

Lomond Mountaineering Club - Committee Meeting

Minutes

Date: 19:30 Wed 19th of March 2014

Location: Partick Burgh Halls

Present: Danny Church, John King, Phil Gane, Derek Thomas, Michael McAnenay, Helen Moore, Lisa McGuinness, Jim O'Donnell, Aaron Outhwaite, Chris Husbands, Ken Johnstone, Julian Hearne, Ivonne Iser, Dave Wood, Matt Dooner, Burly Cumberland.

Apologies: Martin Fitzsimons, Matt Bridgestock, Richard Baynes.

Meeting opened at: 19:50 by current president Aaron Outhwaite.

1. Approval of previous minutes

Minutes from last years AGM were approved.

2. Officer reports

President (Aaron Outhwaite)

The club has gone from strength to strength this year. We have increased the membership significantly this year with a lot of new members. Despite the poor weather for getting out this winter, the club has been very active. A very good year.

Treasurer (Dave Wood)

Club accounts are a snap shot of where we are right now (the summary can be found in Appendix 1). Accounts are now much healthier after a £5,000 anonymous donation; the club has sent a thank you to the donor. Excluding the donation the accounts are about 500 pounds up on last year however a donation of £100 to Glencoe mountain rescue is still to be deducted. This still represents a good year for the clubs finances. The accounts do need to be audited. Dave hasn't had a chance to find anyone to audit the accounts for this year. Volunteers wanted.

Hut custodian (Jules Hearne)

Hut is ticking along nicely. Not much to report. Jules changed his approach to bookings to allow one night stays. As a result there has been lots of one night stays or two night stays. He believes there should be a reasonable amount in honest box and meter box. There is also a key box for the hut up there simplifying access for externals and non-key holders. The stove saga has burnt itself out (yes he actually used those words). There is no further news on the hotel sale, still on the market as far as we know. A new electric heater has been placed upstairs in the hut.

Membership secretary (Ivonne Iser)

Current membership stands at 62 members versus 53 last year. This is a good number for the club with a lot of new members. In terms of members joining it was busy from April-June and at the start of winter season.

It was noted that Russell's sister E. Salisbury sadly passed away and that her obituary was in the Herald the other week.

Secretary (Burly Cumberland)

Meeting minutes have been produced and correspondence maintained. The main issue to highlight is that people need to inform us of any changes of address. We need to pass this information onto the MCofS to a) ensure you continue to receive Scottish Mountaineer and b) maintain your insurance.

Meets secretary (Martin Fitzsimons)

In Martin's absence Aaron presented his report (a summary of all the meets is attached in Appendix 2). Martin has done an excellent job yet again this year. Attendance was slightly down at meets versus last year. Meets are run to break even at full attendance therefore it is impossible to make a profit. There was an increased loss this year partly due to Milehouse meet, which was very close to Christmas and suffered from a bad weather forecast. The attendance at other meets was inline with normal expectations. Aaron was not aware of how many meets have already been organised for next year, probably some of them. Martin has stated that he is happy to stand again.

From the floor it was stated that the youth hostel meet was great and worth repeating. The BBQ meet at CIC during the summer was also thoroughly enjoyed. A meet at Strawberry cottage was requested again.

Social secretary (Michael McAnenay)

Social events went well again this year. We broke even on everything. Events were all well attended and feedback has been very positive. It seems that everyone enjoyed the events. The highlight or the lowlight was undoubtedly Michael's performance as Freddie Mercury at the annual dinner.

Web admin (Matt Bridgestock)

In Matt's absence Aaron reported for him. There was a slight misunderstanding about the access rights available to the committee, this was fixed and extra admin rights were added as required.

Chris asked if spam attacks still happen. The answer is yes but the sign up process is now much harder and this seems to have prevented spam appearing on the forum. An unfortunate side effect of this is that sign up is now manually approved which means new potential members can't get instant access to the site.

Request from Helen to remove potential members from website. All potential members who've not accessed the site in the last 12 weeks will be deleted.

There is a number of old lapsed members, question is whether they should be removed as well. It was suggested that they are somehow archived. It is believed this would require a rewrite of the site. It was also reported that several really old members (lapsed) are still using the site without being paid up members. Left for the new committee to decide the best course of action.

Question about putting donation aside was pushed back for AOB.

3. Elections

President - Aaron would prefer to relinquish the post.

