

## THE CAMPING AND CARAVANNING CLUB



### MOUNTAIN ACTIVITY SECTION (Formerly The Mountaineering Section)

Minutes of the 85<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting which took place at Beckford Village Hall, Beckford, Worcestershire GL20 7AA on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2019

The meeting commenced at 7pm. 85 members attended the meeting.

#### 1. Chairman's opening remarks.

Trev Masters (Chairman) welcomed everyone to the Meeting and reminded members that those entitled to vote should have picked up a form and these will be collected by the Tellers (Steve and Carol Harris) after Item 18 on the Agenda

Everyone on the top table introduced themselves.

The Chairman thanked anyone from Wessex Area who had any involvement in planning and running the meet and looking at the happy faces, everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves.

The Chairman informed the meeting that 4 members of the Section have died in in the past year. Colin Wild spoke about David Robinson from Peakland and John Bradley spoke about 3 Northern Area members - Mary Loy, Wallace Longhorne and Alastair Richards – all of whom are no longer with us. A minute's silence was then observed.

A presentation was then made to Howard and Anne Crosland by Trevor Masters in recognition of all they have done for MAS. As they have a Certificate of Merit already from the Club, they were awarded a MAS Certificate of Merit (a new award) for the massive contribution they have made to the Section. They were also presented with a miniature MAS pennon – thanks were expressed to Deb Masters for producing it.

The Chairman then brought to everyone's attention items 14 and 18 on the Agenda. After three sessions as Secretary, Colin Wild, who has done a wonderful job, has decided to step down from the Committee. Jenny Williams is standing down as Treasurer at the end of the year, therefore we need at least 2 new members to come forward to serve on the Committee or the whole MAS will fold.

Item 18 – If the Motion is carried then it will be a momentous decision. After a lot of hard work the Special Interest Sections agreed to ask the Club to introduce nationwide proxy voting. As we are national Sections as opposed to local DA's, long distances have to be made to attend meetings to vote. The Club has agreed to this historic decision and the MAS is the first Section to be able to do this.

#### 2. Apologies for absence.

Christine and Colin Stevenson, Jean Richards, Ian and Diane Goodyear, Maurice and Deidre Spratt, Ann and Terry Ilberry, Gordon and Nicky Prosser, Terry Bishop, Ann Oxford, Pat and Tony Light, Len and Julia Frampton, Hazel Miles, Colin and Yvonne Plevey, Frances and Edward Delaine, Bernard Nason, Jon and Ann Hart, Rod and Margaret Heeley, Ian and Christine Field.

#### 3. Minutes of 84<sup>th</sup> AGM held at the Harmby Village Hall, Harmby, Leyburn on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2018 for acceptance

The following amendments were made: Date in heading 2018; Item 3 delete Ashover and replace with Ashford.

Acceptance proposed: Barry Cowlard Seconded: Toni Busutill-Reynaud  
Agreed unanimously.

**4. Annual report of the section by the Hon. Secretary**

The Secretary gave his annual report stating that 2018 proved to be one of the best on record with high turnout figures. He highlighted the rule change in the Constitution which allowed proxy voting at Section AGM's Notices of Motion. The Section's finances are in a healthy position, however new members are needed on the Committee to keep the Section running. Northern Area is in the position of not being able to form a Committee and they now will have an EGM to try to do so. Also, the Section needs an editor for Activity magazine. He concluded that he had enjoyed his 9 years as secretary but it was the time to pass the job over to someone else.

The Chairman stated that having worked alongside Colin, he was grateful for the efficiency shown by him and is leaving the post in a very good situation for someone to follow on.

**5. Accounts for the Section for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018**

The Treasurer gave her report for 2018 (previously distributed). She emphasised that if anyone books with Ramblers Holidays, the firm would make a donation to MAS. There were no questions and Jenny Williams was thanked for all her work as Treasurer.

**6. Auditors Report**

The Auditors reported that the accounts were straightforward, accurate and tidy.

**7. Adoption of the Accounts**

Proposed: Deb Masters    Seconded: Lindi Pink    Agreed unanimously.

**8. Report of PRO/Website Coordinator**

John Gerner gave his report. Adrian Rose (Webmaster) continued to make incremental improvements to the Section Website. Also the Northern Area Facebook Group continues to thrive. He reminded members that business cards are held by Area Secretaries or Chairs to help spread the MAS message to other campers who are walkers and cyclists as these core activities differentiate our Section from other social camping units. The revamped Club magazine provides an opportunity to promote meets – the Wessex meet at Sixpenny Handley features in the May edition and it will be interesting to see the impact of this on attendance. The Chairman expressed thanks to John.

