



AFA Forum Report Annual General Meeting 2017

Overview

The Forum Year In Summary

2016/17 may be described as a year of “continued moderate growth” for the AFA Forum, where we continued the relative stability and “organic” development noted from the previous year.

While the Moderation and Admin Teams continue to operate cohesively and consistently, there was some turnover of Forum personnel during the year, for personal reasons external to the forum. We are currently seeking new members for our Moderation and Admin Teams, and may undertake some role restructuring as part of this.

I’m proud to be working with such a dedicated and talented group of volunteers, who are united in their commitment to advancing the AFA’s Forum community and social media presence. Several Forum staff and members also assist with other AFA social media areas, including FaceBook and twitter. Their continuing and dedicated efforts deserve the sincere appreciation and gratitude of all AFA members.

Forum Culture

This remained largely unchanged from the previous year. The trend that was commenced towards “self-moderation” by users has been maintained and improved. As was the willingness of Forum members to voluntarily support worthy causes and assist other members in need, including financially. The material support to these efforts provided by the CoM also cannot be underestimated, and it is much appreciated.

Forum Processes

Structurally, the Forum is largely unchanged from the previous year’s report. These processes and systems have served the Forum well during the 2016/17 year.

The Forum Infraction system has continued to be extremely robust, and like 2015/16, the number of dispute escalations traversing all escalation points (ie: up to Committee level) remained at zero.

Technical stability gains (of the Forum software) have also been maintained and regular maintenance and upgrades remain ongoing.

Forum Promotion

Efforts continue to cross-promote the AFA’s various social media channels, so FaceBook and twitter may refer and link to trending Forum discussions or hot topics, and vice-versa. This has been observed to be an effective strategy, and we expect to maintain and expand this going forward.

Forum Membership

Membership numbers indicate a rate of growth broadly consistent with the previous year, despite the absence of a one-off influx of members as was experienced last year. The Forum remains a valuable resource for AFA members, and we look forward to seeing many more of them online.

Forum Members:		
	2016:	
At 8 March 2016	5801	5323
At 8 March 2017	6284	5801
Increase in Membership	8.33%	8.97%