

HMC Committee Meeting

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| Meeting | HMC AMG | |
| Date | 14 April 2015 | |
| 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 |
| | Kat Judah (KJ) | Committee Rep |

| | | Action |
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| 1 | Welcome | |
| 1.1 | PH opened proceedings. Apologies received from Jon Moulding and Jane Eyre | |
| 1.2 | PH read out the minutes of the previous meeting and asked for acceptance by the membership | |
| 1.3 | Gary Bebb raised an issue that the HMC vote on the use of Meet Up received more votes than zero and would like an amendment. No-one could recall the number of votes given for Meet-Up. PH accepted that it was higher than 0 but less than the number of votes cast for a dedicated HMC website. | |
| 2 | Secretary's Report | |
| 2.1 | SD announced that the club currently has 66 members plus two who joined at the AGM making 68 in total to date. | |
| 2.2 | The subs for the BMC membership have been paid and members (who renewed before 5 March) should have received their Summit magazine. | |
| 2.3 | Membership fees have increased for 2015 from £17 to £22. This is in part to cover increased BMC subs, which rose from £11.25 to £13.25 and the rest to help bolster club funds. | |
| 2.4 | The HMC 2014 membership survey results were read out by SD. The survey results are available by sending a request to the Secretary for any members who wishes to see them. | |
| 2.5 | Caroline Cook asked what changes have been made as a result of the survey. | |
| 2.6 | PH made a statement about the challenges that the HMC faced over 2014 | |

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| | <p>with certain big ticket events being undersubscribed and losing substantial funds for the club. The early events made some substantial loses but later events in 2014 were more successful.</p> <p>The survey results indicated that members wanted to see a lot more huts and camping trips and a move away from YHA accommodation. The membership will see that the committee have taken these results and started booking more huts and campsites. This move away from the YHA system has helped to limit the financial exposure of the club.</p> <p>The first trips in 2015 have been fully booked and it is hoped this is a reflection of the changes that the committee have made in listening to the membership. We have a trip arranged in Dartmoor (in December) which was a popular suggestion and we expect Bangers and Mash to be oversubscribed again.</p> <p>The change to new website may have contributed to the less successful events as people got used to the new booking system, but now it has had time to bed in, it seems to be working effectively. The committee acknowledges that the websites does seem static and so we need the HMC members to take ownership of this issue and provide the committee with content that can be uploaded. Photos and articles would be welcome. At the moment the Facebook page seems to attract the content but we'd like to use some of the images for the website.</p> <p>PH also asked for content for Crux which has been struggling to get going for a long time. The magazine is designed to attract new members and be an advert for the club and it can only succeed if members generate content.</p> <p><u>PH asked all members to help generate some content for the website and Crux magazine to help promote the club.</u></p> | |
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| 3 | Treasurer's report | |
| 3.1 | DW wanted to note that Jon Moulding handed over an excellent set of account records and has audited them. DW thanked Jon in his absence for his time and dedication to this effort. | |
| 3.2 | Net loss of £900 in 2014. This was mainly due to low attendance at the Glen Coe event and Hartington Hall event. Due to the survey and the action taken to provide more low cost huts and camping meets, the finances have been turned around as we move away from expensive YHA events. So far 2015 is looking far more healthy when compared to the first quarter of 2014. | |
| 3.3 | Membership payments seems to be working well. There is only one £17 entry that is unaccounted for. | |
| 3.4 | Gary Bebb suggested that there should be a policy for refunds – that monies paid for events are not refundable unless the space is filled by another. | |
| 3.5 | DW explained how the current process works and that fees for events are only refunded if the place is filled by another member. There have been a couple of situations recently where a refund has been given but only because a payment had been made after all places were taken which was the right thing to do. | |
| 4 | Outdoor Meets Rep Report | |

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| 4.1 | Rebecca Smith advised the membership that the 2014 HMC survey results have helped shift the focus of events away from YHAs to camping and huts as well as independent hostels were appropriate. RS explained why the committee is moving away from the YHA due to new policies which penalize club bookings and have generally made it more difficult for groups and large parties to get value. | |
| 4.2 | RS explained that the focus of events has also been on the provision of limited spaces in response to recent poor turnout. This reduces the financial exposure of the club and helps to prompt take up earlier due to the limited number of spaces. | |
| 4.3 | The HMC are booking more camping meets and also trying a mix of of events as requested such as camping, huts and independent hostels and camping barns. | |
| 4.4 | So far the HMC have filled all events in 2015, which have been successful. Happy to consider other locations and huts from the membership. Volunteers for organising events welcome. | |
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| 5 | Members Questions | |
| 5.1 | Jacqui Deakin asked for a list of all members contact details as were sent out in the past. | |
| 5.2 | SD replied that some members have asked for their details not to be issued. While personal details of members are not to be circulated, SD recommended that JD use the website to contact other members and ask for details directly. The website has been set up so you can contact other members via email. | |
| 5.3 | Jacqui Deakin asked if the Independent Hostels being booked would be open longer (than YHAs)? | |
| 5.4 | PH replied that it depends on the policies of the booked hostel. PH explained the recent treatment that the club has received at the hands of the YHA, which has elicited the club's response to not rejoin, the YHA. | |
| 5.5 | Albert asked if the club is becoming a virtual club rather than a social club? | |
| 5.6 | PH acknowledged that there is a change in the way the club administers itself and that contact between members has moved with the advent of technology. The HMC is about getting together to enjoy the piece of the mountains and events will continue to be social in that respect. You can't climb a virtual mountain. | |
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| 6 | Re-election | |
| 6.1 | Rebecca Smith is standing for a second term (of 2 years). Nominated by Chris Smith and Gary Bebb. Nomination approved | |
| 6.2 | Chris Smith volunteered as a committee rep. Nominated by Rebecca Smith and seconded by Kat Judah. Nomination approved | |
| 6.3 | 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.....