

# The Camping and Caravanning Club



## Mountain Activity Section

Minutes of the Meeting of the Section Council held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at the Wolverley Club Site, Brown Westhead Park, Nr Kidderminster, Worcestershire DY10 3PX  
The Meeting commenced at 1.00 pm

### **Present:**

Trev Masters (Chair), Colin Wild (Secretary), Jenny Williams (Treasurer), John Gerner (PRO), Anne Crosland (Section Youth Leader), Howard Crosland (Rep to National Council/Section Youth Leader), Barry Cowlard (Elected Member), Lesley Storey (Northern Area Representative), Sandra Wild (Peakland Area Representative), Deb Masters (Wessex Area Representative), Sabina Voysey (C & CC Representative), Sandra Wain (Minute Taker)

### **Chairman's Welcome**

Trev Masters extended a welcome to everyone and thanked them for attending. He had the pleasure of announcing that the Certificate of Honour has been awarded to Andrew Wood, MAS President – this is the highest accolade of the Club and is much deserved.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Andrew Wood (President), Terry Bishop (Vice President), Les Morton (Membership Secretary - Elected Member), Toni Busuttill-Reynaud (Activity Editor – Elected Member), Liz Prior (Elected Member), Yvonne Plevy (Elected Member)

The Secretary read out a letter received from Andrew Wood re his Certificate of Honour Award. Andrew apologised for not being at the Meeting and said that he was proud to be the second member of his family to receive this Award – his father Derek was an original Founder of the MAS when it re-formed. Congratulations were extended to him by the Committee and the Award will be presented to him at the Section AGM at Leyburn next year.

Introductions were made for the benefit of Sabina Voysey, representative from the C & CC. Sabina was happy to sit in for Ann Dearling and considered it an honour to be Deputy Director General of the Club.

### **2. Approval of Minutes previously circulated**

Minutes of the Meeting held Post AGM 29<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

Minutes accepted

Proposed John Gerner; Seconded Deb Masters

### **3. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

- a) Minutes of AGM and Open forum: 29<sup>th</sup> April 2017 – None.
- b) Minutes of Post AGM Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> April 2017 – None

### **4. Correspondence**

The Secretary highlighted the following items of correspondence:

- a) Certificate of Honour for Andrew Wood

- b) 50 year membership subscriptions
- c) New Constitution
- d) Admin committee had requested that the Sections liaise more closely with Regions following the comment made in the Open Forum of the A.G.M. Wessex Area does this electronically as they have six Regions to cover. The two other Areas do send representatives to Regions. The Secretary had written to Garry Barr to inform him of this, This topic had also been brought up at the Section Forum and Garry Barr (C & CC) reported that a number of groups had expressed concerns that there was not enough support from some Regions.

**5. Minutes of Area Meetings January – September 2017 (Matters Arising) - None**

**6. Finance Matters**

**a) Treasurer's Financial Reports**

These were circulated previous to the Meeting and the Treasurer gave a summary of the present financial position. A Notice of Motion is to be prepared for the AGM to allow the CCY account to be put into the general account.

**b) Section Inventory**

Colin Wild now has the black bag otherwise no change.

**c) Section Subscription**

As we have a good amount in funds, the Treasurer suggested a drop in the subscription amount. The second half of the year will not be so expensive as the first so we should break even. The feasibility of single people paying less was discussed. No other Section does this and over time it could drastically reduce income; the number of single people in the Section is not known. Sabina Voysey undertook to look into the feasibility of the matter. Until such time as this information is available it was agreed that the subscriptions remain at £6 for next year.

Proposed: Colin Wild; Seconded Barry Cowlard.

Carried unanimously.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for all her hard work.

**7. PRO Matters**

**a) Section and Special Events**

The Chairman thanked John Gerner for his attendance at the Meeting in view of his recent operation.

Dave Hall's winning entry to the 'Spirit of MAS' photo competition was published in the March edition of the Club Magazine.

Stuart Kidman, Print Editor of the Club magazine, attended the National Festival of Walking and a picture special feature appeared in the August edition.

Areas are reminded to submit their AGM Notice for inclusion in Out and About in good time to ensure the copy deadline is not missed.

Submission of the Section AGM Notice is in hand.

Could Area Reps please report back to the January meeting on the number of business cards and car stickers remaining in stock so that a decision on reordering can be made at the next meeting.