**9. Report of the Section Advisory Officer to the National Council**

Les Morton gave a comprehensive report from the National Council. Thanks were expressed to Diane Goodyear who was re-elected as Rep to Ramblers and John Allen again as the Rights of Way Rep. One of the items discussed was guidelines re a THS taking precedence to a Club meet, if there are problems that cannot be resolved then the Club should be contacted. It was reiterated by the Meeting's Club representative that permission needs to be obtained from the Council for a THS and it needs 3 months' notice to be put in the magazine. Should the Section's name change motion be carried, there may be a possible objection from the Association of Lightweight Campers concerning the use of the word 'cycling' in our title.

**10. Report of the Membership Secretary**

The membership numbers at the beginning of 2018 were 1125 and increased by 95 over the year. Total number of individual members is currently 1238. 4 new members were recruited at Peakland Area's Easter meet.

Thanks were expressed to Les Morton for his reports.

**11. Notice of appointment of President/Vice President (Proposed by Section Council)**

President 2019/20 Andrew Wood

Vice Presidents 2019/20 - Carole Booth, Christine Stevenson, Terry Bishop, Diane Goodyear, Howard Crosland and Anne Crosland

**12. Notice of Appointment of Hon. Treasurer 2019**

Jenny Williams – however she will be standing down at the end of the year.

### **13. Election of Officers**

Retiring members:

a) Colin Wild

Colin Wild does not wish to be re-elected.

b) Barry Cowlard is willing to stand for re-election

Proposed: Deb Masters      Seconded: Howard Crosland

The Chairman then asked for other nominations in order to form a Committee. He gave details of meetings held over the year and emphasised that being on the Committee helped gain an understanding of how the Club works.

John Allen agreed to stand.

Proposed: Howard Crosland      Seconded: Deb Masters

The Chairman thanked John and welcomed him to the Section Council

### **14) To announce the representatives to the Section Council from the Mountain Activity Areas 2019/2020**

Northern: To be appointed

Peakland: Jean Morton

Wessex: Deb Masters

### **14. Election of Auditors**

Dave Hall and Dave Lewis agreed to carry on with this role – proposed and agreed unanimously.

### **15. Membership subscription 2019/20. As set by the Council - £6.00.**

### **16. Notice of Motion**

**The Mountain Activity Section of the Camping and Caravanning Club should henceforth be known as the Walking and Cycling Section of the Camping and Caravanning Club**

The Chairman stated that John Gerner will speak in support of proposing the Motion and Les Morton to second it and asked for a short discussion to follow.

John Gerner stated that the Supporting Statement will be appended to the AGM Minutes if the change is approved. Andrew Wood has kindly provided past minutes which have been invaluable in researching the early history of the MAS and it is important we continue to recognise the heritage, for example on our website. John then gave a brief history of the Section and that the focus of our activities is now walking and cycling. The Section has now declined to 3 areas, hosting 37 meets in total this year, only 3 meets going into mountainous terrain this year (summits of over 2000 feet). Members are getting older and recruitment is hampered by a name that no longer represents what we do. John asked for members to support the name change.

Les Morton has spoken to lots of visitors to meets who have not camped with us previously because of the 'Mountain' in the name and we have explained that we are not mountaineers. We don't want to let nostalgia take precedence over survival of the Section and if the change goes ahead this may lead to publicity in the magazine.

A discussion followed and points made were:

- There were not many organised cycle rides in Northern Area.
- Members like to combine both activities.
- Members of cycling groups have come along when they knew there were cycling routes available and subsequently become members.
- Cycling in the name will encourage more people to come along and cycle and join the Section.

The voting forms were then collected by the scrutineers.

### **17. Date, time and venue of AGM 2019**

The 2020 FoW&C will take place at Barlow Village Hall, Millcross Lane, Dronfield, Derbyshire on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2020 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

### **OPEN FORUM**

Tony Busutill-Reynaud informed the meeting that he is willing to take up the post again of Activity editor. Thanks were expressed to him for volunteering to take this on. Toni asked for support from members by sending him articles etc to fill the magazine. Members would be informed of his email and postal address.

One member pointed out that facilities for members under canvas were rarely available and asked that prices for portaloos be checked as purchase of this may encourage more people to camp with a tent. Trev Masters stated that all 3 areas do have a few meets with facilities and requested that they bear this in mind with a view to seeing if they could afford the cost.

