

We were asked to Plan to raise the awareness:

- 1 Telephone Seminar
- 2 Web Site Folder/Service Forum
- 3 Special Edition of A.A Service News
- 4 That sub-committee undertake to look at 24 hour helpline listings of the National Number in directories on the web and search engines
- 5 Increase mobile phone centres

First National Telephone Awareness Seminar held at the Moat House Hotel, now the Park Inn Hotel, York

The first time it had ever been done, the bringing together of all the liaison officers and we brought them here to this Hotel, and the Agenda was:

- Office Based Responders System
- Home Based Responders System
- Telephone Sketch
- History of National Telephone Number
- Lunch Break
- Myth Busters which we had to miss out as we were running late
- What Next?
- You Tell Us - Group Discussions

- Report Back From Groups
- 4.30 pm Closing Of Seminar

What Did We Hope To Achieve On The Day?

- Raise the awareness of Telephone Service
- Create Unity/Communication
- Share experience of training/workshops/seminars
- Discuss restructuring of telephone lines
- Improve Effectiveness
- Have some fun

How did we do?

Total of 68 TLO & RTLO members attended the seminar, 50% of invitations sent out. There were 53 positive comments sheets returned and one neutral. Cost of the Seminar was £7,100.

Some of the future suggestions taken from the comment sheets were:

- Repeat seminar (on an annual basis!) and perhaps increase to a full weekend.
- Inclusion of presentations on how to hold /run workshops for Telephone volunteers, recruitment
- Hold group/workshops on problem solving and share experience.
- Engage with Intergroup and Region TLOs on content of future seminars. More time group discussions
- Roll seminar format out to other service disciplines, e.g. PI, Probation, Prisons etc.
- Make more information and best practice details available on the website.
- Produce a hints & suggestions/tips cards, leaflet, or flyer for Telephone Volunteers, similar to that available for 12 Steppers.
- More information on how we as a Fellowship, maintain and keep 12 Step lists up to date.
- A copy of the presentations to be made available in welcome packs.

General Comments:

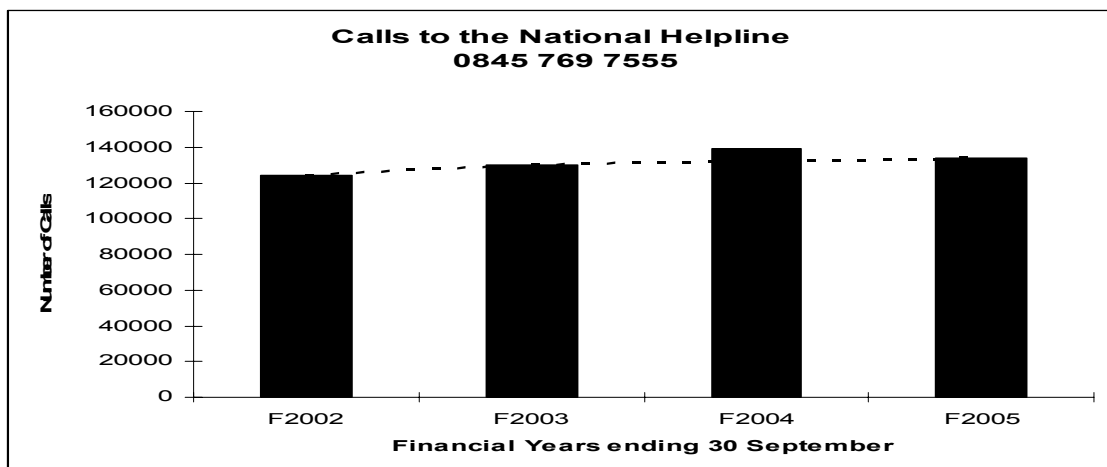
- Nice venue and good lunch
- Registration was efficient
- Enjoyed the opportunity to meet up with other Intergroup and Regional TLOs, from other parts of the country, to share experiences and to understand the different ways of handling calls, such as office bases, home based and combinations of the two.

Web Folder will be active by the middle of June 2006 and below is some of the literature that it will contain:

- History of National Telephone Number
- Telephone Guidelines
- Telephone Sub-committee Terms of Reference
- Experience of Running Workshops
- Recruiting
- Telephone Systems
- Responders Responsibilities
- 12 Step List
- Responders pack

National Telephone Helpline

We answered 132,934 calls to the 0845 769 7555 number in 2005
This was down from 140,340 in 2004
28,842 calls were from mobile phone users



Statement of Account showing total billings for the National Telephone Contract Year ending 28 February 2006 for £10,344.03 compared with £13,200.97 in the previous year. This is in part due to a drop in call traffic since 2004. It remains to be seen if there is a further decline or if calls are levelling off after several years of successive increases.

Mobile Phones Centres

We have Eight (we now have 10) at present covering the whole of Great Britain This situation is resulting in an increase in engaged and lost calls in the area's that we feel are being over burdened with calls from mobile phones

At present 19% of all calls are from mobile phones this is rising at about 1% to 1.5% per year.

The scheduled redistribution of calls from mobiles in Scotland took place on time on March 24th. The first set of stats shows that calls are now being equally distributed between Glasgow, S W Scotland and Scotia.

Calls to mobile phones are capped at 25p but this does not apply to all mobile networks, calls to 3g and Dolphine networks are not capped
We need Intergroups and Regions to accept mobile calls!!

Alcoholics Anonymous 24 Hour Helpline 0845 769 7555

A problem that the National Telephone Seminar highlighted is that we advertise the National number (0845 7697555) as a 24 hour Helpline number in directories and on the Web but we do not full fill the promise

Conference, I am not making a proposal on this but I am making a suggestion and I would like this to go into Committee next year. I am suggesting that until we get into Committee and make a decision that we advertise the National number as “Alcoholics Anonymous Helpline 0845 7697555”. This is just for the National number and local numbers are autonomous and I know that many people advertise the 24 hour and do it, but the thing is that we don’t all do it. This evening I don’t want to get into whether we should or we shouldn’t, I would like it to be put into Committee next year along with the mobile phones, in fact I would like a Committee to look at telephone problems.

Conference approved the above with a majority vote.

