

Minutes of the 13th Annual General Meeting of the Northern Kite Group

Held on 21st February 2016 at St Thomas's Church Hall, Moorside, Oldham

Present

Len Royles (Chairman), Dave Bleasdale (Secretary), John Whymark (Treasurer), Keith Proctor (Membership Secretary).

Pam Evans, Gwen Williams, Sally Humpage, Carol Royles, Steve Grimwood, Simon Cooper, Yasmin Forwood, Flo Forwood, Colin Graham, Jock Walker, Mike Rourke, Dorothy Rourke, Sue Storey, Steve Ransom, Lynn Bleasdale, Gavin Druce, Daryl Smith, Jan Whymark, Vanessa Potts, Jim Potts, Karen George, Deb Savage, Johnny Savage, Marina Lockwood, Graham Lockwood, Rodney Burrows, Mary Jones, Tony Kidd, Bernard Crick, John Welborn, Marie Welborn, Mark Welborn, Zoe Lee & David Stead.

(This is the list of members who signed in. The 37 present met the quorum required to conduct business. Members who are under 18 are not counted in the determination of the quorum).

Prior to the start of the meeting Jock Walker asked to address the membership. He wished to thank everyone for their friendship and kindness after the sad loss of Peter Walker

Apologies

Peter Hartt, Craig Harby, Sue Kennedy, Pat May, Jenny May, Mark Jones, Angela Berry, Diane Mottram, Peter Bindon, Sarah Bindon, Tony Dane, Marie Dane, Caroline Senior, Josh Mitcheson, Shirley Hatton, Mike Hatton, Peter Leonard, Kathy Leonard, Dorothy Ransom, Dot Mansley, Beryl Black, Ray Smith & Colin Savage.

Previous Minutes

Minutes from the previous AGM were accepted as a true & accurate record.

Proposed: Daryl Smith **Seconded:** Jock Walker

“The minutes were a true & accurate record of the 2015 AGM”

Passed: Unanimously

Chairman's Report

Len reported that unfortunately 2015 saw the sad loss of 3 of our members. Early in the year we had the shock of Peter Walkers passing and then mid-year the loss of Frank Hardman. Both were true gentlemen and will be sorely missed. Later in the year we then had the sad news that Flo Barnes had passed away too. Our thoughts go out to their families and in particular to Jock Walker, Jenifer Hardman and Joe Barnes.

There were a good number of members at each of the funerals and each was memorable in its own way. Peters was out in the open at the grave-side, and fittingly the heavens thankfully smiled on us that day, Frank with a wry sense of humour had words to the effect 'I'm really pissed now' on the end of his coffin, while Flo was remembered by the chapel minister for attending the chapel in the morning and then nipping down the road to the C of E church in the evening just to hedge her bets....

Despite having a real mixture of weather, the group attended a number of successful flying events throughout the year. Our own festival season began with the Westmorland Country Fest, followed by the group supporting Leyland Festival on Worden Park followed the very next day by our own NKG festival at Beacon Country Park. Later in June saw many members attending the Catch the Wind festival at Morecambe. July started with the one day event at Hoghton Tower with some of our members attending Barmouth Festival the following weekend. The end of July was St Anne's with one glorious day & one better forgotten weather wise. August saw the Western Lake District Kite Fest which sadly will not be going ahead this year. In September we had the new Middleton Park event that was very successful and a great location which promises well for the future followed by Taylor Park & then Wakefield kite festival. October saw One Sky One World and Light Up The Sky.

The season was finished off with the Halloween spectacular at Westmorland in November, it was a great success and enjoyed by all. The final event of the year being an enjoyable Xmas meal at Otterspool.

Len thanked all those who set up and ran festivals this last year, their assistants and all those who have helped. Members can do their bit this year by supporting festivals whenever possible

Treasurers Report / Annual Accounts

John circulated copies of the accounts around the room and gave a quick overview.

The group had made a positive income over the last 12 months but this was due in part to donations from Smile Factor 10, and a donation of kites made by Harry Allick that were auction at Western Lake District Kite Fest. Without these donations the accounts would just about broken even. John pointed out that the group income generated from the membership fees does not cover the groups insurance premium and is now subsidised by the money generated from attending events. (See any other business) John thanked Karen George for auditing the accounts.

