

**Burnley Mountaineering Club
AGM Minutes 19th March 2007 @ 7:30pm
Old Band Club, Nelson**

48 members present, 12 apologies for absence

A. Lord, P. Miller, J. Miller, I. Lowcock, C. Smedley, S. Elsworth, S. Squires, D. Begg, J. Begg, S. Greenwood, P. Higgins, J. Duckworth.

Copies of the 2006 Minutes and Balance Sheet for 2006 were available for members. The Chairman opened the meeting and asked if the minutes were a true record of the 2006 AGM.

- Peter Walker queried the term "Insurance" and felt that this could be misleading. Clarification was sought from the committee, and it was agreed that it should have read "Insurance Liability".
- Peter Walker queried the purchase of maps, and was advised by the Chairman that around 40 x 1:25,000 maps were being brought, and that a complete set of the 1:50,000 maps were held by the club library;
- Peter Walker queried the SPA grant award, and the situation was explained by Mike Squires in his role as Club Treasurer.
- Peter Walker advised that the Elected person for the Treasurer's role should read Mike Squires.
- Steve Young advised that the "History of the Club" was ongoing, as was getting the newsletters in disc. However, this might need to be revisited due to the potential cost this could incur.

Proposed : B. Haythornthwaite

Seconded : M. Phelan

Matters Arising

The GPS purchased by the club was there to be used – the Chairman advised that he was the current user.

The Edinburgh Tattoo visited in Aug 2006 was extremely successful and thoroughly enjoyed by those in attendance.

A reminder was issued about the new club website – www.burnleymountaineering.co.uk - commenting that the old site had taken several thousand hits before its demise. The site was by far a slicker operation, and already emails had been received via the info@burnleymountaineering.co.uk email address. Examples quoted, include one from a BBC researcher for the "Don't Get Done, Get Dom" show, as well as one from Ski Lifts based in Geneva, offering the club a 10% discount if the club used them on their links page.

Peter Walker queried the contents of the newsletters to be posted on the website, and agreed with the committee, that just putting the news on rather than the entire newsletter, was better.

Paul Darcy queried the idea of led walks on the website, and was advised that this would continue once the website was fully up and running.

Peter Walker queried the lack of information as to what was actually held in the Club's library. From a list supplied by the club librarian (Tony Lord) Steve Maden advised that there were over 300 books in there, and that a recent book of walks on the North Yorkshire Moors (donated by Victor Marcinkiewicz) would be a popular one. It was mentioned that list of what was available will added to the site in the near future, as well as in a forthcoming newsletter article.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

Mike Squires advised that, as there had been a delay passing the accounts to the auditor, the audit of the 2006 accounts had not yet been completed. Max Tattersall was to complete as soon as possible. Mike ran through the all the anomalies of the figures on the Balance Sheet explaining the major problem at the moment was the numbers on the coaches. This was mentioned in detail, to let members know exactly a breakdown of the reported losses for each of the trips for 2006. Unfortunately, this trend had carried over onto the first three trips of 2007, with all of them making losses.

Various comments were passed as to ideas for walking outside the Lakes, and the Chairman advised that new walks were being included in the syllabus each year, mentioning those for 2007.

Richard Gilbert mentioned the idea of lead walks, saying they were a good idea for both old and new members. Various comments were passed by members about the same.

The Chairman mentioned that we'd had approx. 15 new members so far this year.

The Chairman mentioned that the Map Reading Course had been grant based – a possible idea for the future, to get some members trained up and to be able to pass on their skills to other / new members.

Peter Walker asked how the membership numbers were to date – Gill Young advised that at the 2006 AGM the memberships was 170, whereas at the 2007 AGM, this had slipped to 155.

