

Minutes of the London Region Nordic Ski Club AGM
4th September 2022
1400 - 1615

Those attending in person:

Adam Pinney, Jacques-Olivier Gaudron, Andrew Kenyon, Jane Leary, Greg Leary, Ben Sharp, Lynn Peace, Martin Read, Chris Jones, Christine Moore, Claire Branscombe, Nigel Holt, Paddy Field, Des Goff, Pauline Styles, Glennis Dore, Fionula Shutte, Hilary Field, Irene Chawko, Gerard Evans, Chris Richards, Anders Soderback, Sandro Magrini, , Louise Makin, Ben Steere, Megan Campbell

Those attending via Zoom:

Deborah Carpenter, Mary Wray, Mike Rendall, Peter Merriman, Julie Merriman, Gerard Ollier, Maria Ollier, Carol Larkin, Alistair Hodges

1. Welcome and opening remarks

Adam Pinney welcomed participants to the meeting and apologised that those on Zoom would not be able to hear the talk afterwards but said that a recording would be made and put into the Club website.

2. Apologies for absence

Margaret Chalmers and Sheila Tucker apologised for their absence

3. Approval of 2021 AGM minutes

The 2021 AGM minutes were approved without comment

4. Actions arising from the minutes

There were no actions arising from the minutes

5. Annual reports from Committee members

Adam Pinney thanked Des Goff for his work on the newsletter and noted that the summer events were well attended. The Committee had responded to demand and had stopped activities that proved less popular such as the race training group and the fun races. He emphasised the importance of club members letting the committee know what activities they wanted arranged. He expressed a desire for the club to have more qualified instructors and said that the Club can financially assist candidates. This would allow the Club to expand its activities. Adam said we need more people willing to organise trips and volunteers to serve on the committee. Des asked if the Oberhof trip could be classed as an official trip. Adam said that it was but that correct procedures had not been followed and that the committee had not been formally notified that there would be no financial consequences for the club. Adam said a form outlining proposed club trips should be looked at and updated.

Greg Bell presented his Treasurer's report and noted that we are down £384 this year. However, some of the expenses related to actions taken in the previous financial year which were paid after May. He that suggested that changing the financial year end to 31st July would make things a lot easier, given that a lot of our courses start in September and finish in July. He highlighted that course booking charges also cover the provision of free circuit training for members. During his presentation the question of whether PCR test costs for coaches should have been covered by the club was raised. Pauline defended the decision to do so, saying it was made at a time of extreme uncertainty when the Club was working to ensure planned trips went ahead as planned for Club members.

Anders Soderback presented his coaching report and said we need more instructors. He spoke about how we now have a regular group of children taking lessons and working towards proficiency awards. He was congratulated for his work.

Christopher Richards spoke about the need to upgrade equipment, in particular boots and bindings. He reported that our good relationship with circuit bookings had enabled us to secure most of our required slots for next year easily.

Jacques-Olivier Gaudron presented his membership report and said we now have 271 members, an increase on the previous year of nearly 20 per cent. He asked that members do not use professional email addresses as this can result in messages being blocked. He said he will be writing an article for the club newsletter in which he will outline the trends in membership that may help us cater better for members requirements and attract new members. He said that the number of active members was a small fraction of the total membership, however it was noted that this was normal in clubs like ours. Many members joined to take part in courses and go on club trips.

Pauline Styles gave her report about On Snow Recreational. She spoke about the difficulties of organising the Ramsau trip in the time of Covid restrictions. However said there was good demand for next year's trip (28 at present). Questions from the floor asked whether it would not be cheaper to use local coaches rather than paying for Snowsport England coaches but Pauline said she had looked into this and did not believe it would be. Two attendees at the AGM voiced their belief that the cost of coaching on this years trip was excellent value for money. However, Pauline added that post Brexit we have to keep checking on the validity of UK coaching qualifications when used abroad.

Mary Wray could not present her report on the Website and Publicity due to technical difficulties with the audio of those attending on Zoom. Adam summarised her role and explained the rationale of the booking system. Some attendees expressed concern at the allocation of places for training sessions (numbers allocated to the RAF for example) However it was explained that if ever someone tried to book a training session and it showed as full an email enquiry to Mary would normally free up a space quickly.

