



General Meeting



30th Nov 2002

Minutes

Minutes of the General Meeting held at Canford Heath URC, Poole, Dorset on Saturday 30th November 2002.

Present:

Heather Allen, Dave & Pauline Barry, Brian Collie, Dave Cook, Keith & Pauline Horder, Phil Horder, Mark & Jane Maidment, Adrian & Dawn Palmer, David Smith, Paul Wareham, Richard & Hazel White, Mark Wolstenholme, Des Young.

Apologies for Absence: Jeff Ballantine, Karen Blackmore, Tracy Green, Jane Lock.

The General Meeting:

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Colossians 3:14ff. Mark said that these verses were what camp was all about. Coming together for the sake of the young people. We have had and will have good times. By God's grace we need to keep pressing on and moving on.

Mark also thanked those who had helped secure another 3-year licence from the AALA. They were James Polden, Matthew Farr, Keith Horder and Des Young.

He also asked the meeting to pray for Karen Blackmore who is far from well at the moment.

2. Prayer:

The chairman, Mark Maidment opened the meeting with prayer at 2.25pm.

3. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of 26/01/02(AGM) were approved.

4. Matters Arising: (8) Constitution:

The Administrator has read through all the minutes dating from 1944 to 2001. The Constitution that we need to work from was agreed and adopted at the AGM of 1984. However, it was never lodged with the Charity Commission.

Keith & Pauline Horder disputed that this was indeed the Constitution that we should be working from as they had a copy of a different Constitution which they insist was agreed and voted on at an AGM in Banbury in 1993. The Administrator would check the records.

5. Administrators Report: Brian Collie

The last 18 months have been a very busy time for the Trustees of H&DCYC as we have sought to implement a fresh vision from God for H&D in the 21st century. (The need to carry on but to do a new thing!) There has been an awful lot of criticism from certain quarters, some without doubt justified but some were definitely not! At times we have been left reeling from the severity of such criticism. Let me say at this point, that the Trustees are always open to suggestions, criticism etc. But I feel quite strongly, probably because I'm more often than not the first person in the firing line that we must treat each other with respect and love in Christ Jesus. Again, we are very happy to receive letters, telephone calls or even travel to meet people who would like to air their views about the running of H&D. After all, we are only overseers of the work; the work is the Lord's.

It was with similar thoughts in mind that we felt led by God in Jubilee year to write to some 14 people who we felt that the Trustees may have offended or hurt over the past 25 years or so. Sadly, many people didn't respond at all but 5 people did saying that they had no problem with H&D and they were behind us 100%. The Trustees feel that they honoured in full what God had asked them to do and the time has come now to move on and leave the past behind. We hope other people feel the same!



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5. Administrators Report (continued):

On a more positive note we had two great camps last summer for which we thank God. Discovery Camp had 68 campers and Explorer Camp had 48 campers. making a total of 116 campers. These came from 36 Churches. You'll hear more about these camps in a moment from the Senior Leaders. I hope that they will encourage and bless you just as much as they did the Trustees.

Here are some comments about H&D that we have received:

First Time Leader on Explorer – “Let me begin by saying what a blessing the Explorer Camp was to me. I thank God for His prompting and leading that let me know how serving Him can bring such wonderful rewards. As for next year – please invite me!!”

Dave Cook – Soul Survivor - “I met many young people at Soul Survivor who had been blessed so much by H&D, who are going on with God so well, and for whom H&D has been a spiritual lifeline whilst growing up.”

Camper - “It’s great, can’t wait for next year.”

A mother – “Thank you so much for giving my son a really great holiday in a loving caring Christian environment.”

Maybe, in a moment the senior Leaders will have more good news!

Prayer Days:

Karen Blackmore - Thanks to Karen for her vision and commitment for these days. Below is a comment from the last meeting at Southcourt Baptist Church: “It was a privilege to be at the prayer day. To see new leaders and campers come with such enthusiasm was a real blessing and encouragement. God is doing wonderful things – He is changing lives through H&D. What is happening at the site every year is causing celebration in heaven. God is doing a mighty work through H&D.

Council of Reference:

It’s great to have people who are mature in their faith and have been involved in camps for many years, meeting with us, advising us and praying with us and for the work of H&D.

AALA (Adventure Activities Licensing Authority):

This Licence was renewed in the summer and will now run until summer 2005. Thanks to everyone who helped, especially at the last minute. Mike Hart, who owns and runs his own activity centre in Bournemouth, is already looking at our legal requirements, paper work and suggestions from the AALA in order that we can comply with current legislation and good practice. Thanks to those who helped last year.