The Meeting closed at 8.20pm.

### **POST MEETING**

Steve Harris (independent scrutineer) informed the meeting that 85.26% of the votes were in favour of the change of name, 13.84% against and 2 abstentions (0.9%). The Motion was therefore carried.

This information will now go with the Minutes to Admin Committee at Club HQ and referred on to the National Council in September for their approval. All forms and paperwork will go to Club HQ, held for a period then destroyed.



**Wessex Area**



## **Mountain Activity Section Supporting Statement - Name Change Motion**

Ramblers Association:

*“Walking is the joint most popular activity (along with eating out) for people taking days out in England, and the most important reason for 18% of the 3.6 billion trips per year.”*

*“It is the main activity on 36% of countryside and 33% of seaside visits and the most popular activity for UK visitors to Scotland and Wales.”*

Cycling UK:

*“42% of the population of Britain aged 5+ own or have access to a bicycle”*

Department for Transport:

*“36% of cycling trips are for leisure.”*

**The name of the Mountain Activity Section is no longer representative of the activities undertaken at meets, discourages potential new members and represents a threat to the continued existence of the Section.**

**Approval is sought for a change of name to the Walking and Cycling Section to ensure our survival.**

# 1 Introduction

It has been a long standing concern of many members of the Mountain Activity Section (MAS) that the Section name is no longer representative of the activities undertaken at meets, discourages potential new members and represents a threat to the continued existence of the Section.

The pool of Section members able to undertake voluntary roles is diminishing each year. For example, in 2018 the member elected to audit the 2017 Wessex Area accounts was unable to continue in that role. Furthermore, long standing members of the Wessex Committee were unable to continue in their roles at the AGM leaving the Committee without a permanent Secretary and Sites Officer. Fortunately, at the subsequent EGM a Secretary and Sites Officer were elected along with auditors for the 2017 and 2018 accounts and the Area was able to continue to operate.

In 2018 the Peakland and Wessex Areas carried motions at their AGM's to change their names to the Peakland Walking and Cycling Area and the Wessex Walking and Cycling Area respectively. Approval of the Area name changes was refused by the Management and Administration Committees as they did not agree with changing the Area names before changing the Section name.

A motion to change the name of the Section was debated at the Section AGM in 2014. The motion received majority support but fell just short of the necessary two thirds majority to be carried.

The above events were discussed at the final Wessex Committee meeting of 2018. The minutes record that "in the best interests of securing the future of the Wessex Area, it was agreed to seek a change of Section name so that it best reflects the activities that we undertake".

It was resolved that the Committee would seek support from Members for submitting the following Notice of Motion for consideration at the Section AGM in 2019;

*"The Mountain Activity Section of the Camping & Caravanning Club shall henceforth be known as the Walking and Cycling Section of the Camping & Caravanning Club."*

The above motion subsequently received the support of 43 members and was submitted to Section Council.

## 2 History of the Mountain Activity Section

The Mountaineering Section was established in 1933. By the mid 1980's the level of membership was low with the few remaining elderly members mainly inactive. In December 1986 a letter was sent to members stating that the Section would cease to exist from 1<sup>st</sup> January 1987 with the possibility of a re-organisation within the Club to attract wider support.

Club National Councillor Derek Wood, father of current MAS President Andrew Wood, was asked to provide a report to National Council with recommendations on how the Mountaineering Section could be revived by offering a greater range of outdoor activities.

To quote from Derek's report to National Council the recommendations included;

*"Meets to be arranged to attract people who enjoy mountains (mountains are classed as being over 2,000 feet), and of wild terrain, and who can attend in all types of unit – not just lightweight tents."*

*"Listed below are some of the activities which could be included in the Sections programme with qualified instruction available from other organisations if not available within the section, (other organisations who could advise British Mountaineering Council and Central Council for Physical Recreation have lists of related clubs etc who could provide qualified advisors.*

*Climbing*

*Mountaineering*

*Fell walking*

*Long distance walks*

*Backpacking from fixed centres*

*Pot-holing*

*Mountain photography*

*Orienteering"*

*"If the group were to be regionalised (i.e. North, South, Midlands) with meets organised in the respective areas along with National Meets in the more mountainous areas at Bank Holidays etc., this would perhaps attract more members."*

By Spring 1988 the Northern and Peakland Areas were established with full committees and work was ongoing to set up what would become the Wessex Area.