**b) Website Report**

The Wessex Area has used the spreadsheet template to provide their programme of meets for 2018 and these have been uploaded to the website. To avoid confusion co-ordinates to generate the pins on the event map have not yet been uploaded.

John Gerner requested that the Northern and Peakland Area Reps ask their Sites Officers to contact him as soon as they have finalised their 2018 programme so that meets can be added to the website. He also needs details of any winter walks that are planned.

He would like to improve the flow of news items on the website. Area PRO's can enter news items themselves if they have been given a username and password or if they prefer can email information to John.

The Chairman thanked John for his report and for his continued work.

## **8) Membership Report**

Les Morton was unable to attend the Meeting however it was noted that figures were going up slightly but it was queried how many were active. However the position does look healthy. Barry Cowlard said that people join at the big shows but don't always re-join after the first year.

## **9) National Council Report**

Report circulated previously by Howard Crosland. Sabina Voysey will be attending youth events as part of her induction.

## **10) Youth Matters**

Report circulated previously by Howard and Anne Crosland. They had enjoyed the youth rallies and older members remember enjoyable experiences when they were Youth members.

## **11) Activity Magazine**

The Secretary read out the editor's report (he was unable to attend the Meeting as his wife had broken her ankle). The magazine has been going well this year; many thanks to contributors who had helped keep the magazine at a level that met approval. More content is needed for the next edition. Toni Busuttill-Reynaud's contact who has been helping to keep costs down has retired so this will raise costs.

It was noted with regret that next year will be Toni's last as editor of Activity therefore we will be looking for a new editor. The editor need not necessarily need to be a member of MAS Council. Thanks were expressed to Toni who has been doing an excellent job.

## **12) Section Forum**

As Trev and Deb Masters attended this Meeting only last Saturday, there is no written report. Important points raised as follows:

Data Protection – each Section had been asked to provide information (8 out of 9 did this). From this it was ascertained that data was held in different ways. Government Inspectors will be checking this and the Club will be issuing guidelines which must be followed to avoid fines. Sabina Voysey informed that Meeting that the Club had brought in experts to look at Data Protection and it was important that the guidelines are followed.

Development of Special Interest Sections – it was looked at what works, three Sections were concerned about ability to continue. Younger people need to come in on Councils and Committees. One of the important points was the title should say what it does and people were surprised that the MAS did not carry crampons etc for mountaineering and it was pointed out that a name change had been put to the vote but just short of the two-thirds majority for this to happen. Members alleged that the Club's current practice of voting could only be carried out at the AGM is discriminatory as some members are unable to be present because of illness and other valid reasons – we are also a nationwide group so it's not always practical for members to travel long distances. MAS would like a postal ballot in such cases but unable to do this because of current practice.

Future of Forum – The Club wanted the Forum to look at having one meeting a year instead of the current two as it was thought the same issues came up on the agenda and in some instances a phone call would suffice. The Sections were unanimous that the Forum should carry on twice a year even though one may have to be self-funding.

Region and Special Interest Sections – DA's feel they are not getting support from Regions and this was discussed from the perspective of Sections and as Wessex are spread over six Sections it was not viable to elect representatives for each one.

NFOL – Two out of the nine Sections were represented at NFOL this year. Our representative was not able to attend because of an eye operation but it was emphasised at the Forum that we need more representatives if this is to continue. The display had nothing about Sections on the 'wings' of the Unit. An information leaflet had been discovered and there was no information on the front page about Sections but about two-thirds of the brochure was devoted to Special Interest Sections (MAS was the last one) but no-one had any knowledge that it was going to be produced. Sabina Voysey would take this information back and investigate if it was going to Club sites.

### **13. Matters of particular importance from Area Reps**

- a) Peakland** – Report by Sandra Wild previously circulated
- b) Northern** – Lesley Storey reported there is no phone number in 'Out and About' in magazine. However, feeling optimistic about the Area.
- c) Wessex** – Deb Masters reported that numbers are staying up. Wessex has a new Chairman and Treasurer. Beckford (7 miles from Tewkesbury) has been booked for Festival of Walking and Cycling for 2019.

