



Annual General Meeting 17th November 2016 Teachers' Club

- **Peter Wood, the Club President** opened by welcoming everyone to the AGM 2016.
- Nick Keegan proposed the adoption of the minutes from the AGM 2015. Tony Barry seconded adoption of the minutes.
- Peter Wood addressed the AGM with a summary of the years' events, recapping on individual member's conquests and thanked all for their efforts during the year.
- **Cillian Russell, the Chairperson**, addressed the AGM with his yearly report. Harry McGee proposed the chairperson's report, Noel Caffrey seconded the proposal.
- **David Jacobs, the Club Treasurer**, addressed the AGM with his yearly report. Sé O Hanlon praised DJ for his work as treasurer. He questioned whether the layout of the accounts could be further clarified, commenting on the appearance of the same entry a number of times, however DJ reassured that the current layout, while at times confusing, serves to keep everything straight.

Harry McGee commented on the cost of using Paypal, charging 3.5% the value of the transaction plus 0.35 cents. Gary Smith acknowledged the cost of the Paypal service and explained how efforts to gain a charity status, which would alleviate the costs, had come to nothing. He suggested that we look at other payment methods. David Jacobs mentioned that the payments of subs online had been quite effective and that implementing a further change in payment methods this year may have caused disruption to this.

Andy Minshull enquired into the significant change in the hut income from last year. Nick Keegan explained that this was as a result of the hut being closed during the renovation period.

Cearbhall Daly enquired into the location of the bequests funds. David Jacobs stated that the bequests funds were combined into the savings account as no differentiation had been obvious to him when he took over the position of treasurer. Cillian Russell added that most of the funds had been spent on the renovation of the hut to the benefit of all members. Tony Barry highlighted that it had been stated that some of the bequests funds, one in particular, be spent for philanthropy reasons.

Cillian Russell proposed the treasurer's report, while Sé O Hanlon seconded it.

- **Nick Keegan, the Hut Warden**, addressed the AGM with his yearly report.

Pauliina Svensk enquired as to whether there are any plans for the continued upgrade of the hut. Nick Keegan stated that any plans, including the possible development of a sauna would initially be presented to the committee.

Andy Minshull proposed the Hut Warden's report and Sinead Patten seconded the proposal.

- **Gary Smith, the Publicity Officer**, addressed the AGM with his yearly report.

Harry McGee proposed the Publicity Officer's report and Noel Caffrey seconded it.

- **Hugh McLain, the Membership Officer**, addressed the AGM with his yearly report. Tony Barry enquired into the breakdown of full members as opposed to associate members.

Hugh informed us that out of 304 members, 112 were full members. Tony questioned whether these figures were reflective of a drop out of full members. Gary Smith mentioned that something may need to be done to ensure the retention of experienced members, and the most recently formed working group will be tasked with such investigation. Harry McGee suggested we look at ways to entice people, who had at one time been members, back into the club. Dermot O'Dwyer questioned whether the drop out of experienced members may be due to the emphasis that is placed on training rather than on gaining new experiences. Cillian Russell acknowledged that this could indeed be a possibility. Hugh McLain mentioned that the growing popularity of indoor climbing is possibly leading to an increase in people seeking membership of the club. Cillian Russell stated that the recently formed working group would have to further investigate this issue as a matter of priority. Aine O'Reilly questioned the need for the categories of full and associate membership. Moria Creedon explained the rationale behind having the categories as it prevents the club and its assets being taken over by a random group of new members. Harry McGee highlighted how a clearly defined pathway of gaining full membership status would be beneficial for associate members, giving them something to work towards.

David Jacobs proposed the report and Andy Minshull seconded it.

- **Jonathan Smith, the Training Officer**, addressed the AGM with his yearly report.

Dermot O'Dwyer proposed the Training Officer's report and Tony Barry seconded the proposal.

- **Gina Spaight, the Meets Officer**, addressed the AGM with her report. She conveyed Pamela Morrissey's apology for her absence as she has moved to Cork.

Jon Smith proposed the Meets Officer's report and Dermot O'Dwyer seconded the proposal.

- **Ruth Whelan, the Librarian** addressed the AGM with her yearly report.

Sinead Patten proposed the Librarian's report and Conor O'Connor seconded the proposal.

- **Sile Daly, the Club Conservation and Access Officer** addressed the AGM with her report.

