

MIDLANDS HIKING CLUB

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CLUB HELD ON TUESDAY 18 AUGUST 2009 AT THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION HILTON AT 19H30

PRESENT: 45 Members as per attached Attendance Register.

APOLOGIES: 13 Members as per attached list.

The Vice Chairman (Allison Gunning), in the absence of the Chairman (who was overseas) opened the 16th Annual General Meeting at 19h40 and welcomed all those present.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

The Secretary read the Minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting which were approved by Clive Holland & seconded by Morris Harper.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Vice Chairman read the Chairman's report, a copy of which is attached
He started by thanking Allison for standing in for him & running the procedures & offered his apologies.
He said he would be somewhere in Scotland with his backpack on his back & wished all members a great evening.

Membership

The Chairman said that club membership stood at 157 & that the club loses members each year for various reasons but new members join & gave his thanks to all who encouraged new members to join.

He said that up to a point our yearly costs are fixed for such items as the socials venue, web site, newsletter printing & postage & some social events (including the AGM) are subsidized by the club. The more members we have make it easier to keep subs at a reasonable level.
He reiterated that we desperately need additional leaders to spread the load with our overloaded existing leaders.

MHC Website

The Chairman, on behalf of the club thanked Rod Hart & Sam for the incredible website & all the information & photographs etc which are available on the site.
He quoted it as being the best hiking club site on the web & said we had a record number of people accessing the site & making various requests, which Rod passed on to Keith or himself if Rod could not answer the queries.
Members contributed during the year with hike write-ups & sending in photographs etc.
The Chairman emphasized that the web site needs to be kept updated with fresh & interesting information & that members should keep the news & photographs etc flowing to Rod.

PAST YEARS ACTIVITIES

The Chairman said that again, thanks to our very hard working & dedicated leaders, members have had a good number of hiking activities to choose from, including day hikes, weekend hikes & a number of more comfortable Berg cottages & beach escapes.

He thanked Bushy & Pat for organizing the very popular coastal outings.

He also said if any members knew good spots such as coastal cottages, huts or campsites that they liked & were familiar with, we would welcome them to volunteer to organize some trips for our fixtures.

The Chairman thanked Mary & Mark & Margaret & Keith for organizing the well attended Berg cottage weekends.

Longer & Harder Trips

The Chairman said that our club was not involved with the Grand Traverse this year & we did not have any volunteers for the re-supply.

He reminded club members that Mountain Backpackers Club organise this adventure every year & that any club members wishing to take part in this epic challenge should do it as part of their team.

The 2010 Grand Traverse has already been planned so if any member has a serious interest they should contact Keith, Allison or himself.

He said that good but sometimes poor attendances had been experienced on the harder weekend or multi-day hikes & that our pool of hikers willing or capable of doing these hikes was dwindling & that we really hope that some of our new members will participate in these challenging outings.

Other Hikes

He said that although some day hikes had been well attended some had been badly attended & that it had only been in the last few weeks that we had very good turnouts for day hikes.

The Chairman encouraged all members to commit to doing at least 3 day hikes a year.

He said the "Big 5 Challenge" which the club had tried to encourage members to join in various activities had turned out to be a damp squib.

However our web master Rod did take up the challenge & that he was sure that Rod had found a lot of hidden value & enjoyment in our activities.

Club Social Evenings

The Chairman said that poor attendances at social evenings left the committee wondering what was going on, as many interesting presentations had been made with little support from members.

With this in mind he said the committee had decided to reduce the number of social evenings next year from once a month to one every two months. This would reduce the expense of hiring the venue.

2008 Christmas Party

The Chairman said this went off very well & that the new venue was excellent & that good fun was had by the many members who attended.

He continued to say that the 2009 Christmas Party will be held at the same venue (St Mathew's Church Hall, 115 Hesketh Drive, PMB) on Sunday 6 December & that members should watch out for details in the club newsletters.

Club Subscriptions

The Chairman said that subscriptions would be discussed later in the meeting.

Mountain Backpackers Club

The Chairman said that close cooperation has continued with Mountain Backpackers & that we share several hikes with them.

He said that with rising costs of fuel etc it makes sense to get more involved with clubs such as Mountain Backpackers to increase the number of participants on a hike, share vehicles & transport costs & reduce the overall cost to individual hikers.

Committee & Leaders

The Chairman gave a big thank you to all the leaders who offered their time in planning, organising & leading hikes.

He also stressed that we need new leaders to join us, or to start to lead short hikes & get to learn the paths or routes from our existing leaders. He said “your old leaders are getting older & replacements are eagerly sought”.

He gave a special vote of thanks to Keith Ashton for all his input to the club.

The Chairman, on behalf the members, thanked the committee & leaders all their valued input in running the club during the past year.

He said, hikers & members of the club had been offered a great variety of events to participate in & for those who did, he was sure that all enjoyed the experiences.

Brian Henwood & family were thanked for the snacks which were shortly to be served & enjoyed after the AGM.

He finished his report by thanking everybody who attended & contributed to the AGM & said the club looked forward to members continued participation in club activities & that each members contribution was important to the success of the club.

Finally he said “May our new hiking year be happy & fulfilling for all of us”.

TREASURER’S REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Treasurer Ossie Deysel presented his report.

A copy of the financial statements for the year is attached together with his notes.

He said the club was still in a sound financial state as can be seen from the balance sheet which shows net assets of R11092 (inc current & investments accounts).

He submitted the budget for 2009/2010 with expenditure based on an increase of 10% on last years figures but with a reduced amount for hire of the socials venue (every two months instead of monthly), with income from subscriptions based on a membership of 120 as some resignations were expected in view of the current economic climate.

Based on the above it would not be necessary to increase subscriptions at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was nothing to discuss under this heading.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Libby Deysel was proposed to become Secretary by Keith Ashton & this was seconded by Bushy Kirby.

Rose Dix was proposed to become PRO by Selven Nyker & this was seconded by Libby Deysel. It was proposed by Bushy Kirby to elect the rest of the committee back into office & this was seconded by Clive Holland.

The above was unanimously approved by all attendees so the 2009/10 Committee is listed below:-

Chairperson	Dave Sclanders
Vice Chairperson	Allison Gunning
Secretary	Libby Deysel
Treasurer	Ozzie Deysel
Editor	Noel Harper
PRO	Rose Dix
Activities	Irene Wisdom
Webmaster	Rod Hart
Member	Brian Henwood

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

The committee, after considering the estimated cash flows for the following year, recommended that the subscriptions remain at R65 single & R100 family membership. Acceptance of the recommendations was proposed by Libby Deysel & seconded by Mary Clover & this was unanimously agreed.

GENERAL

Keith Ashton, on behalf of the club, thanked Andrew & Michelle Friedemann of “Wildways Adventures” for their many extremely useful courses they provided to members at no cost. Keith again asked members to indicate any suggestions about the club & to assist in obtaining presenters for the socials & for new leaders to volunteer.

There being nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 8-40 pm.
The meeting was followed by a delicious finger supper.

READ and VERIFIED this ----- day of August 2010.

CHAIRPERSON