The mid 1990's represented the heyday of the Section with Derek Wood's report as National Secretary in 1995 stating;

*"During the last camping season over 100 camping meets have been organised plus four T.H.S. and other special meets".*

In 1995 a newly formed Scottish Area and Wales and the Marches Area organised programmes of meets in addition to the extant Northern, Peakland and Wessex Areas. Furthermore the South Central Area organised a series of winter walks.

The Northern Area was particularly active organising 47 meets, walks every weekend during the winter plus hostelling, winter camps and other events. Two meets were organised on many weekends by the Northern Area.

### 3 Walking and Cycling

Walking and Cycling appear to have been core MAS activities from the onset. Figure 1 below shows a group of riders prior to setting out on a ride over Walna Scar Pass in the Lake District in 1992.



Figure 1: A group ride over Walna Scar Pass about to depart from the Northern Area meet at Torver in 1992.

MAS has evolved over the years to focus on walking and cycling as the outdoor activities promoted at meets. At a typical MAS meet this year there are likely to be group walks available each day. Alternatively members may decide to choose their own route or spend the day relaxing on site. Cycling members usually plan their own rides either singly or in small groups. Many MAS members choose to explore the countryside by both walking and cycling during a meet.

In recent years the Section has emphasised walking and cycling in our promotion materials and has received many welcome mentions within relevant articles in the Club’s magazine. In January 2015 the Communications Committee approved artwork for business cards and window stickers which include the tagline “**walking – cycling – camping – caravanning**” to promote the Section’s core activities. The tag line is also used on our website.



Figure 2: MAS business card.



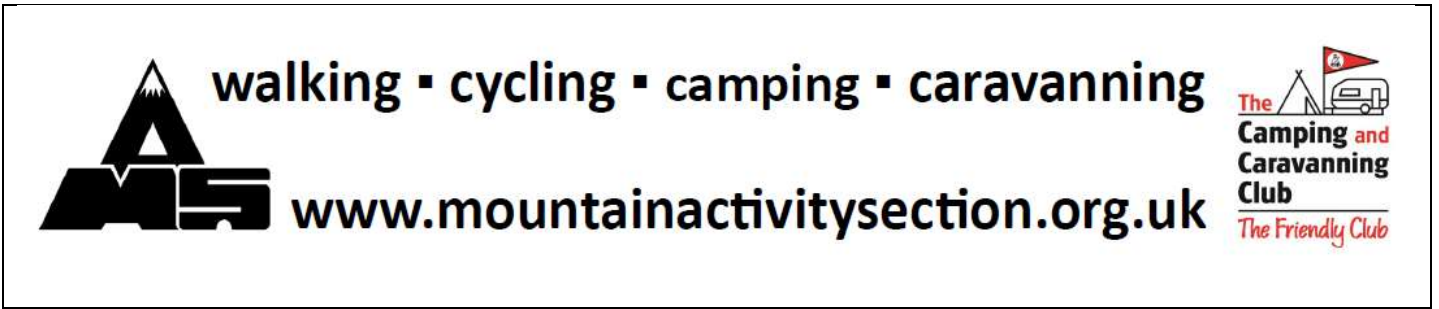


Figure 3: MAS window sticker.

To promote further the Section's core walking and cycling activities the Communications Committee approved the designs of the flags shown below in July 2016.

