



## **Minutes of Annual General Meeting Eaton Golf Club Friday 17 February 2023**

### **1. Attendees**

Redacted

### **2. Apologies received**

Redacted

### **3. Welcome**

Chairperson, Ian, welcomed everyone to the 2023 AGM, noting that it was great to be back together for the AGM, following two years of virtual meeting.

### **4. Approval of the AGM Minutes February 2022**

Vote approved: Fiona

Vote seconded: Martin

### **5. Annual Report: Ian Ford**

#### **Thanks were expressed to:**

- Charles for auditing the accounts.
- James for many hours maintaining and updating the now very professional-looking website.
- John for all his organisational and spreadsheet skills for the now completed Wainwright challenges.
- All the walk leaders, under the guidance of Jan, for the variety of walks offered over the last year.
- Steve and Bob for their very agile activities, offering very different extra holidays in Scotland and the Pyrenees.
- Caroline for her organisational skills and flexible approach to dealing with holiday bookings 2022 – 2024.
- Gill, now stepping down from the Committee, for attempting to maintain a social element through difficult Covid-times.
- All members for continuing to support the club.

#### **Ian then addressed ‘the elephant in the room’**

Following an email to all members, proposing a change to the funding system, involving a change in membership fees, the Committee received a number of questions and suggestions; it was clear that some members had reservations about the proposals. In order to clarify the situation, Ian, as Chairperson, summarised the Committee’s thinking behind the proposed changes. He explained that:

- the proposal to change the membership fee was purely a financial consideration. The Treasurer had identified that we have predictable outgoings, but unpredictable income, so as we go forward, the figures may well not add up.
- although currently the Club has a healthy bank balance, this is, in part, due to having two virtual AGM meetings. In previous years the tradition has been to provide a meal after the meeting, at no cost to the members. Had this occurred in the past two years, the bank balance would be reduced by at least £1200.
- income raised from walk fees and holidays varies with participation numbers – the numbers of members actually walking has decreased over the past few years (partly due to the pandemic, of course) but the future is unknown...another Covid variant, for example, could put more pressure on our finances.
- apart from financial considerations, collecting walk fees using the system of numerous emails and reminders of bank transfers involves a great deal of 'faff'. The Committee feels that a different, more efficient system is needed.
- post-pandemic, catering costs are now much higher (with the added uncertainty of very new and unknown caterers at the golf club); the quantity and quality of the food provided pre-pandemic cannot be replicated for the same cost.

Finally, Ian reminded the meeting that within the Club there are those who walk, and those who do not, or who cannot walk, but that we are essentially a group of friends with a common interest, and that we want to keep it that way.

Ian asked for members to keep questions for later in the meeting following a detailed explanation of the proposal for consideration. (Item 12)

## **6. Financial Report 2022 & Budget for 2023: Kate**

Kate presented the Club;

- Income and Expenditure 2022 (Appendix 1)
- Financial Position 31 January 2023 (Appendix 2)
- Proposed Budget 2023 (Appendix 3)
- Fee Proposal (Appendix 4)
- Future Financial Considerations (Appendix 5)

There were no challenges to the Financial Report or Proposed Budget which was agreed by all present.

## **7. Walks Report 2022 & Programme for 2023: Jan**

### **Weekend Walks**

- walk profile: see Appendix (6).
- The statistics show a downward trend: there were fewer Red walks due to fewer Wainwrights; the weather caused 6 cancellations– 2 were cancelled due to windy conditions and 2 because it was too hot (!). So income has dropped and the future is uncertain.
- It is hoped the new Marilyns' project will increase income.
- A number of social walks ending at a pub for lunch have been added to the 2023 walk programme. These are planned so members can choose to walk the entire route, part of the route or just meet for lunch.
- Jan thanked all the walk leaders for the variety of walks on offer over the year.
- Congratulations to Paula and Sarah on gaining their silver navigation awards.
- Please let Jan know if you are interested in undertaking navigation training - John has already shown an expression of interest in completing the silver navigation level.

### **Wainwrights**

- Started in 2014, members of the club set out to summit the 214 'Wainwrights'. After 8 years (interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic) this has now been achieved.
- Jan gave special thanks to John for all his organisation.

## **Next Project – Welsh Marilynns**

- 159 Marilynns in Wales.
- Day walks, weekends/mid-week breaks.
- This new project will be both an individual and a collegiate effort, as the Marilynns are very spread out. Members will self-record, resulting in an overall club record of Marilynns achieved by members.

## **8. Holidays: Caroline**

### **Holidays UK 2022**

- Spring Walking Weekend: HF Hotel Chy Morvah St Ives Cornwall. 16 members took part.
- Autumn Walking Weekend: HF Hotel Derwent Bank, Lake District. 16 members participated – several members had to cancel at the last minute due to sickness/covid.

### **Holidays Extra 2022: June**

- Scottish Mountain Walking, Red walks and above, organised by Bob. Self-catering in chalets owned by Clachaig Holidays at North end of Glencoe. 14 Participants.

