

Minutes of the Special General Meeting held in the Lamesley Room, Civic Centre on 5th March, 2026

Present [9]: Margaret Andison, Evelyn Brown (Committee) Alf Cowell, Patricia McCahill, Graeme Page (Secretary), Ania Retkowska (Assistant Secretary), Ian Storey (Committee), Ian Thomson & Ronnie Willison.

Quorum: As less than 10 members were in attendance, the meeting was inquorate. Fortunately, the receipt of 8 postal votes enabled a limited number of agenda items to be voted on.

Appointment of Chairperson - Ian Storey kindly **AGREED** to chair the meeting.

Apologies for Absence [19] - Anne Beryl, Lyn Boyle, Jane Brough, Denise Edwardson, Cath Fatkin, Lynn Ford, Anne Marie Forster, Natalie Goodman, Carol Lonsdale, Andy McGinley, Josie McGinley, Ken Milmore, Ellen Morrison, Mike Morrison, Kevin Nelson, Hedley Oliver, Alan Ross, Roger Smith & Ian Thompson.

Constitution – After discussion, acceptance of the revised Club Constitution was unanimously (16 votes) **AGREED**. After discussion, Margaret Andison’s proposal to **DELETE** Club Constitution Rule **6.3.2** “*If instalment facilities are required in respect of a Club organised week or weekend event, a £5 per participant administration fee will be levied*” was **REJECTED** by 8 votes to 7.

Approval of the Minutes of the 2025 AGM - the minutes of the AGM were unanimously (17 votes) **AGREED** as being a correct record.

Appointment of the 2026 Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Committee - It was unanimously (17 votes) **AGREED** to appoint the following Officers & Committee members:

2026/27 Committee	
Officers	Other Members
Secretary	Graeme Page (until 30 th April 2026)
	Evelyn Brown
	Lynn Ford
	Anne Marie Forster
Assistant Secretary	Ania Retkowska
	Graeme Page (from 1 st May 2026)
	Roger Smith
	Ian Storey

Motions Submitted & Received by the Due Date (19th February 2026):

- ❶ After discussion, the Committee proposal “*to increase the minibus fare from £22 to £33 (minibus will only be used if all 16 seats are booked) [no subsidy]*” was **REJECTED** by 14 votes to 3;
- ❷ After discussion, the Committee proposal “*to increase the minibus fare from £22 to £30 (minibus will only be used if at least 14 seats are booked) [maximum of £125 subsidy per event]*” was **AGREED** by 15 votes to 2;
- ❸ After discussion, Graeme’s proposal “*to donate £1000 to the Lake District Search and Mountain Rescue Association (LDSAMRA)*” was **REJECTED** by 11 votes to 6;
- ❹ After discussion, the Committee proposal “*to donate £500 to the Lake District Search and Mountain Rescue Association (LDSAMRA)*” was **AGREED** by 10 votes to 6;
- ❺ After discussion, Graeme’s proposal “*to donate £100 to the North East Search and Rescue Association (NESRA)*” was **AGREED** by 16 votes to 1;
- ❻ After discussion, Margaret’s proposal “*to donate £100 to the Northumberland National Park Mountain Rescue Team*” was **AGREED** by 11 votes to 4;
- ❼ After discussion, Margaret’s proposal “*to donate £100 to the Teesdale & Weardale Search and Rescue Team*” was **REJECTED** by 8 votes to 7.

Secretary's 2026 Report - Graeme presented a written report and Statement of Accounts to the meeting indicating that: There had been 2 x ‘local’ car-sharing Saturday events so far in 2026; The Club now had **£3564.31** which represented a £742.75 loss (inclusive of the above donations) over the course of 2026; Graeme was indebted to Ania Retkowska (Assistant Secretary) and the Club Committee members for their ongoing individual and collective contribution towards the organisation of Club events and activities; Finally, he thanked the membership as a whole for their continued support of the Club in 2026 and confirmed that he intended stepping down from the Club’s Secretary position on 30th April 2026. As the meeting was inquorate, a vote of thanks could not be made.