Proposed: Pam Evans

Seconded: Daryl Smith

“The accounts for 2015 be adopted”

Passed: Unanimously

Club Fly In List for 2016-2017

2016

April 10th	St Anne's & Roundhay Park Leeds - Fly-in's
April 17th	Otterspool - Fly-in
May 7th/8th	Bridlington Kite Festival
May 21st/22nd	Middleton Park Kite Festival
June 4th/5th	Westmorland Country Fest
June 12th	Holcombe Hill - Bury Cancer Support Centre
June 18th	Leyland Festival
June 19th	Beacon Park Kite Festival
July 3rd	Symphony at the Tower (To Be Confirmed)
July 16th/17th	Morecambe Catch the Wind Kite Festival
July 30th/31st	St Anne's Kite Festival
August 21st	Fleetwood - Fly-in
September 11th	Hoghton Tower
September 18th	Taylor Park Kite Day
September 25th	Wakefield Kite Festival (To Be Confirmed)
October 9th	OSOW @ Pontefract Racecourse & Otterspool
October 16th	Light Up The Sky @ Otterspool
November 20th	Worden Park - Fly-in
December 11th	Otterspool Xmas

2017

January 8th	Roundhay Park Leeds
January 15th	Newbrighton Dips
February 19th	AGM
March 12th	Crosby
March 19th	Fleetwood & Pontefract Racecourse

The acceptance of the list was

Proposed: Gwen Williams

Seconded: Mike Rourke

Passed: Unanimously

The secretary reminded the membership that a number of the events listed are NKG organised/attended events which the group receives a donation for and encouraged members to attend if they could. The secretary also explained that the Bridlington event had come about after a conversation at Fuerteventura kite festival between NKG member Peter Hartt and a member of the public on holiday from Bridlington, who said he thought a kite festival would be good for Bridlington. Peter exchanged contact details with the gentleman and once home sent him some further details about organising an event along with the NKG contact details. The secretary thanked Peter for his help.

Update from Jim Potts

Bridlington Kite Festival - A new event for 2016 on a grass site on the cliffs of Bridlington. There will be free camping next to the arena with a full programme of events with commentary. Again this is an NKG organised event & Jim encouraged members to support it if they could

Middleton Park Kite Festival - After the success of last year's event the NKG have been invited back for 2016, again there will be 3 nights on site camping available, a marked kite flying arena with commentary. It's hoped that access to the site and the water provision can be improved this year.

Western Lake District Kite Festival - Jim confirmed the NKG event will not be going ahead this year due to lack of funding.

On behalf of Craig Harby Jim informed the membership that the details for Westmorland Country Fest would be similar to previous years, Craig had also asked if the event could become the main NKG event of the season and the altitude cup etc could be held there. The committee said they would discuss with Craig.

On behalf of Pat May the secretary informed the members that St Anne's arrangements would be similar to previous years with camping at the cricket club plus the meal there on Saturday evening. The event this year will be an international event with the attendance of the Al-Farsi Kite team from Kuwait, with the world's largest kite.

The secretary also informed the members of two events that Pauline Taylor from Infinite Arts is organising and that all NKG members are welcome to attend. The secretary will send details out when they are available.

Kite Magazine:

Simon thanked all those that had sent articles for the magazine but said due to small amount of articles he received, he was only able to produce one magazine over the last 12 months. Simon had also arranged for the photo competition to be judged at the AGM and said that he would be running it again this year. The chairman thanked Simon for his efforts and encouraged all members to try and submit something for the magazine, no matter how small.

NKG Website Photo Gallery:

Sometime last year, Peter Bindon, who very kindly looks after the NKG website, contacted the committee to say that the NKG gallery was taking up quite a bit of space on his server and gets very little attention. Having already removed the gallery from the website and contacted members who had photos on the gallery it was agreed to instruct Peter to delete the remaining images. There was a vote of thanks for the work Peter does behind the scenes on the website.

Membership Income Versus Running Costs for the Group:

As discussed in the treasurers report, the cost of the Group Insurance exceeds the annual income generated by the membership fees.

A proposal was made that "approximately £4000 should be maintained as a minimum balance, and whilst this level of balance is maintained that the membership fees should remain as they are and that it should be reviewed on a yearly basis."

Proposed: Jim Potts

Seconded: Daryl Smith

Passed: Unanimously

Any Other Business.

Camping & Caravanning Code Of Conduct:

there was concern that at some NKG events, the spacing between some units did not meet the Natural England recommendations. The committee agreed to monitor the situation at future events.

Height Limits:

A question was asked about height clearances at events, fly-ins etc.

In the UK a kite shall not be flown at a height of more than 60meter above ground level unless within 5km of an aerodrome, then no kite shall be flown at a height of more than 30 meter above ground

