

Minutes of the 14th Annual General Meeting of the Northern Kite Group

Held on 19th February 2017 at St Thomas's Church Hall, Moorside, Oldham

Present

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

Yasmin Forwood, Flo Forwood, Gavin Druce, Steve Ransom, Dave Holt, Linda Holt, Simon Cooper, Craig Harby, Sue Kennedy, Caroline Senior, Pat May, Steve Grimwood, Sarah Kay, Mary Jones, John Welborn, Mark Welborn, Gwen Williams, Sally Humpage, Jan Whymark, Lynn Bleasdale, Carol Royles, Mike Rourke, Dorothy Rourke, Daryl Smith, Pam Evans, Jim Potts, Tony Dane, Marie Dane, Peter Hartt, Sheila Hartt, John Ellerton, Bernard Crick & Tony Kidd

(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).

Apologies

Harry Allick, Sue Storey, Peter Bindon, Sarah Bindon, Mick Burls, Gill Burls, Graham Lockwood, Marina Lockwood, Brian Williamson, Sue Button, Pete Nelson, David Buckland, Ann Buckland, Jock Walker, Mark Jones, Angela Berry, David Stead, Deb Savage, Johnny Savage, Alan Bloom, Dorothy Ransom, Beryl Black, Ray Smith & Roger Dawson.

The chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all the members present & introduced the committee to the new members present.

Previous Minutes

Minutes from the 2016 AGM were accepted as a true & accurate record.

Proposed: Steve Ransom

Seconded: Mary Jones

“The minutes were a true & accurate record of the 2016 AGM”

Passed: Unanimously

Chairman's Report

Unfortunately in July last, we had the sad news of the passing of Denis Riley who was one of the Otterspool stalwarts and one of those who went out of their way to welcome Carol and I into the kite flying fraternity. We will miss his wry sense of humour. Our thoughts are with Jan, his wife and his family.

Then in January we also heard that Joe Barnes had passed away. Another sad loss. Not knowing Joe as long as some, Len borrowed some words that Gwen put on the forum:

For those who knew him, Joe was a lovely, friendly, gentle man. A kite flying enthusiast, who made many of his own kites. Both Joe and his wife Flo were long time members of the NKG and attended the AGM's year after year. During the Summer months Joe and Flo set off to the various Kite events, in their Camper Van and were known to members of other kite clubs up and down the country. Sadly Flo died in 2015. I have fond memories of Joe, who was responsible for introducing me to the wonderful world of kites.

Again in January we had the news that Arthur Pallas had passed away. Arthur from the North East, was well known to the NKG, attending at some of our festivals as part of the Pallas Family Fliers. Again another sad loss.

On to happier news and this last year saw a new festival at Bridlington take place. Memorable perhaps for the antics of Craig's Manta going for a swim. Although unable to attend himself reports indicated that this was a very successful event and one not to miss. Then onto Middleton Park where Simon got a static shock after touching Craig's line as a storm was brewing. Into June we had Country Fest, Leyland Festival and Beacon Festival. July was two beach festivals at Morecambe & St Anne's where this year saw the attendance of the Al-Farsi Kite team. September we had Hoghton Tower, Taylor Park & Wakefield. October was OSOW where 79 kites were flown at Otterspool, We also had Light Up The Sky where the money raised was donated to Cancer Research in memory of Denis Riley. At the end of October we had another great end of season bash at Westmorland. Len thanked Craig & Sue for all their efforts organising the event. There were lots of other events members of the NKG had attended throughout the year.

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 reported to the membership that due to personal circumstances Karen had been unable to audit the accounts for 2016. John suggested the unaudited accounts be presented to the members at the meeting and once Karen was able to audit the accounts, should any corrections be necessary they would be included in the 2017 accounts.

2016 had been a successful year with a surplus of approx £700 compared to 2015.

A suggestion was made from the floor "that should we look at increasing the membership fees to maintain adequate funds." John said there was adequate funding to cover the groups outgoings, the biggest being the group insurance which continues to increase each year. The committee will continue to monitor the group's financial position but feel there is no need to consider raising the fees at this moment in time.

Another suggestion from the floor was to offer students in full time education free membership, to try and increase the number of younger members within the group. The committee explained that, to be a full member you have to be over 18.

