

Minutes of the National Council Meeting held on the weekend of March 31st. to April 2nd. 2000

Present:

Apologies: Beth Berry (Rockhampton), Phillip Cornwell, Peter Smith (Tasmania), Keith McBeth, Stewart Park, Heather Biddolph (Sydney), Bruce Jones (Newcastle)
 Moved: Ian Furby / Damien Calvert

Meeting opened at 8.55p.m. with welcome and opening by the chairman, The Reverend Chris Whittall

Diocesan, State & National Reports were circulated.

Minutes of the 1999 National Meeting had been circulated and were moved as a true and accurate record of the meeting on the motion of Ken Pidgeon / Dennis Buxton.

Chairman's Report: The chairman spoke about the strengths and weaknesses of CEBS and how we are forging ahead. He has been encouraged by the visioning that has taken place. A number of issues for consideration were raised:-

Communication on all levels could be better

The need to Network better.

The ongoing need to heighten our profile

Better relationship needed between CEBS and GFS National Executives.

Plan / goals for future is required.

Assist National Executive to create job descriptions

Extend our ability to resource / support and pray for our young people at the grass roots level of our work.

We need to continue to attract young boys / men / families through our ministry

At this stage Chris announced that he would not be willing to offer himself for reelection in the year 2001. He hoped that announcing this at this stage would enable discussion as to who may be best sought for the position.

National Secretary's Report: Garry reported that this had been a particularly busy year especially in allocating his time between Victorian and National responsibilities.

The report highlighted the problems of communication, particularly in our concern for one another. Garry also noted the work that had been done with the new Junior Activity Book which was about to be released. He concluded by reminding us of the many good things that were happening around Australia and with the challenge that "as a long as a boy walks through our doors then we have a Ministry"

STATE DIOCESAN REPORTS:

Melbourne: The number of branches has remained static, therefore halting the decline of previous years. The year has been quiet as far as activities are concerned and yet a number of significant events have occurred such as the development of the new shared office with CebS /GFS/& the Diocesan Children's Worker. The appointment of the worker was the result of the cooperative ministry of CEBS / GFS and their preparedness to finance the position.

Gippsland: One registered Cebbs group but eight affiliated parishes with children's ministry groups. Cebbs / GFS work as a joint children's ministry team conducting children's ministry activities across the diocese. These activities often attract up to 100 children and their families.

Sydney: There have been large changes to the Sydney Executive resulting from a large turnover of members. There seems to be some improvement in the growth of Cebbs in the Diocese but there has also been a large increase (25 groups) in the number of Kids Plus groups. This is a new ministry venture which is being conducted jointly with GFS and Youthworks. The Diocese has also prepared a new Leaders Manual. The need for this has arisen because Leadership Development has moved more towards Diocesan Children's Ministry requirements rather than Cebbs Training. The manual therefore fills the gap about what is Cebbs. The changes have all been positive for Cebbs in Sydney.

Newcastle: Struggling. Only two branches operating. A survey was conducted on Cebbs but produced no response. The Society is now concentrating on keeping the existing branches alive.

Brisbane: Working well together with GFS and also with ACRE (Anglican Children's Ministry and Religious Education). The Diocesan Cebbs has recently sold one of its campsites and the resultant income has helped the financial position of the organisation. The remaining campsite is well booked and providing a good income. Cebbs and GFS are working together to approach parishes within Deaneries about Children's Ministry.

Rockhampton: Only two active branches. Working well with GFS. Good to have involvement of a parish from some distance away from the Cathedral.

Tasmania: Garry reported that a message from Phillip Cornwell noted that there were still no groups operating and no immediate prospects. It was noted that the appointment of the new Bishop may offer some sign of encouragement. The question was asked about what should happen if the Diocesan Structure was to fold.

South Australia: Two branches operating in the State. The branches are in two Dioceses which are quite a distance apart. They have recently sold one of their campsites however the Diocese has taken control of the money. Cebbs are hoping that they might gain access to these funds to assist in the development of Children's Ministry. The lack of Children's Ministry and communication between Ministry groups in the State is concerning.

