

# **Aycliffe Fell Walking Club**

## **MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**HELD WEDNESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2014**

### **1. Attendance & Apologies**

Attendance: Eddy Adam, Maureen Bainbridge, Moira Bayne, Mick Beadle, Nina Bell, Chris Blanks, Bill Buckle, Carol Butler, Jenny Cameron, Keith Dodds, Alan Fowler, Jean Griffiths, David Hall, Ian Hardcastle, Donna Harris, Alan Holmes, Geoff Jackson, Andrew Jakob, Tim Jeanes, George Morl, Ken Mullen, Lenny Nunn, Geoff Oldham, Matthew Panchen, Sheila Pinkney, Brian Riley, Peter Riley, Trevor Singleton, Jane Smith, Maria Todd, Ray Todd, Rob Turner, Karen Watson, Barry Wilkinson, Adele Yates (35 members present).

Apologies: David Bayne, Roger Colley, Shaun Firth, Gail Fitton, Alan Fleetham, Mike Lockett, Karen Newbould, Rachel Orange, Carole Parker, Keith Pringle, Isobel Remmer, Lorraine Richardson, Jes Smith, Caroline Taukulis.

### **2. Minutes of the previous AGM & Matters Arising**

Minutes of the 2013 AGM had been reissued by email to members voting for 2015 walks ahead of the meeting. Only matter arising was that J O'Sullivan's "Meet Ups" Forum proposal (minute 7.7) had not been implemented due to increased attendances.

Barry Wilkinson proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the 2013 meeting, seconded by George Morl, carried unanimously.

### **3. Chairman's Remarks**

The chairman made glowing remarks about it being a great club with consistently full coaches, profitable with a sound future. Members should feel good about recent progress and the present friendly atmosphere throughout the club. He apologised for being unable to join in on more walks, which was due to career workload.

Alan's advertising via the Newton News articles had resulted in a constant influx of new members, thanks to him. No shows had been reduced. The outlook was looking good!

### **4. Secretary's Report**

4.1 Correspondence (2 items): a) Letter received from Ineos S&SC approving the Club's Constitution & Articles of Association b) Letter from Durham Wildlife Trust requesting members to keep a look out for Adders during walks, report sightings to Alan H.

4.2 Walks: Reports had been issued via Newton News to all living in Greater Aycliffe, those outside the area were issued reports via email. One walk worth mentioning was Kirkstile to Troutbeck in March, when Maureen took a tumble and was taken to hospital by helicopter. On the same walk Sheila fell and broke a wrist; others had suffered falls and mishaps. During the daffodil walk in April, Anne Cummings stumbled and broke her wrist too! What's going on?

Weekend Away in June: 28 went to Kettlewell and enjoyed good weather!

4.3 Attendances: Following Sheila's recruitment campaign, coupled with Newton News articles, also due to the website, attendances had increased to an average 48 per trip (compared to 33 last year). Larger coaches were now being used but there were still long waiting lists for every walk. Still experiencing no-shows however.

4.4 Membership: 67 Adults, 1 Junior, 5 Free (recruitment initiative), 12 S&SC members, 9 Life Members = 94 Total members (an increase of 23 since last year)

4.5 Alan wished to express sincere thanks to the following: -

- All active members for their continued support and attendance on walks
- Andrew and Ian for assistance & photo's in compiling Newton News articles
- David O'Hara for his continuing help in maintaining the Club's website
- Ineos S&SC for their very welcome support, providing a further £200 grant
- S&SC members for providing the AGM venue, with bar plus a bartender.
- Lesley Renteurs for a £50 donation, following a successful slideshow about her trek to Everest Base Camp, which was held in the pavilion in April
- Sheila Pinkney for her sustained efforts in winning the Club a further £500 grant from County Durham Community Foundation

At this point Sheila announced that she had managed to win another grant of £350 from Durham County Council. Well done again to Sheila and also thanks to Eddy Adam and other Aycliffe Councillors for their valued support.

