

MIDLAND SKI CLUB
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 1st September 2020

1	Apologies: Received from Ann & Richard Williamson, Mike Thomas, Tony Costins, Jenni Fennell.
2	Minutes of last AGM 2019: Agreed.
3	Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.
4	Chair's report 2019 -20: Gerry Elgy <p>This year has been one of high and low points and as we are all so well aware, 2020 has been dominated by the Covid pandemic which has affected all our club activities, including this AGM, which was deferred in the forlorn hope that we would be able to meet face to face by now.</p> <p>One of the high points has been the introduction of training at Swadlincote, which is currently 2 nights per week with plenty of scope for further numbers once we are allowed. The slope has been very helpful with all we are trying to achieve and this has proved a real asset.</p> <p>Covid started affecting the club in March, and the group that went to Ischgl just managed their week's skiing before being told to leave. Shortly after, dry slope training was stopped and all socials were deferred.</p> <p>Our Club National and our Landgraaf training camp were cancelled and we hope to hold these instead in 2021. The summer race season was non-existent.</p> <p>We made efforts to stay in contact electronically and a group started a series of weekly general knowledge quizzes which were enjoyed by all. Roger made a series of ski fitness videos too.</p> <p>In July, training started again at The Ackers and Swadlincote with limited numbers and we thank Julie Jones for running the booking system. As I write, we wait to find out how the rest of the year and the resumption of racing in some form pans out.</p> <p>We have restarted socials too, including walks and an afternoon for the younger members at Cliff Lakes Aquapark, Tamworth.</p> <p>There was much good skiing to be had on our Alpine trips, although overshadowed by the sad death of our President John Arnold in Champoluc, The JA training week 2021 is already proving popular and we have fingers crossed it will go ahead safely without deferring it to 2022.</p> <p>While many were in Ischgl a number of club members attended John Arnold's funeral in Sandwell and there was a good turnout with members of his other clubs there too. The order of service booklet had a skiing theme with snowy mountains on the cover, John's love of skiing was referred to in the address and he was seen off to the 'Ski Sunday' theme.</p> <p>The club made a donation to his charities in lieu of flowers.</p> <p>Club members managed some winter racing too and we are very proud of the Kingsley girls' success winning the British Schoolgirls U16 Team Championships in Flaine, and indeed all our race results during the Winter. The Winter Race Series and Club Championships at The Ackers were the most popular yet and we are very happy with the number of new young skiers it attracted, including some</p>

of those who train at Swadlincote.

Club Membership has grown a little this year despite the issues we face, and we do hope we can retain members as we plan the 2020-21 activities.

Our financial status has improved too, despite the unprecedented year we have faced.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed in any way to successful club activities this year and in particular, Committee and Race Steering Group members.

Should I be re-elected as Chair, it will be my fourth year and I would very much like a successor to come forward who can learn the ropes over the next year. The lucky person will have plenty of support!

5 Financial report: Bryan Arnott

All facets of the club's activities showed a surplus last year.

Ackers and Swadlincote coaching showed a 2.9k surplus due mainly to the hard work in attracting contract rate numbers up 10k in one year.

Operations showed a 2.6 k surplus.

Racing showed a 0.75k surplus after outlaying 2.1k on equipment.

Holidays all showed a surplus of 3.2 k but it should be noted that we made a refund of 1.3k to one Club holiday withdrawal after the year end therefore the true surplus is 1.9K

Our bank balance increase by 13.2k to 23.6k of which 6.2 k was due to operational surpluses and 7.0k for changes in funding payments for holidays.

Di requested Bryan provide a simplified view of the accounts spreadsheet which was sent to all attendees of the AGM meeting.

Bryan is requested to arrange for the accounts to be audited and when complete provide the details to the club committee.

A vote was taken it was agreed that the committee can nominate the auditors.

6 Membership report: John Elgy

As at the 24/8/2020 the club has 296 members. Made up from:

Age	Male	Female	
Over 18	107	91	198
Under 18	42	56	98
	149	147	296

Type	Male	Female	
Adult	37	19	56
Family	86	73	159
Junior	13	42	55
Life	11	11	22
Student	2	2	4
	149	147	296

As can be seen the bulk of the membership are family members. The greater number of under 18 female, especially junior members is due to the efforts of Alan Edwards in recruiting girls from Kingsley School.

