

Minutes of the 70th MCG AGM – 5th April 2024 @ 10.00am

Virtual and Cottage meeting

Members present and apologies: -

Present at the cottage: Bill Chadwick, Tom Harrison, Tim Francis, Brian Snell, Matty Dredge, Steve Porter, Jason Kirby, Hannah Blunt, Mark Edwards, Russ Porter, Martin Cross, Keith Knight, Bryan Pittman, Joan Goddard, Alan Allchorn, Charlotte Dawes, David Cook, Steve Church, Greg Hawkins, Mike Moxon, Kay Matthews, Dan Matthews, (Kat Rosier, Ed Ford arrived around 11.00), Mike Ormond, Keiring Sprechley.

(21 voting members, 22 from 11:00, not entitled to vote: Hannah Blunt, Mike Ormond, Kat Rosier and Keiring Sprechley)

Signed record of those present – see APPENDIX 1

Present virtually on MS Teams: - Hayley Clark, Jackie Murch (who joined around at 11:00), Roy Kempston, Andrea Carey (4 voting members)

24 voting members up to 11 AM, 26 after 11 AM.

Apologies for absence: Jeremy Gilson, Charlie Alison, Linda Milne, Ben Cooper, Denise Knibbs, Doug Harris, Julie Hesketh-Laird, Mick Norton, Graham Price

The AGM meeting began at 10.00am.

Minutes for the AGM of MCG as Charity 270088

1. Welcome, appointment of Chair – Tim Francis

2. Record of those present, indicating physical or virtual presence, as well as those sending their apologies – as above.

3. Proposal: “That any routine business be conducted at the ‘2024 MCG AGM as CIO 1197325’.”

For – 24

Against – 0

Abstentions- 0

4. Proposal: “That the trustees with the roles of Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian/Recorder, Caving Secretary, Social Secretary, Editor, Cottage Warden and Tackle Master that are elected as trustees of the CIO at the CIO AGM *also* be elected as committee members of the MCG as charity 270088.”

A list of those standing as trustees of the CIO will be found in the CIO AGM agenda.

For – 24

Against – 0

Abstentions- 0

Note: In the 2022 AGM we resolved to authorise the committee to close the old charity once the transfer of cottage and investments to the new charity is completed. **ONGOING** just awaiting the Land Registry now.

At this point Steve Porter gave a brief breakdown of why the MCG has moved to a CIO based charity. The main reason being that it simplifies the process for future changes in Trustees, which required the aid and expense of the legal profession to complete changes in the 270088 charity. He explained that the only thing holding up the completion of the transfer to this new CIO status, was a long delay in the Land Registry confirming the transfer. It was hoped that this would be concluded in the summer months.

Minutes for the AGM of MCG as Charity 270088 end.

Minutes for the AGM of MCG as CIO 1197325

1. Welcome, appointment of Chair – Tim Francis

2. Record of those present, indicating physical or virtual presence, as well as those sending their apologies. see APPENDIX 1 and the list at the start of these minutes.

3. The 2023 AGM minutes were reviewed (covering both charities) and any actions therein.

Item numbers here are from the 2023 AGM minutes.

4.0 Still **ONGOING** (closure of old charity)

5.11 Still **ONGOING** (closure of Santander account)

6.b.2 Completed - Action closed (2022 accounts filed against new charity)

6.d.1 Completed - Action closed (car park drainage work)

6.d.2 Still **ONGOING** Change of locking has been completed; the replacement of the door is still needed

6.a.2 Completed - Action closed (Singing River access has been sorted and is the responsibility of CSCC)

5.b.2 Still **ONGOING** (minimise banking fees by e.g. using Starling Bank)

5.i.1 Still **ONGOING** (funds to be invested)

5.i.2 Completed - Action closed (investments transferred to new charity)

5.d.1 Completed - Action closed (ask JK for resupply of cottage consumables when supplies run low)

5.d.2 Completed - Action closed (remember to leave bin near the outside gate)

6.a.3 Completed - Action closed (Matty Dredge co-opted as Tackle Master)

7.b.2 Completed - Action closed (Consider some sort of rescue practice)

7.b.3 Completed - Action closed (Request loan of stretcher for rescue practice)

4. Proposal: that the Minutes of the 2023 AGM for both charities are a correct record.

For – 19

Against – 0

Abstentions- 5

At this point it was noted that there was an error in the numbering sequence of the agenda so the next item is numbered 6 and the following item is 5.