Membership / Booking Secretary Report

As mentioned previously, the membership at the date of the 2007 AGM was approx. 155 paid up members. In an effort to try to get new members as well as try to regain old / lost members, the following actions had been tried :

- Postal drops to old members, including a newsletter, club information and a syllabus;
- The Pendle Canal Festival had been a good idea, but the stall the club had been allocated (out of their hands) was not sited in the best position;
- Leaflets had been delivered to the recent event for the Hebden Bridge Walking Friendly Town instigation. A local gear shop said they would take some of our info leaflets on our behalf;

Brian Baker asked if libraries and any locations outside the immediate area had been thought of. Various comments from members advised some posters had been left at libraries, but Victor Marcinkiewicz advised that Lancashire Libraries had changed their policies recently, and not all libraries would accept posters.

Bob Sanderson mentioned the idea of possibly members to make more effort to get new members, and the possibility of incentives once new members were signed up. The committee advised they would look into this idea.

Posters being put up in the areas of our coach trips, was another general idea from the members.

Gill conclude her speech, thanking the members for their ongoing support.

Hut Secretary's Report

Roy Haythornthwaite explained that the figures were better than they looked, and he explained what they all represented. He said that more huts had been subsidised due to the increase of hut fees for the year.

However, he went on to say that 2006 had been the best year for some time for hut attendance.

He passed on a big thank you to B. Haythornthwaite and M. Maden and marvelled how they managed to keep the cost of the meal at the Xmas Hut (Carlton-In-Cleveland) down to the cost they did.

He mentioned that huts had to be booked upto 2 years in advance to get the times we wanted, but the costs at some were prohibitive. He mentioned some huts the club had attended in the past, and why they hadn't been booked more recently.

He advised that, due to people dropping out, there were 3 places on the forthcoming High House weekend.

He mentioned that the club's stock of climbing equipment was in the process of being replaced by him, and the committee had sanctioned this already.

The Single Pitch Award was mentioned and he advised that now both Neil Collins and Anthony Lord had dropped out, he would now take the 3rd place.

Mention was made of a return to Llangangarbh for May 2008.

Glyn Evans queried with Roy about whether he queried the ongoing increase in costs with any of the bookings for huts. Roy advised that he did, and gave an example of the Carlton hut for 2006 and the conditions it was found in. A letter was sent to the organiser, and an agreement was reached regarding future costs.

Social Secretary's Report

The Spring Social was the first mention, at Caldervale Rugby Club – this was two events rolled into one, with Peter Walker stepping aside as Club Chairman. A good night.

The long distance walk for 2006, was the Weaver's Shuttle spread over 2 days. He publicly thanked both Steve and Maxine Maden for providing the refreshments along the route on both days.

The camping weekend, although the venue changed upon arrival, turned out to be a success. This was near the Green Dragon at Hardraw.

The GO APE day at Grisedale Forest had 4 people turn up, but only two ventured into the trees.

The Autumn Social – a canal boat trip near Chorley – was a loss, due to the minimum number not being met.

The 2006 dinner dance was held at Burnley House and was a resounding success. Members liked the location, the food, and the DJ. A provisional booking has been made for 2008.

Most recently a 10-pin bowling night was repeated in Burnley. As this was a fixed price according to the number of people, this paid for itself.

Librarian's Report

In Antony Lord's absence, Steve Maden supplied details of this report :

- Lending was down on last year;
- A comprehensive list was to be published shortly;
- A clear out was ongoing to get rid of old / out-of-date books
- There was now over 300 books in stock, as well as 35 videos;
- The 1:25,000 maps were mentioned, regarding the new stock;
- The club now possessed a fullest of the 1:50,000 OS maps;

Various books were mentioned, and that a list will be published soon on the website.

Roy H suggest the idea of a book review, e.g. what's coming next, as well as member's recommendations.

Secretary's Report

Stuart McDonald advised that he's only been in the role for a few months, and went on to advise the following :

- The local press had not printed any article supplied to them;
- That he would try his own local press;
- The Over the Hills forthcoming events list was still being published Hill & Dale

Newsletter Editor's Report

Steve Maden advised he'd involved with newsletter for around 21 years, and passed subtle hint that perhaps someone else would like to take on the role. He explained about the role, from the use of the photocopier to where it was all at now. He said that it was the members that made the newsletter, and he could only print what they supplied.