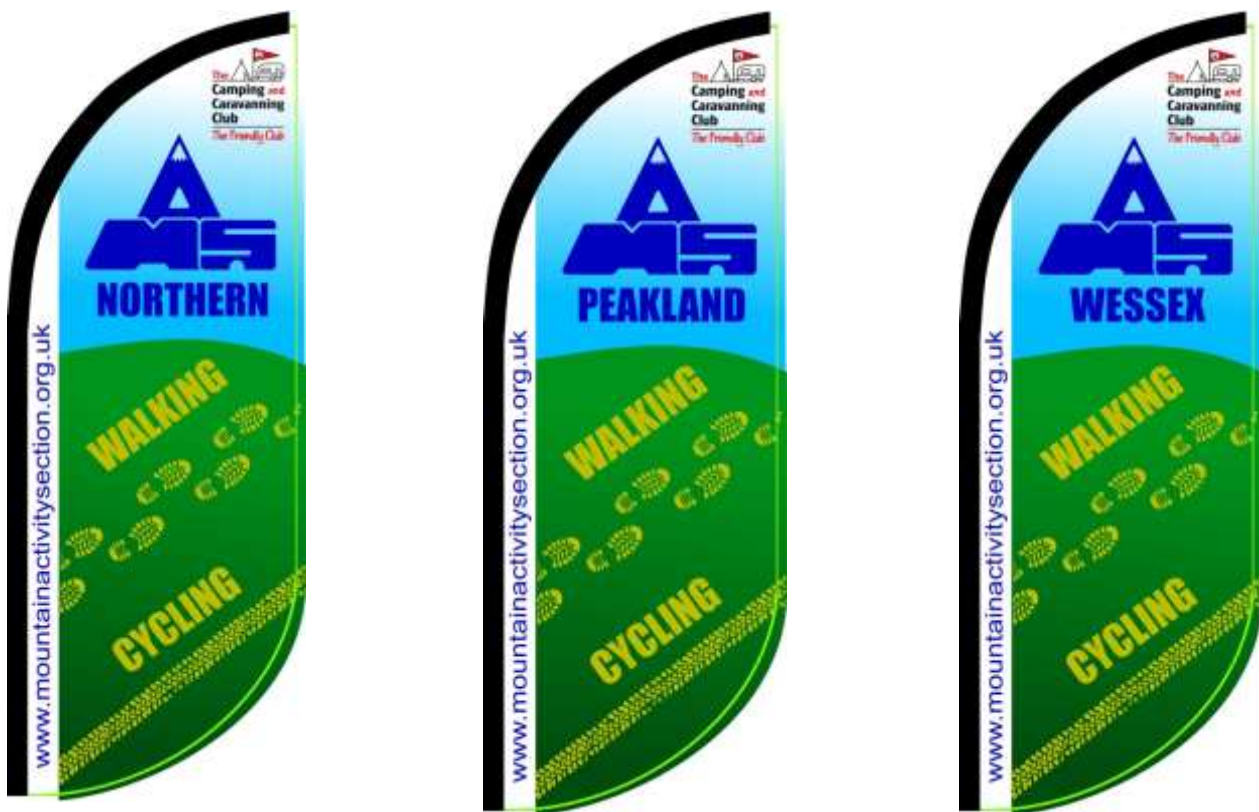


Figure 4: MAS Area promotional flags.

## 4 Mountainous Terrain and Meet Locations

The generally accepted definition of a mountain in the UK is a summit at least 2000ft (610m) high.

The opportunities to cross the 2000ft contour in the southern counties of England covered by the Wessex Area are very limited. They are restricted to a very small area around Black Hill in Herefordshire plus High Willhays and the adjacent Yes Tor on Dartmoor only.

The county of Derbyshire is the principal location of Peakland Area meets. In the Peak District National Park it is only possible to cross the 2000ft contour on the Kinder Scout Plateau and close to the Bleaklow and Higher Shelf Stones summits east of Glossop.

The MAS Area meet programmes for 2019 have been analysed to determine the proportion of meet venues organised and stewarded by MAS Areas at which it is possible to cross the 2000ft contour within 5 miles of a site. This criterion gives an indication of the potential of being able to follow a circular walking route from site of around 12 miles into mountainous terrain. Such walks are possible at just 3 (8%) of the 37 MAS hosted meets this year. This total includes one meet organised by the Wessex Area in Powys this being the third occasion in the last ten years that an out of area meet has been organised at this venue to offer a walk into mountainous terrain.

## 5 Active Membership Profile

The profile of the MAS membership who attend meets is predominantly of physically active couples and singles that enjoy walking and / or cycling and have either retired or are approaching retirement.

Equalisation and increases in the age of entitlement for a State Pension alongside increased longevity combined with an active lifestyle appears to be having an impact with an increase in members in their late 70's and early 80's able to attend meets while it is becoming increasingly difficult to encourage Club members in the 55 to 65 age bracket to do so. Regrettably there is a dearth of families attending meets.

The Wessex Area has responded to the wide range in personal walking abilities at meets by attempting to organise three walks of different length on each full day of a meet but this remains a continuing challenge from a limited pool of members willing to lead a walk.

With many older members having served on an Area Committee and / or Section Council and no longer able to do so it is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit from the diminishing pool of 'younger' members to fill Committee and Council roles. Especially so as many 'younger members' also have to juggle parental or grandparent care responsibilities. This is the fundamental existential threat that can be addressed through approval of the proposed Section name change.

## 6 Meet Attendance by Unit Type

Figure 5 below shows trends in the type of unit used by members attending MAS meets excluding temporary holiday sites (THS).