2026/27 Calendar of Events -

📍 2026/27 Saturday Events (A Denton Travel minibus may be used for the June, July & September events.)			
31 st January	Craster/Low Newton	18 th July	
28 th February	Osmotherly (NY Moors)	15 th August	
28 th March	Hadrian's Wall	5 th September	
25 th April		3 rd October	
23 rd May		31 st October	
20 th June		28 th November	

❷ Patterdale Week [14th March 2026 for 7 nights] - Anne Marie Forster, Neil Waite, Ian Goodman, Natalie Goodman, Lynn Boyle, Liz Beech, Lucy Topping, John Costello, Ronnie Willison & Lynn Ford will be spending 7 nights in Drey & Hollow Lodges at a cost of £137.50 per member. This 300-acre private estate is located in the breath-taking Ullswater valley, wrapped around the southern tip of Ullswater, England's most beautiful lake. Ideally located at the foot of some of Lakeland's most magnificent and scenic mountains (Place Fell, St Sunday Crag, Helvellyn, High Street) and, at the same time, for exploring by car the whole of the Lake District as it is within a short drive of Penrith, Keswick, Windermere, Ambleside, Bowness and Kendal. As the meeting was inquorate, a vote of thanks could not be made to Lynn for organising this event.

❸ Scottish Week Trip - Oban [Sat 9th May 2026 for 7 nights] - Cologin Farmhouse, recently accredited with a Silver Green Tourism Award for their sustainable practices and values, is a spacious traditional farmhouse. With a Cold-Water Therapy Barrel and a Scandinavian wood fired Hot Tub from where you can enjoy some star gazing, a large south facing enclosed garden and patio there is space for everyone. The house is situated in the scenic Lerags Glen ensuring peace and privacy but is still less than 3 miles from the vibrant harbour town of Oban, with views across open farmland and walks from the door. The Barn, a rustic pub with plenty of character is nearby and is a good place to catch up over a drink and tasty local fare following the days adventures. Ellen Morrison, Mike Morrison, Lynn Ford, Ronnie Willison, Ian Storey, Jean Walker, Steve Walker, John Costello, Lucy Topping & Malcolm McVey will be staying in Cologin Farmhouse at a cost of £236.50 per member (inclusive of a refundable £20 breakage deposit). As the meeting was inquorate, a vote of thanks could not be made to Lynn for organising this event.

Any other Business: As the meeting was inquorate, no decisions could be made regarding the following AOB matters:

- ❶ **Walking Routes** - Encourage members to suggest and submit walks including routes, maps and timings. Encourage use of GPS and route-finding Apps i.e. Komoot (free version). Graeme had been creating and circulating GPX files in respect of currently suggested 2026 routes (rather than use printed maps). No routes have currently been suggested in respect of the majority of Saturday events.
- ❷ **Walk 'Leaders'** - Indemnity insurance limitations/restrictions may require potential 'leaders' to be adequately trained.
- ❸ **Sharing Car Fuel Costs** - Volunteer drivers asked to fill up before the walk and again after the walk, then share the cost of petrol plus parking fee with those in their car (what about electric vehicles?).
- ❹ **Booking System** - The email booking system will remain in place for now but we will look at introducing switching to other approved electronic communication system(s). Committee to continue to explore other methods bearing in mind those who do not have access to WhatsApp etc.
- ❺ **Sunday Events** - As David Ellerington has regretfully decided to step down from organising Sunday walks these events are likely not to continue. However, Club members could arrange Sunday walks on an informal basis (e.g. via WhatsApp).
- ❻ **Tech/Social Media** - The Club will explore more use of tech/social media for promotion, organisation and bookings.
- ❼ **Navigation Skills** - The Club will explore offering informal and formal means of map reading training for new and inexperienced members. Arrange map reading/route finding walks on a Saturday for members to practice new and old skills.
- ❽ **Informal Weekend Events** - The Club will explore having more weekend events, which could be organised on a less formal basis.
- ❾ **Social Events** - a volunteer(s) is required to organise social events going forwards.