

HAWOG AGM 16th October 2014

1 Agree agenda.

The agenda was agreed with the exception that item 5 membership fees, would be incorporated into item 8.

2 Review and acceptance of minutes from previous years AGM.

Brian G expressed dissatisfaction that actual numbers voting had not been recorded.

Minutes were agreed.

3 Review and acceptance of accounts from previous years.

Jeff reported that the Group's funds had increased by £239, due to an increase in casual income, reduction on Pay Pal fees, and less costs for BBQ, although slightly increased insurance costs. Importantly there had been no underwriting of events. The accounts were accepted (17 votes for).

With regards to auditing of the accounts, Mike S has audited the 2011-12 accounts (Martin J treasurer). It was agreed by the meeting that Mike also audits the 2012-2013 accounts (Jeff R treasurer), and subject to him agreeing to do so, Martin J will audit the 2013-14 accounts.

4 Election of committee.

Jan announced the candidates who were standing for committee posts. There were candidate for all except for the chair, for which Dave T was standing (but was not present at the meeting) but had not at that point been nominated or seconded. There ensued a discussion on whether anyone can stand for election without a nominator and seconder. Paul S pointed out that there is nothing in the constitution requiring nomination and seconding. Others said that it has always been the practice. It was put to the vote and 6 voted to accept nominations without seconding 9 voted against. In consequence it was not possible to accept Dave T's offer to stand as Chair.

The following persons were then elected

Secretary: Amanda R
Treasurer: Jeff R
Programme Planner: Claire A
Webmaster: Phil J
Publicity Officer: Jan B
Social Secretary: Brian G
Membership Officer: Mike S

MOTIONS

5 Membership fees.

- A. Basic membership
- B. Full member supplement
- C. Full year casual supplement
- D. Three-monthly casual supplement

Following a vote it was decided that this motion not be discussed at the point, and be discussed as part of Jeff R's motions.

6. YHA Membership

Stop, with immediate effect, making the YHA membership obligatory for HAWOG members.

Proposed by Marin P.

It was agreed by the meeting to debate this motion after item 7, to allow Steve R who was delayed, time to arrive and speak against it.

Motion was debated and voted upon, it being clarified that change if voted for could not be effected with immediate effect, as the change to include YHA membership as a requirement had a 1-year lead in to be applied. The vote was nonetheless taken for this motion and fell

7 Automated Fee Payment

To offer current members the option of setting up standing order to pay 24 pounds(or current fee) into Hawog bank account on 1st Sept each year to rejoin.

Proposed by Leo S

With Leo's agreement the original MOTION was modified to read

Committee shall consider means by which members can automatically renew their membership with a view to introducing automatic renewal provided this is reasonably practicable and economical

The modified motion was carried.

8 Various

Various motions, (full clarification, as Appendix to these minutes) summarised viz

(Proposed By Jeff R)

These motions were hotly debated, with presentations regarding decline in membership, decline in income, the need to be conservative re underwriting events, fewer people putting on events.

Arguments were put both that HAWOG should actively be seeking and encouraging more casual members and that we should not.

Regarding the £10 monthly and £75 annual casual fees it was put that those not organising events themselves were effectively enjoying a group organised for them by the members that organise events and that in comparison with other organisations, such as Meetup, where members may come along and take no part contributing in the organisation process for the event a premium is paid, with most such entities charging £85 and upwards for identical events, whereas minibus drivers and other organisers would get a free place. A happy medium is to be had by these motions where there is a reasonable financial difference in costs between organisers of events and non-organising attending members, which still leaves HAWOG events much more reasonably priced than peer organisations.

1 – Full Annual Membership Fee

Fees motion 1 –that the full annual membership fee be £30

It is proposed that the full annual membership fee should increase from £28 to £30. On the basis that: it is not a big increase.; the fee has not increased for two years; this small increase will help maintain income with current lower membership.

(To clarify this with respect to the wording of the constitution, the £30 fee consists of the £2 membership fee, plus the Full Year Full Membership Supplement.)

The motion was opposed on the grounds that membership numbers have been falling so an increase in the fee would deter people from joining; we are in competition with other groups who are already considerably less expensive to join.

This motion was voted on with 8 in support and 9 against and was not carried.

Fees motion 3 –that the full annual casual fee be £75pa

This motion was voted on with 13 for and 2 against – motion carried.

Fees motion 4 –that the alternative casual fee be £10 per calendar month

This motion was voted on with 13 for and 3 against – motion carried

Fees motion 5 –that the social membership fee be £5 per annum and that social members be allowed to attend all social events

This motion was voted on with 4 for and 12 against – motion fell

To save time, it was put to the vote that Committee be mandated to decide the following motions proposed by Jeff. Motion agreed - 14 for 3 against

Fees motion 2 – *that the full membership fee be reduced pro-rata by month for both new and renewing members*

Quality Motion 1 –*That there be a minimum attendance for qualifying events of two people in addition to the organisers. Except that where the committee agree*

that low attendance was no fault of the organisers they may waive this requirement.

