

## CA UK Special Area Meeting January 18, 2005

1 David Area Chair Welcome  
A Moments silence for the still suffering Addict inside and outside the Meeting

2. Introduction of New Members to the Meeting

3. Apologies for absence:

E & R – Ben

Louise

Nick – Palmers Green

Paul - Chairperson Unity

Johno – Bristol

Joel – Wednesday night Enfield

Kyra

David – Southgate – Friday

David Area Chair gave details of what the Special Area Meeting is about. He explained that the UK Delegates were to get information and bring it back. Question from the Floor – What are the New Areas?

Nick I – The New Areas are Holland, Scotland, Sweden and Hong Kong

Nick I – Referred to the **Chart of Service Structure of CA** and outlined the following:

**REASONS FOR BECOMING CA EUROPE together with REASONS AGAINST:**

CA UK at present is part of the very large North Atlantic Region  
We now have 74 plus meetings in the UK. We are expanding.  
If we become part of Europe, we would benefit from “hands on” leadership. Nick went into details of the difficulties of emails. Emails are impersonal.

It is easier to talk through problems then via email. Emails are impersonal.

Nick I. explained that he spends a lot of time on the phone.

We are privileged to have our Trustee in England at the moment.

Area Delegates would come together a couple of times a year for a Regional meeting.

Delegates are funded by Areas and the Trustee by World.

**Jason – does the rest of Atlantic North suffer because our Trustee, Jackie is in the UK?**

**Are we sending too much money? If we are, then maybe we should look at how we are spending the money here.**

## **Why do we need to be part of Europe? How does this comply with Tradition 5?**

Jackie (Trustee) – explained that, in particular, looking at the question of whether she serves the all the meetings in North America and Canadian parts of the Region. For example when do Connecticut call here, they have only three meetings and this has been the same for the last 12/14 years. It does not cost the UK any additional money – as Regions do not have bank accounts or maintain any formal structure. A Regional Trustees expenses are covered by a budget approved at the conference and managed and financed thru world services that the Atlantic North is huge – covers three continents and a new region would allow the Areas participation and better communication and allow the Regional Trustee to do what they are supposed to do in terms of visiting and supporting the Areas within their Regions.

**Is she helping them? Is she serving them? Would someone better serve CA over there who could drive to see him or her?** Jackie explained that she had given a lot of thought to these questions.

## **Wouldn't it be better to help the still suffering addict here?**

Nick is looking to the future. We could try and support others

**Is CA (Europe) going to get bigger??** Bigger means more money, usually.

He explained that when he came into CA there were only 7 meetings and now we have 74 meetings.

David – Area Chair – we have a prudent reserve of £2,500, which includes a certain amount for H & I.

Jackie (Trustee) read out what a “Region” is from the World Service Manuel.

Jackie – If there is CA Europe you have someone to articulate the European standpoint. It is not a question of money. A Region does not have a bank account or have officers. It s a question of participation and communication.

## **Mark – US is quite inward looking. What actually changes there? Does anything actually change?**

If Nick speaks as a Delegate for Europe he will be one of 7. Apart from Jackie, they are all American. Jackie has to fight for some points – i.e. can we print our own pamphlets?

Jackie – She has had the privilege of being the 1st trustee outside World. It allows for participation on the WSBT from the Areas outside of the USA.

## **How are we going to try and carry the message?**

Jackie keeps World focused on the need for translations into other European languages. Jackie is concerned for the Addict. It is important that when an Addict goes into an Amsterdam Meeting she/he can find out “Who is a Cocaine Addict” in Dutch. She says the US do not fully

understand this although they try. She does not believe in the finances. We should not get caught up in this.  
Nick I. – we may make back the £4,000 because of the Regional Convention held once per year.

Nick I.– A Region is not like an Area on a big scale. It does not have a Treasurer, H & I does not start new meetings but it does provide structure for inter-area communication and to appoint a Trustee.

It is not the case that people do not come over to the UK. Nick is going to Sweden.

The point is that it is about the next Trustee after Jackie rotates out and our growth in terms of number of meetings and Areas.

**Do we, in the UK/Europe, have a concern that the next Trustee may not be able to support us properly?**

**Is it a concern that the current Trustee cannot support people on the other side of Atlantic?**

From the Floor:

US people know how to use a crack pipe and how to read a Big Book. We have a Royalty Agreement.

**Sitting in London, How can we say US have not supported us?**

Kevin – vaguely for but it needs a lot more thought and discussion and his point relates to Nick and the figures he mentions.

Kevin – To say that we will make an extra £4,000 as a result of becoming a Region is not the case.

If it were not for US people coming over we wouldn't be here now.

**Is there anyone here from any of the other Areas?**

David – Area Chair – Jackie has to go to all the other Areas.

Jackie – we are simply seeing how the UK responds at this stage.

