



**Minutes of the North West Branch Training Event and AGM
Thursday 25th June 2015**

Held at Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Training Centre

Attendees:

Name	Name
Mark Taylor (Chair)	Jenny Jones
Andrew Swapp (Secretary)	Norman Powell
Bernard Kershaw (Events Co-ordinator)	Gill Dickson
Julie Ferguson	Simon Woodcock
Sarah Riley	Fraser Smith
Mark Bartlett	Karl Astbury
Billy Royle	Andrew Bidolak
Cath Nally	Tony Thompson
Jo Tarpey	West Midlands Branch

Apologies: Dave Hooley, Sally Seed, Suzanne Pritchard, Nic Mayor, Keith Preston, Rachel Hutchinson, Andy Eadon, Andrew Sharrock, Ewan Hall, Neil Furness, Collette Taylor.

<p>1. Welcome & Introductions</p> <p>The chair welcomed all attendees and introductions were made.</p>	
<p>2. A presentation- 'Nepal Earthquake and Response' was delivered by Stuart Devereux from Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service. The presentation provided an excellent insight into the role of the United Kingdom International Search and Rescue Team (UK-ISAR) and in particular his experience of leading a team of six CF&RS staff and a rescue dog as part of a 67 strong International Search and Rescue Team, the presentation went through the process from receiving the initial request from the Nepalese Government for assistance through to their withdrawal.</p> <p>3. Helen Palfrey from GMP- the NW Casualty Bureau Coordinator delivered a presentation on the regionally funded North West Casualty Bureau explaining its role in supporting relatives and friends of victims and the investigation role in any major disaster home or abroad involving</p> <p>4. Tony Thompson – National Chair Emergency Planning Society was welcomed to the meeting and then went on to provide an informative update on the work of the EPS nationally and the vision for the future in increasing the profile of the Society within the Civil Contingencies world and at a Cabinet Office level.</p> <p>Lunch was then provided courtesy of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service</p>	<p>Actions</p>



5. Annual General Meeting:	Action
<p>Mark Taylor the Chair opened the AGM by welcoming members.</p> <p>Mark provided the Chairs report which included details on the work undertaken by the Branch Executive over the previous 12 months and the events and activities arranged including the joint event with Yorkshire and Humberside Branch held at Warrington.</p> <p>Mark then went on to report on Branch membership numbers and how they had fluctuated over the last few years. Mark highlighted a number of factors including the financial cuts in the public sector which had impacted on the figures below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• March 2013 – 150• August 2014 – 106• June 2015 - 110 <p>The 2015 membership comprised of a number of levels:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Associate - 66• Member – 35• Fellow – 6• Retired - 3 <p>Mark discussed the upgrade to the EPS CPD system on the website and the need to encourage and promote the progression to member level status. This could be achieved through upgrade workshops.</p> <p>Branch Finance:</p> <p>It was reported that Finance for the Branch was now administered centrally by the EPS Head Office. This did away with the need for individual branches to keep their own accounts. Instead an annual grant from Head Office was made to enable the Branch to fund and run activities for its membership.</p> <p>The formula used for the grant and the figures for 2015 are as follows:-</p> <p>No of Paid-up Members as at 31.03.15 – 98 members Standard Grant- £200.00 Grant per Member- (£3.50) £343.00 Total 2015 Branch Grant- £543.00</p> <p>Election of Officers</p> <p>Mark explained that he had been appointed as Director of Branches for the EPS National Executive Board and due to the additional responsibilities was standing down as Branch Chair. As a result an email had been circulated to Branch members for expressions of interest in the role of Chair. One person had submitted a nomination</p>	



that being the current Branch Secretary Andrew Swapp. Andy was duly appointed Chair. The following roles on the Branch Executive were also agreed:-

Julie Ferguson - Vice Chair

Jenny Jones - Secretary/Treasurer

Rachel Hutchinson - Communications Officer

Bernard Kershaw - Training and Development Co-ordinator

Members at the meeting then expressed their appreciation to the outgoing Chair Mark Taylor for all the hard work that had been undertaken by him during the last two years. Mark had shown great leadership as chair in increasing the number of Branch activities as well as member communications during his period in office. Nationally the Society had gone through a difficult period of change and Mark had sought to ensure that member's interests were represented nationally. Mark was wished well for the future in his national Director role.

Any Other Business

A discussion took place between members regarding future activities and various ideas were discussed. The view of the group was that future activities should be geographically varied across the region to spread the travel requirements evenly between members. It was hoped this would encourage attendance by the wider membership. Bernard Kershaw put forward a suggestion regarding using Cumbria Fire and Rescue facilities for the next activity with presentations by Resilience Direct and Mountain Rescue a possibility. It was agreed to pursue this suggestion.

Bernard Kershaw to progress Cumbria event with his contacts

Next Meeting:

Meeting dates to be confirmed.

Action

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