Michael McAnenay stands. Nominated by Helen and seconded by Dave. Duly elected.

Membership secretary – Ivonne would prefer to relinquish the post.

Matt Dooner stands. Nominated by Helen and seconded by Ivonne. Duly elected.

Secretary – Burly would prefer to relinquish the post.

Phil Gane stands. Nominated by Jules and seconded by Karen. Duly elected.

Social secretary – Michael has now been elected to president.

Richard Baynes nominated in his absence having expressed a willingness to stand. Nominated by Michael and seconded by Aaron. Duly elected.

Hut custodian - Jules

Jules is willing to stand again unless someone else wants to stand. Nominated by Dave and seconded by Danny. Duly elected.

Meets secretary - Martin

Martin stands again in his absence. Nominated by Aaraon and seconded by Ivonne. Duly elected.

Web admin - Matt

Matt nominated in absence though he's not officially expressed a willingness to stand again. Nominated by Michael and seconded by Ivonne. Duly elected.

Treasurer - Dave

Dave stands again. Nominated by burly and seconded by Jules. Duly elected.

Elections complete with a full committee for 2014/15.

4. Subscriptions and payment

There has been no change to the MCofS fee this year and the proposal is to maintain the membership fees as per last year. That is: £25 for the year dropping to £10 after 31/12/13, £15 for students and unwaged dropping to £5 after the 31/12/13.

Motion that the membership fees are maintained as per last year was voted through.

A second proposal to simplify payment methods is put forward by Dave. People will only be able to pay their membership by PayPal or in cash and it is proposed that the club absorb the PayPal charges. Dave provided some background to this proposal. Currently people can pay by cash, BACS and PayPal. With BACS payment we often don't know who has paid due to the payee not filling in the reference field correctly or their reference being cut short by the character limit. As a result this generates a lot of work for the treasurer and membership secretary trying to track down who has paid. We believe that people pay by BACS to avoid the PayPal charge. Thus the proposal is to eliminate BACS payment and absorb the PayPal charge to encourage payment via PayPal which is the easiest thing for the club. The cost is £1.20 per member. The MCofS fee is £14.60 per year. This would result in £9.20 going to the club rather than £10.40.

Membership is due from the first of April and the MCofS has gotten much more stringent on this with regards to insurance.

There was a short debate about BACS and the fact that you have a field to enter your details. However clearly people are not doing this. It was generally felt that if it made life easier then it was worth doing. It was mentioned that gaining a couple of extra members would cover the cost. Finally it was pointed out that the membership fee of £25 was set as it was a round number. The assumption was that MCofS would raise their fees and we would be able to avoid rises for several years based on a £25 membership fee. Thus there should be some buffer to absorb this cost.

Motion that BACS payment is eliminated and the club absorbs the cost of PayPal payment was voted through.

5. Hut

Several issues were discussed with regards to the hut. A stove saga was explained by Jules: The 2012/2013 committee done a lot of work to look into installing a stove in the hut. Plans were drawn up by Matt and costed out by Jules. The main difficulty involves get the flu out of the hut. Due to the upstairs layout it is not possible to go straight up and out. Due to the thickness of the walls you need to go through the wall at an angle to meet building regulations (which exist for very good reasons). This formed a significant part of the cost of installing a stove. There were concerns that due to the damp in the hut that a stove wouldn't actually improve the warmth significantly. The other factor, which affected the decision, was that we discovered that the hotel (which owns the hut) was up for sale at the end of 2012. The choice to install a stove went to a vote at last years AGM were it was voted down.

The general issue with the hut is that since the lease expired (we paid rent up to 2006/2007 but the lease expired before this) we have had no rights to the hut. The hotel appears to be happy enough for us to use it. Initially it seemed that they were hoping to build on the site of the hut and this was probably the reason the lease was not extended. Because there is no certainty with the hut the club is generally reluctant to sink the limited club funds into the hut in case we suddenly lose it. Unfortunately this status quo has existed for a long time. It could exist for another 14 years! As long as we keep it looking good and maintained the hotel seem happy enough for us to use it.

Discussion about mattresses: The mattresses are in a really poor state. They have been discussed many times over the years and we have continued to do nothing about them. It was suggested that they get replaced, possibly with individual mattresses. If we do lose the hut we would be able to take the individual mattresses with us (if we managed to find somewhere else) or sell them on.

Proposal that the current mattresses should be removed and replaced by something else made. Voted through, new committee responsible for assessing a suitable replacement for the current mattresses and seeing it is implemented.