Changes of the year

New Members				Members not renewing membership				
Age	Male	Female		Age	Male	Female	Unknown	
Over 18	11	14	25	Over 18	12	18	1	31
Under 18	19	21	40	Under 18	8	19		27
	30	35	65		20	37	1	58

We have 7 more members this year than last year. Mainly this is due to an increase in the recruitment of under 18 males. The “churn” i.e. the percentage of change over the year, is about 20% which is good compared to many sporting activities reported for young people.

The impact of Swadlincote Snowsports Centre

At the end of 2019 the Midland Ski Club started training at the Swadlincote Snowsports Centre and has recruited a few new members from that facility. It is however useful to see how many of our members live in reasonable travel distance of that facility compared to Ackers Adventure where we have trained for a long time.

Age	Ackers	Swadlincote
< 30 km	201	30
30 -50 km	40	135
> 50 km	34	110
	275	275

Using the residential post codes of our members (note we do not have postcodes for all our members) it can be seen that 201 of our 296 live within 30 km of Ackers, whereas only 30 live within 30km of Swadlincote which is hardly surprising since the Ackers is almost at the centre of one of the largest conurbations in the UK. When the travelling distance is increased to 50 km Swadlincote still has fewer members than the Ackers, 165 versus 241. Clearly there is a lot of potential to increase our membership base in the Swadlincote catchment area. This offers a good opportunity to expand the club.

7 Coaching & Racing report: Roger Crombleholme

Another busy and successful year. Roger gave thanks to all coaches that have helped deliver the programme over the last 12 months, Josef Feiven, Dave Beech and Toby Carver.

The committee thanks Julie for all her hard work managing the recently introduced booking of coaching sessions at both Ackers and Swadlincote.

Alan Edwards thanks Roger for all his hard work coaching the Kingsley girls for over six years with all their success racing on both artificial slopes and snow abroad.

Coaching

- **Regular Training**
 - Ackers Adventure - Continues on 3 nights per week on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings + Clem's activities

- Swadlincote - Race training introduced in October 2019, 1 night per week on Wednesdays
 - Opportunities offered to members
 - General Training
 - Race Training
 - Schools Based Training
 - 2019 club finance threat successfully reduced - by offering Thursday Taster Sessions 6:00 to 7:30 - boosting membership, review and improve offering and implement before October 2020?
 - Need to find a way of offering Instructor/Coach training - General cross award/license body approach (come along when you can) does not replace award/license body courses which will still need to be completed. However will provide a space for aspirant instructors and coaches to learn, practice and develop skills.
 - A question for the club is: Should aspirant instructors and coaches starting out or moving to a new level 1, 2, 3 or 4 pay extra for training, shadowing and mentoring during club sessions and what payment structure to adopt going forward to inspire, encourage and reward for club work?
 - Should the general payment levels to coaches be revised to reflect current financial climate.
- Thanks to all Coaches for their support over the year
 - Established Instructors & Coaches
 - Roger (L3 BASI, L4 SSE, ISIA, IVSI, L3 Race, Regional head coach, ESSkiA coach)
 - Adam (L3 SSE, Official, Course Setter) occasionally
 - Steve Wragg retired from coaching - a great loss to the coaching team and fantastic instructor - many thanks from the club for the many years of teaching.
 - Guy (license expired) & Clem (L2 SSE/BASI Ins)
 - Joseph Fevien (Now L2 Ins & L1 Race pushing for UKCP L2 race and BASI L3)
 - Phil Care (L1 SSE)
 - Ian Berry (L2 BASI) From Ackers staff has volunteered his services
 - New Instructors & Coaches
 - Toby Carver L2 coaching regularly for club at Ackers
 - Alan Edwards - ? Not sure
 - David Beech L1 pushing for L2 and UKPC L1 Race actively coaching for the club
 - Paul Johnson L1 pushing for L2 and UKCP L1 race
 - Potentials
 - Jess Mayhew (L2 BASI, congratulations) - Concentrating at Sowdome and progressing to ISTD
 - Chloe Care (L1 - Face of SnowDome)
 - Mike Hallet is a potential coach - need to talk to him about the future.
- Indoor Snow
 - Chill Factore - OK recreational, race training still a problem
 - Landgraaf - Great camp in July 2019 organised by Gerry.
- European Alps Based
 - Early Winter Training Week - Champoluc 2020 went very well ... but we had the sad death of John Arnold during the week.
 - Family Training Week - Pila 2020 continued to grow with many taking part in the Anglo-Scottish Races coaches Roger and Joe.
 - Positive reaction from new members that attended

