

Aycliffe Fell Walking Club

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD WEDNESDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2016

1. Attendance & Apologies

Attendance: E Adam, B Aspey, C Auton, M Bainbridge, M Bayne, B Buckle, J Cameron, R Colley, R Davies, K Dodds, S Firth, I Hardcastle, D Harris, L Hill, A Holmes, A Hutchinson, G Jackson, A Jakob, T Jeanes, Y Knight, G Morl, K Mullen, L Nunn, G Oldham, J O'Sullivan, M O'Sullivan, S Pinkney, M Raw, B Riley, W Scott, T Singleton, Ja Smith, I Snowdon, S Snowdon, Pam Taylor, Pat Taylor, R Todd, B Wilkinson, A Yates (39 members present).

Apologies: D Bayne, M Beadle, J Blackburn, M Blaser, J Bonsall, A Cummings, K Cummings, E Harbottle, B Henderson, D Morrison, K Oldham, R Orange, K Pringle, I Remmer, C Riley, T Scott, Jes Smith, C Taukulis, P Wilby.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM & Matters Arising

Minutes of the previous AGM were re-issued to all members before the meeting.

First matter arising: Map Reading, Compass & Mountaintop Training had still to be organised for club members. Explanations would be given under AOB.

Second matter: minute 7.2 incorrectly stated that proposal to limit coach journey times was made by Jenny Cameron. This was not the case, Alan apologised for the error.

It was proposed that the minutes be accepted; carried unanimously!

3. Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman said that we had experienced another good year, enjoying some good walks in great weather for most of the year. He wished to thank everyone for supporting the Club by attending walks; special thanks to the Secretary for all the good work he had done on behalf of the Club and for the good of its members.

He went on to say that there had been some concerns over the collection of fares and related matters – and urged members to take advantage of this opportunity, to ask questions during this meeting on any issues that may concern them.

4. Secretary's Report

4.1 Correspondence:

- Coniston & Keswick MRT's emailed, thanking the Club for our generous donations.
- David O'Hara, now self-employed, had emailed with notification of future charging policy for maintenance of our website.
- Nevisport Online had made contact offering discount to our members. Alan H is to follow-up. Members are reminded that we have a long-standing discount agreement with Cotswold Outdoors, subject to production of a current Membership Card.
- The Club had been contacted by a member of the Bright Water scheme, which aims to reveal, restore and celebrate the River Skerne catchment area. A 1.5 to 2 hour guided walk is proposed, starting and finishing at Bishop Middleham, likely to take place in March 2017. Alan H is to follow up and arrange.

- 4.2 2016 Outings: A summary of the year's walks was given; two main issues were identified, one being the high number of withdrawals from walks by those having previously used the pre-booking service, the second being the frailties of the coach toilet and the need for passengers to refrain from overuse. In future Alan will include comfort stops for return journeys, regardless of whether or not the coach has a toilet.
- 4.3 Trip Attendances: average 54.4 per trip (56.3 last year). It was noted that 8 members had managed to attend all 12 outings during the year; these were named: Adele, Nina Bell, Geoff Oldham, George, Jim Bonsall, Keith Dodds, Lenny & Alan. Well done to all! Weekend Away in Braithwaite had been the best yet with 34 attendees. Thanks to Jenny and friends for organising such a successful event.

Active Club Membership:

85 Adults, 1 S&SC members, 7 Life Members = Total 93 (on a par with 2015)

The Secretary wished to record his thanks to: -

Mick & the S&SC for a further £250 grant this year; Mick again, for organising the venue & bar for this evening's meeting; Jenny & her helpers for organising the weekend away to Braithwaite; Sheila, Maria, John and all on the committee for their efforts during the year; and last but not least all who have supported the Club by attending outings and/or purchasing Xmas draw tickets. Grateful thanks to all!

5. Treasurer's Report

The Accounts were presented for the financial year ending 31 October 2016.

Alan identified that whilst some trips had run at a loss, the annual surplus was £285, this being a further record for the Club. However, as a Club we are not in the business of generating profits & Alan's ambition in future is to reduce surplus to zero, plus or minus £10

Donations of £75 each had been made to the Coniston MRT and Keswick MRT. A further grant of £250 had been received from the Sports & Social Club.

Xmas draw, which had been downsized since previous years, realised a healthy surplus of £442.61; the Operating Result was £1,094.61 (within a few £'s of the 2015 result); the Overall Result was £1,194.61 and our bank balance stood at a very healthy £8,952.16
It was proposed that the accounts be accepted; seconded & carried unanimously!

[Summary Statement of Accounts for 2015-2016 is included at Appendix 1]

6. Election of Officers

Existing officers agreed to continue with the exception of Barry, who wished to stand down as Treasurer. Alan advised that he would continue to manage the accounts but that at some point in the future someone prepared to take on the duty would need to step forward!