Western Australia: There are nine branches - 1 in the country and 8 in the city. The main aim is to change the structure of Cebbs and how it operates within the Diocese. There has been an effort to work on Leader resources, producing a booklet of ideas each term. There has been a better working relationship with GFS especially in the area of leader development. There was a joint planning session with some of the branches. There are still a lot of issues to face and these are being considered through various models of ministry.

Session 2
Sat 1.4.00
9:00am to 10:30am

GFS REPORT

Report of GFS Australia was tabled.

National Chairman, Jennifer Buckby, briefly spoke to the report.

Topics included:

- Changes to badge and uniform.
- National Camp in Papua
- History of GFS being written
- GFS Ministry to Adults
- GST issues.

Appreciation was expressed for the commitment expressed by GFS to continue working with CEBS.

The Chairman suggested we take greater steps towards formalising links between GFS & CEBS.

CEBS Executive Members were invited to join the national GFS mailing list. It was suggested that the GFS national newsletter go to each CEBS Diocese.

Reported that there are changes to GFS National structure so that now every adult member of GFS is a voting member of GFS. This is instead of a system of delegates from diocese based on number of branches.

Moved that all reports be received. Moved Peter Manuel, seconded Graeme Nicholls. Carried.

CEBS 2000 REPORT

The Chairman expressed his gratitude to Ian Furby & Gary Allen for their work in preparing the report.

Ian Furby spoke briefly to the Report, and in particular:

- need to promote CEBS to parish clergy as ministry option and strategies to achieve this.

- biblical framework for CEBS.

- strategies to envision parish clergy towards CEBS.

- strategy to reach the dioceses with the promotion.

- reviewing the CEBS manual.

- developing "in service" training for CEBS leaders.

- a "kit" to promote CEBS to clergy.

General Discussion of the Report

Section 1

Strategy for Improving the Promotion of our Movement.

Section 2 (& Appendix A)
Biblical Framework for CEBS

Briefly discussed need for a stated theological framework for CEBS' ministry.

Section 3 (& Appendix B)
Strategy for Helping Parish Clergy to Develop Children's Ministry

Noted that "Kids Plus" had a role in this.

Section 4
Strategy for Finding & Developing Leaders

Discussion of extent of need for leadership training.

Section 5
Strategy for Promoting CEBS within & beyond Diocese.

CONSIDERATIONS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

It was agreed to defer consideration of the recommendation.

Moved that we table the CEBS 2000 document. Moved Gary Allen, seconded Adrian Sandwell.
Agreed.

With thanks to those who participated in its preparation.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. National Camp.

A paper has been circulated on the future of National Camp. There has been difficult to get sufficient numbers of boys and leaders to attend.

Ian Furby reported the planning for the Brisbane 2001 National Camp is done and a rehearsal has been run as a State Camp. Brochures and forms will be out shortly.

It was commented that the cost of air travel is dropping with competition.

It was commented that the National Camps can be a major milestone on the spiritual journey of a child. If we do not have National Camps then we will substantially downgrade our organisation. We need to strongly encourage boys to attend.

It was commented that our age level is dropping - now mostly 8 to 11 years.

It was suggested we focus on the aims of the National Camp.

AIMS - SUGGESTED

To provide an experience for our members of the national CEBS movement.

To cater for young people of the ages 10 to 18.

To provide a national camp experience for all boys and young men in the Anglican Church.

To provide an evangelistic opportunity.

To extend the personal experience of the (older) participants.

To provide fellowship and idea-sharing opportunities for leaders.

Session 3

Sat 1.4.00

11:00am to 1:00pm

Consideration of options in the discussion paper:

Decisions:-

Option A (cease camps) rejected.

Option B (continue as is) open for further consideration.

Option C (smaller national tours instead of camps) rejected.

Option D (smaller camps at different times of years) open for further consideration.

Option E (limited numbers national camp) rejected.

Option F (shorter camps) open for further consideration.

Options G/H (combined with GFS) open for further consideration.