- Already planning for 2021.
- Coach / Instructor Training
 - Some training has gone ahead at Stoke, Swadlincote and Ackers
 - Long term Ackers staff now at level 2 but not really available in evenings
 - Been asked by members to run our own instructor training - Although agreed not sure when this will happen due to COVID-19
- Issues / Opportunities
 - Continued threats posed by COVID-19 situation
 - No coaching until mid-July all races cancelled both indoor and outdoor.
 - Swadlincote future development
 - Continuation of Taster Sessions on Thursdays 6:00-7:30?
 - Provision of coaching to meet demand - Instructor Training
 - Volume based costings v Scalability
 - Membership and Coaching Availability - Problem during winter periods, but generally coping
 - Support of coaching infrastructure
 - Ackers Adventure surface condition.
 - Membership recruitment activities and suggestions
 - Taster Sessions - Business Cards distributed to members, Social Media - successes membership growth
 - Could do more...
 - Banners - not implemented yet
 - Facebook & Social Media - story telling - engaging dialogue - much improved presence Jennie & Joe
 - Ackers TV Adverts - supplied by WM Special Olympics - not yet implemented
 - Video advertising - not implemented yet

Racing

- Racing & Results
- Many top 5 finishes across many age groups across all event types
- Indoor, Outdoor and Alpine
 - GSRL - Gloucester & Stoke - Ongoing problems with late finish time, Dave Beech race manager
 - ESSkiA - training, Clubs involvement with ESSkiA grows with Alan, Roger and Adam's involvement
 - CN - Regular attendance needs to grow if we are to regain Series Champs
 - Regional Representation - Inter-Regional - High club representation, got through to final rounds
 - Club Representation - 2 teams - All made final rounds
 - GBR - Race calendar is getting very crowded again as rival academies run more races resulting in event clashes
 - Champs
 - Club Champs - Moved March to November
 - English Schools Champs - Norwich
 - Kingsley U16 Team - 1st English Schools Champions
 - Solihull U16 Team - 7th
 - British Schools Champs - Stoke
 - Kingsley (Girls Team) and Solihull (Girls and Boys Teams) represented

- Kingsley (Girls Team) British Champions
 - Hannah Denison - 2nd Overall Girl (1st English , 2nd overall British)
- FIS Competition representations – Ellie Jackson and Ollie Weeks
- Alpine Snow Competition - Representations at
 - Anglo-Scottish - Pila - Emilia, Adam Orzel, George Brown, Charlie Deem, Lucy Sainsbury
 - Anglo-Welsh - Champrey - Charlie, Adam, Emilia, Ollie & Ellie
 - British School Girls Champs - Flaine - 1st Place Best New Team Category
 - BSA Interschools Challenge - Pila - Great individual results against stiff competition
 - International Schools Races (IFS) - Not held this year, every 3 years
 - Aiglon Cup - Switzerland - Not held this year (every 2 years)
 - English - Bormio - Good club representation at event
 - British - Tignes - Ollie 2nd English U18
- Ollie Weeks Welsh and Team GB Racer
- Ellie & Ollie gaining more experience at FIS level attending - Races across Europe - Results showing improving performance levels.
- Amber Fennel - Snowboarding - Queen of the Valley's - Doing more daring and complex tricks in competition
- Other
 - Website needs updating
 - Instructor Uniforms - on going
 - 20 yellow and orange stubbies for dry and Snow based training purchased.

