

# Ibex Virtual Committee Meeting Minutes – 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025, via Teams

Attendees: Susan W, David W, Clive S, Mags R, Cathy C, Karen W, Viv P

Apologies: Patrick T,

SW welcomed everyone.

## Actions from last committee meeting

- DW: Improve website ranking. *Ongoing.*
- All: Discuss whether BMC membership is value for money. *See below.*
- SW: Inform people about end of OS subscription via newsletter & the possibility of a half price subscription the first year. *Done in March newsletter.*
- SW: Download maps and consider whether to keep President subscription. *Will keep. Password will be changed.*
- SW: To follow up with new member about joining committee. *Ongoing.*
- KW: Write proposal on recruitment ideas to be discussed at next meeting. *Done. See below.*
- KW: Follow up potential new member from Edale weekend. *Email sent.*
- SW: Talk to pub about fewer meetings and ask if we should pay a fee for the year. *Done. The rest of the year has been paid for.*
- KW: Send a reminder about renewing membership. *Done.*
- DW: Correct rounding in spreadsheets. *Done.*
- CS: Update guidance notes for completing spreadsheets. *Done.*
- CC: Check whether there are organiser notes for day walks and consider having a standard template for final instructions. *Ongoing.*
- CC: Send email reminder for 1<sup>st</sup> March Day Walk next week. *Done.*
- CC: Chase member for September north or west. *Done.*

## President

- Minutes from last meeting (13<sup>th</sup> February) Agreed

Minutes were late because Treasurer's report was missing. It had been sent without attachment, whilst on a long trip.

Membership paper discussion:

We already promote day walks.

Google key phrases were discussed. They can be changed to improve ranking, but this might take a couple of months. A Google business profile will improve ranking; It is free and there is a hiking club category. DW will create one. **Action DW**

We will wait to see how business profile works before considering hiring a Search Engine Optimiser.

Facebook posting: SW has been posting club events. In future day walks to be added by

Cathy. **Action CC.** Clive to add advertised weekends with link to website. **Action CS.** SW will contact CC and CS with information on how to post events. **Action SW**

SW will investigate Instagram. **Action SW.**

Karen to follow up with prospective members. **Action KW.**

Key source of information will remain as the website. SW is currently taking over all responsibility for social media. Other committee members need to assist. **Action all.**

Advertising – If anyone comes across listing of clubs do inform DW. **Action all**

Meetup – There are pros and cons. The general feeling was that is costs, we might get too many people, and it could conflict with booking system. There was a vote. KW is for and everyone else against at the present time. It is parked for now.

Meeting for a meal before the club night was discussed. We agreed to advertise meeting at Wetherspoons for dinner before the meeting, DW will add this to website. **Action DW**

Karen to ask all people who have not renewed, who could come back, whether they would consider an alumni membership. **Action KW.** KW keeps a list of people who have left the club in last 3 years. KW to send email to lapsed members from time to time. **Action KW**

Keep renewal deadline as 28<sup>th</sup> February.

## **Weekend Planner**

- Weekend Planner - any issues with proposed dates
- Guidance on break even numbers
- New members weekend for February
- Alpine trip for September

Easter 2026 booked. White Peris has been transferred to early May 2026. Late May is Old School Hostel, Trefin. August Bank holiday is Capel Curig.

A 3-night weekend in August, at Coniston, is being considered. The dates are 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> August.

February weekend will not be a New Members' weekend – New Member events will be planned when we have a large number of prospective members (anytime of the year).

Extra camping trips can be planned at short notice (as long as no impact on programmed weekends).

Alpine trip likely to be arranged for September 2026.

Organiser/s needed for December weekend. CS to send email. **Action CS**

## Membership

- See report
- We discussed whether BMC (including insurance) is value for money. It provides public liability and protects us from claims from 3<sup>rd</sup> parties. It does not cover personal accidents. Individuals need to take out separate cover. It also gives us access to BMC huts. BMC membership costs have increased due to some large climbing accident claims. We have had 3 minor accidents in the last 3 years and no claims. KW has found two companies that offer cheaper insurance. KW to contact BMC to see whether they are thinking about offering a lower activity/risks type insurance for clubs like ours. **Action KW**. We need to be covered for winter walking, grade 1 scrambling and trips in other countries. KW will find more information on potential insurance companies. **Action KW**.  
DW to follow up with Howden insurance contact for an insurance quote. **Action DW**. KW to provide a list of what insurance we require **Action KW**.

## Weekend Co-ordinator

### Club nights

- Club night update – The pub has been informed that we will be returning in September and Patrick has paid the pub for the year.
- Thames summer evening walks planned – on website
- Club nights September, October, November and December booked with Pub – on website.

## Website/Social media

- Added Ibex USPs to website homepage.
- Added Club night events for remainder of year (details will be added nearer the time).
- References to climbing removed.
- Blogs added for March events.
- Keyword phrases used in Google ranking revisited.
- Deleted accounts of anybody whose last login to WebCollect was before September 2024.

## Treasurer /Financial Position of Club

- We now have total Reserves of £8k of which £4k is tied up in venue deposits/final payments for future weekends.
- Our bank balance is £7k but we need to be mindful that there are deposits from members that would need to be repaid if for instance the Easter weekend had to be cancelled for reasons beyond our control.
- Bank balance = £6895      PayPal = £40      Total = £6935

## Day Walks

Day walks planned for year – urban capitol ring walks for winter months.

## Newsletter

- Nothing to report (Canva platform is still working fine for us).

## AOB

Thanks to KW for all the work she has done.

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

19.00 Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025

## **Summary of actions following meeting**

- DW: Create Google business profile.
- CC: Add day walks to Facebook.
- CS: Add advertised weekends to Facebook.
- SW: Send information to CC and CS on how to post events.
- SW: Investigate on whether to use Instagram.
- KW: Follow up with prospective members.
- ALL: Assist with social media.
- ALL: Search web for listings of clubs and inform David.
- DW: Add dinner at Wetherspoons before club night to website.
- CS: Send email requesting organiser/s for December 2025 weekend.
- KW: update two additional prospective members for Scottish week
- KW: Contact BMC to see whether they are thinking about offering a lower activity/risks type insurance for clubs like ours.
- KW: Find more information on potential insurance companies.
- DW: Follow up Howden Contact for Insurance quote.
- KW: Provide a list of what insurance we require.