

## **MINUTES OF THE MAY 2009 NEW ZEALAND ALPINE CLUB COMMITTEE**

held on Saturday 16 May 2009 in the Home of Mountaineering, Raycroft, Street, Christchurch. The meeting opened at 10 a.m.

The President, Phil Doole, opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and noted that he was in the Chair for this fifth time because of the change to the financial year.

Phil said that it was good to have all Sections represented this time, including Australia. He advised voting numbers for the different Sections as follows: Auckland 2, CNI 1, Taranaki 1, Wellington 2, Nelson/Marlborough 1, Canterbury/Westland 3, South Canterbury 1, North Otago 1, Otago 3, Southland 1, Australia 3.

### **1. PRESENT AND APOLOGIES**

#### **1.1 Present:**

Phil Doole (President)	Geoff Gabites (Executive Committee Chair)
Gillian Crombie (Hon. Treasurer)	Jocelyn Douglas (Hon. Secretary)
Derryn Williams Auckland)	John Jordan (Taranaki)
James Wright (Wellington)	Chris Short (Nelson/ Marlborough and Instruction)
Philip Tree (Canterbury/Westland)	Ian Rogers (South Canterbury)
Nick Shearer (North Otago)	Vonnie Crawford (Southland)
Pete Cammell (President Elect)	Geoff Gabites (Executive Committee Convenor)
Tony Clarke (Accommodation)	Kyle Beggs (Otago)
Paul Prince (Otago)	Paul McCullagh (CNI)
Paul Day (Australian section)	John Palmer (Publications)

#### **1.2 In Attendance:**

Brian Alder (Overseas Climbing)	Pete Barnes (Recreation Advocacy)
Ollie Clifton (Executive Officer)	Pat Deavoll (Activities staff)
Kester Brown (Publications staff)	Bruce Dowrick (Rockclimbing)

#### **1.3 Thank you**

Phil Doole thanked the staff who have recently resigned from their jobs for the sterling they have done on behalf of the Club– Mark Watson, Heather Tate and Chris North.

### **2. NOMINATIONS**

#### **2.1 Convenors**

It was moved that:

***“John Palmer be appointed the Publications Subcommittee Convenor in accordance with Rule 16b.”***

*Phil Doole/Chris Short Carried*

It was moved that:

***“Bruce Dowrick be appointed the Rock Climbing Subcommittee Convenor in accordance with Rule 16g.”***

*Phil Doole/Pete Cammell Carried*

#### **2.2 Life Members**

It was moved that:

***“Peter Strang be elected to life membership of NZAC in accordance with Rule 5a.”***

*Phil Doole/Vonnie Crawford. Carried*

It was moved that:

***“John Cocks be elected to life membership of NZAC in accordance with Rule 5a.”***

*Phil Doole/Pete Cammell Carried*

### 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE OCTOBER 2008 CCM MINUTES

**3.1 Raffle:** James Wright asked what had happened about the raffle discussed in relation to the Unwin Project. Ollie explained that the opportunity for a raffle had passed but could arise again. The Fundraising subcommittee, once appointed, will look into this.

#### 3.2 Action Points and Resolutions from the OCTOBER 2008 CCM and AGM

- (i) Resolution: Some progress has been made on the Club Hut Fund resolution but further work is still required.
- (ii) Action Point 2: FMC has been contacted but concerns remain regarding the FMC approach of not publicising the honorarium for the President prior to their elections.
- (iii) Action Point 3: There has been lots of discussion and feedback on the Alpine Bolting Policy. This will be covered later in the meeting.

### 4. MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 2008 CCM

It was moved that:

***"The October 2008 CCM minutes be adopted."***

*Phil Doole/Ian Rogers      Carried*

### 5. BUSINESS PLAN

#### 5.1 Website Plan

As yet no advertising has been secured for the Website but it is being used to seek long term advertisers for the 'Climber'. Kyle Beggs noted that hard copy magazines may not be viable long term but John Palmer said that on-lines sales should encourage use of the Website for both members and non-members and this would then make Website advertising more viable.