Option I (combine with other organisations - eg Scouts/Boys Brigade) rejected in context of Scouts/BB, but further consider broadening to non-CEBS Anglicans.

Options J/K (adjoining state camps) rejected - that is, as substitute for national camps.

Option L (2 yearly camps) rejected.

Other options:

Running national camps for Anglican young people.

Agreed, that we want to retain national camps in principle. Session 2

Moved Adrian Sandwell, seconded Philip Skein.

It was noted that a committee will be needed to take these options further and it would need to be decided where the 2004/5 national camp would be.

2. Travel Fund

A brief history of the fund was provided by Warren Rumble.

A brief general discussion took place.

Agreed that travel fund system remain as agreed in 1998. Moved Ken Pigeon, Seconded Ian Furby.

3. Constitutional Changes

There have been no objections to the proposed alterations circulated after the 1999 meeting.

Agreed that changes proposed and circulated be adopted. Moved Adrian Sandwell, Seconded Graeme Nicholls.

Agreed that copies of the updated constitution be circulated to each member of the National Council and each Diocesan Secretary receive a copy. Moved Ken Pidgeon, Seconded Adrian Sandwell.

4. Expectations of National Council

National Secretary, Gary Allen, asked what is National Council expected to do.

Ideas suggested from the floor:

A forum for discussion and policy-making, leading into strategy development.

Establish the direction of the Society.

Sharing of initiatives.

Resourcing.

A framework for operations.

A centre for cooperation and coordination with other young people's ministry bodies.

An advocate for CEBS.

Promotion & publicity.

There was a discussion of "active" versus "passive" role for a national council. It was recognised that council has moved towards a more "passive", less interventionist role over time.

It was noted that we do not report to General Synod, but to the Primate who is our "Patron". We are a society of the Church.

It was agreed that the ideas suggested be affirmed as the expectations of the national movement. Moved Ken Pidgeon, Seconded Bruce Anderson.

It was agreed that these "expectations" be communicated in writing to every registered CEBS leader in Australia. Moved Jennifer Buckley, Seconded Peter Manuel.

Amendment: Add "... by the Diocesan Secretaries" Moved Ken Harkness, Seconded *. Amendment lost.

Agreed that the National Secretary writes a letter (advising of these expectations) to leaders to be circulated by each Diocesan Secretaries. Moved Graeme Nicholls, Seconded Adrian Sandwell.

There was discussion of what formal action should follow from these "expectations". Should it primarily be a reference point for national council in considering whether we are within our role or should some active steps be taken with them? Consensus was for them to be a reference point for the present.

5. New National President

Agreed that the National Council (through the Chairman) congratulate the Primate on his appointment and invite him that as Primate to be National President of CEBS. We warmly welcome him to the position and look forward to receiving his support. Moved Ian Furby, Seconded Warren Rumble.

Action: National Chairman.

6. Kids Plus

Brief report from Adrian Sandwell on developments in Sydney with "Kids Plus" children's ministry.

Not all Kids Plus groups are in the Anglican Church. There are 22 groups in Sydney. There is in Sydney a formal working Agreement between CEBS GFS & Kids Plus.

It was noted that GFS is very supportive of Kids Plus but that CEBS role in this development was less certain.

Kids Plus is a "resource ministry" (that is, not a society) but not taken up by CEBS in Sydney.

The Chairman read a letter from Dr Lindsay Stoddart of Sydney's "Youth Works" regarding the "registration" of the name "Kids Plus".

Graeme Nicholls pointed out the origin and authorised use of the name "Kids Plus".

Discussion took place as to the issues for CEBS of the Kids Plus "movement".

It was noted that "Kids Plus" means very different things in different diocese.

Jennifer Buckley reported briefly on the GFS view of Kids Plus. They see it as a ministry option for CEBS.

There was discussion of some legal issues regarding the use of the name "Kids Plus".

Agreed we do not wish to formally consider any legal issues surrounding the use of the name "Kids Plus".

Agreed to seek 30 minute presentation on Sydney Diocese "Kids Plus" resource material.