David Jacobs proposed the report and Cillian Russell seconded it.

- **Moirá Creedon, one of the Auditors**, addressed the club with her report.

Motions

Motion 1

Existing constitution.

5.5 Membership of the Club shall cease:

5.5.2 on the member's failure to pay the annual subscription within three months of it falling due: or

Proposed constitution.

5.5 Membership of the Club shall cease:

5.5.2 on the member's failure to pay the annual subscription within two months of it falling due: or

David Jacobs explained the rationale for this proposal:

Membership of the Irish Mountaineering Club includes membership of Mountaineering Ireland, (except where existing membership of MI is already in place). Membership of MI includes civil liability insurance and an element of personal accident insurance.

Both IMC and MI membership subscriptions are due on 1 November. MI subscriptions must be paid within 2 months or membership will lapse. IMC subscriptions must be paid within 3 months or membership will lapse. This creates a situation where some members of IMC may not be members of MI and consequently are not covered by civil liability insurance, (or MI personal accident insurance). This is an avoidable element of risk for both the club and individual members. The proposed amendment is to synchronise the IMC and MI payment periods and thus eliminate this risk.

Additionally delayed payment of subscriptions leads to cash flow difficulties for the club in the early part of the year.

Further it is a requirement that subscriptions be notified to members and payment accepted from 1 October which allows for a payment period of 3 months which is significantly in excess of present usual practise.

Sé O Hanlon proposed an amendment to the motion that for the sake of clarity, a date, the 31st of December be included in the motion rather than merely stating a 2 month period.

Dermot O'Dwyer mentioned that the inclusion of a date in the motion makes it more complex than required.

Gary Smith highlighted that a date is already included in the renewal notices.

Motion 1 was voted in by the AGM.

The Amended motion as proposed by Sé O Hanlon to include a date was voted in by the AGM.

Motion 2

Proposed addition to the constitution:

3.11 'Expenditure of 1000 euro or greater shall require the approval of at least 6 committee members.'

As proposed by the committee.

David Jacobs explained the rationale of this proposal:

It is proposed to amend the constitution to increase the quorum from the current 5 members to 8 members with agreement from a majority of two thirds required for a financial decision to be passed".

Noel Caffrey suggested a further amendment to this proposal; that any expenditure greater than €5000 be brought to all members through an EGM, where the rationale for the expenditure be explained to the members, the committee initiating communication regarding the expenditure.

Cillian Russell highlighted that this was an operational issue that requires an element of trust.

Sé O Hanlon highlighted the need to adopt this as an operational policy, in that it stands until another AGM removes the policy.

Cillian Russell agreed that it made sense that the AGM adopts this motion as a policy and that such a change need not be written into the constitution.

Noel Caffrey proposed to take the motion off the table as these specifics are not needed, Cillian Russell seconded the dropping of the proposal.

Motion 3

Existing constitution:

3.5.5 of the constitution be deleted, a clause detailing the role of the Membership Officer.

7.1.3. The Membership Officer shall make available at a General Meeting a list of members entitled to attend and members entitled to vote.

Proposed constitution:

*7.1.3. The **Treasurer** shall make available at a General Meeting a list of members entitled to attend and members entitled to vote.*

Sé O Hanlon explained the rationale behind the motion, that historically the role suffered from a lack of definition despite the efforts of numerous officers in the past. He expressed surprise at the depth and scope of the role Hugh McLain has played since taking on the position, but questioned whether the role be better defined as a support to the treasurer, thereby, abolishing the role.

Cillian Russell explained the benefits of having a membership officer, the role now being clearly defined, and expressed concern at it being abolished.

Sé O Hanlon withdrew the motion.

Motion 4

The motion is that clauses 6.2 and 6.3 of the constitution shall be deleted and replaced:

Proposed constitution:

*6.2. The proposed annual subscription **for the following year** shall be determined by the committee each year and this proposal shall be put to the Annual General Meeting for approval.*

6.3. The subscription approved by the AGM shall be reconfirmed to the members before 1st October of the following year. Subscriptions shall be accepted from the time of notification.

As proposed by the Committee.

David Jacobs explained the rationale behind the motion.

The constitution presently requires that the annual subscription shall be determined by the committee, notified to the members and collection of subscriptions commences before the AGM takes place. If there is any increase in subscription it is subject to approval by the AGM. If it is not approved by the AGM the difference shall be refunded, within 30 days, to any members who have paid the increase.

