

HUMBLETON OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

MINUTES of the 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at the Ambleside camp, Brathay Hall on 4.00pm 19th March, 2022

Attendance: 42 members & friends. **Apologies:** Chris May, Paul Skinner.

2a **Introductions**

18 members and 24 supporters were on their second day of an excellent camp at Brathay Hall, Ambleside March 18-21. Phil Puckrin (acting chairman) congratulated everyone on getting camps restarted after severe difficulties with lockdowns and restrictions for more than two years.

2b He said this was the first time HOAA had been unable to deliver a satisfactory annual report. Our members had been amongst those hardest hit by the Covid restrictions. Almost all needed close, individual help to participate in physical activities. The prolonged social distancing requirements precluded such help and had been very bad for their health and happiness. The Committee had been unable to help substantially through being prevented or discouraged from organising any activities that brought people together. The consequences for many members had been two years of dismal, lonely and unhealthy living.

2c **Deceased members and supporters**

The worst effect was that several of our longest serving members and supporters had died. Tribute was paid to four recently deceased members: Adrian Moore, Wendy Childs, Alan Burlinson and Paul Henderson. All were keen campers and would have wanted to be here at camp. Liz Graham, HOAA swimming teacher for over 15 years, had also died last year. It would be difficult to get the swimming club restarted without her.

3 **TRI-ANNUAL REPORT ON ACTIVITIES & EVENTS**

A verbal summary was given of events and activities since the last annual meeting held at Coniston in April 2019.

2019: HOAA's last "normal" year

Swimming Club: running weekly with increasing numbers.

Durham Canoe races & walks: held monthly conditions permitting.

Walking groups: increasingly large numbers often 20–30

Durham – Finchale Canoe Race & walk: 32nd annual event held.

York Canoe Race & walk: HOAA had 13 entries in the short course.

York Canoe-O, a successful new annual event with 5 HOAA participants:

Jamie Bell, Mattie Turner, Justin Clarke, David Wilson, Jonny Reid,

Coniston camp: April 12-15th, 46 attended

Grosmont camp: August: 11 attended

Askrigg camp: October: 50 attended (a camp record)

2020: HOAA's activity programme wiped out by Covid

The year started normally with winter canoe & walking events at Durham and an annual camp organised at Coniston for April 2020. But Covid arrived at end of March, all groups were locked down and the Coniston camp had to be cancelled. The remainder of our 2020 programme had to be cancelled for members due to Covid restrictions. Only two events were held: Grosmont camp in July and Canoe "O" in September. No members could be included because of impossibility of keeping socially distanced when travelling by minibus.

2021: Three events re-started

It wasn't until the Summer of 2021 that restrictions eased enough to think about taking members to activities again.

Grosmont camp, July 23-26, 2021:

Matthew Turner and Stephen Mewes became our first independent campers. Phil camped at the same time but did not offer them any assistance. Many supervised groups had been taken to Grosmont before but never before members camping on their own. Mattie and Stephen worked closely together with planning, preparation, shopping and cooking. They also did useful maintenance jobs on the site and completed a long hike to Goathland and back. These two were joined on their first and last days by minibus groups of members. Charles Race successfully completed the journey to Grosmont from Sunderland by public transport. He overcame many problems to reach the camp including not being able to buy tickets at the train station.

Durham- Finchale Canoe Race, August 30, 2021. Event moved to the August Bank Holiday to take the opportunity of re-starting an additional event. But a Covid outbreak in a centre the week before meant that HOAA canoeists had to self-isolate. We still went ahead with our 32nd annual canoe race but sadly for the first ever time without any members taking part.

York Canoe-O, September 25th, 2021

Matthie Turner, David Wilson & Stephen Mewes, took part in our 3rd annual event. They succeeded in finding all 23 flags.

4 HOAA minibus assists 9 members through pandemic

Dave Thompson gave a short talk explaining how access to the HOAA minibus had enabled 9 members at Leechmere Road Centre and their carers to come safely through the pandemic. Because they were all in the same "bubble" they were allowed to travel in the minibus together. Access to the HOAA minibus gave them a means of escaping from their centre for weekly bus-walks and made daily life much happier & healthier for them all.

5 ENDEAVOUR TROPHY 2021

This was awarded jointly to Matthew Turner & Stephen Mewes. Matthew then gave a short talk explaining how he and Stephen had prepared to camp at Grosmont. He was enthusiastic about camping there again in 2022 and was keen to include more members.

6 Future Events for 2022

Durham to Finchale Canoe Race and walk, Monday May 2nd (May Day).

All paddlers from York will be offered free entry

York Canoe Race, Saturday June 18

Format similar to previous years.

Grosmont camp, July 15 - 18

For self- sufficient campers, camping groups & day visitors.

York Canoe O, Saturday September 17th.

24 secluded flags along the river to find with the aid of a map.

Autumn residential: details to be announced

7 Members to be involved in refurbishing Grosmont hut.

Steve Barna, instructor for the Box Project, explained that he had inspected the work required. He would be drawing up an estimate of the costs. He planned to complete the work over a series of campsite visits. Some HOAA members would be involved in this work.

8 APPOINTMENT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Brian and Alice Arrowsmith have resigned as Trustees due to ill health. Both were thanked for long and dedicated service to HOAA.

The following were all elected:

Directors & Trustees:

David Mills, Chris May, Phil Puckrin, Paul Skinner, Geoff Pratt

Officers:

David Mills (Chairman), Phil Puckrin (Secretary), Paul Skinner (Treasurer),
Dave Thompson (Activities Organiser & Transport Officer)

Also elected to the Committee:

Kyra Thompson, Charles Race

Member's representative:

Matthew Turner

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Yvonne Hall has resigned as independent examiner. She was thanked for excellent service over seven years.

John Kerry was approved as the new independent examiner.

9a Finance

Funding is in place for activities for at least two years. Any large capital costs would be a problem. The minibus will need renewing soon. Decisions deferred on whether to fund-raise for a new bus or to go for the much cheaper option of hiring buses.

9b Members agreed to resume paying an annual membership fee for 2022 now that camps have re-started.

10 AOB

10a Several members and supporters were keen to talk about their positive experiences from taking part in HOAA camps and activities.

10b All present received a copy of the latest HOAA magazine (12th edition, printed 2021)

The meeting closed at 5.30pm & everyone went for a walk around Tarn Hows