

# **Aycliffe Fell Walking Club**

## **MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**HELD WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**

### **1. Attendance**

E Adam, B Aspey, C Auton, M Bainbridge, M Bayne, M. Beadle, M Bergstrand, M Blaser, B Buckle, J Cameron, R Colley, A Cummings, K Cummings, C Denise, K Dodds, D Harris, A Holmes, A Hutchinson, G Jackson, A Jakob, T Jeanes, Y Knight, P Laverick, G Morl, D Morrison, K Mullen, K Nattrass, L Nunn, G Oldham, M Raw, L Richardson, B Riley, T Scott, W Scott, T Singleton, J Smith, I Snowdon, S Snowdon, P Taylor, M Todd, R Todd, B Wilkinson, A Yates (43 members present).

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

Minutes of the previous AGM were discussed, three matters arising:

1. 2<sup>nd</sup> notice of motion - concerning late cancellation payments and regarding adoption of the proposal "that those [members] in debt should be refused ongoing membership until debts were paid in full". The Secretary stated that this proposal had been adopted but that it wasn't working as intended and wished to propose an adjustment under 'Notices of motion' (see section 7.1)
2. AOB item 5 – Public Liabilities. Waiver had been produced with the help of the British Mountaineering Council. All current members had now signed and copies will be held 'on file' indefinitely, certainly whilst the individuals remain Club members.
3. AOB item 8 (added after the meeting) concerning donations to MRT's. The usual donations had been withheld due to a negative Operating Result.

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

The Chairman thanked Mick Beadle for use of the Inovyn Sports & Social Club hall and facilities. He was positive and enthusiastic about good attendances, increasing membership, regular use of two coaches and all the good weather enjoyed!

Alan's considerable input and effort in keeping the Club running was recognised, appreciated and applauded.

The only negative was with regard to cleanliness of the coaches, especially the onboard toilet facilities. Offensive smells had become obvious and checks promised by the coach company prior to departure were not being carried out. This had been highlighted as a serious issue but, despite efforts by Chairman & Secretary to communicate our concerns, no real improvement had been realised. Exasperation!

High attendance at AGM's was recognised as a significant factor in the Club's continued well-being and was appreciated.

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

The Secretary gave a summary of the year's walks and went on to confirm attendances, comparing them with the previous year - 59.5 this year, 54.4 last, an increase of 5 per trip! The weekend away in Kirby Stephen had been a great success with 32 members attending! Thanks to Jenny and Geoff for organising!

Club membership stood at 87 adults plus 3 juniors, compared to 85 adults last year. The club is still growing, albeit slowly.

Barry was thanked for producing the archive CD's; donations so far had realised £72, which had been donated to Teesdale & Weardale Mountain Rescue Teams. Further CD's are still available from the Secretary.

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

The Accounts were presented for the year ending 31 October 2017.

Alan identified that, of the thirteen trips organised, seven had initially attracted 70+ walkers and so second coaches were laid on. Subsequent cancellations meant that all seven trips had been under-attended, only 57 attending the May outing. All these trips had run at a substantial loss! The overall result on outings was negative and we made a loss of £193.50

A loss of £704.00 had also been incurred on training (use of map, compass & mountain navigation skills) but this had been anticipated. Miscellaneous expenses included the cost of providing complimentary drinks on our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary trip; the breakdown of costs was explained to all.

The Xmas draw had been downsized to 800 tickets but only 710 had been sold; this resulted in a net surplus of £276.53 (compared to £443 last year). The Treasurer advised that the draw had again been downsized to 700 tickets for this year's draw.

In summary, the Operating Result was -£633.64, the Overall Result was -£383.64 and, due to these negative results, the proposed donations to MRT's were withheld pending approval by the membership. Our bank balance stood at a healthy £8,568.52. Several members proposed that MRT donations in 2018 should be doubled to compensate; resulting in £300 being donated to 2 MRT's. This was unanimously agreed. It was also agreed that one local MRT & one in the Lake District should be selected by the Secretary. [Footnote, Secretary's decision: Swaledale MRT and Langdale & Ambleside MRT will each receive £150.00]

The Treasurer explained that the negative accounts should not give cause for concern. All expenditure was deliberate and controlled; there was no underlying downward trend! He also explained that, whilst the Committee were responsible for checking the accuracy of the Accounts in terms of mistakes, omissions and miss-appropriations, it was the members themselves who had collective authority over the accounts. In response to this George Morl proposed that the accounts as presented be accepted; carried unanimously!

**[Summary Accounts for 2016-2017 - see separate pdf, supplied as email attachment.]**

## **6. Election of Officers**

Existing officers agreed to continue in post. Alan again reminded the meeting that we collectively needed to identify someone who can take over from him in the years ahead!

He then made an impassioned appeal for understanding and for others to come forward to assist on outing days. He declared that he was a "can-do" kind of person that would take on all duties if others were reticent; also, that he favoured working on the outings in advance, in order to obtain accurate and meaningful quotes from the coach companies for the whole year ahead, that were based on large coaches being able to access narrow road links to the

proposed walking routes. Alan's plea for tolerance and understanding had been prompted by remarks he had overheard during the April outing.

He was thankful for the assistance given by Sheila, who has always helped with collecting fares, buying Xmas draw prizes, etc. She had been a stalwart over many years and he was truly thankful for her involvement in running the Club. Andy, Kenneth, Jenny and Geoff were thanked too, for their assistance with lighter duties. Not least, the members themselves were thanked for their efforts in purchasing/selling Xmas draw tickets.

