

**BROCKENHURST GATEWAY CLUB**  
**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING AND AGM**

**Wednesday, 1 October, 2014 at 7.30 pm**

**Butts Mead, Rhinefield Road, Brockenhurst**

**PRESENT:**

Mike Snell (MS) Chairman  
Pauline French (PF) Leader  
Jane Forrest (JF) Treasurer  
Ken Garrod (KG) Parent

Sue Joiner (SJ) Parent  
Mark French (MF) Assistant Leader  
Janet McDonald (JM) Secretary  
Tony Catt (TC) Member

In attendance: David Smith (DS) Vice Chairman NF Mencap

1. The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. There were apologies from Bob Stevenson. David Smith attended as a representative of NF Mencap and was welcomed.

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the previous meeting on 9 July were approved

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

i) Web site photos of Committee members need to be sent in immediately. PF took photos of the committee who had not sent in photos.

ii) Open Evening will be held on the first Tuesday in December, (2nd). PF needs raffle prizes. **PF**  
There would be no charge for members on that evening, nor for the future Drama Evening. **All**

iii) Gift Aiding of donations. **JF**

As a rule we should make sure donations are gift aided. MS asked JF to make sure donors sign up. Caravan Show donations cannot be gift aided as the owner of event is not a UK tax payer.

iv) The Bank Mandate is sorted and there are 3 signatories, JF, MS and JS (Janet Starling).

v) Sports Tournament on 4 October is all arranged. Risk Assessment done. New Forest Rotary Club members are coming to help. 90 members from various clubs are coming. Hard Brock cafe will be used at lunch time. Ryan is in charge. PF and MF are unable to attend.

vi) Transport for Robert White. SJ reported that she had phoned his parents, no reply, and then Robert, who said he no longer wanted to come.

vii) Closure of Fermount Day Centre. Staff are being made redundant or reallocated. It will be difficult in winter in bad weather with no base for members to go to. Now go swimming, play skittles at Christchurch or have fish and chips. We must all start acting politically rather than leaving problem with the parents. Launchpad has been rolled out county wide as an alternative to the day centre and is apparently successful in Basingstoke and Eastleigh.

viii) Club Name. We decided on **Brockenhurst Gateway (Serving SW Hampshire and East Dorset)**. PF and MF wanted to make sure it was clear that Gateway served a much wider area than just Brockenhurst and could be losing out on donations, e.g. from Bournemouth. **JF**

ix) Beaulieu Caravan Show. The money from the parking increased this year and we received £2,680. The good weather ensured a large turnout. MS will thank all who did the rota, and Mike Ritchie and wife who manage the event, and will arrange a Press release. **MS**

x) SJ visit to Waterside Gateway. SJ has e mailed us her report.

**4. TROPHY FOR CARYS GARROD**

Ken showed us his and Sue's choice of trophy. It will be called the 'Carys Garrod Award for Happiness' and engraving will be on the glass. But names will not be engraved every year. Ken will

order and initially pay for it. All the leaders and helpers at Gateway will help choose the winner each year. It will be awarded at the Christmas Disco evening by Sue and Ken. The total sum raised in memory of Carys is £1,352 for which the committee was very grateful.

#### **5. FUND RAISING SUB COMMITTEE**

The sub committee meets 3 -4 times a year at the 'Office' (Crown Pub!) Four or five new people are keen to join, Jackie Cable, Mick and Alice Pearson and Judith Cole. KG mentioned that the NF Mencap have a paid professional fund raiser. The sub-committee will report back at each committee meeting. **PF**

#### **6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

MS said all is going well, particularly with fund raising. The Crown Pub is particularly good as an on-going supporter. We average about 32 members at our weekly meeting, and 90 are coming to the Sports Day on October 4th. MS thanks Pauline and Mark for their continuing efforts in running the club so successfully.

#### **7. TREASURER'S REPORT**

JF circulated a list of donations. £8,826.02 had been donated since 1 June. The August Charity Day at The Crown raised £1372.62 and Mark French's abseil in Portsmouth raised £1159. Total funds at bank £22,156, so no financial worries at present. MS thanked JF for all her work and all those who had contributed (particularly Mark for his abseil). JF said that JS had been a great help handing in money to bank in Lymington and MS said he was also able to help. The decision had been made to stay with HSBC. JF checked that MS had thanked the donors. On 9 October there will be a donation of a cheque from the Lions Club at the Community Centre in Lymington. PF said she would attend. **PF**

#### **8. LEADER'S REPORT**

PF said attendance was good at Gateway. The members loved the woodwork. We had had some good displays this year and the Gun Dogs, a new addition, was very successful. The Vehicle Evening on the first Tuesday in June needs a bigger venue; all suggestions welcomed. Drama with Cynthia had started with a concert to be held at Easter. There will be an auction on 6 February, at the Crown. On December 19 there would be an Xmas Raffle. There would also be a raffle at the Open Evening on December 2nd. All raffle prizes to be handed to PF. The Annual Fun Day would be held at the Crown on 8 August, 2015. We need access to an outside PA system.

#### **9. BARGE TRIP**

The barge trip at Bradford on Avon is booked for Thursday 16 April. Quite a few names already down to go.

#### **10. CHRISTMAS POSTER COMPETITION**

A neighbour of MS, Isabel Toward, last year reported a poor response to the village Christmas evening poster competition from the School so she asked if Gateway Club would be interested. It would be a joint venture, A4 size on an Xmas theme. It must be reproducible and would raise profile of Gateway Club in village if we say yet. Prize is a £25 voucher. Would have to be ready by early December. PF agreed to accept the challenge. **PF**

#### **11. AOB. NF MENCAP CONSULTATION.**

MS had circulated the Consultation Document to each Committee member. A response is needed within a week or so. Firstly MS said a definite **no** to bi-monthly meetings, to which everyone agreed. Everyone is too busy for so many meetings; additional ones would not be necessary. There is concern that the number of trustees is getting smaller. Only 6 at present, instead of the minimum number of 8. Can we make changes to be more effective? Could have a smaller number of Trustees with their own area of responsibility? SJ queried if there would then be too much power in so few hands. Trustees can be liable for any debt, but MS said there should be only limited liability. NF Gateway and Saturday Club committees would combine as they have the

same leader and volunteers. Apart from the proposed additional meetings of the Gateway Clubs, members were generally supportive of the changes. They strongly supported the proposal for NF Mencap to act politically in support of adults with learning difficulties. David Smith thanked members for their contributions and agreed to forward these to Bob Stevenson, Chairman of NF Mencap. The NF Mencap AGM will be held on Nov 5<sup>th</sup> and members were encouraged to attend.

**12. NEXT MEETING** It is proposed to hold the next meeting on Wednesday, 14th January, 2015 at Butts Mead, Rhinefield Road, Brockenhurst.