

Managing the Online System

The whole point of the online system, which the current MG seems to have missed is that they can share the work around of running the system. But to date, they have shown very little interest in the project. Two members of the current team seem perfectly satisfied to sit on the management group, participating in witch-hunt against others, without doing any work themselves whatsoever. I have provided coaching unstintingly where requested but to date only Wendy has availed herself, and Henu sufficiently for enrolling members. When I tried to explain something about the system to Donna by email (rather than just doing it myself), she replied "what a load of rubbish" - which is less than encouraging - there is a great deal in the complaints sent out to members about me of The Pot Calling The Kettle Black.

As far as updating the Directory is concerned, since a cheque payment service is still being provided, members who are provided with a printed directory do not need to log on, so why doesn't a member of the management group, armed with a printout of the old directory, simply call members whose entries are missing, ask if their Offers & Wants are still relevant and just key them into the online system? They ALL have access to the system to do this, but so far have shown no interest in doing so. This work does not have to be done in the office, nor need it be done under the supervision of the office worker. Since she is already fully engaged with clerical tasks related to the paper-based system, giving her sole control of the online system is simply not sensible, so the whole basis of the complaints against the online team is based on a huge mis-understanding about what is involved in going online.

We understand that there is insufficient time during the normal committee meeting, with a full agenda, dominated by deadlines for printing and mailing as well as arrangements for socials, to go into minute detail of the work involved, let alone provide relevant training. This leads us to recommend that the management group become a conference of small WORKING TEAMS, each focusing on a particular aspect of the work, such as Admin, Socials, Outreach, Projects etc, and empowered to make decisions between MG meetings.

The crisis that NLETS finds itself in is entirely self-created. The fact that the chair and the office worker talked across Woody during the meeting when he was trying to point out errors they had made in accounting for pledges - which are clearly visible on the system (see Hire of Chairs) - was the reason he lost his composure. But the so-called minutes do not indicate what was being discussed when this happened? Did they notice? Did they care? Instead of concentrating on running North London LETS, they have held secret meetings over a three-month period concocting abusive legalistic letters which they have sent by recorded mail to both of us. I have held my own emotions in check, focusing on supporting Woody, as I have been afraid the stress would kill him, but these issues have ruined my summer, and affected my own health.

The management group needs to pay a great deal more attention to supporting trade between members, which after all is the avowed purpose of the organization MF/mf/0910