

HMC Committee Meeting

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| Meeting | HMC AMG | |
| Date | 19 April 2016 | |
| Place | Cotswold – St Albans – 7:30 | |
| Committee Attendees | Paul Hearn (PH) | Chairman |
| | Dave Williams (DW) | Treasurer |
| | Stephen Deaville (SD) | Secretary |
| | Rebecca Smith (RS) | Outdoor Meets Rep |
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| 1 | Welcome | |
| 1.1 | PH welcomed all attendees and opened proceedings. | |
| 1.2 | PH read out the minutes of the 2015 AGM and asked for acceptance by the membership. All present accepted the minutes as accurate. | |
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| 2 | Secretary's Report | |
| 2.1 | SD announced that by the end of 2015, the HMC had 74 members with an active group of keen mountaineers and climbers. Compared with the previous year of just over 100, membership was unfortunately down overall. | |
| 2.2 | The current 2016 HMC membership has 50 members. This includes 43 existing members returning from 2015 and 7 new members. So far, 31 members have yet to contact the club to renew their membership. | |
| 2.3 | <p>Geoff Sharpe (GS) asked if there was any obvious reason for lower attendance of the HMC?</p> <p>SD stated that we do expect more new members to join but best guess is that the HMC has seen numbers fall by roughly 25-30% in the last 24 months. We have seen two successive years where significant numbers of members have not returned. Many of those who let their membership lapse were with the club for just one year and did in all likelihood did not attend any trips. However, we have seen a number of long standing and active members leave the club for a variety of reasons including leaving the area, life changing circumstances.</p> <p>SD will create a short survey and send to those people who have not renewed</p> | |

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| | <p>this year to find out if there is any particular reason for their decision not to renew. SD is hoping this may shed some light on reasons for significant number of lapsed memberships over the last couple of years.</p> | |
| 2.4 | <p>Jenny Forster-Davidson (JFD) referred to the HMC Facebook page and said she was surprised by the number of non-members in the group.</p> <p>SD stated that the Facebook group is a closed group and users have to request access to the page. Our policy at the moment is to accept requests by non-members in the hope that some join the club when they see photos of our trips.</p> <p>SD also stated that we have a Twitter account @HertsMC through which the HMC is trying to reach new audiences. The highlight so far is when Kenton Cool liked one of the HMC tweets and the BMC are regularly retweeting HMC pictures.</p> | |
| 2.5 | <p>PH added that there are a number of reasons that the membership may have dropped including some who join the club just to get the card discount. Other long standing members have moved away or are busy with other projects and changing circumstances. PH finished off by saying that the HMC has a good core group of climbers and walkers, trips are filling up and the HMC is managing its finances.</p> | |
| 2.6 | <p>SD - BMC Membership fees have remained unchanged this year at £13.25. First quarter subscriptions have been paid.</p> | |
| 2.7 | <p>SD –Each month, a club broadcast is issued to all members about upcoming trips and events of interest. Twenty-five club broadcasts were issued in 2015 to keep the membership up to date on events and news from the club. I would be interested to get any feedback from members about the content of these email broadcasts and any suggestions welcome.</p> | |
| 2.8 | <p>SD - the HMC website has been running well for over a year now. Primarily, the website is used as a functional tool to book events and trips as well as creating posts and emailing the membership about news and upcoming trips. There is potential to create new and exciting content for the website.</p> | |
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| 3 | Treasurer's report | |
| 3.1 | <p>DW wanted to note that Jon Moulding has audited the accounts and thanked him for his help.</p> | |
| 3.2 | <p>DW presented the accounts summary. First page - current balance is £5772.82. Second page shows that the accounts have been audited and approved by Jon Molding. Third page shows a month by month breakdown (cashflow). The HMC is up approx. £1000 on last year's accounts though monies are currently flowing in and out all the time. On balance, the HMC is looking at a healthy account this year.</p> | |
| 3.3 | <p>DW – There was a donation of £320.58 to the mountain rescue services in 2015. This amount includes the 2014 donations.</p> | |
| 3.4 | <p>DW the last page of the accounts shows the profit and loss of all the 2015</p> | |

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| | trips. Most events made a small profit for the club with extra funds generated by the annual dinner and bangers and mash events. Only two trips made losses but this was balanced by the other trips. | |
| 3.5 | DW explained that overall the accounts are in a good state and the HMC will seek to continue to ensure that there is a healthy cash flow to support the club. | |
| 3.6 | PH thanked DW for his work and asked for the membership to approve the accounts. All present approved the 2015 accounts. | |
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| 4 | Outdoor Meets Rep Report | |
| 4.1 | RS explained the way in which events have been booked over 2015 and that the shift away from YHAs to camping and huts seems to be working. In addition, events are booked with a small number of places and increased if needed. Huts are proving popular. Costs of events are still reasonable and in some cases the HMC has asked for a little extra to cover things such as a hut coal bucket and food for communal cooking. This seems to be working well. | |
| 4.2 | RS explained that the HMC is looking for a volunteer to arrange the Alps event. Any ideas volunteers to help out would be appreciated. | |
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| 5 | Member of the Year | |
| 5.1 | PH announced that the member of the year is Jane Eyre for her enthusiastic dedication to the HMC, organizing trips, contribution to communal meals and willingness to help. | |
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| 6 | Members Questions | |
| 6.1 | David Ball raised the BMC campaign 'Mend Our Mountains' and suggested that HMC members and the HMC itself could donate £100 to the cause. PH asked the members present to approve. All present approved the motion to make a donation. | |
| 6.2 | JFD raised a recent issue of the BMC not holding the details of her birthday which may have had an impact on any BMC insurance cover. JFD wanted the membership to be aware of the importance of the HMC providing details to the BMC. SD and PH agreed that it was important and reiterated that members should ensure that their full details are provided to the secretary and to provide the secretary with an update if details (contact numbers and addresses) change. | |
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| 7 | Elections | |
| 7.1 | PH stood down as Chairman of the HMC | |
| 7.2 | Chris Smith put himself forward as a candidate and was nominated by JFD. DB seconded the nomination. The vote for Chris Smith to become chairman was unanimous. | |
| 7.3 | SD was standing for a second term as Secretary. The vote was unanimously in favour. | |

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| 7.4 | DW was standing for a second term as Treasurer. The vote was unanimously in favour. | |
| 7.5 | Jane Eyre and David Ball were accepted as a committee volunteers. | |
| 7.6 | PH thanks Jacqie Deakin for her contributions to the new CRUX magazine. Hardcopies were distributed to the membership. | |
| 7.7 | PH thanked all for their attendance and closed proceedings. | |
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- These minutes has been formally completed and recognised by the committee as an accurate set of records:
- Chair's
Signature.....Date.....