

# **Wessex Mountaineering Club**

## **Minutes of 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting**

**Held 14<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at The Elm Tree, Ringwood, Hants**

1. The meeting started at 8:00 pm.

### **Attendances & apologies**

2. Attendees: Steve Wales, Chris Cumming, Dave Johnson (DAJ), Alan Blanchflower, Andy Cumming, Pawel Tatarek, Clare Johnson, Daniel Pollard, John Hayes, Kathryn Hayes, Jodi Longyear, Malcolm (Max) Streeton, Charlene Gibson, Jon Coutts, John Whitfield, Jill Whitfield, Norman Wright, Charmian Wright, Paul Stevens, Jill Stevens, Jamie Hill, Ian Rowe, Frodo Stickle, Mike Giddens, Marilyn Giddens, Helen Wales
3. Apologies: Nick Foot, Andrew Turner, Doug Pigg, Dave Mackenzie, Bob Mott

### **Minutes of the 62<sup>nd</sup> AGM**

4. The minutes were accepted.

### **Committee Reports 2022**

#### *President*

5. Alan reported that it was good to return to some sense of normality, regarding meets, after the disruption of Covid, and that meets were well attended.

#### *Secretary*

6. Steve reported that there had been five committee meetings over the year, and that despite the lifting of all restrictions the committee meetings continued to be held online via Zoom.

#### *Meets*

7. Pawel reported on the meets – a total of 24 during the year. 19 people attended the Scottish Winter Meet, 2 training weekends were held, and an Alpine meet in La Berarde.

#### *Social*

8. Andy reported on the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event which had been postponed from the previous year. The event held at Harmans Cross village hall was well attended and was blessed with good weather. Andy thanked Clare, Charmian and Chris for the cakes. There was no slide show this year as there was not enough presentations offered to justify holding it. The Xmas Dinner meet was a combined walk in the New Forest with a pub meal in the evening which was judged to be a success and the plan is to continue with this format.

### *Programme*

9. Steve read Nicks report which gave an overview of the coming years programme, including the SWM at Torridon YHA, a Font meet and prospective trips to the Dolomites. These were in addition to the usual mix of meets covering North Wales, the Lake District, Peak District, Pembroke (North and South) and Cornwall. Two training weekend at Swanage have also been included in the programme.

### *Membership*

10. Membership figures were reported by the Treasurer and these were 183 at 31 October 2022.

### *Newsletter*

11. There were 3 newsletters published in 2022, a pre AGM edition followed by Spring and Summer editions. In the age of social media the newsletter effectively becomes the club archive, and to this end Andrew has been digitising the existing newsletter archive, and looking to do the same with the meet books with the last entry in 1997.

### *Hut - Pen y Clogwyn*

12. DAJ reported that the hut was getting back to being fully occupied, but the club was now limiting numbers to 12 people. There had been two working weekends during the year with the existing woodsheds filled, and one of the woodsheds had been re-built. The chimney had been swept and a new baffle plate installed in the stove. Paul Crowsley had sourced a new bottom to the front door, so the door should last for a few more years yet. DAJ suggested that a web page be added to the website listing jobs that people could do when they are up at the hut.
13. Andy gave the total person nights that the hut was used during the last few years. These were: 701 2018/19; 282 2019/20; 299 2020/2021; 337 2021/2022.

### *Marketing*

14. Andy's report covered under social.

### *Treasurer*

15. Chris gave her report as treasurer. As of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 the club had 183 members and the clubs net assets were £61,306 (including the cost of Pen y Clogwyn), which is slightly less than the previous years figure of £61,445. This is a slight decrease £138.78 over the previous year which is represented by the profit on the General Account £738.39 and the loss on the Hut Account £877.17.
16. Subs and donations include payments to the 2 mountain rescue teams, the Ramblers and Dorset Bolt Fund.

17. We made a profit on the Scottish Winter Meet and we partly subsidised the first aid course. There was a loss £512 on the Xmas Dinner Meet held in 2021 due to lack of attendance. The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in June was a major effort but very successful with a slight loss of £55.
18. Income from non-members using the hut had increased this year, but high maintenance costs offset the increase in use resulting in a loss on the hut.
19. Chris expressed her thanks to Jack Crewe who had kindly audited the accounts.