General Service Board

(Ralph A – Chair)

Before I begin my presentation I would like to say that in 2005 we had 10 alcoholic Trustees and 2 non-alcoholic Trustees, in total 12 and there are 16 Regions. Then 2 were added, they were Dave C and Jerry C, and after their induction they were immediately given some responsibility. Andy C came on and he was immediately given PI to shadow. On the Board we have seventeen committees, there are sub-committees and liaison committees and the Roundabout and Share Teams. To the members who are serving on those committees I thank you very, very much and there are many of you here at this Conference. Every committee is chaired by a Trustee, and if those people serving on these committees did not turn up, you can take it from me, all the Trustees would turn up, even if the rooms were empty, they would stay there. That’s their commitment. They have doubled up and even trebled up on their disciplines, criss-crossed the country doing hundreds of miles. They attended Conferences in Europe, Poland, Ireland to name a few. I am mindful that these people have families and they are gainfully employed and one Trustee told me this morning that he has had two weekends off since Christmas. All freely given. Please appreciate them and the tremendous amount of work they do. Now to my General Service Board presentation.

A.A.'S Legacy of Service by Bill W. (1951) (extract)

‘The most vital, yet least understood, group of services that A.A. has are those that enable us to function as a whole, namely: the General Service Office, A.A. World Services Inc, the A.A. Grapevine Inc, and our board of trustees, known legally as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. Our worldwide unity and much of our growth since early times are directly traceable to this cluster of life-giving activities.’

The General Service Board

The Board is the servant of the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. The General Service Board serves the Fellowship by providing central services of various types and is a registered charity.

Functions of the GSB

- To ensure that the Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous are preserved intact
- To act as the chief service arm of Conference
- To plan and administrate overall policy and finance
- To act with probity and due prudence
- To report to Conference annually on matters of policy and finance
- To appoint an Executive Committee which is delegated to manage the day to day affairs on behalf of the GSB
- To maintain and develop communications internally within the Fellowship
- To maintain and develop communications externally with the public and professionals
- To appoint Committees or Sub Committees in support of the service structure of Alcoholics Anonymous
- To have custodial oversight of executive services provided by the General Service Office

The Executive Committee

This Committee is made up of:

- Chairman
- Vice Chairman
- Honorary Treasurer
- Secretary

Function Of The Executive Committee

- To co-ordinate Board Meetings
- To plan and co-ordinate Board workshops
- To monitor and co-ordinate ongoing Board projects
- To co-ordinate Board reports to Conference

- To monitor and make appropriate recommendations on the composition of the Board and its Committees in consultation with the General Secretary
- To co-ordinate the Annual Report of the company
- To act on behalf of the Board when matters arise and must be dealt with between meetings of the Board
- To advise the GSB on matters of policy
- To develop and implement good working practices
- To co-ordinate the recruitment and induction of non-alcoholic trustees
- To act as liaison between the Board and the General Service Office/Service Offices through the General Secretary
- To carry out specific delegated tasks set by the Board
- To appoint staff who are delegated to manage, administer and carry out the policies of the GSB
- To recruit, monitor and appraise the chief executive

Chairman

The chair takes a number of roles as the principal officer of the GSB, working closely with the Vice Chairman and Treasurer. The Chairman of the General Service Board also has a duty to protect staff from over-enthusiastic Board trustees who become too involved in detailed managerial issues.

Function of the Chairman

- To chair the meetings of the GSB
- To work closely within the Executive Committee on matters of GSB policy
- To work closely with the chief executive to achieve the aims of the charity
- To authorise action to be taken between meetings of the full GSB
- To act as a channel of communication between the trustees and the staff
- To represent the charity at functions, meetings, with the press and media
- To monitor, with the Executive, and have oversight of the Committees and Sub Committees of the GSB

Vice Chairman

The vice-chair acts for the chair when the chair is not available and undertakes assignments at the request of the chair.

Function of the Vice Chairman

- To act with full responsibility in the absence of the Chairman
- To produce and distribute minutes of all meetings of the Executive Committee
- To plan and co-ordinate Board workshops
- To work closely within the Executive Committee on matters of GSB policy

Treasurer

The treasurer takes the lead in overseeing the financial affairs of the Fellowship, ensuring its financial viability and the proper financial records and procedures are maintained.

Function of the Treasurer

- To take an overview of AA's finance, ensuring that due prudence is exercised and that all financial reports comply with legislation. To assist trustees to perform their financial duties
- To advise the GSB on financial matters
- To present financial reports to the GSB and the Fellowship
- To keep the GSB aware of financial responsibilities

General Secretary

The General Secretary is responsible to the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Britain) Limited through the Executive Committee and to the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous for the efficient management and administration of the General Service Office, the Northern and Southern Service Offices, the European Information Centre and for the services of the Fellowship throughout Great Britain and English Speaking Continental Europe.

Function of the General Secretary

- To ensure that the Board and Conference receive appropriate advice and information on all relevant matters.
- To report on the progress of the Fellowship and on all matters relevant to the discharge of the Board's responsibilities
- To advise the Board and provide background information which can help the deliberations of the Board
- To manage the resources of the Fellowship in order that the General Service Office and Service Offices have the appropriate human, material and financial resources required to achieve their objectives
- To have final responsibility for the day to day management of GSO and the Service Offices
- To foster good communications throughout the Fellowship;
- To act as the chief spokesman for the Fellowship in accordance with the instructions of the General Service Board
- To foster good relations with the media, government, statutory and voluntary organisations

GSB Involvement

Sub Committees

- AA Service News
- Archives
- Armed Services
- Electronic Communications
- Health
- Literature
- Nominations
- Public Information
- Roundabout
- Share
- Telephones

Liaison and Regional Officers' Meetings

- Employment
- Health
- Public Information
- Prisons
- Probation/Courts and Social Services
- Treasurers

Zonal Meetings

- European Service Meeting
- World Service Meeting
- Sub Sahara Africa Service Meeting

Conventions

- Northern
- Scottish
- Southern
- Welsh

Conference

- Conference Steering Committee
- Conference

European Service Meeting

(Roger B)

Hello my name's Roger, I'm still an alcoholic and I'm still the Vice Chair.

