

## Minutes of the Inaugural Midlands IOL meeting- Friday 7th October 2005

Frank Chapman Centre, Bewdley

Present: Vid Blakeney, Mike Fawcett, Frank Grant (IOL General Secretary), Chris Jones, Mike Smart, Dan Whittaker, Sonia Wright

Dan Whittaker opened the meeting at 7.30pm and thanked everyone for attending.

- Frank Grant was asked to explain how to proceed with the setting up of the Midlands region of the IOL:
- The area would need to set up a constitution. However, other regions use the national constitution.
- The regional Executive is made up of a chairman, secretary and treasurer plus at least three other members.
- The regional Executive will have a representative on the national Management Group, which meets four times per year.
- Three of these meetings take place in Birmingham. The fourth meeting takes place in different areas.
- The Midlands regional Executive should also meet approximately four times per year and a quorum of three would be needed for that meeting to take place.
- The region needs to hold an AGM between November and February before the National AGM in March.
- The nominations for the three officials and the elections take place before the AGM, so that the officers are in place for the meeting.
- Initially, the region will include the whole of the Midlands: Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Rutland, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands and Worcestershire. However, this could be split into East and West as time goes on and new members come on board.
- Most of the work would be done through the National office.
- There is money already ring fenced for a Midlands region to access. This money has not been used.
- Every Midlands regional member brings £3 into the fund each year.
- The area can use this money to set up events. A good example of this could be seen in the Northern region.

IOL bookshop can attend regional conferences or similar events for free.

A discussion took place on whether the six members around the table were willing to set up the region. Dan Whittaker volunteered to chair the region until the first AGM. Mike Smart volunteered to be treasurer and Sonia Wright secretary. Vid Blakeney and Mike Fawcett were willing to stand on the Executive until other members could be found. Both would find it difficult to commit to

meetings on a regular basis due to work commitments and location. It was agreed to recruit more members to the regional Executive. Sonia Wright agreed to contact National office for updated list of Midlands members and the minutes would be emailed to the office for publication on the web along with the date and venue for the next meeting. Before the meeting the National constitution would be downloaded so that it can be discussed. The AGM will also be arranged at the next meeting.