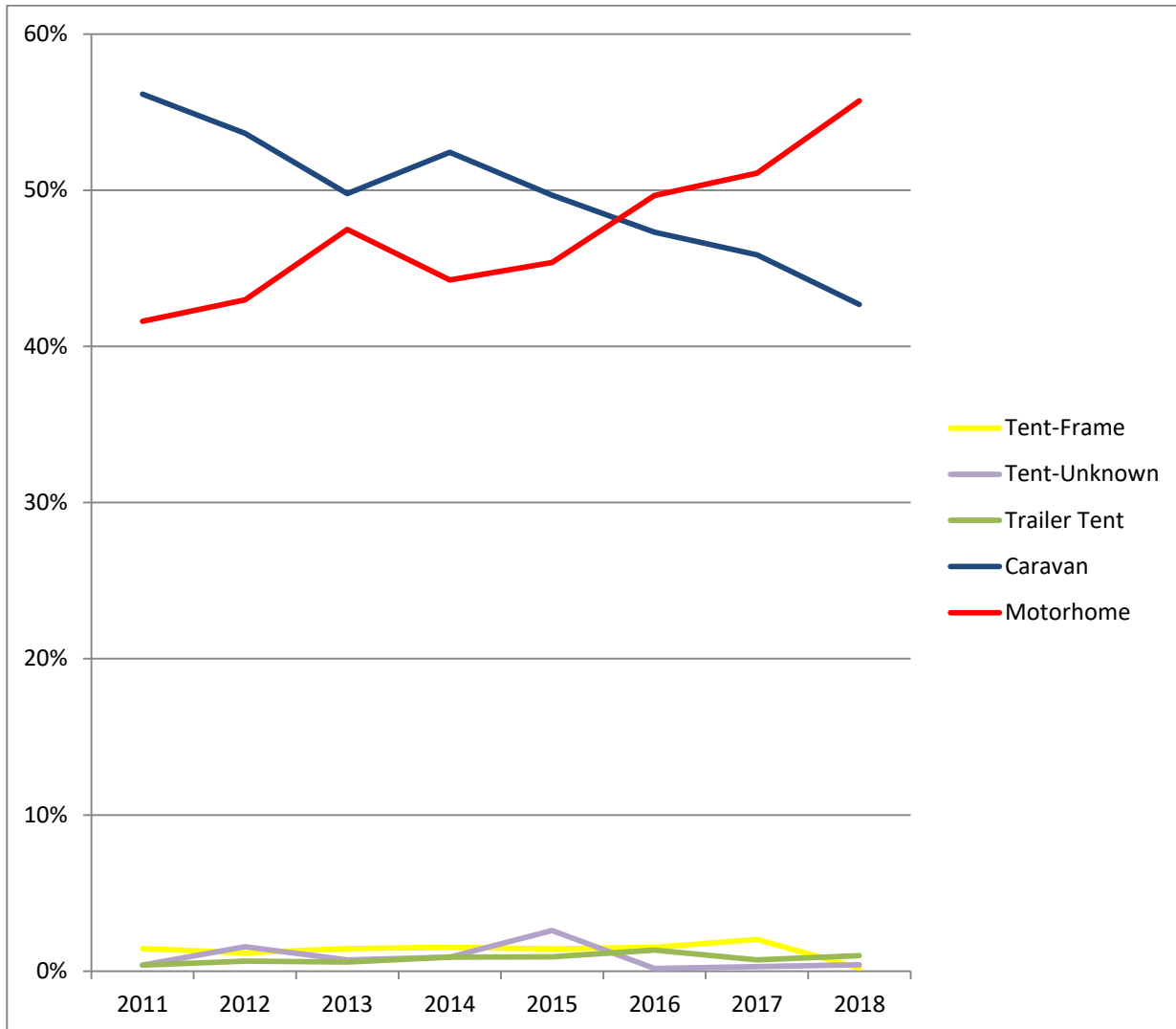


Figure 5: Unit types used by members at MAS meets, excluding THS, for the years 2011 to 2018.

Notable trends are;

1. The increasing proportion of members using motorhomes with these vehicles becoming the majority unit type at Wessex meets from 2011 onwards, at Peakland meets in 2013, 2017 & 2018 and at Northern meets, excluding THS, in 2018;
2. The small proportion of frame tents, tents of unknown type and trailer tents used at MAS meets; and;
3. In recent years, tents in the unknown type category include just 1 such unit at a single meet in 2016 and 1 such unit at two different meets in the years 2017 and 2018.

