



**The Camping and Caravanning Club
Walking and Cycling Section
(formerly the Mountain Activity Section)**

Minutes of the 88th Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 29th April 2023 at Church Farm, High Street, Sixpenny Handley, Salisbury SP5 5ND

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm. 65 members attended the Meeting.

1. Chairman's welcome and opening remarks

Good evening everyone I would like to begin by welcoming you **all** to the 88th Walking & Cycling Section AGM this year here at Sixpenny Handley.

I would like to start by thanking Wessex Area Committee for hosting this walking & cycling festival and my sincere thanks to everyone who has given their time to ensure its success.

I must say that I am very impressed with the detailed maps & guides provided for the walks especially the cycle rides... a definite gold star there.

2. Apologies for Absence

Andrew and Catriona Wood, Anne and Philip Lowe, Dave and Gill Hall, Jean Richards, Andy and Hazel Caldow, Jeff and Di Whitmore, Les Morton, Colin and Christine Stevenson, John and Margaret Allen, Ann and Howard Crosland, Diane and Ian Goodyear, Colin and Sandra Wild

3. Minutes of the 87th AGM held at Matlock Rugby Club, Cromford on 30th April 2022

Acceptance of the Minutes - Proposed: Barry Cowlard; Seconded: Pauline Porter. Agreed unanimously.

4. Annual Report of the Section and Chair's additional comments

Copies of my annual report to the Club have been circulated, but not a lot could be said in the 150 word limit allowed, so I will add a little more detail

All our three areas AGM's have been able to form committees for 2023 and we have a full program of meets arranged for this camping season. We have already been battered by the British weather... Snow blizzards, gales and lashing rain testing our endurance at the start of the season. I hope the weather is kinder going forward

As a keen e-biker myself it is good to see more cyclists riding out at our meets whilst at the same time the numbers joining the led walks continue to increase so we must be delivering what our members want.

Our Facebook pages have helped to share members experiences whilst on meets & keep members aware of social events so please keep those posts coming.

You will hear in the Treasurers report that the Section funds are in a healthy state and we have been able to continue to support areas to purchase items & services for the benefit of all our members

As I informed members at last year's Section AGM, this year the club utilised online election processes for vacancies on Council Committees, we were in the fortunate position of having five candidates for four positions and I hope you all took the opportunity to cast your votes online. Hopefully you found the process straightforward. The results will be announced later.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have served on our Area & Section Council Committees this past year.... and for those retiring from Committee.... thank you for your energy & commitment enabling our Section to continue to meet our members expectations

I would like to introduce my fellow committee members here at this table tonight.....

Angela Blood (Treasurer), Sandra Wain (Minute Taker), Christine Mason (Secretary), John Gerner (PRO/Website Co-ordinator) and Steve Harris (Camping and Caravanning Club Honorary Treasurer) representing the Club.

5. Section Accounts and Auditors' Report for the year ending 31st December 2022

In the absence of our immediate past Treasurer (Tim Clarke), Angela Blood (present Treasurer) presented the end of year accounts report. Copies of the accounts were previously distributed electronically with paper copies also available. Steve Harris advised that The Club are looking at increasing interest rates for accounts held by HQ for Sections.

The Report has been signed off by the Auditors – Yvonne Plevy and Pat Presland.

Proposed by Alan Keen and seconded by Trev Masters that the Section Accounts and Auditors' report be adopted. Agreed unanimously.

The Treasurer reported that £1000 has already been disbursed to each of the three Areas to facilitate purchase of items & services for the 2023 season.

6. PRO/Website Co-ordinator's Report

Communication with existing, new and potential members takes place through the Club's Camping & Caravanning magazine, Out and About, the Section Website, Activity newsletter and Area email lists and Facebook groups.

The warm welcome provided at meets, the range of activities on offer and our communication channels are all important in fostering the 'Friendly Club' environment from which we can recruit committee members alongside the stewards, walk and ride leaders that the Section needs to thrive.

Reports of meets appeared in the May and June 2022 editions of Out & About. Rosie Clack-Walsh was been appointed as the Club's Community Editor in September 2022, we are expecting Rosie to visit and take part in activities in the latter part of this Festival of Walking & Cycling Meet which will be covered in Out & About later in 2023

I thank Section Webmaster Adrian Rose for his continued support in hosting and maintaining the Section website. The website feature for storing walking and cycling routes developed by Adrian has been used to provide maps and elevation profiles for the walks and rides taking place during our National meet for the benefit of participants and our volunteer leaders.

At the Area level email lists and Facebook Groups are used to share information with members and encourage them to take part in meets, walks, rides and social activities. The 22% growth in Facebook Group membership over the last year is encouraging.

7. Section Advisory Officer to the National Council

John Allen, the Section Advisory Officer, was not present, however his report has been sent to members. It was noted at the Meeting that the Section Forum was still operating but under a different guise and meetings were no longer funded by the Club.

8. Membership Report

The figures have been previously sent out and Christine Mason reported that although the increase in numbers during Covid was falling away, we remain the third biggest Interest Section. She emphasised that the Section social walks and cycle rides are the main focus that attracts new members and retains existing ones.