It was a huge privilege and a reminder of the importance of a sound service structure to assist in carrying the message. There were fellowships in their fledgling stage going through all the usual problems of personalities, sincere differences of opinion and there were others where the service structure itself was creating problems.

There was a similar theme throughout of a lack of AA members willing to do service, it's not just us, leading to vacant service positions, in others the age of the Fellowship meant that service positions were inevitably held by members with comparatively short term sobriety.

Above all, there was an enormous feeling of unity in the desire to carry out our primary purpose. I would like to quote from the opening address given at the ESM this year, and he said "sitting at one of my first AA meetings a fellow member shared that he had arrived at AA a beaten, bruised and broken man, limping after years of battering from his alcoholism. AA gave him a set of crutches to help him along and assisted him in how to walk properly again. He clung on to those crutches for some time fearing that should he lose them, he would fall once again. Surprisingly he came to discover that the moment he passed the crutches to another suffering alcoholic he began to walk better, to live better. This 'miracle' of AA is happening around us every moment of every day".

The presentation I'm about to give does not constitute the full report and is necessarily abbreviated – the full report is available from GSO.

I felt deeply privileged to attend the ESM and humbled by the unity, commitment and dedication of the delegates. If I felt apprehensive how must it have felt for those for whom the meeting was not held in their native language.

Purpose

The primary purpose of the European Service Meeting is the same as that of all AA activity – to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers, whoever he may be, whatever language he speaks.

Method

The European Service Meeting seeks ways of accomplishing this goal by serving as a forum for sharing the experience, strength and hope of delegates who come together from all parts of Europe.

It can also represent an expression of the group conscience throughout Europe

Structures

Experience teaches us that developing a sound structure enables us to deliver our services more effectively.

The European Service Meeting encourages the planning of the sound structures suited to the needs and capabilities of the various countries and the exploration of expanding AA Services to reach the Alcoholic through internal communication, community relations and Institutions work.

13th European Service Meeting - *Communication in an Expanding World*
- *Our Responsibility* - held in Frankfurt am Main, 30 September – 2 October 2005. There were 40 delegates from 22 countries.

First Day

- Welcome & Opening Address
- 12 Traditions were read
- Report of the World Service Meeting 2004
- There was a brief report on the ESM Fund
- Short Reports were given from the attending countries:
 - Austria, Belgium (Flemish Speaking), Belgium (French Speaking), Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland (French Speaking), Switzerland (German Speaking).

Committees

- Agenda / Policy / Admissions / Finance
- Literature / Publishing & Media Communications
- Working with other countries

Agenda / Policy / Admissions / Finance

- **Review of costs**
 - Acknowledges the high surplus in the ESM fund
 - Recommends a prudent reserve of 2 ESMs
 - Extend invitations to all European Countries where AA is known to exist
 - Expenses of each ESM should be clear to all who read them
- **Review ESM Guidelines**
 - Publish European Service Office email address
 - Include banking details
 - Suggest establishing a figure as a suggested contribution for each delegates costs in attending the ESM
 - Consider simultaneous translation where it is not possible to send an English speaking delegate
- **Do AA Fellowships in Europe experience a shortfall in financial contributions**
 - Contributions stagnate when there is a lack of information
 - Suggestions for raising extra cash were forthcoming

- **Have the recommendations of ESM been introduced into GSOs & Groups**
 - Suggested recommendations be listed / summarised
 - Reminder of delegates responsibility to inform the Fellowship about ESM
- **Suggest a theme for the 14th ESM**
 - Service: Our Future and Responsibility

Literature / Publishing & Media Communications

- **What co-operation do you offer journalists who want to write about AA.**
 - All countries are very careful with anonymity and try to control the text of articles, usually it is possible to correct articles before publication
- **How do AA Fellowships apply the 6th & 7th Traditions especially with media**
 - If they go on the media they are careful that AA interests and perceptions are brought across. It is useful to have the same media contacts over a long period. When giving information we need to avoid typical AA language
- **More literature more freely available than in 1999**
 - Sufficient literature is available that we rely on
 - It was not felt there was an over reliance on GSO York or GSO NY
- **When Conference Approved Literature is translated is it submitted to AAWS**
 - All Countries submit translated Literature to AA World Service
- **What further co-operation is needed with AAWS & how long does permission take**
 - It takes too long – invite someone from AAWS to next meeting 2007?
 - Literature is available in many languages just ASK (GSO York, GSO NY)
- **Share experience of On-line meetings**
 - Online meetings are a precious tool for the beginning, but should always end in face to face meetings
 - All countries represented except Russia have websites.
 - Agreed that Face to Face 12th step work will never be replaced by a computer
 - AA members need the contact of other AA members in person

Working with Other Countries

- **How can we remove barriers & pass the ESM message to developing countries**
 - Suggest translation of ESM Guidelines & final reports into their languages

- Lower registration fee or sponsor them financially
- Publish an electronic bulletin
- Set up a permanent committee to help other countries
- **Is there any special co-operation of neighbouring AA Groups across the border**
 - Countries with similar languages co-operate & support each other, visit each other's conventions & service committees
 - Co-operation where the language differs has improved over the years
 - One country reported that unofficial contact between groups had resulted in a poster & literature translation for young people in AA – this has been incorporated into the structure
- **Has co-operation between neighbouring countries' groups improved with the growth of the European Union**
 - There is a belief that it will improve gradually providing new possibilities for contacts with Eastern European Countries
- **Do you receive help & support from other countries at the GSO Level**
 - There is mixed experience but all wished to help.
 - Just ASK!
- **Holding Workshops & Seminars on service & structure has been suggested at past ESMs**
 - A variety of events and practices have taken place
 - Forums have helped to bring GSO/GSB closer to the membership
 - Suggest the provision of simultaneous translation where English is a handicap
 - Co-operation in PI at a European level was suggested
 - Plenty of help has been given to build service structures, translations etc.

Workshops

- How can we attract more people into service
- Concept 10
- Group Conscience – The Voice of AA

How can we attract more people into service?

