

Vice President Report from Gerry Edwards for NAGM 2025

As many members will know 2024 was a hard year for me personally and I would like to thank those of you who supported me during the difficult times. As a result I wasn't able to get out and about as much as I would have wished and most particularly at the 2024 NAGM. However, I'm now trying to get my life back in some sort of sensible order and attend Plus events when I am able to. I do hope that you all have been able to understand my situation.

Nevertheless, although I wasn't able to many events in person I have kept a close watch on what is happening through the varied Zoom meetings and what a wonderful tool this has been for me. I have attended NEC meetings via Zoom and to me, it does seem that we get a better attendance meeting this way although in person meetings are so valuable.

What I am keenly aware of is that the Federation is unable to grow its membership in the way that we had hoped and wanted post Covid and whilst I initially thought that this was due to a slight reluctance by some members to want to meet in person again this is probably not the case now. So I suppose the question is how to make the Federation relevant to prospective members and then make them want to stay. It is clear to me that those Groups who are highly active attract members as do the National events but it is also clear to me that we need to get new members and new blood into organising events as this is the only way to reflect and introduce change. This is certainly worth an in depth conversation at this year's NAGM.

As ever I am always happy to talk to or communicate with members so please do not hesitate to call me at any time if you need anything or you think that I can be of any help.

I hope to see many of you at the NAGM and during the year.

Gerry Edwards

07768 657797