Session 4
 Sat. 1.4.00
 2:00pm to 3:30pm

The CEBS Web Page

Bruce Anderson introduced discussion of the Web Page.

Damien Calvert pointed out that the Web can overcome communication problems for a national movement if it is used.

He proposed possibly creating an "area" on the Web providing information such as a National Contact Directory, National Constitution, National Council Meetings, Discussion Board, File communications area, etc.

Considered whether password is needed for some material.

Material to go on Web required within 1 month.

Who is the Web page for? Noted it will not directly increase numbers of members.

Suggestions:

A communication tool.

Yes, there should be a password protected area.

Links to State Branches

Template artwork

Sydney's New Branch Manual

Links to useful sites.

Handbooks (Leaders, Page, Lads)

National Contact Registry (with contact number for each state & diocese - subject to written approval of individuals)

Password protected the complete National Directory.

Constitution

Agreed there be:

links to other CEBS State/Diocese sites
 leader resources and useful links
 general information about the Society

All information to be public.

Moved Bruce Anderson, Seconded Ken Pidgeon.

Web Committee to consult Executive if unsure about any material.

Vote of thanks to Web Committee carried with acclamation

GFS Liaison

There is currently no official joint CEBS/GFS organisation.

Jennifer Buckley said GFS considered that any joint meeting be separate from existing National Council meetings.

It was agreed a meeting of 2 or 3 members of each National Council meet regularly to consider common issues.

Issues for CEBS/GFS Liaison:

National Camps, Kids Plus, Working on children's ministry, leader development & accreditation, girls in CEBS & boys in GFS, future directions in (the currently fragmented) Anglican children's ministry structure, links within the diocese and links with children ministry in Anglican Church, offering to jointly host the Children's Network.

A time and place will be arranged for an initial meeting. Possibly in June at the GFS Key Personnel weekend.

Agreed delegates from CEBS be the Chairman, Secretary and Leader Development Officer. The Executive to nominate any third person required.

Funding approval - approximately \$ 1,000 to \$ 2,000.

Agreed (subject to GFS participation) the National Council approve 21 days advance air fares for up to 4 delegates to attend the GFS Key Personnel weekend to be held in Sydney in June, or other appropriate time.

Moved Ken Pidgeon, Seconded John White.

National Camp

John White on behalf of Victoria offered to host the 2004/5 national camp.

Agreed to accept the offer.

[Note: Jennifer Buckley announced that on 23.9.02 to 4.10.02 will be International & National GFS Conference to which it would be hoped CEBS could have some presence.]

Other committee member, Ken Pidgeon, Adrian Sandwell, Alan Victor, Warren Rumble, to work with the host state to work on national camp issues previously discussed.

Session 5
Sat 1.4.00
3:30pm to 6:00pm

Treasurer's Report

Warren Rumble tabled & spoke to his report.
Agreed to receive the report.
Moved Warren Rumble, Seconded Allan Thomas.

Remarks:

Net assets of \$ 33,391 of which \$ 16,937 is stock
Sales levy is low.
Trading income is low.
Net 1999 deficit is \$ 669.98.

The Treasurer proposed increasing the member levy.

That the affiliation fee from 2001 be increased from \$ 1.50 to \$ 2.00 per boy and leader.
Moved Warren Rumble, Seconded Gillian Whittle.

Noted that there is currently a 15% "royalty" due to National Council on goods sold by CEBS bearing a CEBS logo.

Foreshadow motion that the 15% royalty be abolished.
Moved Ken Harkness, Seconded Warren Rumble.

National Trading Officer's Report

Agreed to receive National Trading Officer's Report as tabled.
Moved Allan Thomas, Seconded David Ritchie.

GST

Treasurer, Warren Rumble, reported on GST issues.

Agreed that we apply for an Australian Business Number.
Moved Alan Thomas, Seconded Adrian Thomas.

National Awards

Agreed that David Wedgwood be awarded the National Cross.
Nominated by Toowoomba CEBS Branch, Diocese of Brisbane.
Moved Ian Furby, Seconded Ken Harkness.