7. Notices of Motion

1. **Trip Admin Problems:** The "Pre-Booking Service" (PBS) operates quite well but a significant number of those pre-booking then cancel, often just before the Tuesday midnight deadline. Following a late cancellation Alan H contacts those waiting on the

reserve list only to find that they have made other plans, so coach seats are left unoccupied. Alan proposed that the deadline for “cost-free” cancellations be moved forward to the Friday of the week before the walk, i.e. 8 days ahead of the outing. A vote on the implementation of this new deadline was carried, almost unanimously!

As a result of the above the following notification will appear on all future walk sheets, emailed prompts & reminder notices with regard to adoption of the new Friday deadline: -

“If you did not intend to make this reservation or have since found that you are unable to attend on the day, please notify the Secretary as soon as possible. Cancellations will be accepted at any time up to the Friday of the week before the outing. **However, if you cancel after midnight Friday, i.e. 8 days before the outing, or “no-show” on the day, you will be asked to make full restitution for the lost fare. This will become payable on your next outing with the club”**

2. A proposal to request that payment for late cancellation should be made promptly, i.e. before the date of the next outing, regardless of whether or not the debtor intended to join the next outing, was defeated. A counter proposal, that those in debt should be refused ongoing membership until debts were paid in full, was adopted. It was agreed that the trigger for when a second coach was hired would remain at 70, but that the Secretary reserved the right to use his judgement when arranging transport, to ensure demand from longer established members, especially when on Xmas outings etc, is met wherever possible.

Scramble For Seats!

The Secretary was anxious to clarify the coach seat Booking Process for those missing a walk & therefore unable to use the PBS. The ‘Booking Office’ only opens **after** the previous walk, i.e. after 9.00 pm on outing day. Therefore the best chance of gaining a coach seat on the following trip is to phone, text or email the Secretary just a few minutes after 9.00 pm on the Saturday evening. Communications received before this time will not be considered until 9.00 am Sunday morning! This is the only fair way, so that all members are treated the same!

8. Any Other Business

1. **RT Memorial:** Eddy Adam had purchased a bench with plaque for Rob Turner, who was a well-liked long term member of the Club until his death in January 2015. £160 of the £205 cost had been raised through sales of books etc but this had left a shortfall of £45. A request for a special donation of £45 from Club funds was approved by members.
2. **First Aiders:** Alan H suggested that the First Aiders be re-trained (certificates for several were now out of date) and that First Aiders (we currently identify 8 individuals) should be equipped with suitable & appropriate First Aid packs to carry on walks. After some debate members agreed and accepted the proposal. Alan is to pursue the re-training and procurement issues. The following agreed to continue to act as First Aiders for the club: Jenny, Sheila, Maria, Adele, Christine, Isobel, Wendy & Ken (in his absence).

3. **Selection of Walks:** Sheila proposed that future Voting Sheets be rationalised to eliminate separate sections for coastal walks & canal walks. Lenny, in making a counter proposal, said the variety of walks was an essential element of Club outings. Lenny's proposal to leave the Voting Sheet as it currently appears was carried 29 votes to 5. Alan H suggested that with lateral thinking members not wishing to undertake a flat, level walk could, by checking maps, devise a walk that was routed away from the canal or coast. He also suggested that in future, when devising Walksheets, he would make a point of identifying such alternative routes.
4. **40th Anniversary Plans:** The initial outing in September 1977 took in the Three Yorkshire peaks. Alan H suggested an additional walk in September 2017 finishing at Horton-in-Ribblesdale to commemorate the first outing. His proposal was unanimously accepted and Alan H is to organise appropriate post-walk celebrations.
5. **Public Liabilities:** Alan H talked at length about how the club has evolved from being a wholly private club when first conceived to the current membership, where the club has only one S&SC member and the majority have never been S&SC members, nor company employees! The basis of his talk was the fact that the Club had evolved and was now a public concern, with many members joining from outside of the Company as a result of the website and other growth initiatives pursued by Sheila, Barry, Alan & others in 2012-13. Many prospective new members were enquiring about availability of guides; Alan's reaction to the enquirers was often "if you need to be guided then this is not the Club for you". He continued however to make the point that public concerns bring with them public liabilities. After much discussion it was proposed and widely accepted that the best way forward was to have all current and new members sign a waiver, acknowledging that the Club and Officials would not be held accountable should a serious accident befall anyone. The Waiver was to be a legally drawn up document and Alan H is to seek professional guidance on its structure & content.
6. **Reserves Policy:** Alan H talked about the need to have a Reserves Policy so that Minimum Reserve Funds could be established. This would in turn help determine what funds might be available for initiatives pertinent to the running of the Club including member training in the use of Map and Compass, Mountain-craft training, First Aid training, purchase of First Aid packs & other equipment, legal costs, promotional & advertising costs – and so on. Alan proposed that we should agree a Reserves Policy and have that policy added to our Constitutional document and Articles of Association. He suggested that to arrive at a sensible Reserves Policy we should consider a scenario where we suddenly lose 33% of our members, 33% of fares income, 33% of Xmas Draw income and cease to receive grants from any source. Alan advises that he has worked out that we need to keep a Minimum Reserve Fund of £6,000 to get us over such a significant downturn, which (in line with government guidance) could last 2 years! A slide, showing how our bank balance had increased over the period 1986 to 2016, was shown and, after further discussion, it was agreed and approved by a significant majority of members that a figure of £1,100 should be identified in relation to proposed spend on all training and equipment in 2017. Alan H is to organise a programme covering proposed initiatives!