Concern was expressed about the budget blow-out on the Website. Ollie explained that this was due to an underestimation of time by the contractor and also due to database issues and its links to e-commerce. The database issues need to be resolved as the current database has reached the end of its working life. It was noted that more volunteer input should be possible from now on. The working team is very confident in the contractor, his fees and the process and Ollie reassured the meeting that the language being used can be picked up by other contractors if needed..

#### 5.2 Publications Report

- (i) North Island Rock Deluxe and on-line guides are two future projects.
- (ii) Discussions are to be held with a potential compiler of the North Island Rock Deluxe.
- (iii) On-line guides, initially Auckland Quarry and Darrans Sportclimbing, will provide a means to capture increased ground in the climbing world as they will be low cost guides complementing existing guides. Precautions would need to be taken regarding the security of pdf files but advantages are that more people would use the Website and the e-guides can be updated easily.
- (iv) James Wright queried the stock levels of South Island Rocks Deluxe. Ollie explained that it was a good seller and the different commercial relationship with the authors of this guide meant more stock was shown as being held at the Office.

#### 5.3 Instruction

Chris Short is working with Section Instruction Coordinators to finalise the framework for Instruction. Stu Allan is to review the document. Chris noted that the Framework is important for future SPARC funding; to provide guidance for small Sections; and also to improve our processes in the light of recent outdoor accidents. Concerns about flexibility within the

Framework were allayed. Qualifications versus experience is still a grey area and needs further work.

**Action Point 1: Work on defining what 'liability' means for NZAC is to be progressed with John Nankervis and Alison Douglass.**

**Action Point 2: The Instruction Convenor is to continue work on the Instruction Framework and is to broaden it to include other events such as 'tasters' for non-members.**

## 5.4 Accommodation

### 5.4.1 Hut updates

There have been several work parties recently.

The C/W Section asked that the Accommodation Subcommittee look at the feasibility of adding another shower and toilet to Porter Lodge.

Homer improvements are being appreciated. While hut fee compliance is much better than previously, locking the hut will happen in the near future. Notification of this, and the associated booking system, will be made to members and the wider climbing community shortly..

Contractors will be asked to assess the situation at Ruapehu Hut and to suggest a solution to the hut roof problems.

There is concern that very little progress has been made in obtaining funding for redeveloping Unwin Lodge. Pete Cammell suggested a Business Plan is needed before we look at fundraising but it was pointed out that this work had been done over the last few years.

**Action Point 3: The Executive Committee and Unwin Lodge Project Team are to progress a fundraising plan for the Unwin upgrade project.**

### 5.4.2 Accommodation Policy

Phil Tree requested a list of the 'high use' and 'low use' alpine huts.

Concerns were raised about points 16 a) b) d) g) i) in relation to finances and the huts. This is to be discussed later in the meeting.

## 5.5 UIAA

John Nankervis' report was taken as read. The CC recorded its thanks for all the work John has done on reciprocity.

## 6 OVERSEAS CLIMBING

Brian Alder spoke to the grant recommendations, noting that all are for significant expeditions. Pat Deavoll will communicate with grant recipients regarding speaking at Section evenings and writing an article for the NZAJ.

Brian commented that attendance at the overseas climbing seminar had been disappointing and suggested that in the future it may be better to provide the information on the Club website. The seminar was well received and the papers presented by the four speakers will be placed on the website.

It was moved that:

***"The Club approves a grant of \$2000 to Guy McKinnon from the Expedition Fund." Phil Doole/Phil Tree Carried***

It was moved that:

***“The Club approves a grant of \$1250 to Bruce Dowrick from the Expedition Fund.” Phil Doole/Phil Tree Carried***

It was moved that:

***“The Club approves a grant of \$1000 to Penny Goddard from the Expedition Fund.” Phil Doole/Phil Tree Carried***

It was moved that:

***“The Club approves a grant of \$600 to Pat Deavoll and Paul Hersey from the Expedition Fund.” Phil Doole/Phil Tree Carried***

**Action Point 4: The Overseas Climbing Committee is to review the requirements of an expedition report from those who receive grants from the Club.**

## **7. DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN**

### **7.1 Background**

Pete Cammell made some preliminary comments about the Plan with particular reference to the Core Values Pie and the statement ‘to foster and support climbing’. It was noted that when the Club was first established instruction was the core purpose; also that the amateur nature of climbing within NZAC needs to be stressed.