In a final point, Alan suggested that if key members on walks could provide him with a concise emailed report immediately afterwards, i.e. by Tuesday latest, he would endeavour to incorporate this into his article prior to submission to Newton News.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

Alan F expressed the view that as far as could be remembered this was the first time that fares collected during the year had exceeded coach costs, resulting in a profit for the year of £229. The Club had previously had to rely on Ineos S&SC grants and proceeds from the Xmas draw to augment funds. This success was all down to increased "bums on seats" and was a very encouraging trend. The Club had made a net overall profit of £1,625 – an excellent result. The bank balance at £6,165 is the healthiest it has ever been!

Two unexpired items:

Sheila held £300 cash in hand for purchase of 2014 Xmas Draw prizes

Cheques sent to Fell Rescue Teams totalling £200 – remain to be encashed

The Statement of Accounts was scrutinised in some detail. Following this, Chris Blanks proposed that the accounts be accepted, seconded by Tim Jeanes, carried unanimously!

Thanks to Alan F for his work during the year. Alan H would be emailing the Accounts Summary out to members in near future, along with the 2014 AGM Minutes.

Statement of Accounts for 2013-2014 is included at Appendix 1

## **6. Election of Officers**

Andy Jakob agreed to continue as Chairman, Alan Holmes agreed to continue as Secretary, Alan Fowler advised that he was standing down as Treasurer.

Sheila Pinkney indicated that she would stand as treasurer providing she was helped with the accounts. Alan H agreed to provide the necessary assistance. Mick Beadle proposed she be elected, seconded by George Morl. There being no other nominations a vote was held and she was duly elected.

Sheila expressed view that there should be three co-signatories, Treasurer, Chairman and Secretary. Also that it would be much better if bills could be paid by e-banking. This is to be checked with Barclays to establish options & what is/isn't permissible.

Barry agreed to continue on the Committee, responsible for Sports & Social Club Liaison. Maria agreed to join the Committee, responsible for minute taking. She was duly elected.

First Aiders: Adele, Jenny, Sheila & Maria agreed to continue. Brian Riley agreed to ask Christine and Emily if they would serve too.

The meeting thanked Alan Fowler for his service to the club. (Alan is intending to move to Aviemore, to be closer to family members as well as to the Scottish hills).

## **7. Notices of Motion**

**7.1 Voting for walks** would be carried out ahead of the meeting, saving time at the meeting. Voting sheet emailed to most, posted to those 7 not on email.

Eligibility: "All current paid-up members, including S&SC and active Life Members, plus those who have been on any of the year's trips, regardless of status"

Another key advantage was realised following the voting; 30 had voted last year, 61 voted this time. 106 voting forms distributed, 58% returned.

The principle of voting ahead of the AGM plus the eligibility criteria had been voted on and carried unanimously at the hastily called meeting in October. It was ratified at the AGM.

**Going Paperless** would lead to significant cost reductions. Proposal to eliminate issue of hard copy where & whenever possible, with Powerpoint presentations by electronic projection. The principle of going "paperless" was voted on and was carried unanimously.

**7.2 Monthly Walks** would mean more to choose from and could enable new members to more easily join club walks. Proposal to have 12 walks per year instead of 10, i.e. 4 in Lakeland, 1 in Coastal areas, 1 in Canals & Further afield, 6 from Dales, Pennines and NYM.

Geoff Jackson suggested that coach journey times should not be excessive through travelling to distant walk areas. Secretary would bear this in mind for future walks.

Proposal of increasing walks programme to 12 pa was voted on and carried unanimously in October. It was ratified at this meeting.

**7.3 Pre-Booking Service.** After extensive discussion concerning coach capacities, use of two coaches, Enterprise Travels future plans, etc it was agreed that loyalty should continue to be rewarded and those regularly attending club walks would be given priority over less-frequent walkers and new members. Also, the Secretary would take account of individual attendance records when compiling Reserve Lists.

Saturation point had been reached and the Secretary is to cease attracting further new members, also take a commonsense approach when new walkers are seeking to join trips. Members were asked to think before adding name to Pre Booking Sheet on coach - to avoid subsequent late cancellation. On future walks the PBS would be circulated on the outward coach journey. Members agreed that continuation of the PBS was best way forward. Carried!

#### **7.4 Subscriptions & Coach Fares**

Proposed and accepted that subs would remain at £5 for adults, £2 for juniors.

Proposed and accepted that coach fares would remain £10 for adults, £3 for juniors.