Agreed that Cameron Luke Nicholls be awarded the National Cross.
Nominated by Gippsland Diocesan Council.
Graeme Nicholls (Cameron's father) was absent for consideration of the nomination.
Moved Gary Allen, Seconded Damien Calvert.

Agreed that Travis James Nicholls be awarded the National Cross.
Nominated by Gippsland Diocesan Council.
Graeme Nicholls (Travis's father) was absent for consideration of the nomination.
Moved Jennifer Buckley, Seconded Philip Skein.

Agreed that Stephen Farnaby be awarded the National Cross.
Nominated by Gippsland Diocesan Council.
Moved Allan Thomas, Seconded Peter Manuel.

It was noted the Peter Gleeson received the Award of Merit from the Western Australian Diocese.

Report of the CEBS National Leadership Development Commission.

Graeme Nicholls spoke to his tabled report.

Recommendation prepared as to "Cadet" Leaders (under 18 years).

Agreed to receive the report as tabled.
Moved Graeme Nicholls, Seconded Gillian Whittle.

Noted that some Parishes are conducting their own in-house training.

Discussion of other training opportunities available.

Noted with gratitude to publication of the Aus CEBS Leader.

New Child Protection Resource Video Kit was shown to the meeting.

Agreed that persons under the age of 18 years may take on the position of Cadet "leader" (noting that a leader as such must be over the age of 18 years). Such a person would be responsible to the designated leader at all times and would undertake the duties of assisting the leader in the conduct of the program as required but should never be left in the position of responsibility for the group or any individuals with the group at any time, such responsibility always remaining with the designated leader. This position is one of learning and development as well as being an

opportunity to provide valuable support and assistance to the designated leader team. The Cadet should be approved by the Branch Leader and the Parish Priest, be a registered member of the Society and should be aware of the Protocols and Duty of Care which apply to CEBS Leaders.

Noted that each State has been provided with a computer disk with details of the responsibilities of a leader and duty of care which has been approved by CEBS. (Copies are available to all leaders from the National Secretary and from the Web site).

Agreed that copies of the responsibilities of leaders and duty of care be circulated to all leaders their diocese. This to be emailed/sent to each diocese.

Moved Adrian Sandwell, Seconded Philip Skein.

Agreed that the proposed amendments to clause 4 of the Constitution be approved.

Moved Gary Allen, Seconded Ian Furby.

Job Descriptions

Agreed that drafts of the job descriptions will be prepared by the various office holders for consideration at the next National Council Meeting.

Children's Network

Gary Allen reported on General Synod Children's Network in Adelaide in 1999.

Next one in August, 2000 in Grafton.

The Network is now an official sub-committee of General Synod.

The "Children's Charter" was discussed and is likely to be promoted around the Church. (A copy is to be attached to the Minutes)

Agreed that we continue our participation in the Children's Ministry Network and that we be represented by the National Secretary.

Moved Ken Harkness , Seconded Adrian Sandwell.

It was noted that this would involve some cost.

Session 6
Sun 2.4.00
9:00am to 10:30am

Position of Chairman

The Chairman indicated that he was willing to stand again for the position again at the end of his present term.

Expectation of National Council - CEBS 2000 Recommendations

Priorities of the Expectations:

1. A forum for discussion and policy-making, leading into strategy development.
2. Establish the direction of the Society.
3. Sharing of initiatives.
4. Resourcing.
5. A framework for operations.
6. A centre for cooperation and coordination with other young people's ministry bodies.
7. An advocate for CEBS.
8. Promotion & publicity.

Adrian Sandwell and Ken Harkness of Sydney introduced the "CEBS Rediscovered" initiative of the Sydney Diocese.

Discussion of the issues generally and recognition the value of boys groups.

Agreed to Graeme Nicholls will circulate a sheet to diocese to complete indicating what resources and local initiatives are being taken, Graeme will collate these and circulate through the movement, by paper, Web and CD.

It was suggested that CEBS needs to establish a culture of starting new branches - making it easy to start new branches and resource new leaders.

