

## AGM 2004 - Minutes

### **Minutes of the First Annual General Meeting of the Northern Kite Group held on 15th. February 2004 at The All Saints Community Hall, Newton Heath**

#### **Present**

Ron Ogden ( Honorary President & Chairing the AGM ), John Welborn ( Secretary ), Mary Jones ( Treasurer ), Sylvia Fowler, Jack & Mary Cunningham, Neil Edwards, Gwen Williams, Gina Bellis, Gene & Margaret Watson, , Gwil Williams, Peter Fisher, Ray & Sheila Smith, David Stead, Mike Lewis, John & Barbara Baker, Joe & Flo Barnes, Margaret. Lever, Dave Green, Graham & Marina Lockwood, Dazz Smith & Karen, Marie Welborn, David Gibbons, Roy Ridings, Alan Bole, Rodger Dawson, Enid Knowles, Michael Fowler, Simon Morgan, Claire Newsome, Paul & Eileen Newsome, Josie Bretherton, Rodney Burrows, Sally Humpage, Aled & Fiona Lewis, Ken & Olive Cairn, Elsie Ogden, Edna Booth  
( This is the list of members who signed in. These numbers present exceeded the quorum required to conduct business )

#### **Apologies**

Andrew Fountain ( Editor ), Peter Bindon (Webmaster ), Sarah Bindon, Ian Parkes, Dennis Chappell, Mark Welborn, Don Norman, Harry Alick,

Ron Ogden as President Chaired the meeting, he thanked everyone for coming and stated that it was the largest turnout for some years.

#### **1 Report by the committee**

The committee had decided to celebrate the 25th. Anniversary of the Club by obtaining special embroidered silver jubilee badges for to issue in November last year. A problem with the suppliers allowed the club to get them for half price. The insurers have added member to member insurance to our public liability policy at no extra charge

The website has been developed into a much more professional site by our new Webmaster Peter Bindon. It is now hosted on Malcolm Pitcher's servers under our own domain name [www.nkg.org.uk](http://www.nkg.org.uk)

The committee wish to record their thanks to Peter for all his hard work and also to thank Malcolm for allowing us the use of his servers.

The retiring Editor Andrew Fountain had asked the Secretary to table a report which is attached to the minutes.

The Club had been asked to attend some balloon festivals this year but no further information had been received from the organisers.

A vote of thanks was given to our President Ron Ogden for acting as Chairman of the first club committee and for standing in as Secretary until the present Secretary took over .

#### **2 Treasurers Report**

The accounts had been published in the February Magazine showing a final balance ( or reserve ) of £931.07.

The Treasurer stated that a reserve of £700 was needed to enable the Club to meet unforeseen contingencies. The reserve was reduced by £176.59 from last year.

Membership numbers had increased this year but the effects were difficult to see because part of the fees for the previous year and only part of the fees for the current year are included in this years accounts.

The Treasurer proposed an increase in fees of £1 for Individual members starting in the next membership year, after discussion an amendment was proposed by Neil Edwards for an increase of £2 for individual members.

Proposed by Neil Edwards Seconded by Darryl Smith

Individual members pay £7 per year and Joint members pay £1 starting in the next membership year

Passed by an overwhelming majority

The Treasurer proposed a change in the membership year so that all membership fees relate to the same year in the accounts.

Proposed by Mary Jones Seconded by John Welborn

The membership subscription year run from 1st. March to the end of February in the following year.

Passed unanimously

Proposed by John Welborn Seconded by Ron Ogden

The accounts for 2003 be adopted

Passed unanimously

### **3 Any Other Business**

#### **3.1 Amendments to the Constitution**

The amendments had been published in the February magazine and the Secretary outlined the reasons for the changes.

Proposed by John Welborn Seconded by Mary Jones

The amendments to the Constitution be approved en bloc but with the changes to dates required by the changed membership year agreed above under Treasurer's report.

Passed by an overwhelming majority

#### **3.2 Flying Sites and Dates**

A discussion was held on the suitability of some of our regular sites and also the problem of fly ins clashing with the dates of nearby festivals. There was also a poor attendance at some fly ins. One suggestion that we reduce the number of fly ins. It was also recognised that a substantial group of members fly at Otterspool regularly at week ends and that the insurance arrangements for this and other extra fly ins should be clarified.

It was asked that, when advertising fly ins in the magazine, these should not include adverse comments about the site.

It was also recognised that many members attend large festivals and this is as much part of the Club's activities as Fly ins.

Proposed by Ron Ogden Seconded Darryl Smith

That the committee review the flying sites we use and also consider changing some dates where appropriate. The committee may wish to ask some members to help in this task, and also to consider the appointment of an events co-ordinator.

