

Minutes from Zoom call Weds 17<sup>th</sup> Sept 2022 8:00pm

Present:

Mick Mead (MM), Julie Noakes (JK), Steve Wynn (SW), Emlyn Evans (EE), Paul Walker (PW)

Sharon Heritage (SH), Pete Ingham (PI), Shirley Ingham (SI), Carole Ward (CW), Roy Ward (RW)

Topics in order of discussion:

Shelters – Several investigations have shown that the lighter (6kg) versions are slightly smaller than our current shelters. Prices tend to vary quite widely, but Outwell and Coleman seem to have the edge over others. It was decided that, as there is not a pressing need at the moment, committee members would keep looking (including at trade shows) for suitable and affordable options.

Letter from Val Clarke – it was agreed that SW would produce a reply to be sent to Val, and aspects of the letter were discussed. We should explain to her the reasoning behind authorisation of monies spent (MCC rules, not ours), the possibilities for subsising of meets etc and how to enable members to benefit from their monies held by the group. Also, outlining what matters were already being discussed by Committee such as Xmas meets, reduction in rally fees etc.

Xmas 2022 – Discussion took place around what we could expect/ask members to pay based on a maximum attendance of 50 vans. JN had calculated that the overall cost was likely to be in the region of £2500 with the same level of catering/entertainment etc as last year.

Based on a cost of £17.50 per head for the buffet, last years costings were £60 for couples and £45 for singles, which included the buffet and wine on the tables.

For this year, there was discussion around the wine being discontinued whilst still offering a welcome drink, and added value raffle and asking members to bring their own drinks to accompany the meal/evening. There was some unease expressed at removing the wine option that has been a feature of the Xmas event for some years.

SW suggested that we charge £50 for couples and £30 for singles this year, with a decision on the wine being made nearer the time (poss at the AGM).

In the interim, CW has designed some publicity for the event, which can be updated with the agreed pricing structure and sent out via the usual channels.

JN pointed out that if (as had been suggested by some members) we were to make the event free to Chiltern members then we would stand to lose between £2,200 and £3000 – SW also pointed out that visitors may take umbrage if we were to make the event free for our members whilst charging them.

PI mentioned that some W.Wessex members had been very impressed by the 60<sup>th</sup> meet, and may wish to attend something like Xmas.

The pricing was agreed as above and CW undertook to make the necessary changes to the publicity materials. JN undertook to handle bookings for this year and the subject of deposits was broached. It was decided that members should be asked to book and make payment by Mid-October in order for us to be able to chase up non-payers by the AGM, and also so that visitors could be invited once we know our own numbers.

Xmas 2023 dates were to be advised, based on using Hurst College, although Cottesloe School was mentioned as an alternative venue.

Rally Plaques – Based on the pricing obtained by JN for the smaller quantities, it was unanimously agreed that JN should place the order for them.

2023 Rally fees – There was discussion as to whether the charges should stay at 2022 levels, be raised or brought to an 'at cost' point. A decision is needed before the AGM in theory and certainly by November when the rally book planning begins.

AGM 2022 – SW is to canvass members for questions prior to the AGM so that responses can be discussed beforehand. Also to ensure that proposal forms are in hand and that members not currently serving are asked if they wish to do so, as we are losing some committee members this year.

The topic of entertainment was discussed, with the main question being whether we should book a singer or Disco – MM felt that one or other of these would attract people to attend the AGM (and we had done so in previous years). The general feeling amongst Committee was that if members were not keen on attending the AGM, then it was unlikely that providing such entertainment would have a major effect on attendance. EE pointed out that Leon would be unlikely to be available anyway, so that aspect of the event was shelved.

Committee arrangements post-AGM – subject to the relevant people being elected this year, MM explained that he would be handing over the social media roles to someone else. PW stated that he is willing to take over the FaceBook and Whatsapp platforms, with the changeover happening nearer the time. SW is willing to continue with the Website.

2023 and onwards – MM explained that amongst concern that there were as yet very few stewards for the 2023 season, a possible reason was that there was not enough information available re the venues for members to make an informed decision – SH has some further info available and will make this accessible to members in an attempt to resolve this.

MM suggested that we continue with the Day Meet as in previous years, but potentially at (say) a village hall somewhere central with the Group catering the event at no charge to members. It was, however, unclear as to the best way to arrange such catering. The possibility of using Barnstones hall was mooted, as there would also be the chance for members to stay over on the nearby site and make a weekend of it. PI and SI stated that they may be able to visit the venue and investigate, and would advise the Committee accordingly. A decision on catering would be taken later.

As regards an Easter rally (with the earlier venue being discounted as unsuitable), it was suggested that perhaps Chiltern could 'piggyback' off of, say, an Anglia rally although it was noted that Anglia may have issues with venues for Easter next year. Committee members were asked to talk to other groups (and clubs) to see whereabouts they were using, so that we could possibly benefit from their knowledge.

Ongoing issues for 2022 season – The rescheduled meet at Old Warden still had no stewards at the time of this meeting – an appeal for stewards is to be put out on Whatsapp.

SI raised concern over the attendance of the President at Fir Tree Farm, as it is a considerable distance from his home. MM undertook to speak with him before the event to make sure all was well.

SI/PI and SH/PW will take shelters to the Bury St Edmunds meet, but they will need to be taken from the meet by someone else as both are travelling onward from there and cannot accommodate them.

MM has found a trophy for rallies attended which has not been awarded since 2006 – he will return it to the Group to see if it can be re-purposed.

Ray Barrett is currently very unwell and in hospital and therefore not able to attend any meets currently.

Meeting ended at approx 9:30pm