

**CRAVEN MOUNTAINEERING CLUB**

**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING 208**

**HELD THURSDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2019 AT THE CAVENDISH ARMS, EMBSAY**

The meeting was attended by Shirley Emptage (SE), Martin Heming (MH), Andy Hudson (AH), Fiona Burnett (FB), John Ward (JW), Andy Barton (AB) and Dick Winslow (DW).

**1. Chairpersons welcome**

SE opened the meeting at 7.00pm. She thanked the committee for all their hard work to date.

**2. Apologies for absence**

Michael Faulkner (MF) and Vikki Bassek (VB).

**3. Adoption of minutes of meeting 207 held on 26 September 2019**

Proposed as correct by DW

Seconded by SE

No objections

**4. Matters arising from the minutes of meeting 207**

- Section 8 re new members secretary role description – SE to update and circulate
- Section 9 – MH not yet sent out renewal forms. To do ASAP

All other matters to be covered either by specific agenda points or within the committee members' reports.

**5. Applications for membership**

- Mike Hartley application approved at last committee meeting subject to receipt of application form and subs. MH confirmed that both had been received.
- Steve Webb had been approved between committee meetings by email.

**6. Committee members reports**

As AB needed to leave early, his report was heard first.

**a. New members**

- AB provided a list of current prospective members with details of the stage that they were at including any meets attended. There appeared to be none that need notifying to the BMC at this stage although there were a number getting quite close to the deadline. AB to monitor;
- The list was discussed in detail and it was agreed that AB would email those who had not been in contact for a long period and remove them from our records as there was a long list of inactive prospective members;
- AB to contact Maria Dixon who had previously paid a prospective fee and been included on a BMC return. AB to suggest that she attends a 3<sup>rd</sup> meet ASAP so that she can apply for membership for 2020 and be included on that BMC return.

**b. General Secretary**

- MH reported that there had only been one member who had raised questions about the newly published privacy policy. The questions were all answered to the satisfaction of that member.

**c. Treasurer**

- MF reported little activity on the account. It is a quiet time for the Treasurer.
- At today's date there was £3,082.07 in the bank account.

#### **d. Communications**

AH reported as follows:

- Website running smoothly now;
- Newsletter and monthly bulletins all sent out;
- Next monthly was to be end of November;
- DW requested that all hut becoming open for bookings in December should also be included;
- Steve Wilson now removed from hosting company contacts;
- Plugin to enable documents to be shared securely between designated committee members ongoing as it was creating issue with other functions of the website;
- AB to keep feedback section of website up to date as he would be dealing with the initial enquires and be aware of receipt of membership applications.

#### **e. Walking meets**

- FB had now organised meets up until the end of February – approximately 1 per month at the weekend and 1 per month midweek;
- FB reported that there had generally been a poor turnout on meets including one meet where no members had attended. She still went on the walk so that it was not cancelled;
- No one was coming forward to coordinate meets;
- FB confirmed that she would continue to ensure that there are meets up until the next AGM but questioned whether walking meets were actually wanted by the members. Further discussions did take place at this point but are included under agenda point 8.

#### **f. Climbing meets**

- VB sent a message to SE to say that the main climbing activity is now the climbing walls. Attendance varies between 4 to 8 members.

#### **g. Hut meets**

- DW had contacted the committee to say he may not be able to attend and attached a written report;
- He was able to attend and went through the report. The main points are as follows:
- October meet took place at Hudscals Barn near Hesketh Newmarket. This replaced the cancelled Don Whillans meet. Basic accommodation but good area and to be considered again for a future meet;
- November meet took place at Little Langdale. Successful meet with good weather. DW proposed giving a credit to 2 people who only attended for one night and for another who had to cancel. Although not unanimous, credits were not approved as it could set a precedent for the future.
- Christmas hut meet currently had 15 bookings. The hut capacity is 21, although we are not in a loss position with only 15 taken. Agreed that the general club funds would not be used towards any costs of the event, but surpluses could be used to finance items such as mulled wine. Any other food and entertainment costs to be met by those attending. DW requested ideas and volunteers for the meal;
- January Burns night meet would be 17-20 January. Bookings open. 7 out of 9 places taken. Meal ideas and volunteers sought;
- Feb meet is in Crianlarich – 28 Feb to 2 March. CMC has 8 bedded dormitory. Another club has the 10 bedded dormitory. Bookings open 1 December which Dick will deal with. SE to be meet coordinator as DW may not be able to attend;
- Easter meet is at Braemar SYHA hostel. A 4 bedded room has been booked through Booking.com and is cancellable. Additional beds currently available in dormitories. Bookings open 16 December;
- Late May at Kintail Bunkhouse. 10 place booked and all taken. Holds 20 people. Exclusive use guaranteed if we book 15. There are 1 or 2 more showing interest at this stage but DW felt that we are unlikely to have 15 people going. Suggestions made were:

- i. Ask members to pay extra to cover the cost of exclusive use. Rejected as meet advertised at a fixed price;
  - ii. Speculatively booking extra places to guarantee exclusive use. Rejected as this could lead to substantial losses for the club;
  - iii. Invite another club such as Leeds MC. Previously rejected and reconfirmed this time. Committee would prefer to test the waters with a joint weekend meet first;
  - iv. Agreed that we should continue to promote the meet and take our chance that other groups would not choose to separately book the remaining places.
- DW confirmed that he would be meeting Karl Harrison of Leeds MC on Sunday evening to discuss the possibility of shared meets;
  - DW asked for ideas for future meets – June and July 2020 and then September to December 2020. Committee members agreed to get back to him.

#### **h. Socials**

- Photo competition as agreed at the last meeting to take place Thursday 23 January 2020. Deadline for submissions Sunday 12 January. JW to provide AH with details to promote it;
- Possible caving slide show by Adrian Pilling in February.

### **7. Calendar of events**

Mainly covered in Secretaries' reports. A few gaps were filled.

### **8. Member participation/ club promotion**

- Concerns had been raised during FB's report regarding the lack of member participation. It was also pointed out that there were fewer people going on hut meets, restricting the committee to only being able to book smaller huts or shared accommodation. Even though Tuesday cragging meets is one of the most popular of the club activities, attendance levels are well below those of 10 to 15 years ago when the number of members was possibly lower;
- It was felt that the committee had worked hard in bringing administrative procedures up to date, had developed a much more active program that looked far ahead and been well promoted on the website, newsletters and monthly bulletins. This however did not feel to be producing a positive response in terms of member activity;
- Suggestions of joining other clubs' meets or setting up meet up groups were considered. However, concerns were raised regarding potential liability issues particularly as the BMC advice on the subject is quite restrictive;
- Suggestions were made about utilising better quality accommodation for some away meets. The committee were in favour of trialling a few of these but it is down to members to come up with suggestions;
- It was agreed that we needed feedback from members. Given the time of year, it was felt that there may be little response to a formal questionnaire. It was agreed that there would be a section in the next newsletter requesting feedback. It would also be included as a specific agenda point at next year's AGM

### **9. 2020 AGM**

Agreed that we would try to go for Thursday 19 March. SE to enquire about the room and meal options.

### **10. Any Other Business**

None

### **11. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 13 February at 7.00pm at the Cavendish in Embsay. The main purposes will be to update the program and organise the AGM for 2020.