



DEC 2014

**The In house Magazine of the Association of
Intervarsity clubs**

**Sharing news and best practice from around the
regions**

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UPDATING YOUR CLUB DETAILS

Please help us to keep in touch. Have any details regarding your club changed? Are you no longer the Chair. Please update your clubs details on the AIVC website. An article on how to do this was included in the August issue of Newslines. If you have any problems please contact the AIVC webmaster Peter Norris at

E-mail webmaster@ivc.org.uk

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CHAIRMANS CHAT

Hilary Brown (Birmingham IVC)

chairman@ivc.org.uk

Welcome to the fourth bi-monthly edition of Newslines.

Firstly, I would like to wish you all A Merry Christmas.



Conference 2015

Birmingham IVC will be hosting the Conference for 2015.

It will be held at The Hilton Garden Inn on 24-26 April 2015. A small but well appointed hotel in the centre of the city. The theme for this year is **"Dress to Impress"** ladies welcome to wear ball gowns / evening dress and gentlemen dinner jackets.



There are budget hotels close by if members would wish to stay in alternative accommodation and attend as day delegates. The two closest within walking distance of the Hilton Garden Inn are:

Travelodge Birmingham Central, 230 Broad St, Birmingham B15 1AY Tel: 0871 984 6064

Double currently from £64 - £90 for the two nights

Premier Inn Birmingham Broad St. Brindley Place, 80 Broad St, Birmingham B15 1AU Tel:

0871 527 8076

Double currently from £84 - £183 for the two nights.

The format remains the same this year to allow delegates and guests to have time to socialise and network with members from other clubs.

Details for booking are included in this Newslines and will also be in the December AIVC Events Bulletin, and on the AIVC website. Book early to avoid disappointment as places are limited. AIVC offer a subsidy for up to two delegates per club. Additional delegates can attend and guests are very welcome to come along to the social events on the Friday and Saturday evenings.

It would be nice to see all our clubs attending. Birmingham is a central location and has a wealth of history, interesting places to visit and activities to offer. Please come along and join other club members in helping to shape IVC for the future.

Regional Gathering London

Our second Regional Gathering took place in London on 22 November 2014. It was held on a yacht on the Thames. It was a pleasure to welcome members from clubs in the South and South East.

London IVC hosted the event and also organised a very interesting modern architecture walk and enjoyable meal at The Strand Palace Hotel. Thanks also to Suzie Silver and Jude Milton who organised a walk on The Paddington Bear Trail and a visit to the poppies at The Tower.

Thank you to Ann Jones from London IVC for organising the event.

York Weekend and Regional Gathering

The next Regional Gathering will be held in York on Sunday morning 8 February 2015. This will be part of a weekend away organised by Peter Howe. We will be staying at The York Racecourse in the stable hands' quarters.

**Please book your places for these events via the AIVC website www.ivc.org.uk
Details can be found for both events under the "National Events" tab.**

Please give consideration within your clubs to the discussion topics and come along to share your views with other members so that your club's views can be included in our overall report to next AGM.

The discussion topics from the previous Gatherings and a copy of the presentation that I gave at the London Gathering can be found on the AIVC website under the tab "For IVC Clubs" in the section Regional Gatherings.

If you have any pressing topics that you would like to discuss please let me know so that they can be included in the discussions.

The York Gathering is combined with a social event. This is what IVC is all about - a national organisation that gives opportunities to all the members in the country to share experiences.

I would love to welcome and meet as many clubs as possible so do come along and enjoy a drink and buffet with your fellow IVCers.

Events

The IVC Events document continues to grow. More clubs are sharing their activities and enjoying the company of IVC members from all over the country. Please continue to share your events and participate.

Website

Development of the IVC website continues.

Please forward any comments/reviews to Sarah Davis the AIVC Publicity/Web Liaison Officer, or Pete Norris the Web Master so that we can further improve the website. Contact details can be found on the AIVC website.

AIVC Insurance

The AIVC Policy has been renewed. A copy can be found on the AIVC website.

I am always happy to hear from members so please get in touch.

And finally, a Christmas message from Richard Keoghoe, Plymouth IVC, can be found on the website.

I hope it brings some Christmas Cheer!



Editors Note

I see from the most recent copy of the events bulletin that some poor deluded soul thinks that Birmingham is the centre of the universe. Centre of England maybe, but centre of the universe **definitely not**. That honour is OF COURSE held by **London** with perhaps Yorkshire coming a close second!! ! Nonetheless Birmingham will be a splendid destination for next year's conference. I have already sent out the booking form but it is also attached with this newsletter. Booking forms can also be found & downloaded from both the National website (www.ivc.org.uk) and the aivcfuture website (aivcfuture.agoria.co.uk). Being such a central location our chair Hilary Brown and the rest of the AIVC committee hope that there will be a record turnout. Look forward to meeting you there.