6. Presentation of 2023/2024 officer's and trustee reports

Full reports can be found here: [Mendip Caving Group - Meeting Minutes](#)

Additional comments to those in the reports:

Secretary

Bill Chadwick gave a brief overview of the year and said that there had been a lot of focus on the 70th anniversary in the latter part of the year. He mentioned Ben Cooper's work on managing the investments, the fact that Matty Dredge had been coopted as Tackle Master and he had been doing a good job, and Jason Kirby's work on the cottage. There had been some good social events this year with the traditional Christmas dinner being a crowning event.

He also stated that he wished to stand down as Secretary as he had been in the post for 6 years. However, as he had now retired and had a bit more time available, coupled with the fact that nobody was currently available to take over, he was prepared to stand for one more year. He stated that it would be good for the group to have some fresh people in the committee roles for 2025.

Bill was applauded for his work as Secretary thus far.

Treasurer

Tom Harrison discussed the accounts. He said that bed nights were up which was encouraging. Total income was up but gas was significantly up with the gas plus electricity cost up by nearly 50%. Total expenditure for the year was up on the previous year.

As mentioned in previous years he asked that those for staying the night at the cottage to please fill out the booking form on the lectern to ease the burden of accounting.

He said that the assets figures for the building and its contents were based on estimates from previous years and need to be re-calculated.

6.1 **ACTION** Tom Harrison to find a way to re-assess the totals for Building rebuild costs and Contents value.

He mentioned there had been problems with the Sumup tablet in the cottage and it needed replacing. We did pay a small charge for using it whereas paying by BACS is free.

Overall, the Receipts vs Expenses was spot on and the current account totals to just over £20k. Some of this will be added to the investments in the coming year.

Caving Secretary

Mark Edwards said that thing had gone well in this year. He said that the Mini Cave Fest event and Portland trip had gone well. Tom mentioned that overall, 33 people had joined in on trial cave trips. Tom also mentioned that there was a planned trip to Gaping Gill this year.

Tackle Master

Matty stated that he was warming to the task and that after May he would have more time to apply to the role. He asked that if anyone had problems with any of the Tackle or noticed defects, to please inform him.

Librarian/Recorder

Joan Goddard had written a report on this post. Bill read out the main points. Joan said that she was sad that some books and in particular some OS maps and charts had gone missing.

Bill suggested that we put an article in the next newsletter about this, to ask for their return if anyone has any of the individual items that are missing.

Tom asked for a list of the missing items as it may be possible to replace them. Joan replied that some of these items would be difficult to replace.

Social Secretary

Jackie Murch wasn't present at the meeting at this time, so Bill went over her report.

It was noted that the name of the person who did the presentation after last year's AGM dinner evening was spelt wrong.

6.2 **ACTION** Bill C to get the name changed on Jackie's report from Kye to Cy.

Editor

Daniel Matthews said that it had been difficult to create newsletters with so little information coming in. A lot of the information is often out there on Social Media before it can be added to a newsletter.

Investments funds

Bill mentioned that Ben had been ill and was currently in hospital awaiting an operation. The collective wished him well. He talked about the performance of the funds and that they were in a healthy state.

As mentioned at the beginning of the previous section, the next item number is out of place

5. Election of trustees for 2024-2025

There was some discussion about Daniel taking over as Social Secretary as Jackie wanted to take over the vacant position of Librarian/Recorder. Kay Matthews was happy to take on the Editor's post. Trustee changes after today will be by co-options made the trustees elected today.

Tom H proposed Kay as Editor (Seconded by Tim F)

For – 24

Against – 0

Abstentions - 0

Tim F Proposed that the remaining roles were voted for en-block (Seconded Tom H)

For – 25

Against - 0

Abstentions - 0

Again, unfortunately the numbering system was wrong for the next item as it was marked as 6.

6. Election of non-committee posts for 2024-2025

6.a Tom H said he was happy to continue for another year as Conservation Officer.

Steve Church proposed Tom and was seconded by Joan Goddard.

For – 26

Against - 0
Abstentions - 0

6.b It was stated that we currently don't have a Rescue Warden for organising practise cave rescues. There was some discussion about whether we could still borrow a stretcher and organise our own rescues. Two MCG members (Mike Moxon and Becky Vials) are also members of the MCR. In previous years, practise rescues have been organised by the MCR and club members took part, practices are now restricted to MCR members though – for insurance reasons.

7. Election of Account Examiners for 2024-2025

Steve Porter spoke about the examiners roles and that he was happy that the figures balanced. But it had been a difficult to allow time to be meticulous.

Vote Linda Milne and Steve Porter to continue as Examiners (Proposed Bill C, Seconded Tom H)

8. Matters for discussion and a vote

8.1 Bill C spoke about the reasons for raising the topic of the constitutions wording for becoming an Affiliate member. The concern was that some people could use the Affiliate status to save on membership fees. However, after a recent trustees meeting (held over a virtual TEAMS session) it had been suggested that the wording '**who are unable**' should remain unchanged.