- **What are the requirements for service positions in your country**
 - All but one country define the requirements in their service manuals and act accordingly, but sometimes adapt it to fellowship needs and vacancies
- **Has anyone been excluded from service & why**
 - Yes – for a variety of reasons including: sexual harassment, police record, relapse, misuse of confidence, misuse of authority etc.
- **How are AA members encouraged to do service work**
 - Passing on an enthusiastic picture of service and what it does for you and your sobriety
 - Talking about the importance of service in groups, intergroups etc.

- Workshops, service bulletins
- Sponsorship into service
- **How are reports of the ESM presented**
 - All delegates report to their GSB and Conference
 - Some send reports through the structure
 - Some publish reports
- **What is the composition of different GSBs**
 - Some have all alcoholic trustees, some have non-alcoholic trustees
 - Considerable variation in numbers / composition / election processes
- **How are Non-Alcoholic Trustees recruited**
 - These friends of AA either announce their interest to AA or AA asks them
 - They need to be willing to serve the fellowship devotedly for a period of time
- **How often are Conferences / Board meetings held**
 - All have 1 Conference per year except Lithuania 2 per year & Flemish Belgium every 2 years. Most have 4 Board meetings per year – other patterns are 3pa, 12pa, 10pa, 6pa. Portugal has 4 plus one for regions & Lisboa

Concept 10

- **In which way do GSOs apply Concept 10 into its work**
 - Experiences were shared where concept 10 was not respected or understood
 - In one Country 3 board members resigned as they overstepped authority
 - Job descriptions are very helpful in defining responsibility
 - Some Countries reported that learning about Concepts is new to them
- **Is the scope of responsibility and authority for each service position clearly defined in writing**
 - Service manuals are very helpful in clearly describing service positions
 - Those who reported problems did not have clearly established written service position descriptions
 - Seminars are helpful in educating the Fellowship about the Concepts
- **How do you deal with the AA member who oversteps his responsibility**
 - One Country reported that a trustee was asked to resign
 - Many found it difficult to confront someone when they feel something is wrong
 - Without clear written job descriptions overstepping authority is a matter of opinion
- **Does your Country prepare well in advance of the ESM and outline what is expected**

- GSB helped some delegates prepare, others were helped by the WSM delegate of their country, AA Members, Sponsors or each other
- One delegate only had 2 days notice but it was felt better to come unprepared than to send no-one
- **Is a report circulated through your own Country to inform the Fellowship of the ESM**
 - It is up to delegates to report accurately and enthusiastically what happened at the ESM
 - For many their first ESM was a real emotional discovery of AA Worldwide.
- **Are delegates working with each other before & after the ESM**
 - The ESM Newsletter is a great tool – one country was helped to find solutions to 12 Tradition problems by asking for help through the newsletter
- **Are delegates finding it difficult to contact each other**
 - There is an email list and it seems to work, we can and do contact each other, developing friendships and visiting events
 - One delegate without email found it easy to communicate via the telephone

Group Conscience... The voice of AA

- **Is every AA member who attends group conscience or service meetings allowed time to express his opinion on a topic or motion**
 - Most countries reported yes, in principle, everyone can express their opinions
 - A few expressed that it can depend on the size & structure of the group
- **What are your experiences with group conscience meetings**
 - Most countries AA meetings hold conscience or business meetings every 4 – 6 weeks, others every 4 months when topics must be submitted one week in advance & only those topics discussed.
 - Some countries reported that the meetings can be chaotic but have learned to work with them. One country reported that group conscience meetings are called as they become necessary and that participation at those meetings was greater than in any other service meeting
- **What way do groups or service meetings in your country come to a group conscience? Is it the 'loudest voice' or co-operation**
 - Discussion revealed that the tone of group conscience meetings can differ. Sometimes the 'loudest voice' is heard but mostly co-operation is sought. One country reported that a powerful way of concluding group conscience meetings is to ask all to express their feelings
 - It was also reported that in some cases decisions based on the 'loudest voice' do not last long

- **What voting principles are used to reach decisions**
 - Several countries reported that a majority is necessary for acceptance of an issue, in most cases general consensus is sufficient while in others a 2/3 majority is required.
 - One country always votes twice, after hearing a minority opinion, one reports Third Legacy voting, in some there are secret ballots
- **How do you handle Minority opinion**
 - Most countries felt that all issues are important and give an opportunity for expressing the minority view (in one case before a second vote is taken)
 - One country reported recording the minority opinion
 - Reference was made to Concept V, which explains the Rights of Minority

Conclusion

- The value of ESM is unquantifiable – sharing our experience strength and hope with each other has enabled us to achieve sobriety – who knows what can be achieved internationally.
- Thank you for allowing me the privilege to attend and add to my personal growth and understanding

Share (Polly M-P)

I was appointed to the Share Team in June 2005 and team meetings were held in London at the Southern Service Office in June and again in August. The July meeting was cancelled in the light of difficulties which continued whilst the authorities dealt with the appalling aftermath of the terrorist attacks. An electronic meeting in July enabled the team, which was the Editor, the Production Manager and Trustee, to continue working on the production of Share and it became apparent how much work was done by two key members of the team, the Editor and Production Manager, who are talented, skilled and meticulous in their service to the Fellowship.

However, the fact that the work is done by two people who could be seen to be indispensable, militates against the principle of rotation and begs several questions.

1. Can a team be a team if it lacks the balanced input of other members of the Fellowship?
2. Is the lack of a circulation officer since May 2005 putting an unfair workload on the GSO staff?
3. Could it be that the lack of a forum for Regional Share Reps in the recent past has meant that the Share now has such a low profile or has

become so familiar, that the Fellowship sees it just as wallpaper and assumes that it just happens?

Recent advertising in Share and AA Service News did little at first to bring in applicants, however, I am pleased to report that some 'collar feeling' and face to face requests have borne wonderful fruit, despite the fact that I am almost certain that some members of the Fellowship feel that everyone in this team has to be expert in the publishing or printing field. It is worth saying that most sober members working their programme would be capable of growing into the service they are appointed to and the Share team is a wonderful vehicle in which to learn and to grow.

New members of the team, first co-opted and now ratified by the Board, are Janet a copywriter, Sarah a reader, Cathal a graphic designer and Rachel is giving her services as Secretary, at present on a temporary basis. Several other members have shown an interest in becoming readers.