Child Protection Policy:

This is now in force. If you were a leader last year you will have received a copy. If you’ve not seen it, then please see Dawn and we will gladly send you or your church a copy. CRB checks are being made. A lot of hard work has gone into this project. Thanks to Dawn Palmer and Brian Collie were expressed.

Finally:

Thanks: These were also expressed to Mark & Louise Wolstenholme for all they do and to David Smith who looks after the finances for us.

Finally, Hebrews 6:10–12 says that we have a great inheritance. Great examples to look up to and to live up to. Thanks to all who give to H&DCYC in whatever way.

Finally, finally, please keep praying for Adrian Hall (the farmer) and his family.



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6. Review of Camps 2002: Dawn Palmer

Dawn, in introducing this section said that she was thrilled with what God was doing in and through H&DCYC. She added that time away at camp was a truly refreshing experience. "Its a hard world that we live in" so camp is a great time to "come apart and spend quality time with God".

Inheritance Camp: Dave Cook

There were 20 over 18's on this camp. The idea of the camp is for young people to catch a vision for what camps are all about. The vision is to see 100 young people at Inheritance next year. In 2003 Inheritance will run from Monday evening to the following Saturday morning.

Dawn expressed thanks to Dave & Jenny for their hard work and inspiration.

Discovery Camp: Des Young

On camp this year we had: 36 boys, 32 girls, 5 Trainee Leaders, 55 Leaders, 13 children – making a total of 141 people on site for the week. 35 different Churches were represented.

The Teaching was by Chris Walker and Claire Binder ably supported by Jeff Ballantine. They did a fantastic job of breaking down John 14, with aspects on 'Trust in God', 'The Way, Truth and Life', 'Questions', 'Faith', 'Holy Spirit', 'Obeying' and 'Rising above Doubts.' Most evenings were met with a response of people asking for prayer. Since camp we have attended 4 baptisms around the country.

Activities: We were once again blessed with a week of fun activities that were all participated in cheerfully and safely, with no injuries. The water sports such as canoeing, sailing and wind surfing are always a huge success, but we have also noted that a lot of quieter activities such as craft and model making are getting increasingly popular, possibly a relief from some of the more energetic activities they do in the week.

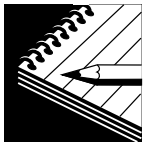
We feel proud to lead a team of leaders that continue to serve God and have got such a great love for young people. Each year we are left feeling privileged to be a part of God's work and vision for this camp. Our vision is to provide an activity based camp which will appeal to all teenagers at a price that most can afford, with good solid Bible teaching presented in a formula young people can relate to in a Christian family environment.

Explorer Camp: Adrian Palmer:

Jane Maidment and I both agree that it was a privilege to be asked to be joint Senior Leaders at H&D's first ever Mixed Junior Camp. Having spent the last few years hearing the arguments both for and against mixed junior camps, it was perhaps with trepidation that the first camp was approached this summer. We had 48 campers, almost evenly split with 23 boys and 25 girls.

One of the main things that came out of camp for Jane and me was that we had a great team behind us; a real team spirit was evident with everyone joining in and working exceedingly hard. To some extent they had too – we only had 17 adults and 5 teenagers on camp as permanent leaders, but nonetheless and despite some of them being young and some had never been to camp before, they all got down to the jobs they were given and everyone helped each other out. We are grateful to those who stayed on from Discovery – they were very much appreciated and were a credit to Discovery Camp.

In recent years Leaders from the Junior camps have been hard to find – this year was no exception. However, I think I can speak for those that came and say that they thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We would love to see more leaders next year, and urge any of you to consider joining our happy team! Those of you from churches, please go back thinking and praying about who could join us.



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Explorer Camp (continued):

Overall Explorer was a happy camp, partly due to the leaders unity but also because of the campers we had with us. They settled in really well and very quickly new friendships had been made. To me this was epitomised by the 'Wet & Wild' games we had on Sunday morning, everyone joined in, both campers and leaders alike – this set the tone for the week (in more ways than one!). It did appear at the time that we were having more than our fair share of rain – however, this never affected what we wanted to do, and not one of the campers complained!

Ritchie Gardiner from Maidenhead URC led the spiritual side of camp. What can I say about Ritchie – he is full of enthusiasm for God and this enthusiasm rubbed off on the children – by the second evening all were joining in with his fun-filled sessions.

Thanks to Dave & Jenny Cook who were are 'Leaders Support'. Very valuable, although the role was limited this year due to low numbers of leaders and unfortunately both had to take on other roles on camp. Cooking was ably undertaken by our other 'half's', Mark & Dawn. We would both like to publicly acknowledge our gratitude to them – two weeks in a row is an achievement to be proud of (I think). certainly on Explorer everyone was well fed and there was always something for everyone to like. The cooking side was backed-up by David Smith, who just got on with whatever he was asked to do in his usual efficient manner.