Reduced or part fares. The principle of reducing fares for coach seats when there was a lengthy waiting list of members waiting to pay full fare, was discussed at length. Two proposals evolved from the discussions: a) Charge £10 for part journeys except when there is no waiting list, when fare could revert to £5 b) Charge £10 regardless. The majority felt that coach seat costs represented excellent value and because of this the 2<sup>nd</sup> proposal (b) was carried.

### **8. Any Other Business**

**8.1 Xmas Walk** will finish with a quiz and a meal at the George & Dragon, Aysgarth.

Cost of meal will be £8; members asked if meal cost should be subsidised by club.

Not carried. Counter proposal that members should pay full cost and funds (£150) should be donated to NW and Great North Air Ambulance teams was carried.

**8.2 Email 'bounce backs'** had represented a significant communication problem. This issue has been recently resolved, personal emails now being used instead of Ineos internal mailing system.

**8.3 Use of coach without a toilet.** Mick suggested we should review this as en-route layby toilet stops were not appropriate. Alan H apologised that on the October walk he was engaged in selling Xmas draw tickets at rear of bus as the coach drove past the intended toilet stop. Unlikely to happen on future walks. Any decision would need to recognise that reverting to a smaller coach would mean £50 less income on trips, which could make the difference between profit & loss on each trip.

Additionally, Enterprise had given assurance that large European coach (with toilet) would be made available whenever possible. Ian Harbottle proposed that we continue with large coach minus toilet, but with brief toilet stops, seconded by Sheila, this was carried.

**8.4 Safety on walks.** Alan expressed concern over number of accidents and other events during the year, especially on the snowy March walk in Lake District. He is concerned that there's a general lack of awareness and knowledge amongst some, especially the newer members. He suggested that, as a club, we should assume collective responsibility for our

actions and the safety of our members. Training sessions should be set up to give guidance on mountain craft, mountain equipment, courses on the use of map & compass (these should be held separate from regular club walks). The majority of members agreed and Alan & Sheila are to make enquiries with the intention of establishing initial training sessions for interested members during the first 3 months of 2015.

Guidance notes were also considered to be a little out of date and these need to be updated to take account of changes in personnel, both within the club and within Ineos. What happens when a member gets into difficulty and contacts Ineos security? What will Ineos security then do? Members need to understand the procedure in detail, assuming various scenarios, i.e. in difficulty and unable to continue, completely lost and uncertain what to do, another member missing, simply running late.

8.5 Barry's retirement. Barry had now retired and members were asked to agree to Life Membership being conferred on him. All agreed and he was applauded for all he has done for the club to date.

Tim Jeanes also wished to thank the present officials for running the club so effectively over the last year. All members agreed and applauded.

**9 Result of Voting for 2015 Walks Programme.** Announced by Alan H, with promise to issue the Annual Outings sheet as soon as was possible.

**Walks selected by members:**

**Lake District:**

- 3 Great Gable Circular from Seatoller inc "Threading the Needle"
- 5 Coniston fells – Skelwith Bridge to Coniston village
- 11. Great End & Scafell Pike – from Rosthwaite, Borrowdale
- 16. Dale Head & Cat Bells – Seatoller to Keswick

**Coastal:**

- 18. NY Coast – Saltburn & Staithes to Whitby

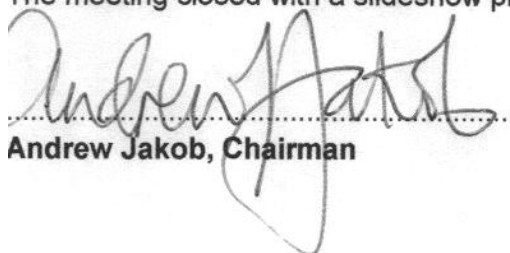
**Canal Walks & Other Areas:**

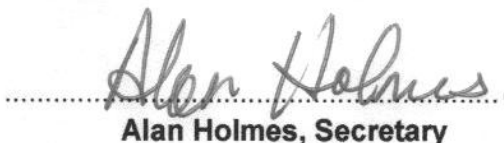
- 21. Leeds & Liverpool Canal – Shipley & Silsden to Gargrave

**Pennines, Dales & NY Moors:**

- 25. Ingleton & Ribbleshead to Hawes
- 29. Eden Valley Way – Lazonby to Wetheral
- 36. Hadrian's Wall Walk – Gilsland to Carlisle
- 40. Esk Valley – Castleton to Whitby
- 41. Asby Hills – Tebay to Kirby Stephen
- 42. Limestone Link – Kirby Lonsdale to Arncliffe/Silverdale

The meeting closed with a slideshow presented by Ian Hardcastle. Many thanks to Ian.