### **14. Appointments**

- a) Section Treasurer for Financial Year 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019**  
Jenny Williams. Proposed Colin Wild; Seconded Barry Cowlard.  
Carried unanimously.  
**(To be notified to Club HQ by end of November 2017)**
- b) Appointment of Section representative to National Council**  
Les Morton. Proposed Jenny Williams; Seconded John Gerner  
Proposed Jenny Williams; Seconded John Gerner  
Agreed unanimously.  
(Les had attended a Council Meeting as an observer)
- (c) Appointment of Deputy section representative to National Council**  
Barry Cowlard; Proposed Colin Wild; Seconded Deb Masters  
Agreed unanimously.  
(Secretary will inform Greenfields House who will send dates and times of Meetings to Barry Cowlard)
- (d) Appointment of Section Youth Officers 2018**  
As there were no nominations for this post, an advert will go in January Activity magazine and issue to be addressed at the AGM.

### **15. New Constitution (previously circulated)**

Colin Wild, Trev Masters and John Gerner had met, proposed ideas and looked at any aspect which needed to be flagged up. A paper with suggested amendments had been received from John Allen (Northern Chairman). Discussion followed on this and Schedule D ((Appendices) regarding two-thirds majority vote on proposed motions for AGM's. The Council wish to know why it needs to be two-thirds majority and not a simple majority. Sabina Voysey will find out the reason for this at the National Council. Also to propose postal or electronic ballot and to which motion would we apply this. It was queried whether other Sections and DA's would be thinking about this. Sabina Voysey will bring this up also. To make this a definite proposal and to finalise the Constitution at the January Meeting then to go forward as a motion for the AGM.

Any more suggestions please let Colin Wild know.

## **16. Subscriptions for 50 year members**

Club membership is free for these members and the Council had been asked if it wanted to continue to offer this in the Section. At present there are 10 members eligible for this and it was decided to do so.

Proposed: Colin Wild; Seconded Jenny Williams

Agreed unanimously.

## **17. Section Council Meetings 2018**

- (a) 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 11am at Greenfields House (Chairman will be away on this date and Secretary will be away the following week.)
- (b) Section AGM 2018: Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May, Cracken House, Leyburn, North Yorkshire  
AGM Meeting at Harmby Village Hall
- (c) Short Council meeting to be held following the AGM
- (d) September 2018: to be arranged at January 2018 meeting (preferably late September)

## **18. Festival of walking and Cycling**

- a) Update on arrangements for 2018 (Northern Area) – Hall one mile from site
- b) Update on arrangements for 2019 (Wessex Area) – Beckford Village Hall, near Tewkesbury  
Deb Masters gave information re area, site, hall and local facilities.
- c) FoW&C 2020 Sandra Wild reported that a few ideas had been discussed by Peakland

## **19. Review of decisions made and actions needed**

- Colin Wild to acknowledge Andrew Wood's letter
- Proposal for Youth fund to go into general fund – proposal to go to AGM
- Sabina Voysey to look at feasibility of reducing Section subscriptions for singles
- Next year's subscriptions - £6
- Photo competition to rest for one/two years
- Areas to contact John Gerner re stocks they have of business cards and car stickers
- Northern/Peakland Areas to provide sites information for 2018 for website
- Northern Area and Toni Busuttil-Reynaud –to produce advertising for FoWC
- Colin Wild to ask Toni Busuttil-Reynaud to advertise Editors position in the next Activity
- PRO to send out reminders to Area secretaries to submit notification of AGM in good time to Out and About.
- Sabina Voysey to find out about future use of the Social Network brochure.
- John Gerner to contact Out and About to put contact telephone number in Section header.
- Jenny Williams re-elected as Treasurer
- Les Morton elected to National Council
- Barry Cowlard elected as Deputy to National Council
- Youth Officer in abeyance – to put advert in Activity and at AGM next year for volunteers
- Sabina Voysey to look into reasons for two-thirds majority
- Colin Wild, Trev Masters and John Gerner – to look at Schedule D of Constitution before January Meeting
- 50 year membership to remain free
- To set date for September Meeting at January 2018 meeting.

## **20. Any Other Business**

The Secretary stated that he had encountered bureaucracy and inflexibility trying to arrange the meet on a Club site. Toni Busuttil-Reynaud was unable to attend as his wife Annette has broken her ankle and he still has to pay fees in spite of giving more than 7 days' notice. The managers were friendly and helpful but the process had not been user friendly. The charge of £5 per night for electricity that was not, of course, used

was considered inappropriate. In spite of the Club's requirements the site was not able to provide the treasurer with a VAT receipt.

The Treasurer asked that VAT receipts be obtained for anyone claiming travelling expenses.

Trev Masters thanked everyone for attending and Sabina Voysey for coming along.

The Meeting closed at 2.35pm.

Signed.....  
Chairman

Signed.....  
Secretary