Quality Motion 2 – *That for qualifying events, organisers must submit an event report within two weeks of the event of a minimum of 100 words*

Early Bird Motion– That the early-bird membership offer of £24 be extended to the end of October, with the same conditions as before. Motion agreed.

9. Nomination and voting on donation(s) to charity.

It was suggested £50 to go to an outdoors charity, with Committee to decide the charity.

Put to the vote – 14 for, 1 against

10. Any other business

Communications with committee:- Martina raised concerns that it appears that all organisers had been systematically refused underwriting/ advance funding for weekends this year. The committee at the AGM denied this. Brian stated as a matter of fact that he had received an email from the committee exactly to this effect. Martina voiced concerns that it appeared highly discourteous to hard-working organisers of weekend away events to not even acknowledge emails and to not always respond and to respond in a dismissive way. She gave an example whereby she when requesting underwriting was ultimately given a simple no without any rationale, saying that in order for organisers to put on events and obtain underwriting one must understand the thinking behind refusals of funding, beyond the explanation provided at this AGM that the committee voted against funding on every occasion, as clearly members, the committee and indeed organisers are fully competent at explaining their thinking to debate for and against motions at the AGM so it is peculiar that decisions that have a huge impact on weekends away are taken behind closed doors with no rationale other than a vote took place.

Feedback from Treasurer – Steve R complained that there had been what he considered excessive delays in obtaining responses to emails to the treasurer, for example relating to PayPal accounts, and that as a result it had been frustrating and made organising events more difficult. Jeff undertook that he was not unreasonably delaying responding to emails.

APPENDIX - CLARIFICATION OF MOTIONS PROPOSED BY JEFF R

1 – Full Annual Membership Fee

with respect to the wording of the constitution, the £30 fee consists of the £2 membership fee, plus the Full Year Full Membership Supplement.

2 – Full Membership Fees for Those Joining or Re-Joining Part Way Through the Year

It is proposed that it should be clarified as monthly pro-rata for everyone. So both new members and renewing members pay for the remaining months of the group year, including the current month. So, for example, on 20 June the fee would be 4/12 of the annual fee – for the four months June, July, August, and September.

A commensurate change would apply regarding refunds - Full members wishing to leave the group would be able to claim a refund for any complete months remaining.

(To clarify this with respect to the wording of the constitution, the fee for joining or re-joining part way through the year consists of the £2 membership fee, plus the Full Membership Supplement for the current month and the remainder of the year.)

3 & 4– Casual Fees

THE proposal is that casual fees should be £75 for the full year. Casual members do not have to join YHA.

The £10 fee would be for one calendar month. Casual members paying monthly would need to be members for the month in which the event they wish to attend begins. So a casual member wishing to attend a walk on 20 June and a weekend away on 7 July would need to join for June and July. But in the rare cases where a single event begins in one month and ends in another, they would only need to pay for the first month.

(To clarify this with respect to the wording of the constitution, the £75 fee consists of the £2 membership fee, plus the Full Year Casual Membership Supplement.

Alternatively, the first £10 monthly Casual Fee consists of the £2 membership fee, plus the Casual membership Supplement for one month. Any subsequent £10 monthly Casual Fees consists of the Casual membership Supplement for one month.)

5 – Social Membership Fee

It is proposed that social membership should entitle people to attend all hall nights plus any other social events which do not involve any significant outdoor activity.

Members wishing to upgrade from social membership to full membership would just need to pay the difference, pro-rata, for the current month and each full month remaining.

(To clarify this with respect to the wording of the constitution, the £5 fee consists of the £2 membership fee, plus a Full Year Social Membership Supplement.)

Motions Regarding Quality of Events and Minimum Attendance

It is proposed that for contributing events, there must be a minimum of two attendees other than the

Properly organised means Organisers must –

1. Put the event details on the programme a minimum of one month ahead for day events or three months ahead for longer events.
2. Organise and publicise the event well in accordance with the rules on the website

3. Ensure that we have the full names and current contact details of everyone who attends their event
4. Provide details of attendees to the membership officer within one week of the event.
5. Submit an event report within two weeks of the event of a minimum of 100 words
Most organisers already provide event reports. Currently it is a convention but not explicitly required in the rules. This motion will have the effect of making it compulsory.

(Items 1-4 are already part of the rules and just being re-stated here for clarity).

In the case of events where fewer than two people other than the organisers attend - Where the committee feel that the event was well planned in good time and that every reasonable attempt was made to publicise it and encourage people to attend and that poor attendance was no fault of the organisers, they may agree that it be a qualifying contributing event even if the attendance requirement has not been met.

Where the committee determine that an event has failed to meet the qualifying requirements, organisers may submit another event or they may retrospectively pay the balance of the appropriate casual fee in order to be relieved of the requirement to submit an event. Where the original event was close to the year end, the committee may exceptionally allow them to meet their commitment by organising an event in the following year.

Extended Early-Bird Offer

With the conditions that contributing events and YHA membership numbers where required must also be provided by the end of October. This would be a one-off for this year. Anyone who has paid £28 to join between 1 October and the AGM would be entitled to a refund of £4.