

# Bedford Mountaineering Club

## AGM 7<sup>th</sup> December 2024 minutes

The AGM was held at 17:00, on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2024, in the High Moss hut.

1. Apologies for absence, below. 23 members were in attendance, plus 5 members voting with virtual ballot.
  - a. Keith Simmonds
  - b. Mukesh Patel
  - c. Barry Dackombe
  - d. John & Ann Clark
2. Approval of the AGM minutes from 2023.
  - a. The minutes were approved.
    - i. Proposed- Steve
    - ii. Seconded - Jane
3. Matters arising from those minutes
  - a. Steve Simpkins raised the point, last year we agreed a rework of the constitution, which hasn't happened. Conversation ensued, with consensus being the requirement still existed.
    - i. Committee to propose an approach to update the constitution, with a view to complete and have the fresh version voted in at, or by, the 2025 AGM.
  - b. The website is long overdue an update, work has previously been agreed, however with no progress. Discussion about using club funds to invest into the website led to a vote on agreement for using club funds.
    - i. Proposal to spend funds on a paid web platform to modernise
      1. Vote for website investment
        - a. For 21
4. Treasurer's report
  - a. Leanne gave her report, annual profit £840. We're now using bank accounts more effectively to increase interest revenue on any cash being held. No OS map cost this year, therefore a saving year-on-year. AllTrails, stick with or not, consensus was not worthwhile (see vote below). Conversation started by Mandy, whether the Christmas meet should be such a profit-making enterprise, could the funds go into drinks or something else for the Christmas meet? There are two costs and incomes, shown in different places, relating to a Christmas meet, hut and meal. It is estimated the 'profit' from 2024 Christmas meet would be £45. We discussed and agreed (see vote below), the principle will be to break even, with any excess funds spent on drinks/snacks. Steve won £250 for the club, discussion proposed by Paul Bedwell, as to how to spend the money. Once full researched, the committee will propose some options for members to decide on.
    - i. Vote to keep AllTrails
      1. For 0
    - ii. Vote on the principle to break even on Christmas meets, with any excess funds being put into drinks/snacks etc for the benefit of those in attendance.
      1. For 23
5. Membership Secretary's report
  - a. 39 paying members, +3 year-on-year. Four prospective members also interested in joining January. We may lose some. BMC fees are going up by £5.43. We propose to move the membership fee to £35 (vote later). Simon Messervy asks, do we do work on understanding why members don't renew? Jane answers, yes we do make an effort to reach out and understand why. New membership

application form was introduced, making next of kin information compulsory and an ask of all members to submit a new form with up-to-date details for the club's records.

6. Meets Secretary's report

- a. Apologies for January hut, I recognise there have been too many located within close proximity. A change that's been made is on the comfort front, prioritising more so than in the past, also added an August meet, due to interest, space for up to 12 (maybe 8). Otherwise much of same previous huts. Next year Matt will try to book some of the huts we thought previously banned from.

7. Meets Admin Report

- a. Google spreadsheets, everyone happy, yes. History is visible. Being published earlier and published at weekends to reduce number of people possibly unavailable due to work. Meets fees are available in Appendix. Over the year £146 profit, due to hut fees, therefore hut fees would be sensible to remain the same. Mandy Spavins raises, issue with Google Sheets, do we have a viable alternative? Discussion follows, including potential for using Eventbrite (or similar), minimal risk, very few errors, consensus is carry on as is for now. However, with a commitment to continue exploring alternative solutions.

8. Website Editor's report

- a. Lots of discussion about the website. Wanted to add lots of photos, free website makes this difficult. Suggest paid for website, to improve our PR. More photos, more modern and more attractive to new members. Question from Paul Bedwell, how does website improvement, work alongside Facebook? Intention is to be complimentary of work on Facebook and other social media. John Isard proposes a member's area for the website. Request for committee meeting minutes to be circulated to members, consensus in room is for this to happen. John proposes administering membership fees etc via website. To be taken into consideration when switched to the new website, however this will likely incur additional fees for payment processing.