AIVC FUTURE

REGIONAL GATHERINGS

As mentioned above in Chairman's Chat the next gathering will be in York on Sun 8th Feb. It is combined with a social weekend in York. Full details can be found on the national website under the national events tab. Full details of the issues under discussion be found on the aivcfuture website. If you would like to contribute to the discussion please either send your contribution to me Ann at aivannc2014b@yahoo.co.uk for publication in the next issue of newlines or to Bob Clifford at development@ivc.org.uk who will publish it on line.

MORE ON MEETUP

How we have implemented 'Meet up' and our feedback

Chris Souch
Chairman Norwich and Norfolk IVC
Chair @NorwichIVC.org.uk

After attending the AIVC conference almost two years ago it was brought to Norwich's attention that a few other IVC clubs had started using 'Meet up' to advertise events.

At this time we had found that our new member enquiries via the website had slowed up considerably. Our peak years were 2006 – 2008 where we would receive around 12 – 18 enquiries a month. Back in 2012 it had slowed to 6-8 per month even though we had changed our website and tried Facebook.

Soon after the AIVC conference the Norwich committee agreed to a trial period of using 'Meet up'. Victoria Holland, our web developer signed up to it for around £70 a year and set about linking it with the IVC website and explaining how it links to the main club. We initially decided on 'Norwich 20s and 30s'. After a few days people started to join and this has continued to a staggering 259 members to date. We have around 40 of them who are also members of IVC.

After attending the Cardiff conference we learnt that you can have a further two 'Meet up' groups for no extra charge so we have set up 'Norwich 25s to 45s' and 'Fat Cat Friday'. For those of you that attended the Norwich conference in 2008 you will remember the award winning real ale pub which has won CAMRA awards twice. We have 29 members in this group and 72 in the 25s to 45s group.

We have recently tried traditional methods of advertising in newsagents, shop windows and leaflets on noticeboards. We also have the large banner going through Norwich on the Lords Mayors street procession where we've had two enquiries. So all in all traditional advertising and posters do not work for us.

'Meet up' has transformed our club. We have some strict rules to keep it as a link to the parent club 'Norwich IVC'. We have not forgotten that the idea is to support IVC not IVC supporting 'Meet up' apart from the subscription. We have a golden rule that the only events allowed on 'Meet up' are club nights which are now called 'pub nights' (and Christmas party). When new members turn up we give them a bulletin and say they are very welcome to attend the IVC events as a prospective member. However their trial period then starts once they come along to a non 'Meet up' event. After a couple of months we then ask them to join. Out of all the members that have started at a 'Meet up' event everyone has joined who has come along to IVC events except one. The committee had to say to him he was welcome to continue with the pub nights but not the other events unless he joined to

be fair to the IVC members. We do have just pub night members who have not joined but one day they may do so.

Conclusion

'Meet up' has transformed our club. It has brought many new members and stabilised our membership numbers currently at 66. This is slowly creeping up. But over a third of this figure is all new members. We also have a 'Meet up' coordinator position on the committee to keep an eye on new members and post new events. The big thing for us is the massive increase in event attendance. I can honestly say we are in double figures for all pub nights (recently 27 and a non-bulletin night).

We have had three negatives. Some established members didn't like the idea of prospective members coming along from another group but they have seen the positives so less negatives now. The one person mentioned earlier who didn't want to join IVC but was happy to attend events, but this is rare and a one off. Finally we do find that on the whole 'Meet up' members are not as committed to events. Even if they do regularly turn up and join IVC we do find it hard to recruit them to the committee more so than if we had recruited them via the traditional IVC website. Maybe it's just a coincidence but on the whole original 'Meet up' members only commit at the last minute generally (there are exceptions). I would like to say a big thank you to Pete Norris for suggesting the idea, it has saved Norwich IVC as I feel we would be down to 40 something members by now. If any clubs are reading this and want further information please email me and I do my best to help you.

Editors Note

Well done to Norwich for taking up so much meetup space in their area, so making it more difficult for future competitors.

There seems to me to be two take home messages

- 1) The first and perhaps the most important - You never know what you might learn at conference that will be of benefit to your club. So if you've never been before make a New Years Resolution to attend the 2015 conference in Birmingham.
- 2) Meetup is a facility that should be embraced to enhance IVC. Think about having more than one Meetup group associated with your club. The Meetup group could be based on geography (as in London where we have a N London & E. London meet your neighbour groups), age range(whatever that may be) or interest (eg arts, wining and dining, cycling etc).