9. Notice of appointment of Hon Treasurer 2023

The Chairman was pleased to announced the appointment of Angela Blood as Treasurer from 1st January 2023.

10. Activity Magazine

Toni Busutill-Reynaud, Editor, reported that people seemed to enjoy reading the magazine but it cannot exist unless members send in content. If anyone has done something interesting or has a photograph that is a bit different or shows people having a good time, please send them to him. He also commented that if there is anyone else who would like to take on the role, then he was happy to hand it over.

11. Announcement of our new Section President

The Chair was excited to announce that we had a new President for our Section a man not entirely unfamiliar to us all....Les Morton... He has served in many capacities within our Section, receiving the Club's Certificate of Honour this year in recognition of his services to our members. Tragically he lost his dear wife Jean earlier this year which has been a huge emotional

upheaval she will be sorely missed by all who had the pleasure to spend time with her over the years.

Francine asked members reflect for a minute to remember loved ones who have recently left us, by picturing a happy moment we shared with them.

11a. Announcement of Result of Council Election

Steve Harris (Club Honorary Treasurer) announced the following result:

Sandra Wain – 113 votes – elected for 3 years

Trevor Masters – 104 votes – elected for 3 years

Jeffrey Whitmore – 99 votes – elected for 3 years

Jane Russell – 84 votes – elected for 2 years

Pauline Porter – 71 votes

1,745 ballots were issued, 160 returned, turnout 9.2%

12. Announcement of the representatives to the Section Council from the Walking and Cycling Section area Peakland/Northern/Wessex

Peakland – Peter Taylor

Northern – Andrew Wood

Wessex – Deb Masters

13 Election of Auditors

The Chair thanked Yvonne Plevy who is retiring from this role.

Pat Presland and Rose Osbourne have agreed to seek election as Auditors.

Proposed: Yvonne Plevy Seconded: Pauline Porter that they be elected.

14. Membership Subscription set by the Section Council

This will remain at £6 per annum.

15. Request by our Club for a Representative to the Ramblers Association. One volunteer from the Walking and Cycling Section invited to be Involved in this role

Steve Harris asked if there was someone willing to take over this role from Diane Goodyear who has stepped down. Anyone interested please contact him.

16. Discussion re the merits of person held medical card for emergency use

This has been discussed at Area Committee meetings. It was suggested that each individual carry a small medical card stating name, allergies, emergency phone number and other important information. Section has purchased the cards and it is recommended that these be filled in and carried by each individual, so that in the event of an emergency appropriate first aid could be commenced, vital information shared & contact made with the casualties

named contacts. A supply is available at this meeting and packs will be passed to Areas for inclusion in stewards' packs, for distribution to members.

17. Date, time and venue of the next AGM 2024

Saturday, 4th May 2024 at 7.00 pm at Ashford-in-the-Water Memorial Hall (Ashford Village Hall), Church Street, Ashford-in-the-Water, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1QB

CLOSE OF FORMAL BUSINESS AT 7.25 pm

OPEN FORUM

1. Overall Funding

Members asked questions about the large amount of money in Section funds. There will be higher interest rates possibly on the Section's account held by the Club. It was pointed out that since the 2022 Finance Report, each of the 3 Areas have received a disbursement of £1000 this could increase in 2024.

All three areas have some form of free camping fees for stewards as it was recognised that the job requires a lot of work. Suggestions from the members were:

- Bigger disbursements
- Free camping for stewards
- Loyalty scheme
- Reduction for solo campers
- Subsidies for walk/cycle leaders

Members can make suggestions to Area Committees who will then need to discuss the ideas and give feedback to the Section Council.

2. Camping in the Forest

Question was asked of Steve Harris why the Club had withdrawn from the Forestry Commission for Camping in the Forest. Unfortunately, there was no income because of the Covid pandemic and, although the major shareholder, the Forestry Commission decided what happened on the sites. The Club therefore disposed the partnership and its share was bought out by the Forestry Commission. The sum has been ring fenced for the purchase of a new site, and waiting for the right one to come along. It was disappointing to lose Sherwood Pines as it has had a lot of investment in the past years so no return from it. The lack of sites around the 'centre strip' of England was of concern to some members, but they are not so popular as coastal or national park sites.

3. Natural England – Mitigation charges

Steve Harris said the information around this instruction has been sent out to Councils and some THS's and Meets have been cancelled because the Club is not aware of what amount the charges will be. Neither the Councils nor Natural England knows the charges and the Club will not go against Natural England until they have had successful results. If a decision is made, for example, that grey water pollutes a river system then the fine is unlimited. The Club, along with other organisations, is constantly in contact with all sides trying to get a resolution. Council's welcome meets and THS's as it helps the local economies.

4. Overseas Winter Rallies

These have not gone ahead at present. As we are now no longer in the EU different employment legislation applies and it has cost implications for the Club.

5. Membership/Club Sites

Club membership is now above target – 344,000 families. Steve Hattis emphasised that he has booked on a Club site at short notice so it is possible to do this.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

CHAIRPERSON

DATE