COVID-19 April 2020 to end of August 2020

Proactive approach

- Monitored situation during lockdown
- Set up MSC Anti-Virus WhatsApp Chat group for members including weekly Zoom skiing based quiz to keep members engaged and provide open communication channels
- Actively in contact with slopes to set up as safe an environment as possible for ski coaching
- Restarted coaching in mid-July at Swadlincote as soon as we can followed by Ackers I beginning of August.
- Restrictions has meant that demand for coaching has outstripped normal supply so a fair as possible and equitable way of allocating sessions to members was put place and administered by Julie Jones - big thanks Julie. The system was evenly balanced between both venues Ackers and Swadlincote and between 'under 12s' and '12 and over' age groups
- Make hay whilst the sun shines approach during school holidays offer:
- Monday - Swadlincote 3hrs 10:00 to 13:00
- Monday - Swadlincote 3hrs 14:00 to 17:00
- Monday - Swadlincote 1.5hrs 18:00 to 19:30
- Monday - Swadlincote 1.5hrs 19:30 to 21:00
- Tuesday - Ackers 1.5hrs 18:00 to 19:30
- Tuesday - Ackers 1.5hrs 19:30 to 21:00
- Wednesday - Swadlincote 1.5hrs 18:00 to 19:30
- Wednesday - Swadlincote 1.5hrs 19:30 to 21:00
- Thursday - Ackers 3hrs 10:00 to 13:00
- Thursday - Ackers 3hrs 14:00 to 17:00
- Thursday - Ackers 1.5hrs 18:00 to 19:30
- Thursday - Ackers 1.5hrs 19:30 to 21:00
- The offer was well received and many hours of coaching delivered.

- New charging structures have been put in place during this period.
- Money collection at Ackers has been a big issue as we cannot use main building as an office so everything is conducted outdoors, and if ongoing a new solution must be found and put in place instead of using valuable coaches' time. Perhaps a purpose made booking system.
- Going forward we move back to normal evening sessions at Ackers on Tuesdays, Thursday and Fridays. Also at Swadlincote on Wednesdays with the introduction of Mondays to offer more opportunity there and to safe guard against effects of potential local lock down measures being put in place closing either venue in the future.

8 Holiday update: Bryan Arnott

The 2020 holidays were well attended with both the training week in Champoluc and the club holiday to Ischgl fully booked.

The 2021 training week back in Champoluc is nearly full.

The 2021 club holiday is to Les Arc.

The 2020 Family Race Training week in Pila was a success and the format will be repeated in Pila in 2021.

The ski training camp to Landgraaf planned for July 2020 was cancelled due to the Covid situation.

Bryan Arnott to check with the ski authorities in Aosta valley will our ski instructor's qualifications be valid for the January 2021 training week when the UK has left the European Union on 31st December 2020.

9 Social events since last AGM: Catherine Frankenburg

All these events were very successful and much enjoyed by those who attended and photos of the events were posted in the Newsletter.

The talk planned for April on Howard Somervell Mountaineer on 2 Everest expeditions in the 1920's by Tom Somervell has been rescheduled for Wed 16 September. This will be at Hollyfields Sports and Conference Centre, Woodacre Rd Erdington B24 0JT from 7.15pm to socialise before the talk starts at 8pm.

Fri 10 May 19 Evening Walk around the Bluebell woods near Middleton, N Warwickshire followed by dinner at the Green Man, Middleton.

Sat 15 June 19 Daytime walk from Baddesley Clinton along canals, to Yarningdale Common, Lowsonford then lunch at the Fleur de Lys and returning mainly via canals led by Mike Thomas.

Sat 13 July 19 Daytime walk from Holt Heath, Worcestershire followed by an afternoon/evening garden Barbeque at Liz and Bruce's in Holt Heath led by Bruce Bennett.

4 September 19 Evening Talk on Training and Skiing for the Special Olympics from Head Coach, Sean Gault, Chair Alan Lines and Athletes all of the W Midlands Special Olympics Group (at Hollyfields).

4-7 October 19 Brecon Beacons walking weekend ('High Altitude training') led by Mike Thomas.

