

# Ibex Virtual Committee Meeting Minutes – 15th October 2024, via Teams

Attendees: Karen G, Maggie M, Mags R, Patrick T, David W, Natalia D-B, Heather McG, Peter R

Apologies: Jan O'B

KG welcomed everyone.

## Actions from last committee meeting

- **KG:** to try to organise an informal climbing event for Ibex members at The Castle. *It had not yet been possible to progress this but it would be taken forward.* **ACTION KG**
- **KG:** to complete action on informing people who organised weekends in 2023 and 2024 that they would need to pay the full membership rate, but that we would be offering them the £5 payment that had been available under the previous weekend organiser reduction, though they might want to donate this. *KG was working through the list of weekend organisers in 2023 and 2024, and should be able to complete this soon.* **ACTION KG**
- **KG:** to do a note on use of Meet Up to publicise day walks and club nights. *It had not yet been possible to progress this but KG had explored email options.* **ACTION KG**
- **PR:** to complete work on putting minutes of Ibex committee meetings on the new website. *This had not yet been completed but would be soon.* **ACTION PR**
- **KG:** to solicit more feedback on the newsletter and inform HMcG of the discussion at the meeting. *Covered later in the agenda.*
- **KG:** to continue to take forward arrangements for the 40th anniversary event in November. *Arrangements in hand. 32 (34) people were signed up, with 3 spaces available. 3 more people were coming just for the meal and event. A further planning session would be held shortly.* **ACTION KG**
- **MM:** to consider whether some clarification of the Privacy Policy was needed, in respect of the length of time that personal details of members were held. *NDB had updated the weekend organiser notes.*
- **MR:** to circulate the completed spreadsheet of bookings for 2025. *MR had circulated the spreadsheet, and had presented the 2025 programme at the October club night. KG would send an email to members asking for volunteers to lead the January and February events.* **ACTION KG.** *A mix-up on a recent weekend, which had resulted in participants being short-charged and a consequent loss to the club of £50, was noted.*
- **KG:** to email members to see if there was interest in an Ibex week away, at a European destination, and if someone was interested in organising it and finding accommodation. *KG had emailed members and sufficient interest had been expressed to take this forward.*

*PT had circulated some possible venues in Aosta to the committee. Matt Moore had produced some possible venues in Switzerland and Austria: KG would circulate these to the committee. KG would also raise these possible venues with those who had expressed interest. ACTION KG*

- **DW:** to clarify the terms of the navigation training to indicate that there was an expectation that those receiving the training would lead a walk. *DW had added a statement on this in the admin guide.*
- **KG:** to send an email to members to remind about the photo competition for the Ibex 2025 calendar. *KG had sent an email to members accordingly, and a further email with the results of the photo competition.*

## **President**

- Minutes of 6 August approved.
- Arrangements for 40th anniversary event were in hand, as above. A budget - financial contribution by Ibex to the costs of the event - of about £600-£1,000 would be useful, and could be afforded by Ibex. KG and PT would liaise to finalise this. **ACTION KG PT**
- On preparation for the AGM, templates for resolutions or committee nominations had been sent to members to propose resolutions or committee nominations if they wished
- On possible committee resolutions for the AGM:
  - BMC were increasing their charges for 2025 by £5-40, which would require an increase in the Ibex membership fee. It was also considered that the weekend participant contribution - originally introduced as a temporary measure to meet a short-term liquidity need - should now be discontinued. This consequent loss of income (about £500-£600 pa) would also require an increase in the membership fee, with the financial load spread over the membership as a whole. Following discussion it was agreed that, reflecting these two changes, the membership fee should increase to £42 from January 2025.
  - Organisers of weekends in 2023 and 2024 were currently being offered the £5 payment, though with the suggestion that they might want to donate this. Following discussion it was agreed that, for the future, weekend organisers would be asked, when they returned the expenses form, whether they wished to receive the £5 payment, and if so to provide bank details.

It was agreed that PR would draft resolutions on the above two points **ACTION PR**

- Following consideration, it was decided that the £35pppn cap would not need to be raised for 2026, but that this might need to be reconsidered for 2027.
- in discussion of the increase in the BMC fee for 2025, it was noted that other organisations provided insurance more cheaply. At some future point it might be appropriate to explore this, but we would need advice from someone knowledgeable on insurance, in view of the risks involved.