7. **Archive:** Barry has prepared CD's containing copies of all of the Club's Walksheets, going back to the first outing in 1977. This has taken him many hours to compile and he is now making these available for a nominal cost of £5 each. All proceeds will be donated to a local Fell Rescue Team. Contact Barry or Alan if interested!
8. **Addendum:** Due to shortage of time the meeting failed to agree on the usual donations to Mountain Rescue Teams. Post meeting discussion between a few members has suggested that we should donate to two more MRT's in the area of the Dales - £75 to each, Alan H to determine recipients. Hope this is acceptable to members!

9. Result of Voting for 2016 Walks Programme.

40 voted this year (compared to 50 last year)

[Walks selected by members can be found at Appendix 2 attached].

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

Appendix 1: Statement of Accounts

Appendix 2: 2017 Outings

AYCLIFFE FELL WALKING CLUB
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD: 1 NOVEMBER 2015 to 31 OCTOBER 2016

OUTINGS PROFILE

INCOME Months	Passenger		Fares	EXPENDITURE		RESULT	2014.15 "Shows"
	Shows	LC.NS		Trips	Trip Costs		
November	64	4.1	£670	Hadrian's Wall	£780	-£110	52
December	53	1.0	£530	Esk Valley to Whitby	£420	£110	54
January 2016	58	7.1	£630	Weardale to Wolsingham	£630	£0	51
February	48	7.1	£530	Hole of Horcum	£455	£75	54
March	68	2.0	£710	Caldbeck & Blencathra	£740	-£30	53
April	51	6.0	£570	Scottish Borders	£770	-£200	72
May	54	0.1	£540	Robinson & Newlands	£460	£80	62
June	52	1.1	£520	Malham in the Dales	£430	£90	44
July	53	0.1	£540	High Street (Lakes)	£450	£90	54
August	50	1.1	£520	Summer Wine country	£480	£40	54
September	50	2.0	£540	Bamburgh to Alnmouth	£460	£80	69
October	52	1.1	£520	Lord's Seat & NW Fells	£460	£60	56

GENERAL ACCOUNT

INCOME		EXPENDITURE		RESULT	2014.15 RESULT
Total Coach Fares	£6,820.00	Total Trip Costs	£6,535.00	£285.00	£249
Av Attendant 54.4 56.3		Admin (paper, envelopes, stamps)	£0.00		-£110
Member Subscriptions	£425.00	Membership Cards	£0.00	£425.00	£396
Paying Adults: 85 84					
Xmas Draw Ticket Sales	£800.00	Cost of Tickets & Prizes	£357.39	£442.61	£561
Tickets Sold 800					
RTM Fund - Sales & Raffles	£160.00	RT Memorial Seat	£160.00	£0.00	£90
		Website Upkeep	£20.00	-£20.00	-£20
Misc Income & Donations	£32.00	Misc Expenses	£70.00	-£38.00	-£65
Net Income	£8,237.00	Net Expense	£7,142.39	£1,094.61	£1,101
				Operating Result	
INCOMING GRANTS		OUTGOING DONATIONS			
	£0.00	Coniston & Keswick MRT's	£150.00	-£150.00	£200
Inovyn S&SC Grant	£250.00		£0.00	£250.00	£200
Total Income	£8,487.00	Total Expense	£7,292.39	£1,194.61	£1,501
				Overall Result	

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 October 2016

FINANCIAL ASSETS		FINANCIAL LIABILITIES	
Brought Forward from 31 October 2015	£7,757.55	Gross Reserves	£8,952.16
Overall Result (2015/16)	£1,194.61	less	
Cash at Bank	£8,696.62	Short Term Creditors	£0.00
Advance Expenses	£255.54		
Debtors	£0.00		
Balance to be Carried Forward	£8,952.16	Net Reserves	£8,952.16
MATERIAL ASSETS		Should a winding up situation occur, all assets held by AFWC would fall due to the Inovyn Sports	
Postage Stamps	£0.00		
Stationery, Ink Cartridges	£12.20		
Accounts Receivable	£0.00		
	Material Assets	Material Liabilities	£12.20
TOTAL ASSETS	£8,964.36	TOTAL LIABILITIES	£8,964.36

