

**Harrow & Wembley Outdoor Group
Annual General Meeting
Thursday 17 October 2019**

Our Lady & St Thomas of Canterbury R C Church Hall, 22 Roxborough Park, Harrow

Outgoing Committee Members

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| Chair | Nick G (NG) | Apologies |
| Treasurer | Rachael (RG) | Apologies |
| Programme Planner | Brian G (BG) | Present |
| Information Officer | Vacant | |
| Publicity Officer | Jeff R (JR) | Present |
| Social Secretary | Diane S (DS) | Apologies |
| Membership Officer | Jan B (JB) | Present |
| Secretary | Martina G | Apologies |
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| Item | Subject |
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| 2. | Welcome and Introductions |
| | The meeting opened at 9pm. |
| | Attendance including committee 10. |
| | Apologies received from Nick, Rachael, Martina and Diane. |
| 3. | Review and Acceptance of Minutes from AGM held on 20 October 2018 |
| | The Minutes were accepted. Matters arising: HAWOG Bank Holiday. The committee confirmed that they had looked into this idea. However, no volunteers had come forward to arrange such an event so it had not been implemented. Membership Cards. The committee confirmed that this idea had been abandoned due to the work involved in creating individual cards. |
| 4. | Report from Committee Members on Previous Year |
| | Programme Planner |
| | Membership - We finished the year with 198 members. This is a record for the group and an increase of 50 from last year. The increase may have been due to better retention of existing members due to efforts by the new membership officer and the offer of many more socials to attract and recruit new members. Meetup Group - Our main group is now the local Ealing, Harrow and Ruislip group. We changed the 2 nd group to a "camping and hostel" group to take advantage of the camping and hostel events we run. Meetup is still our primary source of recruits. We have a large net income from the Meetup groups. This helps to fund the points reward system for organisers. Programme - Our programme has been very busy this year with 95 outdoor events including 72 walks and 14 weekends away. We offered another 5 camping events during the summer, the majority to new sites for the group. We have had two very positive developments this year: The new social secretary Diane has transformed our social programme with a record 22 events. We have also enabled 18 members to lead their first walk for the group. All walks were well attended which has encouraged many to lead more walks. Attendances are all up this year with over 20 people on several walks. We have arranged training events this year and will schedule more in the future to enable newer recruits to learn navigation and organising skills. Committee strategies - We met 4 times this year. Initiatives launched have included increase of rewards to attract new leaders, membership retention improvements, and |

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| | training ideas. |
| 5. | Publicity Officer |
| | Jeff provided a written report on the publicity efforts for the year. He explained that the main focus was no longer on posters and libraries as this was no longer working. The main initiatives were on local radio adverts, website ranking improvements and business cards (well done to Martina for sourcing these which were handed out at the meeting). The idea for HAWOG flags and branded umbrellas were supported by members. |
| 6. | Membership |
| | JB outlined the steps taken to assist retention of members. She also reminded everyone of the prize draw for early rejoining. |
| 7 | Treasurer |
| | Unfortunately, Rachael was not present to provide a full treasurer report. The group was in a healthy financial situation with reserves of approximately £6,000. A large part of the funds had been advanced to secure YHA bookings for next year. |
| | Questions from Group David W asked about Meetup group fees and relationship between HAWOG and Meetup. BG outlined this and re-emphasised that the Meetup groups were merely publicity tools used by HAWOG. This was stated on all Meetup event pages so that no confusion was possible. Derek asked how the programme was looking for the year. BG outlined that the points system was 3 years old now and that the committee was very happy with the results. The programme was broadly as full as under the previous system. Jan asked for the group to thank Jeff for conceiving the points system which was a far less stressful way of attracting volunteers. |
| 8. | Review and Acceptance of Accounts |
| | The committee confirmed that audited accounts were due for years 2013/14, 14/15, 15/16, 16/17, 17/18 and the year just ended 18/19. Mike S is the auditor for the year 18/19 and explained that the audits were substantially complete. Mike and Nick (auditor for the previous period) intended to present the audits at the next committee meeting and then at an EGM. There were no questions from members. |
| 9. | Election of Committee Members |
| | Chair Nick G, nominated Brian G, seconded Humay |
| | Secretary Martina G, nominated Jan, seconded Mike |
| | Treasurer Rachael G, nominated Cathy, seconded Brian |
| | Programme Planner Brian G, nominated Jan B, seconded Humay |
| | Information Officer Jeff, nominated Pauline, seconded Mike |
| | Publicity Officer Pauline, nominated Brian, seconded Jan B |
| | Social Secretary Diane, nominated Cathy, seconded Derek. |
| | Membership Officer Jan B, nominated Jeff, seconded Pauline |
| 10. | Discussion and Voting on Motions before the AGM |
| | Voting strength 10. |
| | One motion had been proposed - |
| | Motion to Amend the Constitution Regarding Prospective members. |

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| | <p>Change to the Constitution - Amend: - Motion for change to Constitution</p> <p>Current wording - Prospective members may attend one outdoor event with no requirement to pay a membership fee.</p> <p>Proposed NEW wording - Prospective members will need to join the group before attending any event (other than a recruitment open evening at the hall).</p> <p>The committee outlined the reasons for the change:</p> <p>To reduce the workload for the membership officer in chasing up first time attenders; to reflect the lower membership rate £10 which the committee considered so reasonable that everyone should pay in advance; to discourage people who kept attending without joining.</p> <p>David W asked how it could be policed and Jeff responded that it was impossible to fully enforce the rule given that people find us on the web and can attend without joining. However, the committee felt that the rule change would make the new status clear should attenders challenge the need to join. A question about Meetup attenders was responded to by BG who explained that all Meetup people have to either join or pay the Meetup fee for the walk and that most join. After further debating the pros and cons of the change the meeting moved to a vote.</p> <p>The motion was passed by a majority of 6 to 3</p> <p>MEMBERSHIP FEE</p> <p>There were no proposals to alter the membership fee so it remains at £10.</p> |
| | Rewards and Supplements |
| | The committee passed around a copy of the revised rewards and supplement structure. This had been modified during the year by the committee in order to attract new leaders and to encourage leaders to arrange larger hostel trips. There were no questions from the members on the revised structure. |
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| 11. | Appointment of Auditor |
| | The group agreed to appoint Mike S as the auditor for the coming year |
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| 12. | Nomination and Voting on Donation(s) to Charity |
| | JB confirmed that, as previously notified to the group, the charity for this year would be "All dogs matter". This was the winning charity voted by members on the Facebook group. |
| | David T stated that he objected to the system of voting on Facebook as it had not been fully transparent. David W also wished that the group revert to choosing the charity at the AGM. The committee agreed that the secretary would lead on this matter and report back to the group if we are to change it for the next AGM. |
| | Mike S advised that the Charity auction in March could raise funds for a charity to be proposed by David T. |
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| 13. | Any Other Business |
| | Mike reminded everyone about the Christmas buffet event in December. Brian reminded the members that there were still spaces at the Shropshire hostel trip later this month. Pauline was welcomed as a new committee member. |
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| | The meeting closed at 10:00pm |