

Annual General Meeting – 13th May 2011

Chair: David Sperring

Number of members in attendance - 38

Apologies: Hannah Buckland unable to attend as she was sailing the seven seas (well...Pembroke...)

Meeting opened with an introduction and description of the format of the meeting etc...

Membership numbers of the club were up for 2010/11, with a large portion of the profits of this being invested in new equipment (new helmets, harnesses and ropes)

Item 1

Members in attendance were invited to express their views on how the club had been run this year.

Rosie said it was an amazing year

Gareth said that he'd plateaued at HS/VS trad., and suggested that the experienced members should be helping people in his situation push their grade into VHS/E1

David (president) replied by saying that he should go out climbing more. Most experienced members have also plateaued at HS/VS, mainly due to being busy teaching beginners trad...

Amy (training officer) described how her position involved too many other responsibilities (teaching beginners, organising BUCS team + training) to effectively be 'coaching' trad. She went on to say that as the club has lots of different people at different levels, there was a lot of effort required to cater for everyone.

David (president) raised the point that the club hasn't catered for experienced members, and that people who took up climbing in previous years haven't returned this year.

The issue of more trips was raised (as it does every year)

Then followed discussion of the beach barbeque trip to Three Cliffs Bay in June.

Someone said that they wanted more 'bouldering' trips. Point then rose that most weekends away involved some bouldering.

Nick suggested that the club should organise more 'unofficial' trips next year, and make better use of the club's forum. I raised the point that the committee are normally quite busy enough organising the regular club trips to do unofficial ones as well.

Charlotte described how the beginner's day trip to Fall Bay in September was a really good trip (woop woop!)

Dave (president) raised the issue of poor turn out on club trips – the beginner’s day trip saw roughly half the people signed up appear on the day of the trip. As there is a lot of organising involved with trips (gear, transport etc...) it is a behaviour that should be discouraged next year.

Someone said how the first social which involved everyone being in small groups was a ‘great success’ and was a good way for freshers to meet each other.

The call for more competitions was made by Gareth, with a suggestion of a club leading ladder, so that everyone can be ranked as to how good they are... People agreed that there should be more competitions next year (making the club even less of a mountaineering club...)

Idea of reviving the Welsh Universities competitions was brought up, and Amy described how it is hard for the club to organise a competition at Dynamic Rock which would require hiring the whole centre. This costs in the region of £500, which is a big financial risk for the club.

Item 2

Amy (training officer) raised the point that it was unclear who was responsible for organising competitions, with it being her job this year, but that the trip secretary position was still technically ‘Trips and Competitions Secretary’. This needs clarification.

Agreed to keep membership costs at £15 a year

There was a general agreement that more trips could be run as ‘meets’, where the club doesn’t organise transport, equipment, climbing partners etc... These would be more aimed at experienced climbers, and could possibly be run on Wednesday afternoons.

Point raised that the club needs to teach trad. leading earlier in the year, although this is very much down to how well beginners progress from indoor top roping to seconding trad. Realistically there would need to be more outdoor trips for people to reach this level before Christmas.

It would be a good idea to run an SPA course for next year’s committee, as most of the people who currently teach trad. are graduating or are unlikely to be involved with the club next year. Could also run a CWA award, but this wouldn’t help in the teaching of trad.

Idea of running more teaching/workshops at the uni wall was suggested. It was generally agreed that the club could make better use of the uni wall – as it’s a really good wall.

It was proposed that the position of ‘Trips and Competitions Secretary’ should be removed, and that the responsibility of organising accommodation for trips should go to the Secretary, whilst the job of organising competitions would officially be the responsibility of the Training Officer. This was put to the vote, with the following results:

YES – 30

NO – 4

ABSTAINING – 4

Therefore, this was passed, and next year there won't be a Trip Secretary.

Item 3

Next followed the election of next year's committee.

The candidates for Club President were: Phatt Everett. As he was the only candidate, he got elected.

The candidates for Secretary were: Jack Pitts, Charlotte Graves and Joe McCarty. The results were as follows:

Jack Pitts – 2
Charlotte Graves – 33
Joe McCarty – 2

The candidates for Treasurer were: Matthew Riordan, Sam Whiting, Fernley and James Gath. Results were:

Matt – 31
Sam – 1
Fernley – 3
James Gath – 2

The candidates for Gear Rep. were: Sam Threlfall and Joe McCarty. Results were:

Sam – 9
Joe – 27

The candidates for Social Sec were: Cathy Stillman, Fernley and Jack Pitts. Results were:

Cathy – 12
Fernley – 9
Jack – 10

Nick Foulds was the only candidate for Training Officer, so he got elected with the following results:

Nick – 36
Abstain – 2

Finally, the candidate for Management Rep. was David Sperring, he narrowly got voted in with the following results:

David Sperring – 20
Abstain – 18

To summarise, next year's committee will be:

PRESIDENT – Phatt Everett
SECRETARY – Charlotte Graves
TREASURER – Matthew Riordan
GEAR REP. – Joe McCarty
SOCIAL SEC. – Cathy Stillman
TRAINING OFFICER – Nick Foulds
MANAGEMENT REP. – Away with Essex