In the interests of good planning it is proposed to amend the constitution such that the subscription for the following year should firstly be approved by the AGM and then notified to members at the appropriate time.

Sé O Hanlon expressed concern at the lack of flexibility this proposed motion brings on the committee, in that income is decided a year in advance.

Cillian Russell highlighted that such forward planning may not be such a bad thing.

Sé O Hanlon questioned the possibility of MI increasing their fees and how such would be dealt with.

Hugh McLain suggested that an EGM be called.

Ruth Whelan informed us that MI announces fees in March for the following November.

David Jacobs further clarified that such an increase in MI fees is managed in another motion, (see below).

The motion was passed by a vote.

Proposals

Proposal 1

It is proposed that club fees for the 2016/17 financial year be.

	Irish Mountaineering Club subscription	Mountaineering Ireland subscription	Total subscription
Individual member	€32.10	€27.90	€60.00
Joint member	€54.20 (€27.60 pp)	€55.80 (€27.90 pp)	€110.00 (€55.00 pp)
Student, unwaged, senior	€22.10	€27.90	€50.00
Individual with MI membership through another club	€32.00	n/a	€32.00

Mountaineering Ireland subscription collected through affiliated clubs on behalf of Mountaineering Ireland is €27.90

Mountaineering Ireland subscription for individual members who join MI directly is €41.60.

Noel Caffrey sought clarification as to the amount of the increase- €8.

Tony Barry proposed that the unwaged increase be dropped.

Sinead Patten highlighted that the increase was minimal, taking into account the MI fees, and that as everyone is financially challenged in the current economic climate, €22.10 is acceptable for yearly membership of the club.

The motion was voted in.

Proposal 2

It is proposed that club fees for the 2017/18 financial year be.

	Irish Mountaineering Club subscription	Mountaineering Ireland subscription	Total subscription
Individual member	€32.10	€27.90	€60.00
Joint member	€54.20 (€27.60 pp)	€55.80 (€27.90 pp)	€110.00 (€55.00 pp)
Student, unwaged, senior	€22.10	€27.90	€50.00
Individual with MI membership through another club	€32.00	n/a	€32.00

In the event that there is any increase to the Mountaineering Ireland subscription for the 2017/18 financial year the committee shall consider this and may increase the subscription by an amount up to but not exceeding the amount of such increase should they deem this to be necessary.
As proposed by the committee.

Harry McGee enquired as to whether the club should increase fees for next year by €2.50 to avoid any reduction in income as a result of a possible increase in MI fees.
David Jacobs stated that he was content that the afore mentioned fee increases should be adequate in order to allow the club run sufficiently in the next few years.

The motion was voted in.

Election of Committee Members & Other Officers

- **Secretary:** Sé O Hanlon , proposed by Cillian Russell, seconded by David Jacobs.
- **Chairperson:** Dermot O Dwyer, proposed by Jon Smith, seconded by Harry McGee.
- **Publicity Officer:** Gary Smith, proposed by Nick Keegan, seconded by Ruth Whelan.
- **Meets Secretary:** Derek Hendrick, proposed by Gina Spaight, seconded by Sinead Patten.
- **Librarian:** Andy Minshull, proposed by Cillian Russell, seconded by Aine O Reilly.
- **Training Officer:** Jon Smith, proposed by Nick Keegan and seconded by Noel Caffrey.
- **Treasurer:** David Jacobs, proposed by Cillian Russell and seconded by Nick Keegan.
- **Membership Officer:** Hugh McLain, proposed by Sinead Patten and seconded by Ruth Whelan.
- **Hut Warden:** Nick Keegan, proposed by Hugh McLain and seconded by Sinead Patten.
- **Ordinary Member:** Síle Daly, proposed by Tony Barry and seconded by Gary Smith.
- **Ordinary Member:** Gina Spaight, proposed by Cillian Russell and seconded by Andy Minshull.
- **Ordinary Member:** Donal O Murchú, proposed by Sé O Hanlon and seconded by Síle Daly.

- **Webmaster:** Andy Minshull, proposed by Cillian Russell and seconded by Sinead Patten

- **Auditor:** Harry McGee, proposed by Cillian Russell and seconded by Tony Barry.
- **Auditor:** Peter O'Neill, proposed by Sé O Hanlon and seconded by Harry McGee.

Any Other Business

There was no other business.