Helen mentioned that the Ladies are trying to get grants to match funding for work on their huts. Now that the club funds are around £10k if we managed to get a matching grant that would give us £20k to invest. You could presumably carry out some significant work for that amount of money. This was discussed and generally accepted as a good idea. However the main problem will almost certainly be that we have no lease or ownership of the hut and thus will probably hit an instant hurdle when trying to apply for funding.

The discussion then came around to leasing or buying a new hut. This is fine in principle. Various committees have looked into the issue. The problem is finding somewhere. Leasing is probably our only option as we clearly don't have the cash to buy anywhere. The only outside possibilities noted this year were up in Torrington, this was generally felt to be too far away by the committee to be worth considering. As always if anyone hears of anything let the club know. Long term we may end up becoming a club without a hut (of which there are many). If we really want to buy a new hut we would most likely need to increase membership significantly and increase the subscription in order to start saving some money every year. On top of that we would need to do a significant amount of fund raising.

The hut budget was also discussed at some length. The question was essentially put as to why there isn't an annual budget for the hut, fixed for each year. It was explained that all repairs are done as and when they are required. This varies from year to year. As we have no long-term rights to the hut we have no long-term investment plan. If the roof suddenly needed replacing we would probably give up the hut unless we secured some long-term rights.

Michael (as president) noted that he wants a new toaster for the hut.

Finally it was requested that Jules checks in with the hotel owners at some point and see if there's been any progression on their attempted sale of the hotel and whether it is still on the market.

6. AOB

Use of the donation

The general consensus was that the club should not fritter this money away. One suggestion was that it could be used to set up a fund to partly subsidise member training via MCoS courses (could we get a grant to match our funding?). The aim would of course be to create a club of safer mountaineers. The suggestion was that perhaps the club would fund 50% of the course fees up to some cap for two members a year. The members would be responsible for raising the rest of the funds and liable for the entire fee if they failed to attend the training. Another suggestion was to earmark the money for future hut options. As most of the current committee only heard of the donation at the AGM there were no proposals from the committee as to how the money should be managed. Helen suggested a spend limit gets set and then an EGM is required for anything above this. Chris countered with the fact that we should trust the committee and if we don't we shouldn't have elected them in! Michael pointed out that really we don't have that much money. Finally Dave stated his general view and that of previous committees was that spend over £1000 requires agreement from the membership. He sees no reason why this would change now.

The use of the donation was left to the new committee. They need to consider how best to make use of the donation over the long term in a way that maximises its impact for the club. It was also suggested that the committee consider formulating a 3-5 year development plan for the club.

Club website

There was a short discussion about the club website. People generally thought it worked well for the membership but it was explained that the issues mentioned by Aaron are really related to automating services and making life as easy as possible for the committee. Burly stated that when he attempted to replicate the reported security issues he couldn't unless logged in as a member. He's therefore not so certain they were real. However the site is run of a CMS system called Drupal, for which several updates are available. As these updates normally feature important security fixes we should look into upgrading the backend of the site. Matt Dooner offered to look into this as he writes websites for a living and is now a committee member.

Donation to mountain rescue

Motion to donate £100 to Lochaber mountaineer rescue team was voted through.

Next AGM

Next AGM date is set as the 18th March 2015.

AGM closed 21:13

Appendix 1 – Accounts summary

Income and summary

Year	13/14	12/13	10/12	09/10	08/09
Subscriptions	1492.71	1194.03	1446.52	1078.02	1168.97
Hut (summary below)	809.20	1128.75	1594.05	1586.56	1101.33
Bookings	579.00	454.00	740.00	600.00	401.00
Elec Meter (from year 07/08)	0.00	162.00	194.00	254.00	191.00
Honesty Box* (from year 07/08)	150.20	392.75	367.00	392.56	469.33
Key deposits	80.00	120.00	180.00	340.00	40.00
Electricity bill rebate	0.00	0.00	113.05	0.00	
Climbing meets	510.00	277.00	767.00	160.00	318.50
Social meets	-5.00	1535.00	1735.00	1340.00	80.00
Donations	5025.00	0.00	201.00	234.00	20.00
Sundries (summary below)	-9.00	40.54	2722.06	63.00	90.21
Transfer from Deposit Account			2722.06		
T-shirts				45.00	90
LMC yearbook					
Miscellaneous					0.21
Interest	0.00	0.00	1.64	2.26	2.13
Unaccounted					
TOTAL INCOME	7822.91	4175.32	8467.27	4463.84	2781.14
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2330.46	3571.39	6384.35	3728.70	1568.51
PROFIT/LOSS	5492.45	603.93	2082.92	735.14	1212.63
PROFIT/LOSS Adjusted	0.00	0.00	0.00	750.64	602.63