The chair asked the floor to vote if they were happy to leave the current wording unchanged.

For – 26
Against - 0
Abstentions - 0

8.2 Bill talked about past cases of full cottage bookings and some problems which had arisen, when MCG members had turned up at the cottage. He said that members can enter the cottage but cannot stay overnight when the cottage has been fully booked by a group which includes children. This is a consequence of modern safe-guarding requirements. There is a conflict of such bookings with the constitution which grants a right to members of '*access to and use of the CIO's premises*'.

The chair asked Tom what the income was from these groups, and Tom replied approximately £500 for the past year.

Bryan P mentioned that he had begun caving as a result of a scout group trip away staying at a caving cottage, and that this had led to him becoming a member of the MCG. Therefore, there was the potential for members of scout groups to become future members of the MCG, and hence a positive point about allowing guest groups to use the cottage.

Bill C stated that full cottage group bookings were only accepted 2-3 times a year but represented a good income for the group.

Ed F asked how long the process was for a full booking. Bill C replied that typically it took a few months. Ed F suggested that a notice could be posted in the entrance lobby and social media giving warning of group bookings. Ed F suggested that we might explore obtaining reciprocal overnight arrangements with other Mendip clubs to mitigate the inconvenience of such bookings to members.

Tom H focussed on the point about whether the members were happy to continue to allow group bookings.

Tim F said we have to be very clear about what the constitution's word 'use' of the cottage means with respect to group bookings.

A lot of discussion followed on this point

Steve P said we need to define the word 'access'

Eventually Martin C proposed (Seconded Jason K) that we vote for whether we wish to continue to allow youth groups to fully book the cottage and exclude member's overnight access. The motion put to the vote was:

That members wish for official groups with children, to be able to book and stay overnight at the cottage, to the exclusion of MCG members. If the vote is Yes, the trustees are to prepare new CIO rules to define the detailed arrangements, which may require a change to the constitution.

For – 24

Against - 0

Abstentions - 2

- **ACTION** trustees to prepare new rules re full cottage bookings.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 Award of the Knibbs trophy for 2024 – Tim Francis for his Blackmore publication.

9.2 Award of the JRat Digging trophy for 2024 – Ben Cooper for his work on a new access into Neverland in Upper Flood, bypassing the Curtain Climb.

9.3 Nick Thorne raised a good point about access by members, to the emergency contact details of peer members. It was requested that the MCG web site be updated to readily indicate at least four trustees who have access to the emergency contact details - **ACTION** Bill C. It is anticipated that in the event of an emergency, a member should have contact details for one or more of those four trustees. GDPR probably precludes the emergency contact details of a member being made available to all other members.

9.4 Dave C mentioned that the MCG insurance could be invalidated if there was a chimney fire and the chimney has not been cleaned. This is because insurance companies require the chimney to be cleaned by a registered cleaner. This is a point for consideration by the trustees - **ACTION** trustees.

10. Date of the next AGM: Saturday 5th April 2025, at Nordrach and on-line for 10.00am start.

The meeting finished at 12.45

Minutes taken and written by Brian Snell (Custodian Trustee)

APPENDIX 1.

Mendip Caving Group 2024 AGM

Attendance Sheet for those present at Nordrach

Name	Signature	Name	Signature
STEVE PORTER	Steve Porter	Daniel Matthews	[Signature]
Jan 16/67	[Signature]	KAT ROSTER	[Signature]
Hannah Blunt	[Signature]	ED FORD	[Signature]
R M EDWARDS	Roman Edwards	Tom Harrison	[Signature]
Russ Porter	[Signature]		
MARTIN CROSS	[Signature]		
KEITH WRIGHT	[Signature]		
Brian Snell	[Signature]		
BRYAN PITTMAN	[Signature]		
JEAN GODDARD	[Signature]		
Tim FRANCIS	[Signature]	Online	
Alan Allehorn	[Signature]	- Andrea Carey	
Charlotte D.	[Signature]	- Jackie Munn (after 11am)	
DAVID LOOK	[Signature]	- Hugh Clarke	
Steve Church	[Signature]	- Ray Kempster	
Greg Hawkins	[Signature]		
Muc Moxon	[Signature]		
Matty Dudge	[Signature]		
Kay Matthews	[Signature]		
Mike Orrock	[Signature]		
KEIR INGH SPRECHLEY	[Signature]		

W. A. Chadwick

Bill Chadwick