  
Andrew Jakob, Chairman

  
Alan Holmes, Secretary

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## Aycliffe Fell Walking Club



Income & Expenditure - Year: 1 November 2013 to 31 October 2014 <sup>1</sup>						2013-2014	2011-2012
INCOME		Members Paid	EXPENDITURE			PROFIT/LOSS	PROFIT/LOSS
Subscriptions	£337.00	67				£337.00	£250.00
Xmas draw tickets 2013	£1,000.00		Xmas Draw Prizes 2013	£450.00		£550.00	£504.24
Coach fares collected	£4,668.00		Coach Hire & Parking	£4,439.00		£229.00	-£1,047.00
Bank interest	£0.00		Quiz Prizes	£23.12		-£23.12	-£20.00
Donations	£99.50		Donations to MRT's	£200.00		-£100.50	£120.00
INEOS Sports & Social Club grant <sup>2</sup>	£200.00					£200.00	£250.00
County Durham Community Fund	£500.00					£500.00	£0.00
Raffle - unclaimed prize (Mar walk)	£14.00		Web Site Domain	£0.00		£14.00	£31.20
			Administration Costs	£80.88		-£80.88	-£16.10
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>£6,818.50</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>£5,193.00</b>		
						<b>Profit/Loss</b>	<b>£1,625.50</b>
							<b>£72.34</b>

Balance Sheet at 31 October 2014					
Liabilities			Assets		
Creditors		£200.00	Fixed assets		£0.00
			Current Assets		
Reserves <sup>3</sup>			Cash at Bank	£6,156.85	
Balance b/fwd from 2012/2013	£4,631.35		Cash in hand	£300.00	
Profit/Loss	£1,625.50		Debtors <sup>3</sup>		
Total Reserves		£6,256.85	Total Current Assets		£6,456.85
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>£6,456.85</b>	<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>£6,456.85</b>
Balance to carry forward	£6,256.85				

## Notes:

- Accounts run from 1 November to 31 October (Ready for the AGM on the first Wednesday in November).
- The Aycliffe Fell Walking Club (AFWC) is a section of the INEOS Sports and Social Club (S&SC). The reserves held by the AFWC would be due to the S&SC should a winding up situation occur.
- The coach hire fee for November 2014 has been paid but does not yet appear in the bank statement. Similarly £100 donations have been made to the Keswick and Swaledale rescue teams.
- A grant from Durham Community Fund of £500 has been received

Individual walk profit/loss				Extras (not full trip)	People on coach	Profit/Loss per person	Subs Collected	Donations /No Show
Outing Name	Income	Expend	Profit/Loss					
16/11/13 Thirlmere to Keswick	£415.00	£440.00	-£25.00	9	37	-£0.68		
14/12/13 Ripley to Pateley Bridge	£410.00	£410.00	£0.00		41	£0.00	10	
25/01/14 Healaugh to Muker	£460.00	£410.00	£50.00	2	45	£1.11		£5.00
22/02/14 Hadston to Alnmouth	£504.00	£450.00	£54.00		52	£1.04		£1.50
22/03/14 Kirkstone to Troutbeck	£446.00	£460.00	-£14.00		47	-£0.30	6	
12/04/14 Hutton le Hole to Blakey	£450.00	£420.00	£30.00		45	£0.67	3	
17/05/14 Grasmere to Threlkeld	£475.00	£460.00	£15.00		49	£0.31		£20.00
12/07/14 Lorton to Loweswater	£483.00	£460.00	£23.00	4	47	£0.49	4	£3.00
13/09/14 Holy Island to Wooler	£520.00	£469.00	£51.00		52	£0.98		£15.00
11/10/14 Elterwater to Grasmere	£505.00	£460.00	£45.00	3	49	£0.92	1	£5.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£4,668.00</b>	<b>£4,439.00</b>	<b>£229.00</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>46.40</b>	<b>£0.45</b>	<b>24</b>	