Delegates are humbly asked to search in their Regions, we need an enthusiastic set of circulation and sales people. We know that sales of Share and an increase in lively articles go up when we have Northern and Southern Liaison Officers in place to attend Conventions and Gatherings where the Share Stand can be displayed.

Many of you will have questions about major hiccups in the production of Share since the Production Manager was diagnosed with cancer in the Autumn of last year. At present it is prudent to say that I am addressing, on behalf of the Fellowship, the sensitive question of long overdue rotation. Whilst it seems that the present production plan has like Topsey 'just growed' some stringent adjustments to the production plan are now in process and I ask the Fellowship for great sensitivity and patience at this time.

The next full meeting of the Share team will take place at the Southern Service Office on the afternoon of May 10th and Regional Liaison Officers will be sent a copy of the Share highlights after that meeting.

Roundabout

(Andy C)

Hi, my name is Andy and I'm the Trustee for Roundabout as well as Public Information and I will start with Conference last year.

Conference 2005 conscience was that:

"Our primary spiritual purpose of carrying the message effectively is best served by retaining both publications", Roundabout and Share. I thank Conference for making that decision.

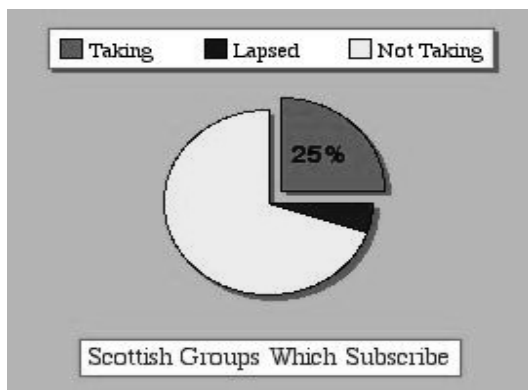
- Editor – James is assisted by an Editorial team and supported by GSO and GSB
- Published monthly in Scotland and distributed by GSO in York. GSO also handle the finance.
- Mix of colour and black and white
- Price 80p

Please write articles for Roundabout as we need all the articles we can get.

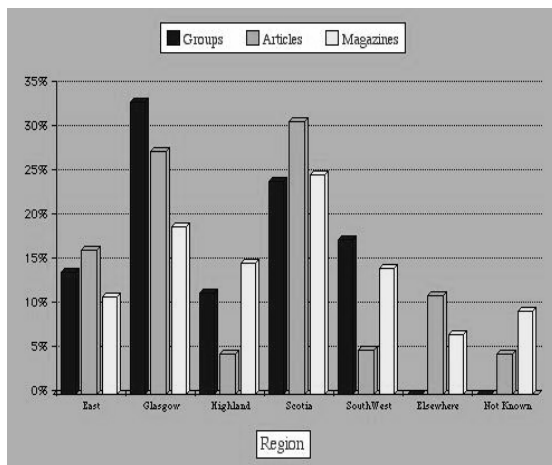
The Roundabout Liaison Officers meeting was held in January of this year, my thanks to Ralph and Polly who both attended, and it was well supported by the Fellowship and was held in Glasgow. This covered:

- Review of Terms of Reference for Liaison officers at Intergroup and Region
- Review of sales by Intergroup and Region
- SWOT Analysis (Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities Threats)

The following graph shows Scottish Groups which subscribe to Roundabout



The next bar chart shows it Region by Region



This year has seen the launch of the Roundabout website and the address is www.aa-roundabout.org.uk and you can now go online and read Roundabout articles and not only that, you can go online and subscribe to Roundabout. Many thanks to the Electronic Communications team and the Roundabout team who have done all the hard work.

We have a stable Editorial team and stable sales, the quality is improving and it is excellent value at 80p.

It is used in service in Prisons and Hospitals with the centre pages taken out and is very popular so buy it now.

Employment

(Jerry C)

My name is Jerry and I am an alcoholic. I had been asked to take the task of Employment and the Employment Liaison Sub Committee. After Conference last year I assumed that role.

We had our first meeting in July of last year and unfortunately only six Regions sent representatives to this meeting. I was disappointed but what I discovered at that meeting was that the six people that were there had so much enthusiasm that it made the whole weekend a success. We were going to look at how we didn't do it last year but instead we came up with some developments of how we would like to do it this year as an Employment group.

Developments through the Year

- Amend guideline 18 to include employment
- Standard letter to employers
- Involvement with National Institutes
- Articles for Newsletter
- Participated with booths at the CIPD and TUC Conferences
- Articles have been submitted by Regional Employment Liaison Officers to AA Service News

All of these items have been accomplished over the last year and again we have come up with a list of things we would like to do this year.

Events in the Upcoming Year

- **NASUWT** (National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers), 11th-14th April, ICC Birmingham
- **UNISON** (Largest Public Service Union), 19th-23rd June, BIC Birmingham
- **TUC** (Trade Union Congress), 11th-14th September, Brighton Centre
- **CIPD** (Chartered Institute of Personnel Directors), 24th-26th October, Harrogate International Centre

The above are events we are already going to participate in at Employment level. The Fellowship, through their Regional Liaison Officers, volunteer to man these stands, GSO co-ordinates and rents the space and supplies the stand and literature which is handed out.

In the last couple of years these events have still taken place but we have not been there actively participating and this is what is new in Employment liaison. I cannot take credit for any of it apart from being part of the Committee.

What I would like is when you go back to your Regions is to try to get Employment Liaison officers to attend our meetings and be part of our group.

A lot of work has been accomplished by just a few and in AA most of us know that the more people we have participating the more we can accomplish.

Thank you to all the members of the Fellowship and GSO who help make this happen and I look forward to the next year.

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 Peter asking all to join him in saying the Serenity Prayer.

SUNDAY 23 APRIL

Peter welcomed everyone to the final session of Conference, asked for a few moments silence and read 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.

Peter 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 59 - 60
Committee No. 2	Pages 61 - 62
Committee No. 3	Pages 63 - 65
Committee No. 4	Pages 66 - 67
Committee No. 5	Pages 68 - 69
Committee No. 6	Pages 70 - 71

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR CONFERENCE 2007

The nominations received on Friday evening were presented and, after a vote, Chris F (London Region South) was duly elected.