## 7 Attracting New Members

Clearly the use of the phrase “*Mountain Activity*” in the Section name is no longer valid, gives a misleading impression of our core activities and presents a significant barrier when attempting to attract Club members to our meets.

Personal recommendation has an important role to play in attracting new members and business cards with the Section’s web address have been produced to encourage potential new recruits to discover more.

The tagline “**walking – cycling – camping – caravanning**” on our website and the “**walking and cycling**” branding on our publicity flags represent attempts to be honest about our core activities. The logical next step in modernising MAS and ensuring our survival is to replace “*Mountain Activity*” in our Section name with “*Walking and Cycling*”.

The Section PRO has identified a number of appropriate and easily memorable domain names available for the Section website with the potential to improve our search ranking.

New faces at Wessex Area meets are asked how they found out about the event. Invariably the response is Out and About but it was the location that attracted their attention rather than the Section name. The name change is seen as being key to resolving this difficulty as the Section banner in the printed edition of Out and About and the listing by organiser option in the Out and About app and on the Club website will only then appropriately describe our core walking and cycling activities.

New members recruited at shows do not re-join at the end of their year of free membership indicating that the MAS name is giving a misleading impression of the Section’s activities.

The name change appears to be aligned to the editorial policy of the Club magazine which includes articles on walking and cycling when promoting the great outdoors.

## 8 No Impact of Proposed Name Change on the Association of Lightweight Campers

The Association of Lightweight Campers (ALC) have notified MAS of their concerns that “*the inclusion of ‘cycling’ in the new title could cause confusion with Club members and could impact on our Section membership*”.

MAS note from the ALC website that;

1. In 1984 the ALC changed their name from the Association of Cycle and Lightweight Campers to “*the shorter but quite explicit*” Association of Lightweight Campers;
2. The ALC constitution defines a lightweight tent as being no more than 2 metres in height and with a maximum weight in the region of 2.5kg (5.5lb) plus 1.5kg (3.3lb) per person in respect of the number of persons for which it has been designed;
3. ALC meets always take place on sites which have sanitation facilities;
4. Some of the members who attend ALC meets are cycle-campers but the majority travel to meets in cars;
5. The ALC is hosting 11 meets in 2019; and;
6. The ALC promotes meets in every month of the year except December.

It is unsurprising that both MAS and ALC have members who are keen on cycling, after all it is one of the fastest growing leisure activities in the UK.

Clearly ALC and MAS offer very different camping propositions. Club members who have a lightweight tent that meets the strict ALC criteria will be aware that sanitation requirements restrict the locations at which they can camp and it for this reason that ALC meets are always at sites where sanitation facilities are provided. Conversely MAS meets are usually held at sites without sanitation and the banner information for each Area's listing in Out and About is explicit in stating that own sanitation is essential.

Consequently the unit types encountered at meets are very different. At ALC meets units must by definition be lightweight tents while at MAS meets units are predominantly motorhomes and caravans. Tents of unknown size represented just 1 out of 594 unit visits to MAS meets, excluding THS, in 2016, 2 out of 689 unit visits in 2017 and 2 out of 499 unit visits in 2019.

Furthermore, unlike ALC the MAS do not offer meets during November, January and February offering a programme of winter walks instead. Also, the MAS website and the banner heading in Out and About are explicit in stating that the Section offers walking and cycling.



Figure 6: Lightweight camping units at an ALC meet, image taken from the ALC website.





Figure 7: Mix of camping units at an MAS meet, image taken from the MAS website.

It would appear that with MAS already promoting walking and cycling activities while offering 3½ times as many meets as the ALC there is currently no confusion amongst Club members as to social camping offers provided by ALC and MAS.

The purpose of the MAS name change to the Walking and Cycling Section is to provide an explicit description of the activities undertaken at our meets while the name of the ALC was chosen to be explicit in the description of the type of camping unit acceptable at an ALC meet. Consequently it is reasonable to assume that no confusion will arise amongst Club members as to the very distinct special interests of the two Sections. It is reasonable to assume that the lack of sanitation facilities at the majority of MAS meets acts as a barrier to member attendance in lightweight camping units and consequently the name change will have no impact on the Association of Lightweight Campers.

