

The Camping and Caravanning Club



Mountain Activity Section

Minutes of the Meeting of the Section Council held on 9th January 2019 at the Camping and Caravanning Club, Greenfields House, Westwood Way, Coventry CV4 8JH
The Meeting commenced at 11.00 pm

Present:

Andrew Wood (President), Trev Masters (Chair), Colin Wild (Secretary), Jenny Williams (Treasurer), John Gerner (PRO), Barry Cowlard (Elected Member – Deputy Officer to National Council Representative), Sandra Wild (Vice Chairman/Peakland Area Representative), Deb Masters (Wessex Area Representative), Les Morton (Membership Secretary/Officer to National Council – Elected Member), Yvonne Plevy (Elected Member), John Bradley (for Northern Area Representative), Steve Harris (C&CC Representative), Sandra Wain (Minute Taker),

Chairman's Welcome

Trev Masters extended a welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Lesley Storey (Northern Area Representative)
Terry Bishop (Vice President)
Carole Booth (Vice President)
Diane Goodyear (Vice President)

2. Approval of Minutes previously circulated

Minutes of the Meeting held at Greenfields House on 26th September 2018 (previously circulated).
The Minutes were accepted and signed as correct.
Proposed Sandra Wild; Seconded Deb Masters.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

(b) It was agreed to purchase Amazon instead of M & S vouchers for presentation. The recipients hope to be at FoW&C, if so the presentations could be made then.
3 c) At the beginning of the Meeting Gary Barr came in to hand out new Constitution for Sections. This has been agreed by Management and going to the National Council in February, it will come into force thereafter. The cut-off date for notification of motion before the AGM is 5th March. 25 signatures required to put a motion before the AGM and it could be possible for proxy voting afterwards. Proxy voting was agreed for Sections as they are national whereas DA's are a more compact geographical area. A paper or email vote was suggested to be the best way to undertake a proxy vote with a paper vote for members voting in person at the meeting.

4. Correspondence

Additions to the distributed list from the Secretary:

a) Dates of Club database trainings – 8th/9th May and 11th/12th October. Anyone interested to contact Damien Field. b) Confirmed that all Areas have had Exemption Certificates and to ensure that all stewards have a copy. Some sites have asked for copies. c) Peakland Area Minutes 6.1.19.

5. Minutes of Area Meetings – September 2018 (Matters Arising)

Northern Area Minutes 22nd October 2018 – It was noted they have a healthy bank balance and the Kemplerigg Meet will not go ahead this year. This has been because of an oversight in booking and there have been health problems with the owner. Inflammatory issues arisen regarding website and social media have been resolved.

The minute considering a merger with Peakland had been mooted because of difficulties forming a committee; all Areas have times when they struggle to get Committee members.

Peakland Area has a new Treasurer – Hazel Caldwell. There were concerns regarding the former Treasurer completing accounts for audit, but hopefully these are going to be resolved next week – it has been a difficult time for her personally. The Committee has not been informed by Treasurer's Department that there has been nothing for Quarter 3, or VAT for Meets.

Wessex Minutes – no outstanding issues.

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. The Treasurer has not heard from former editor of any costs incurred for the Spring edition of Activity. There is a surplus of £700+; it was pointed out that if proxy voting is carried out it will use a large part of this amount. John Bradley asked what the intentions are for spending the £11000+ in the Section's accounts. If a new editor of Activity comes forward then this could allow us to print 2 copies of Activity per year and incur expenses of £3000. A general discussion followed about ideas for spending surplus amounts by Areas. Free buffet, a free Meet, using village halls in early and late season Meets, new equipment for officers of the Areas and free camping for stewards are some ideas to consider.

Yvonne Plevey suggested a fixed meet fee with site owner which would help owner if a poor turnout and Area if otherwise. Peakland are trying this at a site next year.

Barry Cowlard proposed we hold this over until after the AGM to see if we have anyone come forward to edit Activity. Trev Masters asked members to seek out appropriate ideas and spread these around.

b) Approval of regular financial commitments

It was agreed unanimously not to renew YHA fees (£40).

c) Disbursement to the Areas

It was suggested £200 to each Area as previously and to increase the amount for Areas holding FoW&C to £250. Proposed Les Morton; Seconded John Gerner. Agreed unanimously.

Travel expenses were discussed and it was suggested that these be changed from fuel charges to a mileage rate of 45p same as the National Executive Council rate.

Proposed John Gerner; Seconded Les Morton. Agreed by a majority.

This will start at the September meeting and thereafter January and September meetings.

