

## THE CAMPING AND CARAVANNING CLUB



### MOUNTAIN ACTIVITY SECTION (Formerly The Mountaineering Section)

Minutes of the 84<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting which took place at Harmby Village Hall, Harmby, Leyburn DL8 5PG on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May 20018

The meeting commenced at 7pm. 75 members attended the meeting.

**1. Chairman's opening remarks.**

Sandra Wild (Vice Chairman) welcomed everyone to the Meeting and said that unfortunately Trev Masters (Chairman) was not well and unable to attend the Meeting and Andrew Wood (President) had agreed to chair the Meeting and she expressed thanks to Andrew.

Andrew Wood introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the 30<sup>th</sup> AGM of the MAS. The Section was formed in 1987 and the first AGM held in 1988. He thanked Northern Area for arranging the Festival of Walking and Cycling and for the lovely weather – it had been a different story at Leyburn over Easter. Everyone on the top table introduced themselves. The Chairman then asked for a minute's silence for Malcolm Turner and Ray Miles who are no longer with us.

**2. Apologies for absence.**

Trev and Deb Masters, Ruth Brown, Sheila Newsom, Ian and Diane Goodyear, Anne and Howard Crosland, Terry Bishop, Andy and Hazel Caldwell, Christine and Ian Field, Mary and Derek Buckle, Steve Storey, Mike and Sue McHugh.

**3. Minutes of 83<sup>rd</sup> AGM held at the War Memorial Hall, Ashover in the Water on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2017 for acceptance**

Acceptance proposed: David Lewis    Seconded: John Gerner  
Agreed unanimously.

**4. Annual report of the section by the Hon. Secretary**

The Secretary gave his annual report and reiterated the need for people to come forward to stand on the Committee to keep the Section running.

**5. Accounts for the Section for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017**

The Treasurer gave her report for 2017 (previously distributed). There were no questions and Jenny Williams was thanked for all her work as Treasurer.

**6. Incorporation of Youth HQ account with National HQ account.**

This amount was £135.55 and has been incorporated with National HQ account.

**7. Auditors Report**

The Chairman read out the Auditors Report which stated that the accounts gave a fair and accurate record of the financial resources and transactions of the Section.

**8. Adoption of the Accounts**

Proposed: Colin Stevenson    Seconded: Frances Doyle    Agreed unanimously.

**9. Report of PRO/Website Coordinator**

John Gerner gave his report highlighting that there had been special feature about our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017 and a full page photo and mention of the FoW&C on the front page of Out

and About. He had given out business cards and spoke about the Section to interested members at Meets and encouraged everyone to do the same – business cards are available. Adrian Rose (Webmaster) continues to maintain and improve the website and responds promptly to any technical issues. Northern Area Facebook is keeping members up to date and Peakland and Wessex Areas were encouraged to create Facebook groups.

#### **10. Report of the Section Advisory Officer to the National Council**

Les Morton thanked Howard Crosland for all the years he undertook the role and commented on the effort and time given to being a National Councillor. He then gave a report on the increasing Club membership although a majority used Club sites rather than camp with local groups. There are to be ridge walks event in May when MAS should get some publicity. Thanks were expressed to Diane Goodyear and John Allen for their comprehensive reports presented to National Council, Ramblers Association and Rights of Way Review Committee respectively..

#### **11. Report of the Membership Secretary**

Les Morton gave his report. There are currently 600 households, however this is now shown as individual member numbers which equates to 1200. Most new members are recruited at shows but usually new joiners do so after attending a Section Meet first. We rarely see any youth members and it was queried whether we should carry on having a youth section as Anne and Howard Crosland have now retired from the post.

#### **12. Notice of appointment of President/Vice President (Proposed by Section Council)**

President 2018/19 Andrew Wood

Vice Presidents 2018/19 - Carole Booth Christine Stevenson Terry Bishop Diane Goodyear  
Areas can feed in any suggestions they may have for nominations.

#### **13. Notice of Appointment of Hon. Treasurer 2018**

Jenny Williams

#### **14. Adoption of New Constitutions**

##### **a) Section**

##### **b) Areas**

The revised Constitution has come from the Club and applies to all Sections, DA's and Areas after formal consultation has been presented for adoption by all Sections and Areas.

- 6a) The Section's addition re having the AGM in April was queried. This can occur where the Saturday before May Day Bank Holiday falls in April.
- Schedule D: a) was discussed and highlighted that any referral to National level (eg major change or a matter of a serious nature) lies with the Council. An Area problem goes to the Council.  
Schedule D: b) a simple majority has not been in previous Constitutions, it has always been two-thirds; other elections have a simple majority. When queried why the two-thirds majority, Steve Harris explained that articles of the Club historically go back to this decision and it is in the main part of the new Constitution. There had been no previous objections at Section Council meetings by a Club representative when simple majority had been discussed. Postal and electronic voting was raised – the cost implications for postage were discussed but this could be sent out with Activity. The rationale stated for these types of ballot was there were members unable to attend meetings because of sickness etc and may not be indicative of the opinions of all members, however, it was pointed out that there were still members camping on the field who had not come to the Meeting.