### **Holidays Extra 2022: September**

- Pyrenees, organised by Steve with Hike Pyrenees. 21 Participants – 7 refugio, 11 hotel based, 2 combo.

### **Holidays UK 2023**

- Spring Walking Weekend, 28 April – 1 May, Holnicote House, Selworthy, Exmoor. Possibly still rooms available.
- Autumn Walking Weekend, 6-9 October, Monk Coniston House, southern Lake District. Possibly still rooms available.

### **Summer 2023**

- Mayrhofen, Zillertal, Austria cancelled. The cost offered by HF was too high to provide good value and few members had signed up.

### **Alternative Self-booked Summer Holiday 2023**

- Neustift, Stubai Alps, Austria. 8-15 July. A positive alternative to HF holidays.
- Booked through Inghams on an individual basis with flights from Manchester to Innsbruck. Now fully booked.
- Walks not led by club leaders, members are responsible for own activities.

### **Catalan Pyrenees September 2023**

- Prices and detailed itinerary on emailed link. Contact Steve for more information.

### **Holidays 2024**

- Possibilities for Spring: HF Longmynd House, HF Church Stretton or Dovedale Peveril of the Peak?
- Possibility for Autumn: weekend 3 nights or mid-week 3 nights at Glaramara? Caroline asked for thoughts about mid-week stays instead of weekends. Martin suggested maybe trying one mid-week and one weekend trip. Caroline asked members to contact her with preferences/ideas/thoughts.

### **Holidays Abroad 2024**

- Caroline asked for suggestions for future holiday venues.

## **9. Club Events: Gill**

### **Spring Midweek Social Walk: Wednesday 13 April**

- members enjoyed a leisurely walk ending at the Dysart Arms, Bunbury, for lunch.

### **Summer Charity Walks and 'Pot Lunch': Sunday 26 June**

- Hosted by Ian and Paula in their lovely garden. Members brought a dish of their choice – anything sweet or savoury – resulting in a great spread of food for all. A very successful and easy way of catering!
- Club members raised sufficient cash to send £125 to both the Stroke Association and Cancer Research UK.

### **Christmas Social: Friday 7 December**

- Christmas meal at The Swan, Tarporley. Despite the challenges created by the weather, a good evening was had by all.

### **Club Events 2023**

- Following on from the success of last year midweek social walks followed by lunch (at a pub or other similar venue) will take place in February, April, September, December.
- Our summer Charity walks and social gathering will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2023. (Venue TBC).
- The Christmas Social this year is to be held on Friday 1st December 2023 at Pryors Hayes Golf Club, Oscroft.

### **2022 Membership**

- During the course of 2022 we had 3 new members joining the club: Welcome to Stuart, Jacky and Vicky.
- We currently have 78 members on the database.

### **GDPR Legislation**

- The club's database (and all members' personal information) is kept in line with GDPR legislation. In order to adhere to current legislation, all members are to be asked whether or not they wish their personal details to remain on the database. The new Social Secretary will shortly email everyone to this effect: a response will be required.
- As a result of this process, we will also as a club, be able to compile an up-to-date list of all people who wish to be connected with the club and receive information on all walks and social activities.

## **10. Proposals for Consideration**

### **Proposal 1: Charity Donations**

#### **Introduction**

Each year the Club holds fundraising events, the proceeds of which are donated to charities. The recipient charities have not changed since the inception of the events in 2008. This proposal seeks to vary the charities receiving donations and to codify the method by which the variation is undertaken. If this proposal is agreed by the AGM, it will necessitate a change to the Chair's Role Description.

#### **Proposal**

The Chair, annually, nominates the recipient charity (or charities) of the proceeds of any Club fundraising activities. The nomination/s to be agreed by the Committee.

Ian expressed a wish to focus on more local charities, for example 1) North East Wales Search and Rescue who cover many areas in which we walk and 2) the Cheshire Wildlife Trust for the work that they do in conservation and the environment.

Martin wanted to record the reason for the original charities being supported by the club: in remembrance of two club members, Charles Parkinson and John Dolphin.

#### **Proposed by Toots**

**Unanimously agreed by all members and the Committee.**

## **Proposal 2: Change to Club Constitution re new members.**

### **Introduction**

The Constitution currently stipulates that people wishing to join the Club must be a partner, within the immediate family or personal friends of a Club member and must be nominated by a Club member. This stipulation restricts the Club's ability to attract new members, particularly through the website. The proposal seeks to remove the restriction.

### **Proposal**

#### **Amend Article 3 of the Constitution as follows:**

#### Membership

3.1 ~~Partners, the immediate family and personal friends of Club members are also eligible for membership.~~ Membership will be granted upon completion of an application form and payment of a joining fee determined and reviewed by the AGM. ~~To join the Club personal friends must be nominated by a Club member.~~

Day membership is available on three occasions in a calendar year ~~to the partners, the immediate family and personal friends of Club members~~ upon completion of a day membership indemnity form and payment of the walk fee.\*

\*see above section on walk fees/membership fee

**Proposed by the Committee.**

**Unanimously agreed by all members.**

## **Proposal 3: Travel Expenses for Leaders**

To increase walk leader expenses to £0.40p per mile to a maximum of £40.