Agreed that the Web committee will consider standard computer formats through the movement.

It was suggested that Sydney's new Branch Manual and/or "Starters Kit" should have information addressed to clergy as to the value and role of CEBS in the Christian gospel.

Session 7
Sun 2.4.00
10:50am to 12:40

CEBS' Relationship with the Church / Advocacy Role

Ken Pidgeon spoke of the importance of maintaining a close relationship between CEBS and the

Church at all levels.

We need to raise our profile, but more importantly establish good personal relations with clergy.

John White pointed out that ministry to children is undervalued. CEBS offers a creative solution to this. It offers activities that are safe, Christian and interesting.

CEBS can do more to make its presence felt at every level.

Important to get prominent clergy supportive of CEBS and to "champion" the movement within the diocese.

It was suggested that having meeting with the diocesan bishop may be of value in promoting CEBS within the Church.

Suggestion that CEBS/GFS host a diocesan forum on children's ministry.

Garry Allan pointed out that CEBS do not need to be a weekly group and there are a large variety of possible meeting styles.

Resources

Garry Allan showed the meeting a draft Lads ("Juniors") Activity Book (for badge work). A Leader's Book is being prepared. Should be available at \$ 4.00-5.00.

Garry has identified Lads ("Juniors") badges available. He prepared and circulated a colour sheet for each state.

Certificates are available where are no badges currently available.

Ken Pidgeon proposed that we look specifically at the CEBS 2000 recommendation for more specific implementation of this.

CEBS 2000 Recommendations

1. That an updated publicity package be produced including brochures, videos, posters, etc.

Agreed that the current Melbourne bi-fold brochure be adapted for use as a national brochure (subject to Melbourne executive approval). John White agreed to do this. A circular will be prepared by Garry White advertising the availability of the Brochure.

2. Testimonial Booklet of CEBS Biographies.

Philip Skein offered coordinate this if names can be provided to him. It should be designed to promote the movement as a positive influence in people's lives and could support our centenary celebrations.

Delegates are asked to advise Philip of appropriate names.

3. Leaders Manual & New Branch Resource Kit.

Garry Allen noted that this is now happening at the diocesan level. It may be that in future these diocesan resources can be adopted into a national resource.

4. Leader In-Service Material

We recommend that key people from each diocese/state take copies of their CEBS report to their bishop/s in the context of a meeting (that is, not merely posting).

5. Certificates for In-service Training

Philip Skein and Graeme Nicholls to coordinate the production of these to be used as required.

6. Kit for Clergy About CEBS

Diocese of Melbourne has a model of this literature available for other diocese to be used as appropriate and to report back on suitability to next meeting.

7. Resource Computer Disk

That the our stock of record books be used, but also be available digitally.

Agreed that we should have a leaders resource disk. Graeme Nicholls, Damien Calvert and Bruce Anderson to assemble a suitable disk.

Proposed as a preamble statement: We believe that CEBS is a healthy proven and effective organisation for integrating young people into a Christian faith community within the Anglican Church and we recommend the following strategies.

New Branch Strategies

Agreed that each CEBS diocesan executive be asked to develop and begin implementation of its own strategy for starting new branches in their diocese, and to report back next year on their experiences.

Moved Ken Harkness, Seconded Alan Thomas.

Returning Officer for 2001 Elections

Agreed that Ken Pidgeon be appointed as returning officer for next National Council Elections. Moved Alan Thomas, Seconded Warren Rumble.

Venue and Time for Next National Council Meeting

Agreed to be held in Melbourne, subject to their Executive's approval.

Agreed to be 30 March to 1 April, 2001

It was noted that all positions will be vacant. The Secretary will send out nomination forms with the Minutes to be returned within 2 months. After that date nominations will close.

Appreciation

Meeting thanked by acclamation Adrian Sandwell for organising the meeting and Chris Whittle for his Chairmanship.

Appreciation to Geoff Skein for putting Junior Activity Book onto computer and preparing for printing.

Appreciation to Graeme Nicholls for his preparation of the Aus CEBS Leader.

Meeting Closed 12:40pm