

AOAC AGM Minutes – 14 March 2011 at Llandoger Trow



Committee Present: 12

Richard Simms (Chair), Mel Bates (Treasurer), Richard Hiscoke (Secretary), Nick Walker (Policy), Ajit Vesudevan and Maurice Houkes (Activities), Gavin Spittlehouse (Communications), Jon Maddicott (Development), Roland Allen and Rob Giles (Membership), Sarah Gay and Richard Silby (Equipment) (

Members Present: 16

Helen Grimston, Karl Rust, Fiona Hiscoke, Carrie Stone, Phil Webster, Stuart Bardsley, Keith Chant, Elin Jones, Andy Osborne, Esmie Player, Catherine Nobes, Shaun Grey, Dougal Matthews, Mark Athay and two latecomers.

Item

1 Apologies

None

2 Approval of minutes of from the last AGM

Approved

3 Award of Lifetime Membership

Honorary life membership was awarded to Keith Chant in recognition of his commitment to the club over about 22 years in organising events, and in particular his role in developing kayaking, coaching kayaking, leading kayaking trip over that period and for his efforts in maintaining club equipment at the club stores.

4 Committee reports

Chairman

Richard reported there has been another successful year with over 50 trips, making it one of the business years yet.

Membership stood at 436 in October 2010 and was 361 in February 2011, but membership always rises throughout the year. The average age of members had risen from 38 to 41.

There were 3 main charitable fundraising events: Bollywood, skittles and river cruise.

The club continues to invest in training and equipment, having in February approved a batch of training requests for 10 BCU level 1 coaches and at least 6 BCU leadership courses. In terms of new kit the most significant purchase during the year is a new sea kayak.

Treasurer

Mel presented the accounts. The accounts were prepared on a cash basis not an accruals basis. Profit from events for period from 1 April 2010 to 28 February were £259. A number of trips incurred losses, but these had been mitigated whenever possible e.g. by reducing trip sizes in advance.

All profit from Bollywood, skittles and river cruise went direct to charity.

Although there was a reasonable amount of kayaking expenditure, it was usually self financing.

Club anticipates some substantial investment over next couple of years including in kayaking kit and courses, website electronic payments and website upgrades, and, subject to the motion being passed, upon incorporation of the club.

2009/10 accounts have been audited, but Mel had not yet received them from the auditor. 73% of income and 67% of expenditure was reviewed. The auditor was happy with supporting documentation, and had only raised one query.

Membership

Rob reported that there had been several new members weekends, including June, September and March. All had sold out except June. His aim is for there to be 5 new members weekends a year.

Communications

The weekly email has been automated in part, with much of the content generated from the club calendar. The club magazine had changed to online reports only - there has no paper magazine since September 2009.

The club now has its own Facebook page. It is hoped this will draw younger members into the club. It hasn't been used much yet by the existing club membership.

The website content has been optimised which has improved the number of monthly visits. This now stands at about different 900 visitors, albeit that some of those will be the same person accessing the website from work and home.

The website is creaking on its old technology and is need of updating. Photos need updating. Email groups are not easy to find. The magazine has insufficient supply of articles.

Future projects include: online payments and migrating the website on to a new technology platform.

Equipment

Sarah provided some details about equipment hired throughout the year, an about aims for rolling replacement of kit.

5 Motion 1 - Incorporation

"The club is an unincorporated association, with the committee and members having personal liability for debts and losses of the club (where matters are not covered by club's public liability insurance). The new committee should re-examine the case for the incorporation of the club, with a view to limiting members personal liability to £1 each"

The motion was unanimously passed.

6 Motion 2 - Personal Accident Insurance

"The club should provide personal accident insurance cover for members participating in all club activities, funded by an increase in the membership fee to match the cost of this cover (and shared equally between all members of the club)."

The motion failed (2 for, 22 against and 4 abstentions).

7 Membership fees 1 October 2011 - 30 September 2012

No change was proposed to the membership fees. So a resolution was passed (27 for 1 against) for membership fees remain the same: Single (£25), Joint (£40), Distance (100+ miles from Bristol) / unwaged / student (£12.50).

8 Election of new committee

The results of the committee elections are:

- Chair - Richard Simms (unanimous)
- Treasurer - Mel Bates (unanimous)
- Secretary - Richard Hiscoke (unanimous)
- Activities - Aj Vesudevan & Maurice Houkes (unanimous)
- Membership - Elin Jones, Rob Giles and Cat Nobes (unanimous)
- Communications - Gary Steadman (21 for 0 against 7 abstentions)
- Policy - Esmie Player (unanimous)
- Development - Jon Maddicott & Dave Murdoch (unanimous)
- Equipment - Kat James (unanimous in absentia)