Passed by an overwhelming majority

### **3.3 Oldham Kite Festival**

Ron Ogden reported on his discussions with Oldham Council, who have in the past given NKG £200 for its involvement in the Kite Festival.

Unfortunately the departmental budget has been reduced this year but they have suggested that the NKG apply for a Community Grant and have promised to help with the application.

The Treasurer's report shows the importance of the Oldham contribution to the NKG accounts. Most of the increase in subscriptions would be needed to replace the £200

The discussion raised questions about the difficulties and paperwork involved in claiming a grant and also the implications for our insurance. We did not know whether the Kite Festival would go ahead anyway or if it depended upon this grant.

Proposed John Welborn Seconded Dave Green

That Ron Ogden continue his discussions with the Council to find out more information about the possible arrangements for the Festival and the conditions relating to a grant and that the committee make the final decision about the Festival and the Grant when all the facts are known.

Passed by an overwhelming majority

### **3.4 Proposed British Kite Flyers Association**

A meeting was held of interested parties last year which resulted in a steering group being set up to develop proposals for creating the Association. The group is chaired by George Webster and co-ordinated by Jerry Swift. It was noted that Avon Kiteflyers have withdrawn from the steering committee.

They have asked for information about existing Kite Clubs. The questionnaire and a draft letter of reply was placed on the notice board before the meeting by the Secretary.

Proposed John Welborn Seconded Neil Edwards

That the information requested be provided and that a letter be sent in accordance with the exhibited draft letter.

Passed by an overwhelming majority

## **4 Election of Officers**

The Editor had offered his resignation but had agreed to continue until a replacement could be found.

Jack Cunningham proposed a vote of thanks to Andrew Fountain for his work as Editor , this was seconded by John Welborn and passed unanimously

The amendments to the Constitution made the President post an Honorary one and created a Club Chairman post.

Elections were then held as follows

Treasurer Mary Jones stood to continue in post

Secretary John Welborn stood to continue in post

There being no other candidates they were elected unanimously

Editor Neil Edwards volunteered for election

There being no other candidate he was elected unanimously

Chairman Enid Dawson ( Knowles ) volunteered for election

There being no other candidate she was elected unanimously

Auditors

Eileen Newsome volunteered for election

Karen Smith volunteered for election

There being no other candidates they were elected unanimously

There being no other business to transact the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

## **Appendix 1**

Editor's Report for 2003

General

During 2003 issues Kite were as usual quarterly. Three issues were of 16 pages . The fourth , the November 25th anniversary issue was 20 pages. Printing was by Minuteman Press of Stockport.

Cost

At nearly £500 , the magazine is the largest expense of the NKG. Sixteen pages at 80 gsm paper weight is the maximum that can be posted at the lowest second class postal rate. An increase of even one A4 page pushes the cost into the next band i.e. from 20p to 32p . A lower paper weight would mean that print would show through from one page to another.

The future

If the magazine is changed to A5 size , though the postal rate will remain the same, more pages could be added, since the weight would less. Or inclusions ( like plans ) could be added without incurring extra postage.

An increasing number of members have internet access. If the magazine were posted on the NKG website in an area accessible only to members , it could be an option for them to download their own hard copies , cutting printing and posting costs to the

Group. Those members without internet access could still receive their copies through the post.

#### Content

I have had problems with any images received electronically , and some images sent for scanning have been of too poor quality to be used .

Paul Catchpole has provided a series of excellent line drawings. Neil Edwards has not only provided many articles and fillers , but has also dragooned others into writing. Jack Cunningham has, as always provided a lot. Thank you to them, and to everyone else who has contributed anything.

That said, the magazine belongs to everyone . The more who contribute, the better it will be.

Looking ahead , a better magazine could be a vehicle for paid advertisement, which would be a source of revenue for the group. That said taking money off anyone for adverts would bring a lot of responsibilities. Would the group want that? Could it be worth it? Who would administer it?

Looking further ahead , I contacted two publishers to sound them out about a national kite magazine. One said it was a niche market ; the other that it was not enough of a niche market!

#### Editor Post

I have been editing Kite for two years. I have nearly run out of new ideas and, since changing jobs at the beginning of 2003 , have found it difficult to find time to do justice to the magazine,. I have also found that my technical skills are lacking, and that my computer is not up to the job.

I was going to resign, pending a volunteer. However Neil Edwards has already volunteered . I think he has the enthusiasm and drive to take the magazine forward, and would support him as the new editor of the NKG, providing he received support from those present at the AGM.