

Lomond Mountaineering Club - Committee Meeting

Minutes

Date: 8 pm Wed 16th of May 2012

Location: Stirling Castle

Present: Chris Husbands
Veronika Juranova
Dave Wood
Burly Cumberland
Julian Hearne
Matt Bridgestock
Kevin McGrath
Martin Fitzsimmons

Apologies: Aaron Outhwaite

1. Membership

Current membership

Veronika confirmed that current membership for the year 2012-2013 stands at 26/27 members including the honouree members. So far there are zero new members. Those members who have not renewed by the end of May will be cut off. It was decided that the membership renewal thread should be kept at the top of the forum to remind people.

Hut keys

Jules raised the issue of hut keys; anyone who is no longer a member should be returning their hut key. It was not entirely clear what state the key records are in, there should be records with the membership records. Jules has a list of people he has given keys to which he will pass on to Veronika. In the past prodding people for return of hut keys had prompted membership payment.

Double membership

One member was not renewing because they didn't want to pay their McofS fees twice and believed we should allow members to opt out of this. (Presumably their other club doesn't allow opt-out either). This motion was voted down at the AGM but it was been decided that we should establish how this is supposed to be dealt with according to the McofS. Rumour suggests that it is up to the individual members to claim the double payment back from the McofS, however it seems unlikely that the McofS would want such a workload. Burly will write to them and find out if there is an official policy.

BACS

The issue of BACS payment was raised. There was some concern expressed as to whether or not it is safe to hand out the club's account details. Dave will discuss this with the bank and seek their security advice on it. [Notes also on this site <http://www.bankaccountadvice.co.uk/bacs-transfers-and-processing-explained.html>]. Currently Veronika has been providing the details via email to anyone who asks for them. The biggest problem with this payment method is ensuring people flag the payment as being from themselves during the BACS process.

Email issues

Veronika raised the issue that email addresses on the website for members appeared to be out of date. It was suggested that she emailed members with a membership request and any addresses which bounced got removed from the website. Also there appeared to have been issues with emails from the website simply not working. Matt reckoned this is now fixed.

New members

Chris asked Veronika if she had any volunteers lined up to take new members out. At present she did not and the current feeling is that there were normally people going out climbing/walking who new members could join. The committee will review this arrangement to check it is working okay.

It was discussed whether the website is the best way to attract new members. Current feeling was yes, although Matt pointed out that the website did better if trip reports were posted regularly and the forums were active.

Burly noted that his experience of getting people to Ibrox was that if he posted every single week that he was going numbers slowly grew. As soon as he stopped posting numbers fell away. Often no one else would reply stating that they were coming but numerous members would show-up including new members. He felt that someone should continue this.

Posters at the climbing walls to attract new members were deemed too passive and rejected.

Matt suggested that someone should write up an article of for the McofS magazine on the club as part of the 80th anniversary. Chris will talk to Richard about this.

2. 80th Anniversary

Venue

The dinner/event will be held in Glasgow to facilitate older members coming along. Around 60 people attended the 75th and maybe 45-50 attended the annual dinner. It was felt that a venue for up to a hundred people should be sought. The bowling club used for the 75th was suggested, however apparently there had been some issues with the bowling club so it was not first choice. Members suggested that the venue should be in the City Centre or West End to make transport easier for people. Initial suggestions include: Sloans (<http://www.sloansglasgow.com/>), Oran Mor (<http://oran-mor.co.uk/>), Hillhead Rugby Club (<http://www.hillheadsportsclub.com/>), Partick Burgh Hall (<http://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/venue-hire/community-facilities/Partick-Burgh-Hall/Pages/default.aspx>). Chris will talk to Aaron to establish how much he wanted to take on with regards to the organisation.

Food

The current plan is to make enquires with the venue before starting to search for other catering options.

Drink

As above.

Theme

Jules suggested a tweed theme.

Attendance

It was agreed that we should try to get as many current and former members involved as possible. Chris will try to contact as many former members as feasible. It was suggested that Richard also had contacts for older members following his work on the Craiggallian fire. Chris will talk to Richard about this. It was believed that some former members like Ken may be able to help link us up to other former members.