A vote was taken 'Should the Section go for two-thirds majority postal/electronic ballot or simple majority.' 36 for two-thirds majority; 26 for a simple majority; 2 abstentions. Two-thirds majority was adopted, therefore Schedule D: c) be amended to 'Where such a ballot is undertaken the decision will be determined by a two-thirds majority.'

- Schedule B: One crucial part of Constitution – we may reduce number of elected numbers from 9 to 6 – this should make it easier to form a Council, but the number must be divisible by 3.

A vote for a Motion of adoption of the Section Constitution was taken.

Those in favour 48

Those against 17

2 Abstentions

The Motion was carried.

All Constitutions would be submitted to Club HQ.

### **15. Election of Officers**

Retiring members:

a) John Doyle b) Liz Prior c) John Gerner

John Doyle and Liz Prior do not wish to be re-elected.

The Chairman thanked them for the time and effort they had put into the Section.

John Gerner is willing to stand again.

Re-election proposed: David Lewis Seconded: Jenny Williams Unanimous agreement.

It is possible to co-opt members through the year.

### **16. To announce the representatives to the Section Council from the Mountain Activity Section Areas 2018/19**

Northern: Lesley Storey

Peakland: Sandra Wild

Wessex: Deb Masters

### **17. Election of Auditors**

John Allen and Patricia Mitchell did not wish to continue as auditors and were thanked for their past contribution.

Dave Hall and Dave Lewis agreed to carry out this role – proposed and agreed unanimously.

### **18. Membership subscription 2018/19.** As set by the Council - £6.00. One copy of the magazine will be sent by post in the coming year.

### **19. Date, time and venue of AGM 2019**

The 2019 FoW&C will take place at Beckford Village Hall, near Tewkesbury, Worcestershire from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> May. The AGM will be on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

## **OPEN FORUM**

1) Colin Stevenson reported that there had been major problems organizing the FoW&C getting volunteers for walks and stewards due to illnesses and other difficulties. Other areas had been approached for volunteers but no response. He suggested that future festivals be shared between the three areas, however Les Morton said that Peakland have given names of people from that Area who were willing to help.

Andrew Wood suggested that outlets such as Activity, Facebook etc be used to recruit volunteers for future FoW&C as they do need volunteers from the outset. He also commended Northern Area on doing a fantastic job this year. The Section Council will discuss staffing the FoW&C in the future.

2) Other ways of trying to reach out to Club members who may be interested in walking was discussed. Trev Masters has worked hard with Stuart Kidman and there have been a few articles in the Club magazine about MAS. Steve Harris reported that MAS were represented in the magazine

more than other Sections. It was also noted that new members want Club sites with facilities. DA's are experiencing the same problems and only 14% of the Club does social camp at some time. People join for different reasons, for example ferry crossings and European holidays. However, the MAS do well percentage-wise over some other Sections.

3) Les Morton suggested we should re-visit change of name as the 'mountain' word still puts people off joining and it also has implications for insurance. This ought to be through a postal ballot ideally as it would then reach the full membership. Wessex and Peakland are hoping to change their names but cannot change the Section name however some members said that this change would not attract more members. It was queried whether people had been asked why they joined the Section and what motivates people to join. Les Morton replied that in his opinion people join for walking and cycling but don't want to do mountaineering. It was asked as there are no mountains in Wessex, why did they join MAS. Viv Stevens commented that she would have joined earlier if she had known it was walking and not mountaineering. Another comment was that talking and personal contact was the way to get people to join so why 'mountain' should be dropped.

Steve Harris explained that the Club wouldn't object to change of name and clarified insurance – this is only covered on site – just as canoeing and boating Club insurance stops once the canoe/boat hits the water. Andrew Wood explained the history of insurance for MAS. It was affiliated at first to the BMC and thus insured through them. However, the BMC then couldn't get insurance and this went back to the Club which would have cost an exorbitant amount to insure. It was asked why the Club wanted to keep Mountain in the name when re-formed and what would we change it to. A few years ago the change was dismissed. It was asked if the Club regard walking as a recognised activity and is it encouraging people to go out and walk without being insured. Walk leaders put a disclaimer on this, for example, the walks at this FoW&C have a disclaimer on the walk sheet.

John Doyle asked how many members we have lost and gained over time, the membership Secretary stated that the number fluctuates.

The Meeting closed at 9.00pm.