Merchandise Report

John Wilmot advised steady sales for 2006, with the best seller now being polo shirts as opposed to sweatshirts. He mentioned old items he'd still got in stock, including club times at the ridiculous price of £2.00 (Roy Haythornthwaite proudly showed members his one). Most stock came in various colours, and everyone was reminded of the current prices.

A short break was taken before the forthcoming committee elections.

Election of Officials

With Neil Collins leaving his role as Club Secretary mid-term, and Chris Marshall mentioning that he felt it was unfair for him to continue in his role as Social Secretary whilst being out of the country for some time travelling (as part of his retirement), this meant that all roles on the committee were up for re-election; the results are shown below :

Post	Nominee	Proposer	Secunder	Elected
Chairman	Steve Young	Steve Maden	B. Haythornthwaite	Steve Young
Vice Chairman	Steve Maden	Gill Young	B. Haythornthwaite	Steve Maden
Treasurer	Mike Squires	Peter Walker	Paul Darcy	Mike Squires
Bookings Secretary	Gill Young	B. Haythornthwaite	Peter Walker	Gill Young
Hut Secretary	Roy Haythornthwaite	Marie Phelan	B. Haythornthwaite	Roy Haythornthwaite
Social Secretary	Marie Phelan	B. Haythornthwaite	Gill Young	Marie Phelan
Merchandise	John Wilmot	Marie Phelan	B. Haythornthwaite	John Wilmot
Librarian	Anthony Lord	Gill Young	B. Haythornthwaite	Anthony Lord
Secretary	Stuart McDonald	Chris Marshall	Victor Marcinkiewicz	Stuart McDonald
Ordinary Member	Paul Darcy	Gill Young	Roy Haythornthwaite	Paul Darcy

Any Other Business

Richard Gilbert mentioned the stops on the way home, primarily the club stop at Hellifield, and that not all members liked the stop as it extended an already long day. Steve Maden explained the purpose of the stop. Various comments were passed by members :

- Gill Young – a chance of getting feedback on a long day;

- Chris Marshall – was there any official time that the committee decided the club should stop there, especially in light of the most recent trip and the ever worsening weather?
- Glyn Evans – a chance for members to relax and unwind;
- Steve Young – a chance for new members to meet up;
- Carole Gilbert – new members sometimes look lost, and not all like being introduced as such;
- Mike Squires – the stop helped drivers' hours, in line with PSV regulations

This was discussed generally amongst the members, and a decision was made that we would stop for 30 mins from the time the 2nd coach arrived.

Mike Squires suggested the possibility of mentioning new members in the newsletter.

Glyn Evans queried the quality of the pie and peas at the 2006 Xmas trip at Hellifield. Whilst most members seemed to like the quality, the committee agreed to discuss further at their next meeting.

A few comments were passed as to more information being advised for the route the coaches took, to enable members to better plan their walking. An action point for the committee.

Donations

After much discussion as to why some donations were made – some younger members didn't know "The Clarion" – as well as discussing if the donations should be made (Peter Walker) in light of the club's current predicament with losing money on the coach trips, the donations made last year were to be continued BUT would be subject to review by the Committee in 6 months. **To be reviewed in September 2007.**

Peter Walker, on the theme of the club making a loss, asked about the Welsh trip, and was advised that, for 2007, it would be one coach only. If there was sufficient demand to provide a second coach, then a decision would be made nearer the time.

Peter Walker also advised more details of the Club Holiday this year :

- As 40 was the required number to go with the prices originally advertised, only 25 had booked to date;
- As a result of the 25 booking, the cost would go up by £26 pp, but would reduce if more booked;
- The trip would now be 1 day less.

More Matters Arising

Steve Young added some further clarification as to the club's actions if someone is lost on a trip (as happened on a recent trip). Upon contacting the Mountain Rescue, he was advised that :

- keeping a log book is all we can do;
- members should only go back on the hills if we knew where to look;
- inform Mountain Rescue of all actions taken, and they will advise further action where appropriate.

Close of Meeting

After a vote of thanks by the Chairman, the meeting closed at 9:45pm