RATIFICATION OF BOARD MEMBERS

(Ralph A, Chair GSB)

This is the ratification and goodbye of Trustees. We have two Trustees leaving us, one alcoholic and one non-alcoholic and I would like you to show your appreciation for all the very, very hard work they have done over the years. They are:

Bronwen Still	-	Non Alcoholic trustee
Tim S	-	South Midlands Region

Now the ratification of nine Trustees, starting with the non-alcoholic trustees and we have four:

Louise Foxcroft
David Munchin
Graham Verrall
Morgan O'Connell

The new alcoholic Trustees are:

Mari F	-	Eastern Region
Hugo D	-	East of Scotland Region
Vince O	-	South Midlands Region
Jim T	-	North West Region
James S	-	Highlands & Islands Region

Close of Conference

(Peter G)

“We have come to the end of our Conference but what I would like to ask you to do is give a hand of appreciation to our Board who serve our Fellowship but are not our servants.

Also those of you here today who have put in a great deal of work over the past year of time and your own money traveling to other places, you serve our Fellowship too, but you are no one’s servant.

All those liaison officers at Intergroup and Regions, throughout our Fellowship, who work so hard serving our Fellowship, I would like you to appreciate yourselves, everyone here today and them too.

Finally, last but not least, appreciate your staff at GSO because this Fellowship would crumble without them.

Thank you very much for the experiences I have had over the weekend. Wherever possible I will always try to do my best, Step 10 says I will fail often, but I will have no regrets and no sadness.

To close Conference this year, we have an Intergroup who have sent their final delegate, through Conference recommendations two years ago, and I ask Alan B from Jersey Intergroup to please come up and close our Conference”.

Alan closed Conference by asking everyone to join him in saying the Serenity Prayer.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT CONFERENCE

The Forty-Second General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain will be held at the Park Inn, North Street, York on 20-22 April 2007.

COMMITTEE No. 1

CHAIRMAN DAVE D SOUTH EAST REGION

SECRETARY CHRISTINE E-S NORTH EAST REGION

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

1. In the spirit of Love and Service how can the Fellowship forge better working practices throughout the service structure of AA with particular reference to Concepts One and Two.

In the interests of forging better working practices and in accordance with the spirit of Concept 1 and 2, and Traditions 2 and 9, this committee recommends that:

- Conference delegates be elected by GSRs at, or ratified at, regional assemblies and that Article 7 of the Conference Charter be amended to reflect this. A minority opinion was acknowledged.
- Topics to be discussed at Conference might actually reflect the concerns of group members and that the criteria for selecting conference topics be revised to accommodate this.
- Awareness of the Concepts should be enhanced, consideration of the creation of a 'Concepts roll-call' and promotion of the Concepts club to be given reference to the Concepts as listed in the AA Service Handbook of Great Britain.
- In order that Conference can truly act as the conscience of the Fellowship we recommend that Conference be extended by half a day, with the extra time being dedicated to plenary session to allow proper debate, understanding and scrutiny of all Board proposals.

Conference voted to reject these recommendations by a 2/3 plus majority

2. Review Guideline No. 20 'Archives'.

At the request of the Board, the committee did not discuss draft guideline No.20 (Archives). The Board member responsible for archives outlined the reasons for the guideline having been withdrawn, namely because the text provided had been incorrect.

3. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2007.

The Committee elected Tim W-M (South West Region) as Chairman of Committee No. 1 for Conference 2007.

4. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2007.

The Committee elected Gabriella A (Eastern Region) as Secretary of Committee No. 1 for Conference 2007.

COMMITTEE No. 2

CHAIRMAN ALEX M SCOTIA REGION

SECRETARY ISABELLE S CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN REGION

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

1. In the spirit of Love and Service how can the Fellowship forge better working practices throughout the service structure of AA with particular reference to Concepts Three, Four and Five.

The Committee acknowledges that we need to forge better working practices throughout the service structure of AA. This is evidenced by general apathy about service, too little knowledge of personal responsibility, lack of participation and involvement at all levels of service. The committee believes the core reason for this lies in the poor quality of communication and its lack of simplicity.

This Committee recommends:

1. That every level of service seeks to improve its communication with greater transparency, openness and better awareness with specific reference to Concepts 3, 4, 5.

2. That the Conference Steering Committee allocates time to Committee 2 at Conference 2007 to review progress in improving working practices throughout the service structure.

There were minority views recorded that the committee had failed to 1) adequately answer the question and 2) propose more specific recommendations.

(The recommendation was carried 11 votes for, with 1 against, and 5 abstentions.)

2. Would the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous Great Britain consider the principle of hosting a World Convention?

The Committee took the view that the question was about hosting a World Convention separate from the International Convention held in

North America every 5 years. The Committee voted unanimously against the principle of hosting a World Convention for the following reasons:

- Belief there would be insufficient support for such an event, both in terms of service and attendees.
- The 50th Anniversary Convention held in Blackpool in 1997 was not self-supporting.
- Concern it would divert resources, both people and money, from carrying AA's message to the still-suffering alcoholic.
- Convention-goers are a minority and are already well-served.

3. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2007.

The Committee elected Isabelle S of Continental European Region as Chairman of Committee No. 2 for Conference 2007.

4. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2007.

The Committee elected John F of South West Region as Secretary of Committee No. 2 for Conference 2007.

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

COMMITTEE No. 3

CHAIRMAN ROGER E SOUTH WEST REGION

SECRETARY ROGER W CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN REGION

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

1. In the spirit of Love and Service how can the Fellowship forge better working practices throughout the service structure of AA with particular reference to Concepts Six, Seven and Eight.

In the spirit of love and service, Committee 3 acknowledges the good work carried out by our trusted servants and the time and energy they devote to our Fellowship.

1. Financial Implications

The committee stresses the importance of groups, Intergroups, and Regions continuing to forward contributions via the service structure in order that the structure continue to operate efficiently.

2. Practical Implications

To enhance communication and understanding between the General Service Board and Conference, Committee 3 recommends the following additions to committee procedures. The following do not replace existing practices.

