

HUMLEDON OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

MINUTES of the 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at the Hawse End Outdoor Centre at 4.00pm 18th March, 2023

1 **Attendance:** 49 members & friends on their second day of their spring camp at Hawse End Outdoor Centre, Derwentwater

2 **Introductions**

Phil Puckrin (acting chairman) thanked everyone for attending the camp and the annual meeting. He complimented the campers for consistently attracting high numbers and a very wide age and ability range. The annual meeting was important in keeping everyone in the picture about the current state of HOAA. Today's main message was that HOAA was back in operation having successfully completed a full activity programme in 2022.

3 **Minutes of the last meeting** (March 19, 2022) approved as a true record

4 **Summary of activities held in 2022**

Spring Camp, Brathay Hall March 18-21

50 members and friends enjoyed this new venue for HOAA camps. The facilities and location were declared excellent with superb walks and canoeing from the site. The AGM was also held here on March 19th.

Durham- Finchale Canoe Race & walk, May 1st

HOAA successfully restored the 33rd annual race to its traditional May Day date. *David Wilson & Kevin Ward* completed our hardest and longest race.

York Canoe Race & walk, Saturday June 18

HOAA supporters were prominent in re-starting this event and HOAA was easily the biggest team with 9 members and several supporters taking part. *HOAA participants: Tony Hilton, Jonny Reed, Adam Collins, Kevin Ward, David Wilson, Andrew McNally, Wayne Collier, Lauren Richardson, Colin Campbell.*

York Canoe-O, September 17th

6 members and several supporters took part and did well on a tricky course where nearly all 23 flags were completely out of sight. *HOAA participants: Colin Campbell, Christopher Smith, Wayne Collier, Jonny Reed, David Wilson, Elaine Simm.*

New programme of walks & leisure paddles at Durham

Chris May described how a new series of summer walks and paddles had been successfully introduced at Durham to replace the long running winter canoe race series. These leisurely afternoon walks and paddles were more appropriate and popular with our aging membership. Walks had been held in May, July and August and canoeing in July and August. The intention is to keep them in the HOAA annual programme long term.

Regular bus-walks held throughout the year

Dave Thompson described how the HOAA minibus had been used throughout the year enabling groups of residents to leave their centres and benefit from regular exercise in the countryside

Autumn Camp at Brathay Outdoor Centre, 14 – 17th October

18 members and 25 supporters enjoyed their second visit to this centre. Excellent feedback again received from all participants. 6 of the catering team had completed a hygiene course in preparation.

5 Activities unable to be held

Grosmont summer camp cancelled

Phil apologised to 3 members for his late cancellation due to him being unable to get his car repaired in time to attend

Weekly swimming club not to be re-started

The committee had taken this decision reluctantly knowing it would be a big disappointment to our swimming club members. The reason was a lack of resources. For many years we did not have to pay for the pool and all teaching was done by a plentiful supply of willing volunteers. The current situation is completely changed and requires a much bigger organisation to be able to resource a swimming club. The swimming club had been HOAA's first activity 40 years ago and has given us excellent service, having taught 100's of our own members to swim and also trained 100's of swimming teachers from across the north east region.

6 Events programmed for 2023

- 1) Durham walks: January 8, February 5, March 5
- 2) Spring camp at Hawes End Centre, March 17-19
- 3) Durham – Finchale canoe race and walk, May 1
HOAA will organise the canoe race but it may not be possible for members to enter because the course is becoming too difficult for our ageing captains. A walk will definitely be held.
- 4) York canoe race and walk, June 24
All members who want to should be able to enter the race.
- 5) Walks & leisure paddles at Durham with one from Aldwark to York:
April 16, June 4, July 23, August 20
- 6) Grosmont camping weekend for self-sufficient campers: July 14 -17
- 7) Canoe O at York, additional captains may be available: September 16
- 8) Autumn Camp Brathay, October 13-16th

7 ENDEAVOUR TROPHY 2023

Awarded to Lauren Richardson for keenness during all activities combined with her constant cheerfulness and friendliness.

8 Financial outlook

Chris & Phil reminded the campers that HOAA relies mainly on financial support from friends and supporters together with grant applications to fund the activity programme. Chris particularly praised the generosity of John Lightfoot for his substantial financial donations every year.

Residential camps were the best activity that HOAA does benefitting large numbers of members and friends physically, socially and in mental wellbeing. They were also the most expensive with recent financial deficits for a single camp amounting to over £2000. Future funding of camps is likely to become an increasing problem as all our members are on fixed and limited incomes and will find it difficult to increase their financial contributions. At the same time all basic camp costs are increasing rapidly, mainly hire of centre, food and transport. Phil will continue to make grant applications for funding support and remains optimistic because of the high reputation HOAA camps have established.

9 Committee re-elected for 2023

The meeting re-elected the HOAA Committee to serve for a further year. It was given approval to co-opt any new volunteers and to appoint a new auditor as replacement

10 Concluding discussion: *What makes for happy camp memories?*

Phil reminded the meeting that HOAA has held camps like this for nearly 40 years. These camps have changed greatly over time from everyone living in tents (at Grosmont) to using a farm (Barrenthwaite Hall), numerous camping barns and now accessible outdoor centres. Annual camps on a permanent basis have enabled most of our aging membership to keep on camping well into and over our 50+ years and helps us all to remain healthy, happy and active.

The essential ingredient needed to keep our camps viable are lots of people keen to go to them. All campers have an important part to play in leaving only happy camp memories by the way we live together. Safeguarding is all important and we should always remain aware of each other's needs, well fare and happiness.

The meeting concluded with a partner and group discussion about what makes us glad to come to camp and also any incidents that might stop us wanting to return. Lots of positive feedback forthcoming from several members relating their own camping highlights and stories. Only one negative was mentioned – the time to go home came all too soon.