Nightwatch was also a problem this year. We were unable to have the same people to cover all week. Various couples covered the start of camp, to whom go are thanks. We were then grateful to Jeff Ballantine, who came back down on the Tuesday, and for being willing to stay up all night for the rest of the week!

Various leaders who tried to stay awake with him joined him. Having done one of the nights with Jeff myself, I am even more appreciative of this sacrifice (I hope I didn't snore too much!).

Due to our lack of leaders and those who were old enough to drive minibuses, our activities were slightly curtailed in terms of what we were able to offer each day. However, during the week the children took part in 11 different activities; Splashdown, Ten Pin Bowling, Tubing, T Shirt Printing, Tie Dying, Jewellery Making, Glass Painting, Airfix Model Making, Shopping in Swanage, Archery and Canoeing. A very big thank you must go to Keith & Pauline Horder who were able to take 24 campers canoeing throughout the week – sometimes in appalling weather conditions (I think they got wetter on the beach than on the water!).

They say that the proof of the pudding is in the eating! Well, Explorer 2002 was both very tasty and filling. Jane and I have had letters, telephone calls and emails from parents thanking us for giving their children a great holiday. One of our main objectives was achieved! As I finish this brief report on Explorer 2002, we can look back with a real sense of God's blessing on camp this year. Many thanks to all those involved with Camp, both those on site and those faithfully praying. To God be the glory!

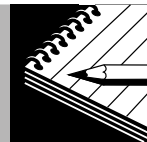
7. Treasurers Report: David Smith

The Accounts have not yet been audited, because I only obtained the final pieces of information amounting to about £1,800, in the last week. It is unlikely, however, that the Audit will result in alterations. The detailed figures are on pages 2 & 3, and the finished accounts which will be sent out in due course.

The Camp fee income of £12,015 arose from two camps with 116 campers, whereas the figure of £6,655 for 2001 was from 57 campers at one camp.



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7. Treasurers Report (continued):

We are grateful for contributions of £4,325 from leaders, compared with £2,265 last year, although leaders and their children of non-camp age represent half the people at camp, most camp expenses arise from the number of people, not the number of campers. Coming from a fairly narrow Brethren background, as I do, I am used to the Church expenses being paid by Christian Church members, whereas 70% of our camp income comes from parents, friends and Churches of campers. Those leaders, who did contribute, paid on average £55.

Many expenses are similar to previous years, but we have to pay more for the borrowing of Minibuses, some from schools, and some hired commercially.

The Trustees are trying to avoid substantial increases in fees, but we do need to replace and improve equipment, and the Administration Committee were, last night, discussing ideas for fund raising.

Questions were invited and Keith Horder asked if the Trustees were suggesting that Leaders fees should be increased. In reply, the Administrator said that a lot of camps charge their Leaders the same fees as campers. However, he also said that it was not the Trustees policy to increase Leaders fees. Keith Horder was asked to supply information on how a camp he attends raises funds in order to keep costs down.

8. Appointment of Auditor:

Mr Peter Green – This was passed unanimously. The Treasurer expressed our thanks to Peter for all his hard work over many years.

9. Plans for Camps 2003:

Dates & Cost:

Set Up Camp:	Wednesday 16th - Monday 21st July	
Inheritance Camp:	Monday 21st (5pm) - Saturday 26th July.	Fees £55.00
Discovery Camp:	Saturday 26th July - Saturday 2nd August.	Fees £119.00
Explorer Camp:	Saturday 2nd - Saturday 9th August.	Fees £99.00
Strike Camp:	Saturday 9th August	

Leadership teams:

Suggested fees for leaders will be £55. Cooks still have to be appointed on all camps. Dave Cook added that the Trustees were looking at the possibility of H&DCYC-@-Soul Survivor for 2004. The Administrator said that for the first time in many years he could confirm that all appointments for 2003/2004 had been confirmed. They are as follows: -

Inheritance Camp:

Ben Webster, Kirsten Lake & Neville Ansari under direction of Dave & Jenny Cook.

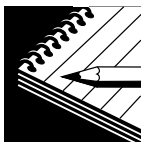
Discovery Camp:

Des & Helen Young, Paul Wareham, Sarah Loveless & Chris Walker.

Explorer Camp:

Adrian Palmer, Jane Maidment & Richard Gardner.

Set Up & Strike Camp: Mark Wolstenholme



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10. Outline Proposals for Future Government of H&DCYC: Dave Cook

'Proposal for the way forward'

The Trustees have spent a great deal of time looking at the need for clarity in the constitution of H&DCYC. We have been through all of the AGM minutes of the organisation to try and clarify the constitutional situation. We have also met with the Council of Reference. It has become clear that there are some major decisions that we need to make.