Mick Beadle suggesting that there should be a representative of the S&SC on the committee (Barry was no longer an Inovyn employee); Mick was duly elected to serve. All other committee members agreed to serve for a further term; no other changes were announced.

## **7. Notices of Motion**

### **1. Trip Attendance & Number of Outings:**

A proposal by Alan to consider increasing outings to 15 per annum, based on minimum attendance on all trips over past 3 years coupled with the ability to be able to better cope with rising coach costs, was defeated. Mick Beadle proposed that we stay with 12 monthly walks; accepted by a large majority.

Alan took time to explain that Enterprise Travel had recently undergone major staff changes, which didn't bode well for the future. Alan's ability to influence the company on matters of costs & communications etc had been eroded by these changes and the new management team had already indicated their intention to raise costs for some trips in 2018.

Alan's view was that some outings will almost inevitably have to be priced at £15.00, instead of the present £10. However, he intends fully exploring costs with other suitable coach companies in the region, in order to make comparisons. This exercise will be undertaken prior to making any further commitments with Enterprise for the coming 2018 season.

### **2. Homeward departure in Winter**

Alan asked that earlier homeward departures again be considered. He was speaking on behalf of all those faced with having to drive after trips, especially those with very long journeys, such as George (Wallsend), Gail (Leeds), Maureen, Jim, Lorraine and many others. The list is extensive.

Alan suggested that returning just 30 minutes earlier would be a real help. The proposal to return at 6.00pm during the winter months was carried 22 votes to 16.

### **3. Quarterly Socials**

A social that was organised by Geoff last winter was so successful that Alan proposed that further social evenings be held during the year ahead. Proposed that we earmark the first Wednesday in April as our Spring Social (Tim Jeanes volunteered to organise); we already had a Summer Social arranged for the first Saturday in July, i.e. the Weekend Away. (In 2018 the Summer Social will be held at High Shaw campsite above Hardraw near Hawes. Jenny will advise on B&B accommodation. Geoff Jackson on camping arrangements.)

An Autumn Social will be held the first Wednesday evening in October (Alan agreed to organise a Treasure Hunt) and a Winter or Xmas Social is to be organised for a Wednesday

evening mid December (initially by Alan), which will provide an opportunity for “centralised distribution” of Xmas Draw prizes, as well as holding a quiz (hopefully John O’ will organise?) and a slide & photograph show covering the year’s walks (Ian H.?).

The suggestion was well received and those volunteering were thanked for agreeing to help with this initiative. Along with this suggestion came acceptance that laying on a slide show after the AGM and a quiz after the December walk, were both very time consuming and that to host these two activities in more relaxed surroundings, along with prize distribution, was well worth trialling.

#### **4. Late Cancellation & Debt Payment Scheme**

Alan advised that the Late Cancellation scheme was not working well enough. He proposed further changes and adjustments and these were accepted by members. The Cancellation Policy appearing on Walksheets is to be adjusted to read:

*“Demand for coach seats is always high! If you’ve had your place on the coach confirmed and then cancel within 10 days of the trip, i.e. after 9.00 pm Tuesday week, or fail to show, you will be asked to contribute £10 towards Club funds in lieu of the standard coach fare; this payment is to be made during your next outing with the Club, but not later than 2 calendar months after the cancelled trip!”*

Members also accepted the proposal to send out debt reminders with initial Walksheets - to anyone still owing a contribution after the follow-on trip, whether attended or not!

It’s worth repeating here that the ‘Booking Office’ for the follow-on trip only opens after 9.00 pm on outing day. Therefore, for those not pre-booked, the best chance of gaining a coach seat on the following trip is to phone, text or email the Secretary immediately after 9.00 pm on the Saturday evening. However, refrain from booking early! Communications received before 9.00 pm will not be considered until 9.00 am Sunday morning!

#### **5. First Aid capability**

The Secretary proposed that First Aid Courses should be made available for any member so inclined, with costs paid from Club funds. Whilst not a legal requirement, it was considered and accepted as a sensible step for the Club to take. Ken Cummings volunteered to make enquiries about courses in 2018. He suggested that courses run by concerns associated with the outdoor environment would be more suitable and appropriate. All agreed!

Those volunteering to receive suitable first aid training included current First Aiders Ken, Sheila (in her absence), Maria, Jenny, Christine, Adele & Wendy. New volunteers were identified: Brian Aspey, Cyd, Barry, Andy, Steve & Mary. (13 in total; I’m superstitious! is there anyone else reading these minutes prepared to join the First Aid team?)

First Aiders should of course be equipped with appropriate lightweight First Aid packs to carry on walks. This equipment will be supplied by the Club in line with advice given by Training Instructors, once the courses are arranged.

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

George proposed that future Voting Sheets should include a section covering “New Areas”. His reason for asking for this was that there had been several suggestions for walks in areas

seldom visited by the Club, such as Chatsworth House area, Kinder Scout & Hope Valley, Ashbourne & Dovedale, Kirklees & Calderdale, Robin Hoods Stride & the Wolds but, due to the younger members lack of knowledge, the voting levels had been somewhat lower and none were selected. He proposed that 5 votes be allocated to known areas such as the Dales, Pennines, NYM, etc. instead of the current 6, and that 1 vote be allocated to New Areas. His proposal was accepted almost unanimously and will be introduced next year!

**9. Result of Voting for 2018 Walks Programme.**

59 voted this year (compared to 40 last year)

**[Walks selected by members – see separate pdf, supplied as email attachment.]**

Xmas Draw tickets were then made available to members, before the meeting closed.

Many thanks to all who attended the meeting!

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**Andrew Jakob, Chairman**

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**Alan Holmes, Secretary**