

## **Report on Consultative Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2017**

**Introduction:** 28 Chapter Officers/Representatives from 14 Chapters attended the meeting in the Ashling Hotel, Dublin on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2017 (see appendix). Acting Chairman Emmet Kane, updated the meeting on developments since the July meeting. The Membership Secretary, Stephen Dowie facilitated discussion on options for the future organisation, structure and representation within the IWG. IWG Secretary, Eugene Grimley reflected on the roles of Chapter Officers.

The Key presentation gave a viewpoint on issues regarding the current organisational structure and offered a number of possible ways forward. Those present gave their opinions via discussion groups, which were consolidated and accepted at a plenary session facilitated by the Membership Secretary following lunch.

### **Overview of conclusions:**

#### **IWG Organisational Structure and the Executive Committee:**

- (1) The Executive Committee should establish a representative structure based on five regions focused around Dublin and each of the 4 provinces. Each region should be encouraged to attend regional meetings and elect a regional representative to an expanded Executive Committee.
- (2) The Executive Committee should carry out operational matters but strategic issues should be agreed by Chapter Council/Consultative meetings.
- (3) The IWG should be careful about over expanding representation so as not to over commit Chapter Officers.
- (4) An Executive Committee representative should visit at least one meeting of each Chapter each year.
- (5) While it would be desirable to have IWG meetings around the country it was recognised that Dublin remains the most accessible point as a result of the modern network of roads and motorways.
- (6) A mechanism should be established to allow organised Regional and National seminars to compliment each other by using regional committees.
- (7) That a standard reporting format need to be encouraged and adhered to facilitate sending and receiving information from Chapters.
- (8) The Executive should aid communication by sending information, reports and correspondence to ALL three key Chapter Officers and to explore extending current communication methods to Facebook and Instagram to forge a direct link between the Executive and members. Information could be forwarded to all Chapter Committee members.
- (9) The IWG should be more proactive in attracting younger woodturners and women.

### **Chapter organisation:**

- (1) It is critical that Chapters become more proactive in their own organisation and development.
- (2) To aid this the Chapter Handbook should be renewed and made available in paper form as well as electronic, and a simplified synopsis given to each current member and to all new members, on joining, in the form of an induction handbook.
- (3) Chapters need to ensure good attendance at the AGM and a rotation of posts around as wide a spread of the membership as possible.
- (4) Chapters should be encouraged to consider being more proactive in their approach to Chapter and IWG wide activities.
- (5) Chapters should consider electing assistant officers.
- (6) Members should receive a diary of events.

### **Action:**

The meeting agreed:

- (1) That the Executive, immediately following the 2017 AGM, set up an organisational and constitutional review sub-committee to report to a consultative meeting in June/July 2017.
- (2) That the Executive Committee co-opt 5 regional representatives at the first meeting following the 2017 AGM and establish a mechanism for 2018 where these posts will be nominated by the regional groups and ratified at the 2018 AGM.
- (3) That the practice of Chapter representatives meeting to discuss and establish policy should continue.

### **In addition:**

Following the meeting the Executive Committee agreed that Key Officers (Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Journal Editor) will be available 12:45 to 1:45 before the AGM on 19<sup>th</sup> February to advise & discuss with Chapter Officers or members any issues they need help with.

### **Appendix:**

List of attending Chapters at the meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2017: Cork , Craobh Cuig Deag, Craobh Eo, Crossborder, Dolmen, Dublin, East Central, Galway, Kerry, Limerick, Midlands, Shannonside, Waterford & District, Ulster.