Yvonne Plevey informed the Meeting that she will not be able to take over as Treasurer due to other commitments.

d) Section Inventory

It was agreed to write off the Training Aides held by Andrew Wood from 1992 and as it was agreed not to renew the YHA membership there was no longer a YHA Group Card. Andrew Wood has the Section Minutes from 1987 to 1996, these are added to the inventory. Andrew Wood to keep them,

Newsletter Folder

Youth Pennon

Photo Albums (1932-40)

Group Pennons (2009)

Scottish Pennon

National Pennon

Dave Lee

Howard Crosland

Club HQ

with Groups

Howard Crosland

Howard Crosland

Leather Briefcase (Brown)	Jenny Williams
Briefcase (Black)	Colin Wild
Derek Wood Youth Shield (1944)	Howard Crosland
Chairman's Gavel	Trevor Masters
Chairman's Modesty Screen	Trevor Masters
Lightweight Area Flags (2016) (2 of each)	With Areas
Lightweight Youth Flag (2016)	Howard Crosland
Section Minutes (1987-1996)	Andrew Wood

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for her report.

7. PRO Matters.

a) PRO report distributed to Committee Meetings previous to Meeting. The graph showing increasing trends of motorhomes was discussed and it was noted that this increased the demand for hard standings and more walks from the site.

b) Promotion of Festival of Walking 2019

This event and follow on Meet will be requested for inclusion in Out and About as a Featured Event in the May edition. The Meet Events will come from the Section's allocation.

c) Website Report

Mapping features are driven by Google Earth Maps and these now show elevation and other features to help with showing location of steep areas and help with clear labelling of Meets. FoW&C Meet walks are ready for viewing on the website. Green papers have been produced re the use of social media and creating and using websites.

d) Website Registration 2019

The Section website has now been re-registered with the Communications Committee. Northern Area needs to send re-registration to John Gerner by end of February.

Adrian Rose is happy to carry on with the website for the foreseeable future but any change in his circumstances may have an impact on his input to the Section.

The Chairman expressed thanks to John Gerner and Adrian Rose for their work.

8. Membership Analysis

Report previously distributed to members, however Les Morton reported that he has received January's figures which show a drop in total membership to 1001 from 1220 in December. It was commented that membership does fluctuate. Youth numbers were static and it's rarely youth members camp with MAS. **(Membership figures have since been correct by the Club to 1217).**

9. National Council Report

Report previously distributed. The Chairman thanked Les Morton for his good report. Steve Harris will continue to be the Club's representative with MAS and he added that the Club have acquired two new sites in the Lake District – Scotgate and Braithwaite Fields. NFOL - Steve Harris said that re-positioning the Section stands in the Club services marquee was being considered, if this goes ahead hopefully more members will notice MAS stand. To ask Area members for more representation at the event to help out on the stand and to lead walks. Deb and Trevor Masters will investigate walks around the area.

10. Activity Magazine

The Chairman reminded everyone that unless we find an editor there will be no magazine. The two editions produced by Melanie Shearn were excellent. The Section is now in a position where, as well as an editor, we need another Treasurer and Secretary. Area Secretaries to do a mail shot about these vacancies.

11. Matters of particular importance from Area Reps

a) Northern – Report previously distributed.

b) Peakland – Report previously distributed. It was pointed out that reductions for Sections/DA's Meets on Club Sites did not apply to franchises and that the sites be contacted directly as it may be possible to negotiate fees. Difficulty guaranteeing numbers – these are allowed to fall a little below booked number although this did not happen at Wolverley for Council Meeting. John Gerner said the Manager of the site at Winchcombe was excellent when there were problems with numbers due to the bad weather. There could be financial risk re late cancellations. Deb Masters said that Club HQ does not always notify the site until near the date of arrival. Steve Harris will take this to the Sites Committee in February.

c) Wessex – Report previously distributed.

The Chairman thanked the representatives for producing their reports on time.

12. Progress on move to Proxy Voting and relevant update to Section Constitution

Gary Barr came into the Meeting to explain procedure for proxy voting. The Notice of Motion requires 25 signatures, the members then need to have notice of the Motion via post with the option of voting for or against the Motion or giving a nominated person, decided by the Council (usually the Chairman who has the casting vote), to vote on their behalf. It was decided that the former option was most appropriate for our needs. The motion must be put on the agenda as an item and an independent scrutineer must validate the vote. There must also be a record of proof that the process has been carried out correctly. The membership number must accompany the name on the completed form for individual members. Where there are households which have more than one person with the same membership number, these will be cross referenced.

13. Election of President and Vice Presidents for 2019/20 (to be reported to AGM)

President – Andrew Wood. Proposed Les Morton; Seconded Jenny Williams. Agreed.

(President and Chairman to explore a suitable regalia for the President)

Vice Presidents: Carole Booth, Diane Goodyear, Terry Bishop and Christine Stevenson

Proposed Jenny Williams; Seconded John Gerner. Agreed.

It was proposed that two other members be elected as Vice Presidents subject to their agreement.

Proposed Andrew Wood; Seconded Barry Cowlard. Agreed unanimously.

The Secretary will ask them if they are willing to be Vice Presidents.

14. Certificates of Honour 2019

It was agreed at the last Meeting to look at having a MAS Certificate of Merit in addition to the Club's Certificate of Honour. Jenny Williams agreed to have a go at designing one but would like to see a Club template on which to base her design. Steve Harris will email one. The Chairman thanked Jenny for agreeing to do this.

Discussing future nominations can be difficult if the person is in the Meeting, to have a look at alternatives.