9. Social Secretary's report

- a. I haven't really done anything. Got some regular climbing at Big Rock. Helped to organise Xmas meet. Committee has decided to propose changing the role and title of Social Secretary to Marketing Secretary (vote later).

10. AGM 2025, where would you like it to be held, Bedford or at the December meet in Great Langdale? (this has no bearing on the usual festivities at the December meet). For = Bedford, Against = Christmas meet (Great Langdale 2025)

- a. For – 9 (2x virtual votes)
- b. Against – 13 (2x virtual votes)
- c. Abstain – 6 (1x virtual votes)

11. It is the committee's intention to change the title and role of the Social Secretary to Marketing Secretary.

Please indicate whether you are for, or against, the change?

- a. Additions to the role are:
  - i. Administers the club's social media accounts.
  - ii. Supports the Webmaster with maintaining the website and keeping content up to date.
  - iii. Ensures the public profile of Bedford Mountaineering Club is positive, visible and inviting.
- b. For – 24 (5x virtual votes)
- c. Against - 0
- d. Abstain - 4

12. Election of officers and committee

- a. Chairman - Frank Esaw
  - i. Proposed - Simon
  - ii. Seconded - John
- b. Social Secretary (now to be Marketing Secretary) – Steve isn't re-standing
  - i. Volunteers – Keith Simmonds, anyone else?

- ii. Proposed - Matt
- iii. Seconded - Jane
- iv. Vote
  - 1. For – 27 (4x virtual votes)
  - 2. Against - 0
  - 3. Abstain - 1

- c. Hut Secretary - Matt Arnold
  - i. Proposed - Richard
  - ii. Seconded - Mollie
- d. Club Secretary - Ben Hudson
  - i. Proposed - Matt
  - ii. Seconded - John
- e. Treasurer - Leanne Shopland
  - i. Proposed - Richard
  - ii. Seconded - Tug
- f. Membership Secretary - Jane Butcher
  - i. Proposed - Leanne
  - ii. Seconded - Simon
- g. Webmaster - Chris Radcliffe
  - i. Proposed - John
  - ii. Seconded - Matt
- h. Meets Admin - Chris Radcliffe
  - i. Proposed - Leanne
  - ii. Seconded - Jane

13. Setting of Hut costs for 2025

- a. Proposed to remain the same, at £15 per night, unopposed.

14. Membership fees - We have had a period of frozen membership fee, despite the BMC annual membership increasing year on year. We now feel it is the appropriate time to increase our membership fee and propose £35 per annum. In addition to covering the BMC membership, it will also cover some administrative costs e.g. website and provide some cash buffer for hut fees.

- a. For – 27 (5x virtual votes)
- b. Against - 0
- c. Abstain - 1

15. Any other business

- a. Richard Harben, are we missing opportunities, such as with Alan Hinks (or other mountaineers of note), can we invite people to speak for the club? Arrange more guest speakers. Planned and publicised. Henriette Hansen, is it better to have them at the Wednesday Socials?
  - i. One to take away, review and propose.
- b. Club in the past invited speakers. Sold tickets and made revenue. Worth considering. Financial risk if we start to publicise events.
- c. Paul proposed a vote of thanks to the committee. "Thank you".
- d. Mollie Dunlop suggests ladies dorm, for comfort. Something to bear in mind, should this be desired and an option, to be provided. Can this work through common sense? It would restrict capacity in huts, if we enforced. Some clubs mandate this as a requirement. Consensus fell with this can be managed locally, on each meet, dependant on number of dorms available versus how many women are attending.
- e. Mark Smith – thank you to Michael for cooking.

- f. Vote proposed on location and timing of monthly social. Are you happy to continue with White Horse, first Wednesday evening of the month? White Horse wins as a location, with change to the last Wednesday of the month.
  - i. White Horse – For 12
  - ii. First Wednesday of month – 0
  - iii. Last Wednesday of the month – For 12

With no further matters to discuss, the AGM was declared closed at 18:22