	<p>Wed 23 October 19 Skiing Japan revisited - Evening talk on John and Gerry's trip to Japan (Hollyfields).</p> <p>Wed 27 November 19 Evening with Mulled wine and mince pies and buffet + skiing films - seasonal Social evening (Hollyfields).</p> <p>Wed 15 January 20 Evening illustrated talk - Adventures cycle touring in Sardinia and in Bulgaria - Mike Thomas (Hollyfields).</p> <p>Wed 19 February 20 Evening illustrated talk - Travels and Sight-seeing with Folding Bikes - Peter and Jill Seamen (Hollyfields).</p> <p>Planned summer walks were discarded in favour of smaller walks with 6 people to fit in with Covid 19 rules:</p> <p>Fri 3 July 20 evening walk from Weeford church, N Warwickshire towards Canwell - 2 socially distanced groups were led by Catherine Frankenburg and Clem Chakki with socially distanced drinks and nibbles after in the garden in Sutton Coldfield</p> <p>Fri 24 July 20 evening walks from Berkswell, Solihull 2 socially distanced circular walks were led by Jill and Peter Seamen, followed by pizza and drinks (socially distanced of course!) in their gardens.</p> <p>The Aqua Park day out on Sunday 26th July arranged by Di Fennell was enjoyed by everyone and well attended.</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Election of President:</p> <p>The Chair requested nominations for our new Club President from the committee; we received four nominations with Jeff Elmore receiving the most votes.</p> <p>The chair proposed Jeff Elmore as the new Club President.</p> <p>All in favour.</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>Election of Officers:</p> <p>The Chair, Treasurer, Membership secretary, Secretary have all agreed to another year in post.</p> <p>The Chair, Treasurer, Membership secretary, Secretary where all proposed by Bryan Thomas and seconded by Catherine Frankenburg.</p> <p>All in favour.</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>Election of Committee:</p> <p>Di Fennell offered to join the committee which was accepted.</p> <p>Members agreed all the committee posts.</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>Special items:</p> <p>Club annual Membership subscription for 2020/21</p> <p>We are proposing to give a 3 month, 25%, discount to those who were members last year (to reflect 3 months' lost activity this summer), the fees for each category of membership will remain the same</p>

as last year.

A vote was carried out to agree the membership fees for 2020/21 which was approved unanimously.

Skiers coaching at both Ackers and Swadlincote are allowed to attend two training sessions then they are required to join the club and pay the annual membership fee.

Slope / Coaching fees

The Ackers monthly contract slope fee including coaching has been suspended and we are using the PAYG system.

The Ackers PAYG slope fees including coaching have been set at £16 per session.

The Swadlincote slope fees including coaching have been set at £15 per session for younger children and £20 per session for older children and adults.

Any other business:

Swadlincote slope

Di Fennell raised an issue that the skiers attending coaching at Swadlincote are unsure if they are training with Midland Arrows club or Midland ski club. We are all one club, the Midland Arrows club name was requested by Gemma the Swadlincote manager when we set up coaching at the Swadlincote slope the club name has a historic significance.

Gerry has agreed to speak with Gemma to agree a way forward with one unified name when coaching is delivered at both Swadlincote and Ackers slopes.

Stoke racing

14 A successful ski race was held at Stoke ski slope on 29th August with 110 skiers racing staggered in blocks of two hours.

Snowsport England

Snowsport England are planning for racing to continue in late 2020 and into next year however this is subject to Covid restrictions.

Thanks

Roger gave thanks to all coaches that have helped deliver the ski training programme over the last year both here in the UK and on the training weeks held in both Pila and Champoluc, Italy.

Bryan Thomas thanked Gerry, the committee and RSG for all their hard work carried out in the last year on behalf of the club members.

Attendees

Gerry Elgy
John Elgy
Bryan Arnott
Catherine Frankenburg

Clem Chakki
Jeff Elmore
Bryan Thomas
Roger & Maureen Crombleholme
Pete & Jill Seamen
Hilary Cox
Robert Cawte
Julie Jones
Di Fennell
Rebecca Hampson
Alan Edwards
Steve & Gillian Pickard
Maria Batko
Paul Johnson

DRAFT