6. Approval of the Annual Reports and the Accounts

The Annual Reports and the Accounts were approved with a clear majority.

7. Motion to appoint Auditor/Independent Scrutineer for accounts 1st June 2022 – 31st July 2023

The Committee agreed to find someone to check next year's accounts. Andy Robinson did the job this year and would be approached again.

8. Motions submitted by the Committee and/or Members

(1) Revised Constitution

Adam introduced the subject, explaining that members had seen the suggested new Constitution in the June newsletter and with the AGM documents and that a document explaining the changes had also been provided. Only three comments had been received and only one suggested changes. He also highlighted that the main changes had been to add precision, with the overall Constitution remaining the same. Voting was proposed on five separate motions.

(Motion 1a) Anyone joining the committee during the year would have to be approved by a majority vote by the members of the Committee. Secondly all Committee members would have to be appointed by a vote at the next AGM after their appointment and then at the AGM every three years after that. Glennis Dore proposed the motion be split into two, this was agreed so that the AGM then approved the change that anyone joining during the year had to be approved by a majority of Committee members. The second part of the motion, that proposed that committee members would face election every three years was defeated.

(Motion 1b) Changes to the constitution relating to the announcement of the AGM, ratification of the documents and specific time periods for these were approved.

(Motion 1c) The motion that allowed the committee to make a one-off payment annually of up to £3000 without consulting the membership was approved

(Motion 1d) The motion potentially allowing the club chairman to serve up to a 7-year term where the period included the year they were co-opted onto the Committee was rejected.

(Motion 1e) This was a catch all motion encompassing remaining changes to the constitution. The motion also allows the change of the financial year to end 31st July and was approved.

(Motion 2) Designed to address incompatibility in equipment stocks. A motion was proposed which would allow the club to purchase up to 20 Salomon ProLink bindings (£800 approximately) and up to 31 combi boots (approximately £4030) with a maximum spend of £4830. On the provision that this would encompass the annual spend of £3000 without consultation previously agreed this was approved.

(Motion 3) A proposal was made by Des Goff that club members should not be charged for use of club equipment or race entry and coaching. Chris Richards replied that the Committee believed that the costs involved were not a barrier to participation and the motion was rejected

(Motion 4) A proposal was also made by Des Goff that the club purchase roller skis compliant with matched skis used in races. Chris Richards replied that the Club already has stocks of the specified rollers and the motion was rejected.

9. Election of officers.

The present Committee members willing to stand were re-elected.

10. Call for Candidates for vacant Committee Positions.

Des Goff asked to be considered for the role of On Snow Racing Co-ordinator, two seconders came forward. Adam said that this could be considered to be a motion from the floor and was therefore admissible¹. Adam said we were grateful for Des' past contributions but that it was right that the Committee gave its opinion which was that it had decided that in the best interests of the club it would be not be right for him now to be re-elected onto the Committee after his previous resignation and for other reasons which he did not want to go into at the AGM. A vote was taken and he was elected on a simple majority.

Des then asked to be further considered for Roller Ski Race Co-ordinator and for the role of Newsletter Editor.

Greg Bell pointed out that the role of Newsletter editor had only just been voted on and Adam's occupancy confirmed. Adam said he was happy with the role of Newsletter Editor and did not call for a vote. Jaques-Olivier pointed out that the role had only recently been taken over from the previous editor and that the handover involved a lot of work which would have to be repeated. Adam also said he would not put the role of Roller Ski Race Co-Ordinator up for vote as Des was now already on the committee and we should see how that progresses.

11. AOB

Paddy Field wanted to emphasise how important the newsletter is to the club and asked members to submit content to the newsletter editor. Adam said the newsletter allows us to advertise events up to 6 months in advance , the website and e-mail updates can be used after that.

¹ Subsequent to the meeting, it was identified that the unamended Constitution, under which the AGM was held, did not permit motions from the floor but, instead, that all motions had to be submitted in writing two weeks in advance of the meeting.