

Tyneside Loipers

Annual General Meeting 2019 – draft minutes

Date : 8th October 2019, 7.45 p.m. Venue: The Northumberland Club, Newcastle

Minutes: Charlie Fisher Chair: Neil Waters

Present (13): Alan Mitcham (Membership), Charlie Fisher (Secretary and minutes), Neil Waters (Chair), Nuala Wright, Mike Hall, Ian Holloway, Pat Lynch, Graham Harkness, David Thomas (Treasurer), Paramjeet Bhogal (Child Protection Officer), Jane Brantom, Jim Alexander, John Dark.

Apologies

Action

- Apologies received from a good number of the membership, which is appreciated by the committee for planning the evening.

Apologies came from: Fiona MacCormick, Jack Harvie-Clark, Judi and Peter Webb, Vivienne Brown, Tim Owen, Penny Schofield, Alasdair Wilson, Paul Gaines, Jon Mellor, Ben Haywood Smith, Stephen Campbell, Mark O’Keeffe, Peter Aldred, Alison Aldred, Howard Adamson, Tim Elliott, Stephen MacShane, Gwenda and Les Cavill

Minutes of last meeting

- Minutes of 2018 were reviewed and agreed to be a correct record of that meeting, with outstanding action points to be taken up during the course of the present meeting.

Matters arising

- No matters are arising that are not dealt with on the following agenda.

Officers reports

- Chair’s introduction (Neil Waters) – 2018/19 was a mixed skiing year for the club. Domestic skiing was rather poor due to the lack of good snow. However the overseas trips went very well, in particular the combined coaching/track skiing/touring trip to Dalseter in Norway which involved 24 club members, the most ever. 3 other overseas trips featured track skiing and telemarking, and 4 club members raced on snow, including Mike Hall in the Engadine Marathon, and Alasdair at the Masters in Norway. The roller skiing training and race at Hetton Lyons which the club organized had 20 participants. Non-skiing activities included wildflower walks, canoeing and bike rides, albeit less well attended.

- Racing and coaching (Alan, in Alasdair's absence): 4 members have raced on snow this year, Alasdair in the World Masters in Norway, Mike did the Engadine Marathon, Gwenda, Les and Alasdair took part in SSE coaching in Kvitavatn, and Alan himself organized the Hetton Lyons event in the summer, the last time that he will be doing this (see below).
- Treasurer (Dave Thomas) – a summary of the accounts were presented to the meeting which thanked Dave for their clarity. On the whole, the club accounts are healthy, and the general consensus was that there is no need for the club to aim to accumulate unnecessarily beyond this. A surplus of about £130 has been made on income over expenditure. Two NESAs grants of £150 each were made, one for training provision at Dalseter, the other for the Hetton event. As always the club is open to ideas from members about what purchases are desirable, relating to skis, roller skis, or additional items around safety/first aid.
- Membership (Alan) – membership has grown very slightly this year with 6 leaving and 9 joining, a total now of 59 members. Following the handing out of a list of members with address, phone number etc, there was a brief discussion around data protection, and Alan replied that the club now had covered this on the membership form such that almost all members are happy for their details to be distributed internally. The club also uses a Google email group so that emails can be sent to members without individual email addresses being visible.
- Secretary (Charlie) – Charlie apologized for not having organized committee meetings beyond the AGM. The club does require more regular communication amongst committee members and this will be initiated during the coming year, with at least two rounds of communication and possible telephone conferences, before the AGM next year.

Charlie

Election of officers

- Despite half-hearted goading of current non-committee members, the current officers and committee postholders became quickly resigned to another year in post.

NESA / SSE and training

- Neil and Alasdair have attended NESA meetings this year. We got two £150 contributions from NESA for the Hetton Lyons event and for training in Dalseter.
- Funds are presently available for skiing-related training,

suggestions were made around telemarking at the Snowdome in Castleford, possibly with member Paul Gaines as coach.

Neil/Alan

- The need for ongoing first-aid refresher and outdoor courses was recognized, the more members have knowledge and skills in this area, the better.
- SSE would like to see all roller skiing participation carried out wearing a helmet (cycle helmets are adequate). The club will in future insist on helmet wearing during roller training and events such as Hetton Lyons.

Committee

Club kit

- In general it is desirable that club members collectively direct future acquisition of club kit, identifying needs for example with regard to first aid/mountain safety.
- There is little use of current club kit stored at Neil's house, this year one pair of skis were borrowed, presumably this is down to the rather poor snow conditions locally.
- As regards roller skis, it transpires that our current kit may not always be suitable for specific events such as Hetton Lyons where combi-skis are not optimal. Therefore we should look at purchasing kit for specific purposes. It is suggested that we purchase a few sets of classic roller skis and a few pairs of boots in the mid-size range.
- As a whole, we should look out for bargains but purchases should be in response to specific needs.

Neil / Alan /
Alasdair

Future club activities

- A list of planned club trips was circulated at the meeting, this list is to be made available on the website and in emails to members. The programme is similar to previous years with a range of trips covering touring, track skiing and telemarking.
- Domestic skiing activity in the northeast or Scotland is very dependent on snow conditions. We could be more reactive to snow conditions and we will look at improved communication with other enthusiasts when there is snowfall.
- Alan wishes to hand over the organization of Hetton Lyons to other volunteers, he remains available to advise on how this is to be best carried out.
- There will as always be a programme of off-season

Alan

John Dark

Cttee

activities such as walks and bike rides, members to be polled for suggestions in advance to ensure take-up. A guided tour of Trinity House was a welcome suggestion.

Alan

Website / Publicity

- Alan has been doing a great job getting to grips with the new website using WordPress following a joint effort from various members, but needs more input and support from the club as a whole. Committee to lead on this during the next few weeks to ensure Alan knows what content and structure is desirable.
- The new logo was shown to general approval, thanks to Mike Hall for co-ordinating this.
- We could do with a new set of business cards, Mike Hall will co-ordinate this.

Charlie

Mike Hall

The meeting faded in intensity as of 9pm and finally concluded by 9.30pm.