Should AIVC have a meetup group? Should our national event go on it? Send your views to me at aivannc201b@yahoo.co.uk & I will publish them in the next edition of newslines.

AIVC Public Liability Insurance and Meetup

Bob Clifford

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I was asked recently by a member club to comment on a matter relating to our AIVC Public Liability Insurance (PLI). The question raised concerns whether our insurance would provide PLI cover for people who are only registered on a clubs Meetup group(s) and not in the clubs membership system.

Unfortunately, at the present I am unable give any definitive guidance on this and would welcome any further feedback and comment from anyone else that can shed further light on the matter. I have made a request for a call back from the Association of British Insurers to see what their view is on this matter.

The following is my understanding of the situation and specifically what is required in order for a member of AIVC to be covered by our PLI against any third party claims made against them either as an organiser or participant in a club event. I believe that in order to be covered by the PLI, the club they belong to would need to hold a certain minimum amount of contact information such as a landline phone number and email address relating to the person taking part in an event. This is to allow that should any property damage or injury claim be made by a third party against the person, the club and the insurance company are able to communicate directly with the person concerned in order to resolve cover against the claim.

This is the main issue that I am concerned about with regards to our PLI. The reason for this is that Meetup does not provide ANY contact details for people who are only registered with a club through the Meetup system. As a Meetup organiser for Basingstoke Cafe Scientifique and Active Hampshire, I am aware that Meetup only provides me with an internal private message system to group members that does not disclose any personal contact details.

Although the people registered on Meetup may appreciate the personal privacy that this affords to them, I am concerned it may also invalidate any PLI cover we are able to offer such people. The reason is that only being registered in Meetup means that contact with the person can be effectively disabled by the person resigning from Meetup and thus losing any mechanism for contacting the person concerned. I believe we definitely need more definitive guidance on this matter ... which I think may have to come from our brokers or our Insurance company.

In the meantime, I think it may therefore be prudent if clubs were to ensure that any people who are only registered in a clubs Meetup group are not encouraged to organise events where there is some degree of risk of injury or damage to the property of a third party. This would certainly include any active events such as walks and any events held in peoples homes or private premises where a claim for property damage or injury may arise. I would also further advise clubs to consider ensuring that where such "meetup only" members do take part in such activities, the persons details are recorded so they can be registered in some form of back office membership system. Such systems could include those provided

by the Agoria and ActivityForum software membership management tools, ActivityExchange and by other office tools like MS Excel or Access.

Further comments and guidance on this matter would be appreciated if you can add any further information.

APOLOGY & APPEAL

First of all apologies for the late arrival of this issue of Newslines. I had hoped to put it to bed and sent out before Christmas but life unfortunately got the better of me. Thus our Chairs Christmas wishes are somewhat belated & I am sure she won't mind me instead wishing you a Happy New Year.

Secondly an appeal. Without News, there would be no Newslines for your enjoyment and information. Apart from committee news I am dependant on you the reader for articles. Do please help to make Newslines lively and interesting by sending me your articles.

Suggested topics are:-

- *From our own correspondent* – a report on an interclub event that you attended
- *Marketing* – how you go about this, what works, what doesn't work
- *Events* – Do you organise any novel events that might be of interest to other clubs. At one conference I heard of a story writing event but have forgotten the details.
- *AIVC future* – what's good about AIVC, what's not so good
- Issues around the age of club members – Are your club members on average under 40? How will you maintain this average age? What will you do viz a viz your membership when your reach 40. Is everybody pushing 60 and beyond? How do you feel about this? What are you doing to attract younger members? Should we be worried?

The above are just a few suggestions, don't be limited by them.

Articles for publication should be sent to me, Ann, at aivannc2014b@yahoo.co.uk

AIVC COMMITTEE 2014 -2015

<p>Chair: Hilary Brown (Birmingham IVC)</p> 	<p>Treasurer: Michelle Workman (Norwich and Norfolk IVC)</p>
<p>Secretary: Philip Allen (Sheffield IVC)</p> 	<p>News Officer: Ann Jones (London IVC)</p>
<p>Club Liaison: Jacqui Roote (Sheffield IVC and Suffolk IVC)</p> 	<p>National Development Officer: Bob Clifford (Active Hampshire)</p> 
<p>National Events Co-Ordinator: Peter Howe (Birmingham IVC)</p>	<p>National Publicity Advisor: Sarah Davis (Cambridgeshire IVC)</p>