

## Minutes of the 68th ULGMC AGM (unadopted)

The 68th Annual General Meeting of the University of London Mountaineering Club (ULGMC) took place at 6 pm on Saturday 20th of October 2018 at the Plough Inn, Hathersage

Stephan Tietz (ST; President) in the chair. Minutes taken by Heather Rumble (HR; interim Secretary)

Committee present: Stephan Tietz, Graham Cunningham (GC; Meets Secretary), Heather Rumble (interim)

Total attendance: 21 members, of which 1 abstained from participating

### 1. Absence of agenda prior to meeting

Mike Esten enquired as to why no agenda had been circulated prior to the AGM as required by the constitution. ST acknowledged and apologized for this oversight explaining that the club is run by a skeleton committee, which has caused something's not getting done on time.

*ST asked the members, if the AGM should be abandoned or continue with an agenda identical to the last years. All apart from one member present agreed to continue with the AGM, but requested for agenda to be circulated in a time for the next AGM* **ACTION ST**

### 2. Apologies for absence

Sue Darling; Rachael Mott; Tim and Caroline Marshall; John Burrows; Roland Caine; Stephen Olivant; Willie and Wendy Butler; Jill and Mike Bennett; John Ashworth; Matt Walters; Mike Hale; Ian Ross; Bill Towlson; Andy and Elena Charalambolous; Mike Pollitt

### 3. Adoption of the agenda

*Proposed by Frances Mott. Seconded by Janet Hellen.*

### 3. Minutes of the 2017 AGM

#### a) Adoption of the draft minutes

*Proposed by Elanor Mott. Seconded by Frances Mott.*

#### b) Matters arising

HR had still not compiled a list of honorary/life members and will roll this over to next year. **ACTION HR**

Accounts from 2014 & 2015 have not been scrutinised still (see Treasurer's Report).

### 4. Finance

#### a) Treasurer's report and presentation of accounts 2017

ST reported: Handover to Ian Ross had only been partially completed due to time constraints. Ian Ross not present, so ST is delivering the report:

- Expenses and income were in line with previous years, despite higher expenses and not passing on the cost of the recent increase in BMC subs. In part this is due to:
  - Demographic shift of club members from Joints to Singles, who proportionally pay more into the club
  - Lower than usual AGM expenses due to complementary meals for the Fallcliffe hut warden and for the ULMC President had not been taken up
- Committee expenses had risen due to a small backlog in claims and increased print costs
- Donation to Fallcliffe still a liability as the cheque had not been cashed
- Have not spent all of the bursary from the BMC
- Overall a small deficit, but not concerned given high net assets

## **b) Adoption of the 2017 accounts**

ST explained that the accounts could not be adopted because they had not been scrutinised. This was because the documentation for 2014 & 2015 had still not been returned to the committee by the previous scrutineer, Mike Warden, and that he had intended all accounts to be scrutinised by the new scrutineer, Mark Stitson, at once.

Keith Mott asked the legal implications of having unadopted accounts. ST said he was not aware of legal implications, but that the bank could technically have an issue with this (though they had never asked for any club documentation previously).

*Mark Stitson proposed two motions:*

1. That the 2016 & 2017 accounts are deferred to the following year and scrutinised for adoption at the 2019 AGM. *This was seconded by GC. ACTION ST/IAN ROSS*
2. That the 2014 & 2015 accounts were completed as best as possible and presented to the 2019 AGM, where it could be decided if they could be adopted or not. *This was seconded by ST. ACTION ST/IAN ROSS*

Geof Batten asked if ST could send a letter to Mike Warden asking again for the accounts and expressing the members' disappointment with the situation. ST agreed to do this. **ACTION ST**

## **c) Agreement on membership subscription rates for 2019**

ST proposed no alteration to the current subscription rates.

BMC affiliation is £14.25 per head for adults joining in Q1+Q2. Discounted rates for students (£10.75), children (£9.00) and if joining Q3+4 (£7.13). These discounts are passed on to members where applicable. No BMC contribution charged to non-UK members as they are not eligible to BMC liability insurance.

Single: £5.75 club contribution - £20 in total

Joint: £6.50 club contribution (£3.25 per head) - £35 total

No club contribution for children and parents can decide to pay £9 BMC contribution.

*Proposed by Frances Mott. Seconded by Geof Batten.*

## **d) Authorisation for expenditure of funds 2019**

ST proposed to continue successful expedition and training fund (£200, unless to ULGMC Alps Trip, in which case £400).

Mark Stitson announced that despite ULMC benefitting from our training fund on the Alps trip, this year they decided not to match fund this from their own budget. ST agreed to add a condition to the expedition and training fund to combat this in future years. **ACTION ST/IAN ROSS**

*Proposed Mark Stitson. Seconded Elanor Mott.*

ST proposed to continue donations at their current level (or in line with potential rises in affiliated membership), in addition to supporting meets as they arise.

*Proposed Keith Mott. Seconded Elanor Mott.*

## **5. Other reports**

### **a) President**

Membership remained stable, with a change in demographics of members. Currently have 175 members, which compares to the 170-180 members we have had in the last 8-9 years. The profile of the club is changing, with an uplift in younger members. Concern is that this has not translated into increased engagement in the running and political matters of the club. AGM attendance is poor by younger members and there has been a slow decline of meets due to a lack of meet leaders. ST has some suggestions to overcome this (see: 6) Programme for 2019).