NOTE: THESE ACCOUNTS HAVE BEEN
AUDITED BY
CLUB OFFICIALS
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

AYCLIFFE FELL WALKING CLUB - 2017 OUTINGS

Walkers should arrive to pickup points wearing boots - and bringing with them a change of clothing & footwear that can be left on the coach until the walk is completed.

DATE	WALK AREA	No.	PICKUP POINTS & TIMES					RELEVANT MAPS
			OTHER	Feethams DARLINGTON TOWN CTRE	Big Club NEWTON AYCLIFFE	Cabin Gate BISHOP AUCLAND	Galgate BARNARD CASTLE	
January 21st	Wensleydale Bainbridge to Leyburn	335	08.20 S Corner	08.00	07.45	07.30	↗	1:50K LR98 Wensleydale & LR99 N'allerton & Ripon 1:25K OL30 Yorkshire Dales - South Sheet
February 25th	Fountains Abbey and the Ripon Rowel Walk	336	08.20 S Corner	08.00	07.45	07.30	↗	1:50K LR99 Northallerton & Ripon 1:25K Ex298 Nidderdale & Ex299 Ripon
March 25th	Coast or Canal Burton-in-Kendal to Lancaster	337	↗	07.30	07.45	08.00	08.30	1:50K LR97 Kendal & Morecambe 1:25K OL7 English Lakes (S E) & OL41 Ribblesdale
April 22nd	Buttermere to the Vale of Lorton (Lakes)	338	↗	07.30	07.45	08.00	08.30	1:50K LR89 West Cumbria 1:25K OL4 English Lakes (N W area) - South Sheet
May 20th	Helmsley & Hawby to Osmotherley (NYM)	339	08.25 Marton	08.00	07.45	07.30	↖	1:50K LR99 N'allerton & Ripon & LR100 Malton, etc 1:25K OL26 North York Moors (West) - South Sheet
June 3rd	Weekend Away Fri to Sun - Kirby Stephen	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1:50K LR91 Appleby-in-Westmorland 1:25K OL19 Howgill Fells & Upper Eden Valley
June 17th	Grisedale Horseshoe Glenridding to Patterdale	340	↗	07.30	07.45	08.00	08.30	1:50K LR90 Penrith & Keswick 1:25K OL5 English Lakes (N E area) - South Sheet
July 15th	Coverdale - Aysgarth and Kettlewell to Middleham	341	08.20 S Corner	08.00	07.45	07.30	↖	1:50K LR98 Wensleydale & LR99 N'allerton & Ripon 1:25K OL30 Yorkshire Dales - South Sheet
August 12th	Kirkstone Pass & Windermere to Staveley (Lakes)	342	↗	07.30	07.45	08.00	08.30	1:50K LR90 Penrith & Keswick & LR97 Kendal, etc 1:25K OL7 English Lakes (S E area) - North Sheet
September 2nd	Yorkshire Coast Scarborough to RHB & Hawsker	343	08.25 Marton	08.00	07.45	07.30	↖	1:50K LR94 Whitby & LR101 Scarborough 1:25K OL27 North York Moors (Eastern Area)
September 16th	40th Anniversary Walk Ingleton & Clapham to Horton	344	08.20 S Corner	08.00	07.45	07.30	↖	1:50K LR98 Wensleydale & Upper Wharfedale 1:25K OL2 Yorkshire Dales (S & W areas) - West Side
October 14th	Grasmoor Fells Lorton to Keswick (Lakes)	345	↗	07.30	07.45	08.00	08.30	1:50K LR89 West Cumbria 1:25K OL4 English Lakes (N W area) - South Sheet
November 11th	Upper Teesdale Bowlees to Barnard Castle	346	↗	07.30	07.45	08.00	08.30	1:50K LR92 Barnard Castle & Richmond 1:25K OL31 North Pennines (Teesdale) - East Sheet
December 9th	Swaledale Gunnerside to Grinton	347	08.20 S Corner	08.00	07.45	07.30	↖	1:50K LR98 Wensleydale & Upper Wharfedale 1:25K OL30 Yorkshire Dales - North Sheet

NOTE: Pickup times shown are based on using one coach for each outing. When two coaches are used, times & the direction coaches take between pickups, will be subject to change!

Visit our website www.afwc.org.uk for all club news, plus information on these and other events planned in 2017