The historical context

The Trustees of H&DCYC are responsible for all that happens at Camp, any money debts, and all legal regulations which affect what we do. This applies whether the Trustees know about any problems or not. Leaders are obviously chosen carefully believing that they will keep the Trustees clear of many problems, and H&DCYC has insurance policies normal in the circumstances. Those who are asked to be Trustees, or who offered themselves for that position, do so before God, and seek to honour that position accordingly

As we understand charity law at this moment in time the Trustees are responsible in law for H&DCYC. The members of the organisation assume this and the Charity Commission would accept this. However, this is an outdated position in charity law and may cause problems for us in the future.

The changing legal frame work and our constitutional dilemma

Charity law has moved on and the assumed legal responsibility stated above would probably not apply in any new constitution.

Since 1983 there has been approved by Parliament the Charities Act 1993, and the Charity Commission has issued much more extensive guidance on its views over the responsibility of Trustees (Booklet CC3 "Responsibilities of Charity Trustees" available from their web site). H&DCYC's plans to purchase a permanent site would have required changes to the constitution. The commission would not like our present constitution document and would probably require significant changes to bring it in line with the guidelines.

Under these guidelines there is currently a legal grey area in the workings of the constitution. Trustees are currently elected by the General Committee (effectively those who are present at the AGM). The Trustees work on behalf of the General Committee (AGM), but because they are elected to this position they are effectively representing the General Committee. **The Charity Commission offers the view that those entitled to vote are in fact " Trustees". At the moment this includes all camp leaders, Church Representatives and all those who are recognised as having an interest in the Lord's work through camp.** As a result of this it is far from clear which people actually form the General Committee.

This is worrying as these people effectively adopt legal liability for the organisation. Perhaps more worrying still – they may not even realise this! Clearly this is an unsatisfactory situation and needs to be clarified.

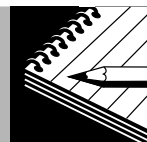
The most important question which all concerned with camps must consider is; "who are to be Trustees" and " how are they to be appointed in the future" ?

A detailed discussion paper written by David Smith and David Cook on behalf of the Trustees will be circulated shortly for discussion at an EGM in March.

Dave outlined two options that the Trustees have been looking at (see next page). The Trustees would opt for Option A, as the mechanics would not be much different than they are now. The possible third option of doing nothing is actually not an option, as we will have to change the Constitution anyway because of new charity legislation.



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New constitution — Option A

Trustees

A separate self-appointing group. Setting broad vision, appointing overall leaders, and executive committee

Executive

A group given the task of organising camps

Old General Committee

Camp leaders, Church reps and other interested parties. Could have a voting procedure to indicate support of Trustees, but could not actually appoint or remove Trustees.

New constitution — Option B

New General Committee

With a membership listing the New General Committee effectively becomes the body of Trustees. Has legal and spiritual responsibility.

Elected Executive Committee

Given responsibility to run camps on behalf of the New General Committee. This group could also be charged with setting the vision.

It was pointed out that in Option A the Trustees would be self appointing and therefore the General Committee would not bind them. However, in practice they ultimately would be.

Dave Barry asked if the Trustees could take out an insurance policy to protect Trustees. The chairman said the answer was yes but it is very expensive. However, we'd look at this issue again.

Des Young asked if past Trustees would be liable for any problems, (negligence etc) encountered by the incumbent Trustees for up to 5 years after resigning just as a company Director would be.

Richard White asked "Who are H&DCYC in this new scenario? (Option A). Who forms the membership?"

The Trustees asked that any feedback or alternative suggestions be sent to the Administrator by early January 2003.

11. Any Other Business (AOB):

a) Des Young asked for more advance notification of meetings so more people can attend.

b) Election of Trustees: The chairman explained that as this meeting was not an AGM and none of the Trustees were up for re-election there would be no need for an election. As we were also looking at changing the Constitution it was felt by the Trustees that it would be unfair and unwise to have any new members at this time.

c) Keith & Pauline Horder queried the appointments of Brian Collie & David Smith. They thought that both were appointed in 1997 and therefore should have been put forward for re-election in 2002. David Smith said that he was appointed in 1998 and Brian Collie was re-elected in 1999. The Administrator would check the minutes.

d) New Constitution: Hopefully this would be ready for approval at the next AGM.

c) Date of next AGM - October 2003

12. Date of Next Meeting:

Saturday 29th March 2003. Venue to be decided.

13. Thanks:

Dave Cook thanked everyone for attending. He also thanked the Trustees for making him feel so welcome into the group.

14. Prayer:

The meeting was closed with prayer.