## 9 Summary

- The Mountaineering Section was established in 1933, it was closed with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 1987 as the level of membership was low with the few remaining elderly members mainly inactive.
- The Mountaineering Section was revived as the Mountain Activity Section later in 1987 with climbing, mountaineering, fell walking, long distance walks, backpacking from fixed centres, pot-holing, mountain photography and orienteering suggested as activities which could be included in the Section's programme.
- In 1995 MAS had 6 Areas organising programmes of events and was able to offer more than 100 meets across the camping season. In 2019 the Section has declined to 3 Areas hosting 37 meets, offering members a total of 40 meets when invites from DA's are included.
- Walking and Cycling appear to have been core MAS activities from the onset.
- In January 2015 the Communications Committee approved artwork for business cards and window stickers which include the tagline "**walking – cycling – camping – caravanning**" to promote the Section's core activities. The tag line is also used on our website.
- The Communications Committee approved the designs of promotional flags in July 2016 with prominent walking and cycling wording and graphics.
- The generally accepted definition of a mountain in the UK is a summit at least 2000ft (610m) high.
- Opportunities to cross the 2000ft contour in the southern counties of England covered by the Wessex Area are restricted to a very small area around Black Hill in Herefordshire plus High Willhays and the adjacent Yes Tor on Dartmoor only.
- The county of Derbyshire is the principal location of Peakland Area meets. In the Peak District National Park it is only possible to cross the 2000ft contour on the Kinder Scout Plateau and close to the Bleaklow and Higher Shelf Stones summits east of Glossop.
- The 2019 MAS Area programmes have been analysed to determine the number of meets at which it is possible to cross the 2000ft contour within 5 miles of a site. This criterion gives an indication of the potential of being able to follow a circular walking route from site of around 12 miles into mountainous terrain. Such walks are possible at just 3 (8%) of the 37 MAS hosted meets this year.
- The profile of the MAS membership who attend meets is predominantly of physically active couples and singles that enjoy walking and / or cycling and have either retired or are approaching retirement.
- With many older members having served on an Area Committee and / or Section Council and no longer able to do so it is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit from the diminishing pool of 'younger' members to fill Committee and Council roles. Especially so as many 'younger members' also have to juggle parental or grandparent care responsibilities. This is the fundamental existential threat that can be addressed through approval of the proposed Section name change.
- An increasing proportion of members use motorhomes with these becoming the majority unit type at Wessex meets from 2011 onwards, at Peakland meets in 2013, 2017 & 2018 and at Northern meets, excluding THS, in 2018;
- A small proportion of units at MAS meets are frame tents, tents of unknown type and trailer tents.
- Tents in the unknown type category include 1 such unit at a single meet in 2016 and 1 such unit at two different meets in the years 2017 and 2018.

- The use of the phrase “*Mountain Activity*” in the Section name is no longer valid, gives a misleading impression of our core activities and presents a significant barrier when attempting to attract Club members to our meets.
- The logical next step in modernising MAS and ensuring our survival is to replace “*Mountain Activity*” in our Section name with “*Walking and Cycling*”.
- New faces at Wessex Area meets are asked how they found out about the event. Invariably the response is Out and About but it was the location that attracted their attention rather than the Section name. The name change is seen as being key to resolving this difficulty.
- New members recruited at shows do not re-join at the end of their year of free membership indicating that the MAS name is giving a misleading impression of the Section’s activities.
- The name change appears to be aligned to the editorial policy of the Club magazine which includes articles on walking and cycling when promoting the great outdoors.
- The Association of Lightweight Campers (ALC) have notified MAS of their concerns that “*the inclusion of ‘cycling’ in the new title could cause confusion with Club members and could impact on our Section membership*”.
- ALC and MAS offer very different camping propositions. Club members who have a lightweight tent that meets the strict ALC criteria will be aware that sanitation requirements restrict the locations at which they can camp and it is for this reason that ALC meets are always at sites where sanitation facilities are provided.
- MAS meets are usually held at sites without sanitation and the banner information for each Area’s listing in Out and About is explicit in stating that own sanitation is essential.
- The unit types encountered at ALC and MAS meets are very different. At ALC meets units must by definition be lightweight tents while at MAS meets units are predominantly motorhomes and caravans. Tents of unknown size represented just 1 out of 594 unit visits to MAS meets, excluding THS, in 2016, 2 out of 689 unit visits in 2017 and 2 out of 499 unit visits in 2019.
- It is reasonable to assume that the lack of sanitation facilities at the majority of MAS meets acts as a barrier to member attendance in lightweight camping units and consequently the name change will have no impact on the Association of Lightweight Campers.

**The name of the Mountain Activity Section is no longer representative of the activities undertaken at meets, discourages potential new members and represents a threat to the continued existence of the Section.**

**Approval is sought for a change of name to the Walking and Cycling Section to ensure our survival.**