

Avon Outdoor Activity Club



Committee Meeting 8.00 at Renatos

Present: Richard, Clare, Dennis, Liz, Dave, Susie,
Apologies: Andy [doing sailing trip], Izzy

1. Membership.

How many members can/should we have? Attracting more??

Existing members range from mid 20's up. Most members are between 34 and 43. Vast majority are white graduates. Do we need more members, this discussion covered ground already covered before. Believe Andy has a spreadsheet of active members, assuming organisers have notified him of attendees, can we look at under represented groups and then look to attracting them to join.

ACTION: Dennis will contact City of Bristol College who run a course to train outdoor pursuits leaders. Andy to be asked if he has a list of active members to be shared

How to raise expectations to ensure more members try organising things?

Key question is how to involve current members more or encourage more specifically active members.

ACTION: Clare to organise evening about how to organise events. A hand holding exercise to promote more weekends

Active versus social.

Used to be an issue of too much social and not enough active. Now moving the other way. There are more events planned.

Membership year

Should we change the membership year. Discussion ranged.

Potentially change to beginning of October. Existing members would get 6 months free membership.

Shops would have to be notified to allow cardholders to have discount over the extra 6 months.

PROPOSAL: The membership year should be changed to the 1st October

ACTION: Decision to be taken at AGM

2. Events

Training for members & Involvement of outside leaders for specific activities

Sailors are to come back with a proposal re training budgets. Clare very insistent that no money is paid out until a prescribed number of events have been organised. Discussion - should we have a policy to promote members getting skilled up. Using outside trainers is only to be considered if we do not have the skills within the club eg wakeboarding.

Training for members this year included orienteering and first aid courses. The club had paid for the instructor at the first aid course because one of our aims is to have more members who can do first aid in order to support club trips. The committee agreed to fund one course per year until people are skilled up. The attendees are all required to run an activity, Clare will be chasing them!

PROPOSAL: Dave proposed that someone from the club takes on the organisation of first aid. There are two people interested in doing this at the current time. It would not be a committee position. Agreed.

PROPOSAL: Clare proposed that the membership fee is increased to include a 'free' first aid kit for all new members. Existing members should have the option to buy a kit. The first aid course recommended all members who attend activities should have a basic kit with them. The new first aid organisers could organise this.

Agreed to contact potential organisers to put together a proposed kit and ideas for how we make it available for the existing members. The new members idea will need to be agreed at the AGM or be given as an option to be paid for using the membership form. We could order 400 kits and have them branded with AOAC.

ACTION: Clare to organise a working party/ canvass for ideas from key organisers in order to create a draft policy to be discussed next meeting if possible.

Clare and Dave to contact first aid attendees and make sure they attend the activity organisers evening or are in the process of organising an event if they have not already done so.

Dave and Clare to follow up potential first aid organisers.

Timing of adverts

Discussion again about when adverts should be put where. Clare suggested that all events have to go through her and would then be put on the website in order to have a spread of events whenever possible. The email and club board could hold off putting out the information but to what purpose. The discussion came back to the right of the organisers to do it the way they choose, they are the ones putting themselves out for the club, they should have the right to decide how they advertise [within club guidelines].

Use, storage and access of equipment

Needs to be clear access to equipment should be through Phil. He will make sure Clare has list of alternative key holders. Bikes have been repaired. Need money to buy 3 lots of safety equipment - helmets, lights, puncture repair kits. Suggested amount of £250 max.

ACTION: Liz to update website with info re contacting Phil

Clare has all maps and will collate a list so event organisers can be notified of ones suited to their trips. Dennis to ask Sophie to buy equipment.

Transport, lift sharing

Minibus idea have come to nothing. There has only been limited interest from a handful of members.

ACTION: Organisers need to continue to encourage members to share transport if possible.

3. Communication

Newsletter & Email

Paper copy of newsletter is to continue for the present. This a nominal extra piece of work because Liz will still do a calendar version. It is one of the few things members get for their subs.

Email is great.

ACTION: Liz to send out query to all members, please respond if you do NOT want a paper copy

Suggestions for website improvements

Forum

Use of the Forum. Can we restrict it to members only? CJHole are using it at the moment! Can we also make a suggestion at the greeting page that only AOAC linked discussions are put on. Slight issue, Mark is no longer a member.

ACTION: Liz to contact Mark van Rosson to see if these suggestions can be carried out

Liz to contact CJHole and ask if they wish to pay to advertise on the Forum

4. Committee Reports

There were no queries regarding reports. Copies are available on request.

5. Minutes from the last meeting

Attendance at committee meetings is open to all members. AOB is their chance to take part with requests etc unless they contact Richard for a specific agenda item to be tabled. Only committee members can vote. Meeting minutes are available to all via the website, committee members have 5 days to send queries back to Carrie before they are posted. If there are areas which are not agreed they should be omitted and clarified at the next meeting.

ACTION:Carrie to get agenda to Liz to circulate it prior to the meeting via the email newsletter.
Liz to post minutes on the website once agreed.

6.AOB

Caving Training

Natalie requested funding for training to become a cave leader. She was specifically requested by a previous committee to take this on. There should be a ratio of one leader to 6 people. We do need more club members to take this on. Cost is £150 for two parts and £80 for retest. It is very difficult to pass part 2. The discussion included the fact she needs to be a member of the local caving group in order to access the local cave system and information about local conditions etc, essential to lead any cave trip for the club. The club already affiliates to YHA, BCU & BMC. She also requested a subsidy for each trip to cover basic costs - this was not agreed but instead the committee suggested she should increase the cost of a trip to reflect those incurred costs.

Agreed: to fund the cost of the test and to look into paying part of the cost of her membership to the local caving group, in order to access the caves.

ACTION: Natalie to sort out new cost for trips. She will put forward a proposal for paying an amount of her membership cost.

RNLI

Dave proposed the club match a donation to the RNLI for £40. A club trip to Penzance sailing had made a donation of this amount and would like the club to match it. Discussion was mixed but made the point that this should not set a precedent for donations.

Agreed: as a one off amount because the club has enjoyed so many sea based activities this year.

Minutes by Clare