We recommend that each Conference committee be given specific service disciplines to deal with. Appropriate Trustees should be a part of the relevant committees;

We recommend that all Board proposals requiring Conference approval be made available to the general Fellowship via delegates, Regional Secretaries, and the official AA GB website by the end of February each year to allow proper discussion and consideration, except where this would contradict previous Conference decisions;

We recommend that questions from the Fellowship regarding such proposals be passed to Conference delegates by the end of March each year to be forwarded to the relevant Trustee;

We recommend the first hour of each Conference Committee's time be dedicated to discussion and review of the previous year's activities and proposals for the coming years in each discipline;

We recommend that all GSB Sub committees publish annually a clear 'Terms of Reference' document in *AA Service News*.

This committee also acknowledges the need to promote the Concepts throughout the Fellowship, and to this end it recommends the production of a Great Britain Concepts Checklist, and a Concepts Wall Scroll in addition to the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions scrolls currently used. We also suggest greater use of the AA website, *AA Service News*, and *Share/ Roundabout* to run features on the Concepts.

The committee also felt that holding regular Concepts workshops at Intergroups and Regions together with heightened awareness and more extensive use of the upside down triangle (which depicts the group as the active voice of the Fellowship) would go a long way to promoting wider understanding and involvement.

There was a strong feeling in the committee that the use of simpler language in Conference questions would increase participation of members at group level.

Overall Committee 3 believes the implementation of these recommendations can forge better working practice throughout the service structure of AA and will assist Trustees in the execution of their duties relating to custodial oversight.

The Committee vote was unanimous.

2. Review Guideline No. 10 'For AA members employed in the alcoholism field'.

The committee decided to accept the amended Guideline number 10 revised 2005 'For AA Members employed in the alcoholism field' with the following amendments:

Page one heading 2
Substitute 'SUGGESTIONS' FOR 'RECOMMENDATIONS'

Page one heading 2 paragraph 1 line 3 substitute 'undertaking' for 'tackling'

Page one heading 2 paragraph 2 line 3 remove 'regional and conference' substitute ' and at least regional'

Page three heading secrets of success, line 18 add 'but this may be minimized provided AA guidelines and Traditions are respected'

Page three heading experience, line 2, insert 'and at least Regional level' after 'Intergroup'

Page three heading meetings paragraph 2 line 7, insert after 'advice' 'themselves, they would direct them '

This was a majority vote of 12 to 3.

A minority opinion, that a review is necessary was acknowledged and that there was not enough time for full discussion.

3. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2007.

The Committee elected Roger W (Continental European Region) as Chairman of Committee No. 3 for Conference 2007.

4. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2007.

The Committee elected Steve E (North East Region) as Secretary of Committee No. 3 for Conference 2007.

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

COMMITTEE No. 4

CHAIRMAN ALLAN M GLASGOW REGION
SECRETARY PENNY A LONDON REGION

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

- 1. In the spirit of Love and Service how can the Fellowship forge better working practices throughout the service structure of AA with particular reference to Concept Nine.**

Committee 4 feels that the present service structure of AA is not fulfilling the needs of the Fellowship.

We recommend that the Board set up an independent committee from within the Fellowship to include representation from:

- The Board
- Staff workers
- Regions
- Intergroups
- Conference representatives
- Service representatives

to review current working practices throughout the service structure by addressing the following:

1. The Conference service framework.
2. Communications within the service structure at all levels.
3. How we choose and support our service leaders.

(Quote from Bill W *Introduction to Concepts*)

'New service needs and problems will arise that may make structural changes necessary. Such alterations should certainly be effected, and these contingencies squarely met.'

The Committee formed are asked to report back to Conference 2007.

Conference voted not to accept these recommendations by a majority. A minority view was expressed and noted.

2. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2007.

The Committee elected Penny A of London Region as Chairman of Committee No. 4 for Conference 2007.

3. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2007.

The Committee elected Rachel M of South East Region as Secretary of Committee No. 4 for Conference 2007.

COMMITTEE No. 5

CHAIRMAN JONNO T LONDON REGION

SECRETARY WYN J NORTH WEST REGION

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

1. In the spirit of Love and Service how can the Fellowship forge better working practices throughout the service structure of AA with particular reference to Concepts Ten and Eleven.

This committee recommends:

- a) that regions and intergroups hold Concepts' workshops. This decision was unanimous.
- b) That the Literature Committee develop literature on the Concepts as they apply to the Great Britain service structure.
- c) That the Conference Steering Committee consider linking Board reports and proposals to Conference committees in order to promote mutual understanding; eg, that Board reports/proposals are outlined to a Conference committee review prior to presentation to Conference. This will enable Board members to have ample opportunity to address questions or matters arising in a full and informed manner.

There was a minority view expressed – one member felt that the Board Reports should not be subjected to a Conference Committee review prior to presentation to Conference.

- d) That the Conference Steering Committee consider extending the length of Conference.

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

- a) Delete 1st paragraph and replace with:

Alcoholic Trustees are initially elected for a maximum term of four years. Alcoholic Trustees elected to the Executive Committee may serve a maximum term of six years as a Trustee.

NATs (non-alcoholic Trustees) serve for four years with an option of a second four-year term by mutual agreement, giving a maximum of eight years under all circumstances.

In principle, the term of office on the Executive Committee should be a maximum of four years.

- b) After "The officers of the General Service Board" delete "are" and insert "(The Executive Committee) consists of."
- c) In paragraph beginning "The Chair," delete "(see below)" from end of second line.
- d) Delete last paragraph.
- e) Add Footnote: "These guidelines are compatible with the Articles of Association."

The decisions of the committee were unanimous.

3. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2007.

The Committee elected Willie M (Highlands and Islands Region) as Chairman of Committee No. 5 for Conference 2007.

4. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2007.

The Committee elected Neil J (South Midlands Region) as Secretary of Committee No. 5 for Conference 2007.

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

COMMITTEE No. 6

CHAIRMAN CHRIS F LONDON REGION SOUTH
SECRETARY SHEILA D NORTH EAST REGION

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

1. In the spirit of Love and Service how can the Fellowship forge better working practices throughout the service structure of AA with particular reference to Concept Twelve.