In their feedback, the Otago Section expressed concern about the member vs non-member focus. The Otago and Southland Sections stressed the importance of Sections.

Paul Day considered that the environment sits within all activities of the Club and is not a key strategy. It was agreed that ‘environmental values’ be added as a value into the Pie.

Pete Barnes suggested use of the word ‘advocacy’ instead of ‘access.’ He also suggested replacing ‘access’ with ‘opportunity’ in the sentence under access so that it reads: ‘Advocate for climbing opportunity’.

After discussion on “NZAC – we climb”, as a name, it was agreed that “we climb” can be an option.

### **7.2 Spreadsheet**

Concern was expressed that community/Section building is not stressed and that there is a lot of emphasis on the National Office or Executive Officer. Brian Alder pointed out that it is ‘who makes it happen’ not ‘who does it’ that is noted in the spreadsheet.

**Action Point 5: The responsibilities of National Office staff vs Sections vs Convenors are to be addressed in further work on the review of the Strategic Plan.**

It was also suggested there should be a priority column in the spreadsheet. Pete Cammell suggested instruction is the main priority as it gives the initial contact with the Club and raises the Club’s public profile. The ‘Climber’, the website and signage/branding at events are also very important.

Pete Cammell suggested that instead of defining Sections geographically, they could be defined according to interest groups, eg bouldering, ski mountaineering etc. However it was generally agreed that geographical Sections need to be kept but lateral interest groups could cross the Sections.

Phil Doole summarised the status of the Strategic Plan, noting that the working group needs to take into account Section feedback and also start to look at priorities. It is hoped the Plan can be approved at the next CCM.

## **8. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Gillian Crombie presented the report and in particular noted the following:

**8.1 Consolidated Profit and Loss** – the actual profit to March 2009 is expected to be \$2949 but this includes the \$20 000 grant from the Southern Community Trust. Accommodation, subscriptions and publication incomes are all lower than expected but publication expenses are also down. However Gillian noted that it is an excellent result compared to previous years and that the Executive committee had acted on any concerns as they arose e.g. hut fee compliance. Pete Cammell noted that membership numbers are down and this needs to be addressed. The Executive committee is already working on this as Pat Deavoll is ringing those members who as yet have not renewed. As the calls are expensive and time consuming, it was suggested that if Sections were sent a list of sample questions, they would be more willing to make the phone calls.

**Action Point 6: The Executive Officer is to label and date all future financial reports.**

## 8.2 Budget

**8.2.1** The new Strategic Plan Initiatives are taken from the Strategic Plan, with most of the expenses being to do with staff time. These expenses are additional to the current work plan. As yet Ollie has not looked at the possible revenue that may result from these initiatives. Paul Prince asked if other items would have to drop off the plan as a result of staff having to undertake new tasks listed in the Strategic Plan. It was pointed out that the idea of a budget is to force choice and determine priorities.

**8.2.2** Accommodation – Ollie suggested we use Wilderness magazine and the FMC Bulletin to promote hut occupancy. It was agreed that the suggested maintenance figure could be reduced by using more volunteers .

**8.2.3** Activities – under Instruction it was noted that previously we had agreed to remove National Instruction from Club activities but that in the new Strategic Plan instruction is a priority. Also it was noted that if we cut back on expenses we will also lose out on some income. It was agreed that \$8000 for National Instruction be left in the budget, at the same time noting that we get an income of approximately \$5000 from National Instruction.

**8.2.4** Expedition Fund – it was questioned whether the Expedition fund should be in the budget as this has a special purpose and income equals expenses.

**8.2.5** Brian Alder noted that an event is an activity and that responsibility for events should be allocated to a particular role.

**8.2.6** Administration - Ian Rogers asked about audit costs. Gillian explained that we need a proper audit and that we cannot expect to get this done as cheaply as we have in the past. There is a possibility of reducing to a full audit every second year.