Jan explained that the Constitution sets a limit on what walk leaders can claim. It seems fair to support leaders if they are asked to drive to lead a walk and then have to drive home. HMRC rate is a maximum of £40.

**Proposed by Jan.**

**Unanimously agreed by all members.**

## **11. Election of Officers**

- Chairperson: Ian
  - Walk Programme Coordinator: Jan
  - Treasurer: Kate
  - Secretary (Holidays): Caroline
  - Secretary (Membership and Events): Paula
  - Accounts Examiner (re-appointment): Charles Neame
- Proposed by Charles  
Seconded by Martin
- Proposed by Kate  
Seconded by Pauline

## **12. Club Funding Options for Consideration**

### **Option 1 (Committee preferred option)**

Annual £20 membership fee for new members (inclusive of joining fee/walk fees)

Existing members – maintain status quo (£2 per walk) with voluntary opt-in to a £20 annual membership fee (inclusive of membership fee and privileges and all walk fees)

### **Option 2**

Consider separate funding streams for:

- Walks
- Holidays/weekends
- Social events

### **Option 3**

Maintain status quo (£2 per walk)

After some discussion, the nearly unanimous decision of the Members present was to vote for Option 1 and to implement this with immediate effect.

### 13. A.O.B

No items were notified prior to the meeting.

## APPENDIX 1



### Income & Expenditure 2022

	2021	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2022 Variance
<b>Income</b>				
Membership Fees	60.00	100.00	60.00	-40.00
Day Walk Fees	1013.00	1100.00	774.00	-326.00
HF Weekend Admin	536.93	700.00	483.60	-216.40
HF Interest	0.00	2.00	0.00	-2.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1609.93</b>	<b>1902.00</b>	<b>1317.60</b>	<b>-584.40</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Insurance	98.56	100.00	98.56	1.44
AGM Catering	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Social Events	0.00	0.00	130.85	-130.85
Website Fees	91.74	200.00	73.87	126.13
Club Equipment	155.00	100.00	97.98	2.02
Leader Training	0.00	400.00	140.00	260.00
Charity Donations	320.00	300.00	250.00	50.00
Other Expenses	0.00	100.00	25.00	75.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>665.30</b>	<b>1200.00</b>	<b>816.26</b>	<b>383.74</b>
<b><u>Net Income from Activities</u></b>	<b><u>994.63</u></b>	<b><u>702.00</u></b>	<b><u>501.34</u></b>	<b><u>200.66</u></b>

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## APPENDIX 2

### Financial Position 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023



	Club £	Activities £	Total £
<b>Opening Balance</b>			
Bank	3180.62	-11.00	3169.62
HF Investment	116.45	0.00	116.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>3297.07</b>	<b>-11.00</b>	<b>3286.07</b>
Income	1317.60	14290.40	15608.00
Expenditure	-816.26	-14129.40	-14945.66
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>501.34</b>	<b>161.00</b>	<b>662.34</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>			
Bank	3681.96	150.00	3831.96
HF Investment	116.45	0.00	116.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>3798.41</b>	<b>150.00</b>	<b>3948.41</b>

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## APPENDIX 3

### Proposed Budget 2023



	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
<b>Income</b>		
Membership Fees	60.00	80.00
Day Walk Fees	774.00	800.00
HF Weekend Admin	483.60	500.00
HF Interest	0.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1317.60</b>	<b>1380.00</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Insurance	98.56	100.00
AGM Catering	0.00	400.00
Social Events	130.85	100.00
Website Fees	73.87	100.00
Club Equipment	97.98	100.00
Leader Training	140.00	300.00
Charity Donations	250.00	250.00
Other Expenses	25.00	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>816.26</b>	<b>1450.00</b>
<b><u>Net Income from Activities</u></b>	<b><u>501.34</u></b>	<b><u>-70.00</u></b>

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## APPENDIX 4



### Fee Proposal 2023

	2022	2023
Membership Joining Fee	20.00	20.00
Day Walk Fee (including Marilyn's)	2.00	2.00
Evening Walk Fee	1.00	1.00
Charity Walk Fee (minimum)	5.00	5.00
HF Weekend Income	Free group place	Free group place
HF Overseas Holiday income	5.00	5.00

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## APPENDIX 5

### Future Financial Considerations



- Bank Balance – the current balance is higher than usual due to the absence of AGM catering costs for the last 2 years. We need to consider the best use of funds to reduce the balance to a more normal 'buffer' level.
  - Club income is reducing due to lower participation in both day walks and holidays / weekends away.
  - Over a longer period, the aim should be to match club expenses to the income generated. Most club expenses do not vary with member participation in events.
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# APPENDIX 6

## Walk profile