Date

A Saturday in November so either the 3rd, 10th, 17th or 24th. The feeling was that earlier would probably be better to avoid any Christmas parties.

Speaker

Either a famous climber or an older member. Ken was suggested as he was a member of the LMC and has some great stories, Jules to talk to him about this. Mark Beaumont (<http://www.markbeaumontonline.com/>) was also suggested by Matt. Other suggestions? It was felt that too many people spoke at the 75th, which resulted in the night going by very quickly and the number of speakers should be reduced for the 80th.

Music

Veronika volunteered to look into some band options via contacts in her work.

Raffle

Jules volunteered to try to acquire some free prizes to be raffled on the night.

T-shirts

There was much discussion about club T-shirts and anniversary T-shirts. Chris volunteered Veronika to run a T-shirt competition to decide what to put on the T-shirts. Kevin suggested that Decathlon might print T-shirts (<http://www.decathlon.co.uk/>). Jules volunteered to talk to Simo (sp?) about T-shirt supply. [Note a quick google returns a wealth of firms on the net offering print services]. Matt confirmed that there currently was no high resolution version of the logo but one could be created fairly easily.

3. Hut

Stove

History: Hut is cold, everyone would like a stove, Aaron has offered the club an old family stove for free, we are looking at options to install it safely and cheaply.

Matt had found someone in Onich who will quote for installing the stove and will also quote for certifying an installation done by us. Currently Matt needed some more details of the stove to provide to the chap in Onich. He also needed to pop up to the hut and knock up some drawings with regards to the stove installation. Kevin informed Matt that the stove was a Jøtul 20 and that the stove was currently located at Aaron's dad's house in Glasgow.

Kevin raised the concern that the stove was simply too small for the hut given that the hut lacks any form of insulation and gets really cold in the winter. Concern was also raised about people burning coal in a wood-burning stove. The point was made that if we were going to spend a relatively large chunk of money installing the stove we may as well be certain that it was going to heat the hut.

There was a discussion about whether the flue should go out the roof or out the wall. It was decided that Matt will progress with the details of the Jøtul 20 and get quotes at which point the matter would be reviewed again.

Water

There is an issue with the tap at the back of the hut in that people forget to turn it off. This has led to water being wasted and as we are fully metered now it could cost us quite a bit. Various schemes involving solenoids, timers and switches were suggested. Kevin is going to have a look at what is available and come up with a proposal. In the interim Jules will stress to anyone using the hut that they need to turn off the tap on departure.

Visitor Book

Veronika would like to see a new visitor book. Burly offered to provide Jules with a hardbound Black & Red book. Chris agreeded to track down old visitor books with a view to the club digitising them.

Electricity meter

The rate needs changed as electricity costs more than when the meter was last set many years ago. Jules has instructions and will do this in June.

Manse barn history

Jules is currently working on this. He will talk to Ken for additional details that he requires.

4. AOB

None raised.

5. Actions

In no particular order as per Jules' request, here are the minutes distilled into actions.

Chris

- Speak to Richard about an article detailing the clubs history for the McofS magazine
- Establish how much of the 80th anniversary dinner Aaron wants to organise
- Get in touch with older/ex members and invite along to 80th dinner. Also speak to Richard for additional contact details of older/ex members.
- Get hold of old hut visitors books

Veronika

- Assess and update the hut key list on the membership list
- Email all unpaid members prompting them to renew. Assess which email addresses don't work and remove
- Make enquires into possible bands for the dinner
- Assess desire for T-shirts and possibly run a competition for what goes on them

Kevin

- Look into some sort of automatic way of closing the outside water tap at the hut

Jules

- Provide a hut key list to Veronika
- Scrounge some raffle prizes for the 80th dinner
- Talk to Simo (?) about T-shirts
- Update electricity meter rate
- Talk to Ken about possibly speaking at the 80th dinner
- Finish the Manse barn history

Matt

- Get quotes for stove install/do any required drawings

Dave

- Check security of handing out BACS details with bank

Burly

- Write to McofS about double membership
- Give Jules a new visitor book for the hut