It was moved that:

***'The Executive Committee be delegated the task of approving a new auditor along with associated expenses.'***

*Geoff Gabites/Ian Rogers      Carried*

**8.2.7** Publications – the CC discussed the possibility of a \$10 000 reduction in publication expenses and also suggested additional income of about \$10 000 was possible. It was agreed to leave the figures as they are. Using advertising in the NZAJ was discussed and it was agreed that this could be done if care was taken about the positioning and nature of the advertisements within the Journal. The Publications Subcommittee is to look into this. Geoff Gabites suggested that sales of guide books could be promoted more vigorously than in the past.

**8.2.8** Subscriptions - Pete Cammell considered the budget was too conservative on subscription income but most of those present preferred it to be this way.

**8.2.9** Overall, the CC was not willing to accept the bottom line. It was suggested that money could be saved if the NZAJ went black and white. But Gillian advised that although not ideal, the cashflow has improved a lot over the last few years and is sustainable. And the best way to improve the bottom line is to increase income, not decrease expenses as expenses are well managed.

It was moved that:

***'The CCM adopts the budget for the 2009/2010 financial year as proposed with a projected deficit of \$46 000, but with the expectation that the Executive Committee will take every opportunity to reduce the deficit.'***

*Phil Doole/ Vonnice Crawford Carried*

It was moved that:

***'The CCM adopts the Accommodation Policy as tabled, with the exception of section 16 Financials which will be reviewed prior to the next Club Committee meeting.'***

*Phil Doole/Nick Shearer Carried*

## **9 NZMFF**

Budget figures were accepted for this.

## **10 Climbing Camp**

It was moved that:

***'The next climbing camp be held in the Matukituki valley from 2 January to 9 January 2010 as per the proposal from the Otago Section.'***

*Ian Rogers/Kyle Beggs Carried*

**Action Point 7: The South Canterbury proposal that the climbing camp should be held no earlier than 1 January each year is to be circulated to Sections for discussion. National Office staff are to progress this.**

## **11 Section Committee roles**

The CC thanked Phil Tree for developing suggested Section roles. Sections are free to make use of the information and provide feedback to Phil Tree. Phil Doole suggested that the Role Descriptions could be discussed more fully during a Section forum at the next AGM/CCM.

## **12 Section Representatives Induction Pack**

The CCM thanked Ollie for his work on this. More work needs to be done on the financials as per other discussions during this meeting.

## **13 FMC**

The CC was asked whether the Club should support Rob Mitchell or Rick Barber who are standing for election as the FMC President. It was agreed that the Executive Committee will decide who the Club will support for this election.

The policy adopted at the previous CCM regarding nominations for the FMC executive was also clarified – nominations are to be made by Sections, not by national office (except for nominations for the role of FMC President).

Phil Doole advised that he was still not comfortable with the fact that the honorarium for the FMC President had not been advertised with the call for nominations and that he was also not satisfied by the FMC response to his letter of concern. The CC agreed with these concerns. Phil is to ask FMC for a copy of the report resulting from the recent review of their administration.

## **14 AGM/CCM**

It was agreed that the next CCM will be held on Saturday 17 October and the AGM will be on Friday night 16 October.

## **15 Draft Alpine Bolting Policy**

This has taken a lot of time and effort to develop and thanks go to Ross Cullen and the others who worked on it. Paul Day was impressed by the Draft Policy but was concerned about using the word 'approval' in Bolting Principle number 5. It was agreed that the Draft Policy should become the Club policy but it was hoped that it would also be adopted outside of NZAC. Examples in the Policy still need to be clarified, and in particular the needs of guided parties need to be considered. Further drafting work is required, then the Draft Policy will be published in the 'Climber' and comment will be sought. It was noted that some items in the Policy could transfer to crag bolting.

**16 Mt Aspiring National Park Management Plan Review**

The South Canterbury Section reported that they were comfortable with the current policy regarding flights to Bevan Col.

Sections were asked to send any comments to the Advocacy Committee Convenor as soon as possible as the period for making submissions closes on 30 June.

Phil Doole thanked everyone for their attendance and efforts to get through the meeting business.

**Meeting closed 4.50p.m.**