**Where did this idea come from?**

Jackie (Trustee) replied that at the World Service Conference last year there were many questions from delegates in other parts of CA. They enquired about when they would be seeing a new Region etc.?

Jackie reminded the Floor that she is here to serve and not here to decide.

The Idea has come from the World Conference delegates and it is also supported by the other Areas in Europe.

**Why should we support Europe?**

**Why should we support non-English countries?**

This is “one-way” traffic – let Europe look after itself.

**Why should we support Sweden?**

We have no meetings in Hull etc?

He sees himself as English. He does not associate himself with Europe.

Re – US – would AA do this? Richard k.

**Why can't we form a UK Region?**

**In the last 6 months we only sent £1,000 – not £6,000**

David – Area Chair – UK's responsibility is to support meetings in the UK

Any money we make goes towards World

Phillip (Delegate) – at present we are spread over Europe and a large portion of America and Canada.

David – Area Chair – suggested that we go back to Delegates and get written

answers to them all.

Richard k. says that this is One Way Traffic. There are only US Speakers at Conventions.

**How many times has an English person gone to America?**

**How many meetings World Wide?**

There are approx 2,000 and we have only 75 meetings.

**Why do we have to be a part of World Service?**

**Ian – How are we helping the Newcomer?**

Area  
people  
Ian – does not feel American but does feel European. He explained that comes together and looks after Hackney. He says that he identifies with

in Holland and Sweden. Ian says we are condensing our Region and bringing it to this side of the World.

Let's Get With The Times

Trustee.  
David – Area Chair – it is all about Inter-Area Communication and

**Are we practising our Tradition 5?**

In "God's Time" – not our time.

really  
Phillip – Delegate - He has always seen the need for an Area. World is

necessary to write Literature and to write guidelines.

the face-

encouragement and

support is crucial.

UK. This

is not quick process. It will be a couple of years before it happens.

It is not a one-way street. We support each other.

We should not get hung up on the money. Money will take care of itself.  
It is secondary to the idea.  
It is down to the Groups. If the Groups don't want to then it won't happen.  
There has to be the desire for it. If there is no enthusiasm and time is not right it won't happen. Maybe this information gathering exercise will go out and we will get somewhere.

Jack – Delegate - Feels more European than US.  
If what has happened in UK is a good example then CA in Europe will spread quickly.

Jackie - Trustee  
She first looked at Board Level in May 2004 and started to realise basically how silly it was in terms of geography compared to the rest of the Board Members.

The feeling was that one day hopefully we would have Regions all over the World. As we grow it is hoped that there will be more Regions it is a good thing. There is nothing to fear – we can only benefit from growth.

Her job is to let us know  
It is up to GSR's to bring information back to their Groups and then ask her

What her thoughts are. She thought she would definitely support it.  
The process takes time.

**ADD** She does not see it as breaking things up. She sees it as letting us grow. It will not cost the UK Area any money – Regional Trustee expenses are covered by World Services. The fact is that the Atlantic North region is now the size of two regions and it is only a matter of time before they are split into two. One would cover the North American and Canadian Areas and the other this side of the Atlantic. The number of Areas, number of meetings and geography make this necessary in order to have communication and participation between Areas and within World Services.

There is an explosion going on. World Services want to see us grow.  
Refer to her handout. If we as an Area decide we want to go ahead with this

Process she is happy to assist. Otherwise she would be happy to leave it to another time or day – whatever we want.

Arthur – maybe whole structure needs to be looked at from the very top.  
Joey – respects everything in room tonight but lots more to discuss in terms of joining and making Europe as a region – point about money is irrelevant – in terms of Tradition 5 – each group should be fully self-supporting – not Region – translate that into Step 12 – we are straying off point –

**Is this going to benefit CA as a whole?** He believes it is as a way of bringing Europe closer.

David – Weymouth – question for Nick is that we watch the whole of the World becoming the North Atlantic Region. Nick replied – This is a timing issue.

**When is the time right?**

Time is right when absolutely clear that timing is right.

David – Area Chair – counted GSR's and DSR's.

Only 11 GSR's and 1 DSR present.

Nick s – it should all be about Jackie's identity. Pointless to go on about the difference with US.

We must start it for positive reasons and language used would lead to US v Europe.

Chris – follows Joey - £4,000 money is going to World Service anyway.

If we become a Region we will be able to carry message a lot easier.

Chris feels that re: Jackie's position we will be better represented at World and we can concentrate solely on carrying message.

**Andrea – when do we go back to our Groups with this?**

David – Area Chair said that Area Secretary is to type up these questions from the Floor and give back to the Delegates.

Jason – He is here for the purpose of taking information back to his group

**Nick s – given the current situation, do the World Delegates feel that they have gained useful contacts with Experience, Strength and Hope from other parts of North Atlantic Region?**

[Tradition 7 passed around](#)  
[Serenity Prayer](#)