Andrew Wood proposed a long time member for a Club Certificate of Honour as the person has held several Committee positions since the early nineties. Andrew Wood will investigate the person's MAS history but the nomination has to come from the Secretary.

Proposed Andrew Wood; Seconded Jenny Williams. Agreed unanimously.

15. AGM 2019 and Festival of Walking and Cycling

a) Council Vacancies 2019

Barry Cowlard is willing to stand again.

Colin Wild will not be standing again. This leaves one vacancy on the Council.

b) Notices of Motion

John Gerner read out the following item from the Wessex Minutes:

The proposals by Wessex and Peakland to change our Area names so they better reflect the activities that we undertake have been considered by the Club's Management Committee and Administration Committee and refused on the grounds that they did not agree with changing Area names prior to changing the Section name.

The Committee discussed how to proceed and concluded that having been denied the opportunity to change the name of the Area, the Section name will continue to discourage potential new members from attending Wessex Area meets and consequently the Section name represents a threat to the continued existence of the Wessex Area as a viable entity. Furthermore, in the best interests of securing the future of the Wessex Area, it was agreed to seek a change of Section name so that it best reflects the activities that we undertake.

It was resolved that the Wessex Area Committee would seek support from Members for submitting the following Notice of Motion for consideration at the Section AGM in 2019:

“The Mountain Activity Section of the Camping & Caravanning Club shall henceforth be known as the Walking and Cycling Section of the Camping & Caravanning Club”

This Motion has been submitted to the Secretary and the Council accepted it. 43 signatures have been obtained for this Motion and the Council agreed to adopt the Motion and proceed with proxy voting. Colin Wild will liaise with Gary Barr re the wording of the form and email it to Council members for approval. The completed form can be returned by email or post addressed to The Chairman – cut-off date 24th April 2019. Sandra Wild proposed that Portland College be asked to do the printing and mailing of these. Agreed unanimously.

c) Proposed Programme of Events for Festival of Walking and Cycling

Some Wessex members have been to look at the Site, the fence between the two fields has been removed but not grassed over as yet. Walks programme – working on four a day, routes will be on the website which will be useful for anyone wanting to walk individually. There is a social club and it is hoped to have skittles evening on Sunday at their skittle alley but no success yet in contacting secretary. The hall has been booked for the AGM but no deposit asked for yet. Wessex to follow this up.

John Gerner will lead a heritage walk.

16. AGM 2020 and Festival of Walking and Cycling

a) Venue/hosts

Peakland Area has booked Church Farm, Mill Lane, Barlow for the 2020 FoW&C . The village hall for the AGM is next to the field. Hall booked and deposit paid. The field does slope and there is an overflow field. Hope to book a Ceilidh for Sunday evening.

The site is on a bus route and there is a car boot sale on the village hall field on Sunday.

b) Dates (Thursday 30th April – Thursday 5th May) This will be a THS.

17. NFOL 2019 – Block Booking

Numbers of MAS members attending have been low in the past. If it is decided to go ahead with walks, Chris Porter, Chair of Events needs to be informed re programme. Also notice needs to go out about suitable footwear.

18. Date and Venue of next meeting: AGM Saturday 4th May 2019 at Beckford Village Hall, Main Street, Beckford, Worcestershire GL20 7AA. This will be followed by a short Council meeting to elect officers for 2019/20

19. Review of decisions made and actions needed

1. Since nobody seems to be using the YHS card the subscription is to be discontinued.
2. The Section surplus funds are to be held until we find if we have an Activity editor and then they may be used to publish 2/3 hard copies per year.
3. The training equipment held by Andrew Wood is to be written off. The minutes of the Section AGMs from 1987 - 96 are to be added to the inventory. Andrew Wood is to keep them.
4. Disbursements: £200 to each Area. £250 to the Area hosting the FoW&C.
5. Members attending the Section Council meeting will be able to claim the national executive mileage rate (currently 45p per mile) from the September meeting.
6. FoW&C to appear in Out and About as Featured Events. This entry to come out of the Section allocation.
7. A return for the registration of the Northern Area website (as per Green Paper 5.2) is required to be with John Gerner by the end of February.
8. Section secretaries are requested to email all members on their contact list to emphasise the importance of finding replacements for a) Activity Editor b) Secretary c) Treasurer.
9. Les Morton/Steve Harris are to take the problems encountered when booking meets on Club Sites to the next Sites Committee meeting.
10. Secretary to contact the new people proposed as Section Vice Presidents.
11. Andrew Wood to draft proposal for the awarding of the Certificate of Honour to a member agreed at the meeting.
- 12 Jenny Williams to try to design a Section 'Certificate of Merit'.
13. There will be no Section group booking for the NFoL.

20. Any Other Business

Deb Masters reported that there is a problem with the link for opting in to receive paper Out and About in the main C&CC magazine – this goes nowhere. Steve Harris will inform the appropriate Department about this. At this point Garry Barr came into the room and undertook to take the matter up with the appropriate department.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

The Meeting closed at 2.20pm.

Signed.....
Chairman

Signed.....
Secretary