Notes:

1. Income from Social Meets shows as -£5 representing £10 Annual Dinner profit + reduced CIC meet fee for Hearne reflecting £15 reimbursement for booking fee for AGM
2. Sundries -£9 representing reduced membership payment by Iser to reflect £9 reimbursement for stamps.
3. Donations includes £5000 anonymous donation from a past member.
4. In accordance with accounting principles used last year no adjustment has been made to profit/loss to allow for expenditure/income in F/Y that falls outwith the F/Y.

Expenditure

Year	13/14	12/13	10/12	09/10	08/09
MCoFS Insurance	930.75	735.25	1361.90	430.00	0.00
Hut (summary below)	725.31	751.14	1730.14	1167.81	679.48
Electricity	462.00	291.00	458.00	318.00	252.00
Water	208.31	256.78	244.94	212.76	52.49
Keys	0.00	100.00	95.00	60.00	
Insurance	0.00	0.00	294.00	294.00	294.00
Maintenance (from year 07/08)	55.00	103.36	638.20	283.05	80.99
Climbing meets	658.50	510.00	981.00	592.00	546.00
Social meets	15.90	1375.00	1979.50	868.00	80.00
Donations	0.00	200.00	300.00	579.00	0.00
Sundries (summary below)	0.00	0.00	31.52	91.50	262.65
Website registration*					84.00
Stationery			11.52		
T-shirts					130.00
LMC Yearbook (Publication)					
Miscellaneous			20.00		48.65
Tax	0.00	0.00	0.29	0.39	0.38
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2330.46	3571.39	6384.35	3728.70	1568.51

Bank account balances

Balances on	18/03/2014	12/03/2013	27/02/2012	01/11/2010	31/10/2009
Current account	10813.85	5321.40	4717.47	2882.55	2147.41
Deposit account	Closed	Closed	Closed & transferred to Current Account 26/04/2011	2720	2716.67
TOTAL BALANCE	£10,813.85	£5,321.40	£4,717.47	£5,602.55	£4,864.08

Account summary 13/14 prepared by Dave Wood

Account summary 12/13 prepared by Dave Wood & audited by Robin Whitworth

Account summary 10/12 prepared by Dave Wood & audited by Dave Foster

Account summary 07/08, 08/09, 09/10 prepared by Simeon Hall

Appendix 2 – Meets summary

2013-2014	Venue.	Cost Weekend Bed Space	Weekend Spaces bought	Club Outlay	Weekend Spaces Filled	Total Recouped	Net
Apr		£0.00	0	£0.00	0	£0.00	£0.00
Apr 12/13	Northumberland	£0.00	0	£0.00	0	£0.00	£0.00
May 3/4/5	Moray Coast	£0.00	6	£0.00	6	£0.00	£0.00
May 24/25/26	Skye	£0.00	18	£0.00	18	£0.00	£0.00
June 7/8	CIC/Russ BBQ	£25.00	10	£250.00	10	£250.00	£0.00
July 12/13	Ballater	£0.00	2	£0.00	2	£0.00	£0.00
Aug 2/3/4	Reiff	£0.00	0	£0.00	0	£0.00	£0.00
Sept 13/14	Coppermines	£16.00	10	£160.00	6	£96.00	-£64.00
Oct 11/12	Loch Ossian SYA	£43.75	8	£350.00	8	£350.00	£0.00
Nov	Annual Dinner	£0.00	0	£0.00	0	£0.00	£0.00
Dec 20/21	Milehouse	£16.00	10	£160.00	3	£48.00	-£112.00
Jan 17/18	Invercroft	£14.00	10	£140.00	6	£84.00	-£56.00
31 Jan/Feb 01	CIC	£25.00	10	£250.00	10	£250.00	£0.00
28 Feb/01 Mar	Mill Cottage	£18.00	10	£180.00	9	£162.00	-£18.00
	TOTALS (paid meets):		68	£1,490.00	52	£1,240.00	-£250.00
					(76%)		16.0