Proposed: Dave Holt

Seconded: Keith Proctor

"The unaudited accounts for 2016 be accepted and any necessary corrections be included in the 2017 accounts"

Passed: Unanimously

Club Fly In List for 2017-2018

2017

April 9th	Otterspool & Roundhay Park, Leeds - Fly-ins
April 15th/16th	Newbiggin Kite Festival
April 23rd	St Annes - Fly-in
May 6th/7th	Bridlington Kite Festival
May 20th/21st	Middleton Park Kite Festival
May 27th/28th	Burnt Yates Kite Festival & Family Fun Day
June 3rd/4th	Westmorland Country Fest
June 18th	Beacon Park Kite Festival
June 24th/25th	Morecambe Catch the Wind Kite Festival
July 16th	Fleetwood - Fly-in
August 28th	RNLI Open Day @ Hoylake
September 2nd/3rd	St Annes Kite Festival
September 10th	Hoghton Tower
September 24th	Taylor Park Kite Day
September 24th	Wakefield Kite Festival
October 8th	OSOW @ Pontefract Racecourse & Otterspool
October 15th	Light Up The Sky @ Otterspool
October 28th/29th	End Of Season Bash @ Westmorland County Showground
November 19th	Worden Park - Fly-in
December 10th	Otterspool Xmas

2018

January 14th	Roundhay Park, Leeds
January 21st	New Brighton Dips
February 18th	AGM
March 11th	Crosby Fly-in
March 18th	Fleetwood & Pontefract Racecourse - Fly-ins

The acceptance of the list was

Proposed: Gwen Williams

Seconded: Pam Evans

Passed: Unanimously

Update from Jim Potts

Newbiggin Kite Festival - On the beach at Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, in front of the maritime centre. All members are welcome. There is no camping.

NKG Bridlington Kite Festival - After the success of last year's event the NKG have been asked again to organise the event in 2017. There will be free camping next to the arena with a full programme of events with commentary. This is an NKG organised event & Jim encouraged members to support it if they could.

NKG Middleton Park Kite Festival - After the success of the last 2 year's events the NKG have been invited back for 2017, again there will be 3 nights on site camping available, a marked kite flying arena with commentary. The funding the NKG receive for this event is used to pay for the end of season bash, so again members are asked to support if they can.

NKG Burnt Yates Kite Festival - A new event for 2017, the event will be held in a farmer's field with onsite camping available. Burnt Yates is located between Harrogate & Pately Bridge.

Update from Pat May

St Anne's Kite Festival - Pat informed the members that once again this year's event will be bigger than previous years. The Al-Farsi Kite display will again be in attendance, this year there will also be John Barresi from the USA.

There will be a night fly on the Friday evening. There will be a limited amount of camping available at St Annes cricket club, but this year the Saturday evening meal will be held in a hotel on the sea front. There will be an online registration for the event, details of which will be sent out to the members in due course. Members who have dogs were asked to try and keep the dogs in their vehicles as much as possible and must not let dogs out of the arena.

Update from Dave Holt

Morecambe Catch the Wind Kite Festival - Arrangements will be the same as in previous years. Dave reminded the members that there is no parking allowed on the promenade but you can drive on to unload your car, once unloaded, see Dave and he will give you a pass that will entitle you to park round the back of the Midland hotel for free, but you must have a pass.

Update from Craig Harby

Westmorland Country Fest - This year there will be an interactive display arena with commentary within the main kite flying area. The NKG altitude sprint cup competition will be held within the arena. Craig said he was a little disappointed last year, that after having had very little wind throughout the morning, when the wind did pick up in the afternoon there were still very few kites in the sky despite the now suitable wind conditions.

The secretary reminded the members that a condition of attending these type of events where you are given free access into the show, is that you do fly kites, it's not a free weekend away. So come-on NKG members let's put on a great show for Craig this year.

Kite Magazine:

Simon thanked all those that had sent articles for the magazine but said there had been few articles submitted over the year & a very poor response to the photo competition. Simon and the committee agreed to communicate the newsletter deadlines to the members better. Simon was thanked for his efforts and the members were encouraged to submit something for the magazine, no matter how small.

NKG Website:

As previously communicated to the membership via email, Peter Bindon has informed the committee of his wish to step down as web site manger and move the website off his servers following the appointment of a new web site manager. Peter is more than happy to help the new person out in taking over and moving the website. The secretary suggested that as the web site forum is used very little these days, would the membership be happy to lose the forum, as this would make looking after the website easier for whoever took it over. There were a few members who would like to retain the forum. It was agreed that the question of the forum would be looked at after we had a new web site manager.

Club Clothing:

Bernard Crick asked suggested that the NKG clothing be resurrected as he thought it would help improve the image of the group, let people know who we were, and he also thought it encouraged

members of the public to talk to us more about the kites. Badges that could be sewn onto any item of clothing and car stickers were suggested by members, the committee agreed to look into these initially.

Election of Officers

Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, & Membership Secretary offered to be re-elected

It was proposed that the existing officers be re-elected en block:

Chairman	Len Royles
Treasurer	John Whymark
Secretary	Dave Bleasdale
Membership Secretary	Keith Proctor

Proposed: Steve Ransom

Seconded: Pat May

Passed: Unanimously

Kite Building Competition

We had two entries for the kite building competition, there was a two line sports kite built by John Ellerton and a Bell Tetrahedral Kite built by Mike Rourke. After a show of hands by the members, the Mary & Jack Cunningham Kite Building Cup was presented to Mike Rourke.

Photo Competition

As voted for by the members at the AGM.

1st Place - Ken Savage

2nd Place - Ken Savage

3rd Place - Sue Storey

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman.