

MASSON CAVING GROUP COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF ZOOM MEETING 12.11.2020

PRESENT

Adrian Pedley
Chas Hall
Fabian Ehlers
Fatima Oliveira
Robin Stiffin
Sean Caley

APOLOGIES

Paul Chandler

NON ATTENDING

Larry Blanchard

AGENDA ITEM

1. Larry Blanchard Disciplinary

Robin reported that Larry had been in contact following the letter outlining the concerns the committee and a number of members have over his conduct. Robin advised that he had responded giving him mobile contact numbers suggesting he should contact him to discuss the points raised in detail, but has received no further contact.

Sean pointed out that further unacceptable behaviour had occurred since the letter, in the form of Larry deleting Fabians admin account and denying him access to the club website (Which Fabian has been kindly hosting for free and doing an excellent job of maintaining)

NOTE - as a result of this & in the absence of an AGM the committee had previously co-opted Fabian onto the committee to manage the web and Facebook content

As a result of this latest behaviour and Larry's non attendance Sean proposed that Larry be expelled from the committee.

Chas Hall seconded and the proposal was carried unanimously.

Further discussion took place as to whether this expulsion should also be from the club.

After much discussion it was decided this was not appropriate, but that any further transgressions which are to the detriment of the club, or which bring the club into disrepute will result in that being reviewed

2. AGM

Discussion took place about whether we should organise an AGM along the lines of the recent DCA/BCA zoom AGMs. The consensus was that we see the AGM as a social event as well as a reporting and election/re-election event and we would therefore wait until the current restrictions are lifted, with a view to organising a normal social AGM early in the new year

3. PROPOSAL To Make Jim & Robin honorary members for long service to the club.

Robin declined the offer on the basis that he didn't feel he had made sufficient special contribution to the club to justify it, Jim had also expressed a similar disposition, the subject Was therefore not discussed further.

4. SHORTAGE of COMMITTEE MEMBERS

There are a number of committee roles vacant, or under 'caretaker' status presently, of particular concern are the roles of General Secretary & Membership Secretary.

Chas suggested that a circular to the membership appealing for volunteers might be a way of increasing participation, especially now we know Zoom Committee meetings work so well.

Sean suggested that perhaps job sharing would be an answer to lighten the load on anyone Taking on either of these roles, all agreed that this was a good idea.

It was agreed to work on this proposal and to put a solid suggestion forward for the next meeting.

5 TRAINING

Chas reported that he had been in discussion with the BCA/DCA training officer (Nigel Atkins) and he said that he had taken Masson CG off his list of recommended training clubs.

This was due to us not having a Training Officer (or officers) who had attended and completed assessment the club coach programme, for the levels appropriate to training being given. This can be rectified by the club sending trainers on the subsidised courses, or the Training Officer(s) being professionally qualified BCA cave leaders or instructors (appropriate to level being trained).

It was agreed that as a club we have a duty of care to ensure that training is given by persons suitably qualified as above (and independent legal advice from a specialist Health & Safety lawyer suggested we would be liable in the event of an accident if we don't follow these guidelines)

Chas proposed that we suspend training at any levels which we don't have a suitably qualified Trainer, and that in the meantime any necessary training for novice members be conducted through subsidised courses offered by Nigel Atkins (DCA/BCA).

This was seconded by Adrian and carried unanimously.

It was further agreed that we try to find members happy to attend the club coach courses & ask club wide for any suitably qualified members to help out on training.

6. GROUP ACCOUNTABILITY

It was agreed that all communications to the entire membership would be sent from the whole committee not individual committee members.

Differences of opinion between members to be settled in committee and only group decisions or policies communicated to the whole membership.

Fabian was tasked with setting up an email address for committee@

7. WEB & OFFICIAL MASSON CG Facebook

It was agreed that the media officer put any proposed controversial posts to the committee for approval prior to publication

8. COVID

Chas reported that he had sought guidance from DCA on effect on caving as restrictions stood as of 12.11. New guidance had just been issued and it was agreed that as an affiliated club we would follow DCA guidelines. DCA guidelines to be published on Facebook & Website.

9. TREASURERS REPORT

This had previously been submitted by email to committee members and was accepted unanimously. Copy attached

10. EQUIPMENT OFFICERS REPORT

Chas reported that he was waiting returns of equipment from Adrian & Larry. Larry has a substantial amount of equipment recently issued for upcoming trips, which had to be cancelled because of tightened C19 restrictions.

He further reported that a significant amount of rope was due for retirement at the end of the year, so no further report will be issued until that has been disposed of & equipment held by Adrian and Larry returned for inspection.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Robin agreed to write to Larry with the outcome of item 1, and to advise him that as a club member he can continue to organise trips, but they must be sanctioned and published by the meets secretary (Adrian).

Equipment will continue to be available for those trips, but should be returned to equipment officer on a timely basis.

He should cease providing SRT training directly, but via the Training Officer (TBA) can put Candidates forward for subsidised training with Nigel Atkins.