HR is covering the secretary role. Some early interest from a ULMC member earlier in the year had not come to fruition and we do not have another candidate.

### **b) Meets Sec**

GC reported that the meets list has changed a bit and has 15 meets for 2019. GC appealed for new meet leaders, as these have not changed for some time. Attendance has been good, with regular input from small groups of ULMC.

#### **e) Hut wardens/trustees**

Mark Stitson (MS; Trustee) reported that the huts are doing well. However, income was lower in both huts this year than the previous year, with a particular slump in July/August, which we cannot explain. However, there is a reasonably good surplus in both huts.

MS and Phil Tarr (warden for Caseg) had been to Caseg the previous weekend and written a maintenance/snag list, which will be implemented soon. In addition, they have drawn up action plans for developments at both Caseg (see Phil Tarr report) and Fallcliffe. In Fallcliffe, the ULGMC donation will finally be spent on doors for the bedrooms. In addition, some plans for a drying room and improvements to the bathroom have been drawn up, for which Dave Morley (hut warden for Fallcliffe) is retrieving quotes.

Phil Tarr (warden for Caseg) appealed for specific help from ULGMC members, namely looking for:

- Experience of building regulations and planning. This is to alter Caseg to make the toilets accessible from the inside and install a drying room.
- Legal advice on contracts and leases. The lease will need renewing in the next few decades and we need to be prepared for this.

HR agreed to add this appeal to the newsletter. **HR ACTION**

Trefor Owens suggested that Geoff Williams may be able to help.

#### **f) BMC area meetings**

Trefor Owens (Wales) reported that there were still problems with footpaths and access to Snowdon, as it was overrun with visitors. In addition, off-roading has become a big problem in Snowdonia that the BMC are trying to tackle.

Trevor Hellen (South West) reported that the South-West region was very concerned with local issues and that access to meetings is hampered by geographical dispersion of meetings and members.

ST (South-East) reported that the BMC had been involved in the large "Mend Our Mountains" fundraiser. BMC has also gone through governance review and changes have been agreed by its AGM. New governance structure creates a board of directors with more formal input from various stakeholder (including clubs and members), which should make the BMC more accountable.

ST appealed for regional BMC reps to come forward, particularly a London rep.

### **6. Programme for 2019**

#### **a) 2019 meets programme**

The Meets List for 2019 was available at the meeting and will be made available more widely after the AGM.

#### **b) AGM 2019**

ST proposed that, given a lack of engagement in matters of governance by younger members, the AGM is moved to an already popular meet. He outlined some persistent problems that he thinks may contribute to a lack of attendance at the AGM:

- October is the busiest period for ULMC teaching freshers; recent graduates are also drafted in to help with this
- The weather and limited time to participate in activities during the day means that some members feel the travel time does not pay off at the AGM weekend

ST suggested that the Easter Meet would be an ideal meet for the AGM because:

- It is a long weekend, which gives flexibility in terms of providing other activities and ensuring members get to participate in outdoor activities
- The weather tends to be better

- This is the most popular meet of the year and generally has a good mix of ages and interests attending, covering a wide demographic of members

Discussion about this proposal was generally positive:

- Frances Mott offered to cook a buffet if the AGM was to occur in Caseg
- GC suggested that the AGM and meal could be on different nights, to offer flexibility of participation. He suggested that PYB could be a good venue for one or both.
- Trevor Hellen pointed out that parking could be an issue if the AGM occurred in the hut. HR suggested that shuttling could be organised if needed from the layby, but that in general we would need to be flexible depending on how many people were interested in attending.
- HR offered to send an expression of interest with the newsletter to try to gauge attendance.
- ST stated that if the AGM at Easter proved to be unsatisfactory, an EGM will be called for the usual weekend in October.

The AGM agreed that in 2019 the AGM should take place in Snowdonia over the Easter weekend. The finer details would be worked out by ST and HR. **ACTION ST/HR**

*Proposed by Janet Hellen. Seconded by Geof Batten.*

ST stressed that members should email him with concerns, support or suggestions for this change.

## **7. Election of new committee**

- a) President (Stephan Tietz - no nominations received)
- b) Vice-President (Mike Hale - no nominations received)
- c) Secretary (vacant - no nominations received)
- d) Treasurer/Membership Sec (Ian Ross - no nominations received)
- e) Meets Sec (Graham Cunningham - no nominations received)
- f) Committee members without portfolio (vacant - no nominations received)

*Voted on block. 18 voted for. No abstentions.*

## **8. Other elections**

- a) Scrutineer of ULGMC accounts (Mark Stitson)
- b) BMC representatives (Trefor Owen)
- c) ULMC representative (Rob Hardy)

*Voted on block. 16 voted for. Two abstentions.*

## **9. Any other business**

- Trefor Owen asked the AGM attendees to take particular care walking in the Peak District, as some dangerous aliens had been encountered by Dr Who on the train between Grindleford and Hathersage the previous week. **ACTION AGM ATTENDEES**
- Joy Parsons proposed a vote of thanks to the committee
- HR proposed a vote of thanks to everyone attending the AGM