#### *Walking Group*

20. John Whitfield spoke about the walks that the walking group organise every month. About a dozen people typically attend, and the walks are about 10 miles.

#### **Discussion following Committee Reports**

21. John Whitfield mentioned that the club used to donate to the Mountain Bothies Association – Jill commented that this particular body was awash with cash.
22. DAJ commented that Llanberis MRC was also awash with cash and that perhaps the club should not consider further donations.

#### **Nomination of scrutineers**

23. No scrutineers were appointed.

#### **Election of the committee**

24. Dave Johnson was elected as President, proposed by Alan Blanchflower, seconded by Andy Cumming.
25. Steve Wales was elected as Secretary, proposed by Jon Coutts, seconded by Malcolm Streeton.
26. Chris Cumming was elected as Treasurer, proposed by Malcolm Streeton seconded by Clare Johnson.
27. Ian Rowe was elected as Meet Secretary, proposed by Dave Johnson, seconded by Andy Cumming.
28. Zoe Allen was elected as Membership Secretary, proposed by Andy Cumming, seconded by Frodo Stickel.
29. Jon Coutts was elected as Programme Secretary, proposed by Clare Johnson and seconded by Norman Wright.
30. Frodo Stickel was elected as Hut Secretary, proposed by Andy Cumming and seconded by Clare Johnson.
31. Andrew Turner was elected as Newsletter Editor, proposed by Jamie Hill, seconded by Jon Coutts.

32. Charlene Gibson was elected as Social Secretary proposed by Malcolm Streeton, seconded by Clare Johnson
33. Malcolm Streeton was elected as Marketing Secretary proposed by Frodo Stickel and seconded by Charlene Gibson
34. Norman Wright was elected as Ordinary Member proposed by Charlene Gibson, seconded by Clare Johnson.
35. Dan Pollard was elected as Ordinary Member proposed by Jon Coutts, seconded by Dave Johnson
36. Andy Cumming will continue as hut bookings secretary.

### **Subscriptions for 2023**

37. The BMC capitation now increases in-line with the retail prices index, and now stands at £22.50 for an adult. The running of the club costs about £10 per member, therefore Chris proposed an increase in the ordinary member subscription to £32, and that the student member subscription remain at £20, with under 18 members increased to £18. Chris also proposed that the joining fee was increased from £5 to £10.
38. A vote was held with 1 person against increasing subscriptions and 3 people against increasing the joining fee. Proposal was carried.

### **Appointment of Honorary Auditor**

39. Jack Crewe agreed to be honorary auditor and was appointed.

### **Open Floor**

40. Max talked about the clubs handling of addresses as some concerns had been raised over the visibility of addresses. Changes to the website had been made so that only committee members who needed access to the full address would be able to view these, and that the addresses visible to all members would be restricted to the first three characters of the postcode.
41. Norman raised the issue of the club collating an emergency contact for all members. Max suggested including a box on the website to allow emergency contact details to be entered, however some protocol needs to be established over who can access this information.
42. Pawel commented that some of those that went on the training meets, expected to be better supported on subsequent meets they attended.
43. Clare suggested a meet at PYC for new members, with Max suggesting that some transport costs be covered by the club for those helping less experienced new members on such a meet.
44. Max suggested doing a monthly bulletin to promote meets (which he used to do when President).
45. Helen raised the idea of a regular pub meet.

46. Frodo suggested a monthly club night at one of the climbing walls in the area.
47. There was some discussion on the donations that the club makes. There was general agreement that the club should donate to the following bodies:

Dorset Bolt Fund  
Dorset Air Ambulance  
Ogwen MRC  
Ramblers Association

#### *WMC Literary Prize*

48. The entries for the WMC Literary prize were Martin Saberton "Edge Climbing Meet-Ups", Nick Foot with "Top Rope Soloing with Taz Love 3", and the winning article by Alan Turner "The Ceredigion Coast Path – What a Revelation!". Alan will receive a £20 Cotswold Gift Voucher.

#### *WMC Photo Prize*

49. There was a tie for first place in the photo competition. The winners were Charlene Gibson for her photo on Ama Dablam and Jon Coutts for his photo of Alan Blanchflower on Dream of White Horses. Both will receive a £15 Cotswold Gift Voucher.

#### *AOB*

50. There was no AOB items.

The meeting closed at 10:30pm.