In the spirit of love and service Committee 6 recommends:

1. Review and rewrite "Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated" pamphlet to reflect the service structure within AA Great Britain.
2. Produce a laminated card depicting the service structure of AA Great Britain.
3. Restructure Conference to better address the needs of the Fellowship by:
 - a. The Fellowship be invited to raise any topical issues they wish to be considered by Conference.
 - b. A number of Committees be designated to discuss, share experience and, if appropriate, make recommendations.

The decision of the Committee was unanimous.

Conference passed these recommendations with a two-thirds plus majority. A minority view was expressed and noted.

2. Would Conference share their experience on how Groups finance the purchase of Share, Roundabout, literature and other items etc?

This Committee shared its experience on how groups use AA monies.

The consensus is that we, as a Fellowship, raise awareness of finance issues:-

- a. The Literature Committee review:
Guideline 12 Finance
Guideline 2 Group Officers
- b. Replace the non-Conference-approved pamphlet "The Pot".

This decision was unanimous.

Conference voted to accept these recommendations by a majority.

3. Elect Committee Chairman for Conference 2007.

The Committee elected Barry W of Eastern Region as Chairman of Committee No. 6 for Conference 2007.

4. Elect Committee Secretary for Conference 2007.

The Committee elected Peter F of South East Region as Secretary of Committee No. 6 for Conference 2007.

FORTY-FIRST GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2006

LIST OF DELEGATES

CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN: PETER G (South East Region)

GENERAL SERVICE BOARD

		COMMITTEE NUMBER	TERM OF SERVICE
Ralph	A		
Roger	B	5	
David	C	6	
Jerry	C	4	
Andy	C	3	
Ian	D	1	
Mari	F	6	
Archie	G	3	
John	L	3	
David	M	4	
Polly	M-P	1	
Vince	O	5	
Ann	S	6	
Tim	S	2	
Charles	W	2	
Louise Foxcroft		1	
David Munchin		2	
Bronwen Still		5	
Carol Titley		1	
Graham Verrall		3	

GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE STAFF

Ann N General Secretary
Sharon Smyth
Chris North
Elaine Pickering
Angela Varley
Helen Lambeth
John H (Southern Service Office)
Caroline D (Northern Service Office)

SHARE

Laurie	A	2	1
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ROUNDAABOUT

James	K	6	1
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**COMMITTEE
NUMBER**

**TERM OF
SERVICE**

EASTERN REGION

Gabriella	A	1	1
Tony	W	2	2
		3	
Margaret	J	4	1
Terry	W	5	1
Barry	W	6	2

LONDON REGION

Miranda	McD	1	3
Jim	W	2	3
Danny	L	3	A
Penny	A	4	2
Jonno	T	5	3
Guy	C	6	1

LONDON SOUTH REGION

Simon	N	1	A
Ron	B	2	2
Kevin	M	3	2
Jackie	M	4	3
Neil	K	5	2
Chris	F	6	3

MIDLANDS REGION

Dave	A	1	A
Bob	K	2	A
Val	G	3	3
Roy	K	4	1
Robin	M	5	A
Bill	B	6	3

NORTH EAST REGION

Christine	E-S	1	2
Tony	O	2	A
Steve	E	3	2
John	C	4	1
Rene	D	5	1
Sheila	D	6	3

**COMMITTEE
NUMBER**

**TERM OF
SERVICE**

NORTH WEST REGION

Marilyn	R	1	1
Lesley	B	2	2
Ingrid	K-K	3	2
Tom	P	4	A
Wyn	J	5	2
William	O	6	1

SOUTH EAST REGION

Dave	D	1	3
Carol	B	2	2
Ian	C	3	3
Rachel	M	4	2
Alex	M	5	1
Peter	F	6	1

SOUTH MIDLANDS REGION

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

SOUTH WEST REGION

Tim	W-M	1	1
John	F	2	1
Roger	E	3	3
Pat	C	4	1
Alexis	K	5	3
Ron	G	6	1

WALES & BORDERS REGION

Owen	M	1	3
Beth	O	2	3
Wynford	O	3	1
Vida	J	4	2
Jean	Mc	5	2
Judy	F	6	1

**COMMITTEE
NUMBER**

**TERM OF
SERVICE**

EAST OF SCOTLAND REGION

Sandy	O	1	2
Maureen	W	2	1
Hugo	D	3	3
Jim	R	4	1
Geoff	T	5	1
Hugh	H	6	2

GLASGOW REGION

Roseann	W	1	2
Marilyn	C	2	2
Allan	S	3	1
Allan	M	4	3
Andrina	C	5	1
Susan	C	6	A

HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS REGION

Maureen	F	1	1
		2	
		3	
Alex	P	4	2
Willie	Mac	5	2
Jeremy	W	6	2

SCOTIA REGION

Pat	L	1	3
Alex	M	2	3
Betty	S	3	1
Anthony	N	4	1
Kay	D	5	A
Margaret	M	6	1

SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND REGION

Michael	O	1	3
Bryan	O'R	2	2
Anne	McD	3	2
John	H	4	1
Cate	T	5	1
Wullie	I	6	3

		COMMITTEE NUMBER	TERM OF SERVICE
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CONTINENTAL EUROPEAN REGION

Greg	H	1	1
Isabelle	S	2	2
Roger	W	3	2
David	N	4	1
David	A	5	1
Andrew	G	6	1

JERSEY INTERGROUP

Alan	B	4	3
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OBSERVERS

Richard	P	(Belgium – French Speaking)	2	1
Lisbeth	C	(Denmark)	2	2
Vini	J	(Denmark)	4	1
Seamus	B	(Ireland)	1	1
Patrick	K	(Ireland)	5	1
Domas	S	(Lithuania)	1	1
Antanas	B	(Lithuania)	5	1
Jacek	C	(Poland)	3	1
Krystyna	K	(Poland)	3	1
Fatima	O	(Portugal)	6	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>LRS</i>	-	<i>London Region South</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>RTLO</i>	-	<i>Regional Telephone Liaison Officer</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>SWOT</i>	-	<i>Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities Threats</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.