- There were expressions of interest for most of the committee posts for next year, as follows:

President - Susan Watts  
 Treasurer - Patrick Tehan  
 Secretary - Viv Palmer  
 Weekend Coordinator (2025) - Clive Sinott  
 Weekend Planner (2026) - Mags Ruttle  
 Membership Secretary - Karen Ward  
 Newsletter Editor - Heather McGill  
 Day Walks - Cathy Calow  
 Webmaster - David Watts  
 Social Media - Vacant

PR and KG would liaise on getting electronic signatures for nomination of these people, for the AGM. **ACTION KG PR**

- PR had provided a draft agenda for the AGM.
- Possible week away at a European destination - Discussed as above.
- New members' Club Night and Weekend: KG would bring to the AGM updated cards inviting new members to the January Club Night. It would be important to have a number of committee members at that Club night - last year's attendance by existing Ibex members had been disappointing. **ACTION All**

## Club nights

- **KG:** Forthcoming club nights were organised.
- CM had volunteered to help the President with club nights.

## Treasurer/Financial Position of Club

- **PT:** updated figures provided, showing cash of **£6.6k**.
- If there was an extreme situation such as another pandemic and future events had to be cancelled it would be necessary to reimburse members weekend deposits of **£3.3k**. The buffer at this point is therefore **£3.3k** for expenses and further weekend deposits. This is of course an extreme position.

## Website/Social media

- Website: **DW:** DW would put next year's events on the website soon, and was happy to continue to update the website with information on weekends.
- Anyone needing to log onto the Wix site should contact DW, who would provide the code.
- Social media: **KG:** still discussing Facebook admin rights with EC.

## Membership

- **MM:** report provided. There were four new prospective members.

## Weekend Co-ordinator - 2024

- **NDB:** No major developments to report.

- NDB asked whether anyone was using the Google Calendar facility she produced earlier in the year. She would ask also at the AGM, but if no-one was using it she would not produce it next year.

## **Weekend Planner - 2025**

- **MR:** 2025 programme produced: no further updates. Booking made for Easter 2026.

## **Day Walks**

- **JO'B:** report provided.

## **Newsletter**

- The feedback on the current format of the newsletter (email with links to the website) was noted. HMcG said she recognised the case for making the format more interesting, with photos, but was concerned that the process should not get too complicated. KG said she and JO'B had investigated Canva and Mailchimp and it was possible that these could help. Mailchimp could be linked to the Wix element of the website. In discussion, it was suggested that the current format of the newsletter was not an effective marketing tool, although it was also commented that the marketing tool was the website rather than the newsletter. Following discussion, HMcG said she would continue to experiment with the format but remained concerned that the work involved could be substantial. **ACTION HMcG** KG would re-send HMcG her original email. **ACTION KG**

## **AOB**

- In response to a point raised by MR, KG would check on the list of email addresses of committee members and to what addresses emails on committee business were routed. **ACTION KG**
- In response to a point raised by KG, DW clarified that the list of paid-up members on the website was defined by the date the list was generated.

## **Date of next virtual committee meeting**

- Provisionally Wednesday 18 December 2024 (7.30pm) - but for confirmation with new committee.

## **Summary of actions following meeting**

- **KG:** to try to organise an informal climbing event for Ibex members at The Castle.
- **KG:** to complete action on informing people who organised weekends in 2023 and 2024 that they would need to pay the full membership rate, but that we would be offering them the £5 payment that had been available under the previous weekend organiser reduction, though they might want to donate this.
- **KG:** to do a note on use of Meet Up to publicise day walks and club nights.

- **PR:** to complete work on putting minutes of Ibex committee meetings on the new website
- **KG:** to continue to take forward arrangements for the 40th anniversary event in November
- **KG:** to send an email to members asking for volunteers to lead the January and February weekends.
- **KG:** to raise, with those who had expressed interest in a European trip, the possible venues identified by PT and Matt Moore.
- **KG PT:** to finalise the arrangements for the financial contribution by Ibex to the costs of the 40th anniversary event.
- **PR:** to draft resolutions for the AGM on the increase in membership fees and on arrangements for the weekend organiser reduction.
- **PR KG:** to liaise on getting electronic signatures for the nomination of committee members for the AGM.
- **All:** to attend the January new members' Club Night.
- **HMcG:** to continue to experiment with the format of the newsletter
- **KG:** to re-send HMcG her original email on the newsletter format.
- **KG:** to check on the list of email addresses of committee members