



2015 Annual Conference

Friday 27th November @ Lake District Calvert Trust

Report

Present:

John Crosbie (Chairman / Individual Member)
Sean Day (Secretary / Individual Member / Lake District Calvert Trust)
Trevor Clarke (Bendrigg Trust)
Nick Liley (Bendrigg Trust)
Matt Simons (Avon Tyrell)
Neil Addington (Individual Member / Keppleway Centre)
Sophie Slade (Calvert Trust Exmoor)
Terry Hailwood (Low Mill)
Jon Cawley (Calvert Trust Exmoor)
Graeme Hill (Individual Member)
Greg Wallace (Keppleway Centre)
Tony Smith (Hindleap Warren)
Jayne Dolbear (Calvert Trust Exmoor)
Jay Jackson (Individual Member)
Pete Coulson (Calvert Trust Kielder)
Lenny Black (Hindleap Warren)
Suresh Paul (Equal Adventure)
James Bennett (Equal Adventure)
John Ford (Lake District Calvert Trust)
Julie Cunningham (Ghyll Head)

Guests:

Tomás Aylward (IT Tralee & UNESCO)
Ciaran Murphy (CARA / Irish Sailing Association)
Tom Hanrahan (Enable Ireland)

Presenters:

Nick Ogden (Aerofix)
Elspeth Mason (Mere Mountains)

1. Background

The 2015 conference was held the day prior to the BMC disability symposium (also held at the Lake District Calvert Trust [LDCT]) as the date set for the symposium were the previous weekend to the traditional AfA conference and the previous BMC symposium was well attended by AfA members. Hence this appeared to be both time/travel efficient as well as encouraging good attendance at both events. As a result, the AfA conference was compressed into one day with the opportunity for further presentations and speakers at the BMC symposium, for those who wished to extend

their stay. Pressure on the Centre from both LDCT main business and the symposium caused challenges in accommodation and resulted in a “pay for what you use” approach rather than the traditional comprehensive conference fee.

2. Thursday 26 November

Those travelling distances arrived at the LDCT Coach House in Keswick, followed by a lively social / pub meal in the Pheasant Inn.

3. Friday 27 November

Those staying at the Coach House travelled to the main Centre for breakfast and joined by other arrivals (many of whom also opted for breakfast.)

4. Introductions and organisation updates

Individuals and Centres introduced themselves and updated the conference on organisational developments. This provided an opportunity for further informal discussions and networking opportunities.

5. Centre Tour (Sean Day)

The traditional Centre tour was conducted but with a focus on new activities (since previous visit) or those that were innovative or providing a challenge and would benefit from the input of others. These included the ropes course / zip wire; the swimming pool; climbing wall activities; and archery adaptations.

6. Session 3

This session provided an alternative programme for delegates:

6a Adaptive Harnesses issues (John C, Nick Ogden, Suresh Paul)

This covered the current issues in adaptive harness use including a legal perspective, potential issues for participants and the life expectancy and testing of adaptive harnesses. It also included some pointers and training for inspections of these specialist harnesses.

6b Water activity tour and discussion (John Ford)

This provided an option for those without a climbing focus and enabled the LDCT water based activities to be visited, for which there was not time in the previous session.

7. Adventure Mobility presentation

Unfortunately, the presenters attended the wrong Calvert Trust!!!

8. Lunch

9. Sharing and Awareness (Tomás Aylward, Ciaran Murphy, Tom Hanrahan)

A presentation on activity in Ireland, Europe and beyond and how AfA and individual organisations could be better engaged and benefit from these activities.

10. First aid and disability (Elspeth Mason)

Delegates considered the issues regarding the diagnosis and treatment of those with disabilities in first aid scenarios. The follow on debate addressed potential adaptive methods of delivering treatment and ensuring that further trauma to “patients” with disabilities was avoided. Delegates found this challenging to their systems, practice and training offered to staff.

11. Business session

A short business session focussed on the topic below.

12. Professional Practice or Discussion Group? (John C as Neal A absent)

Discussion on future role of AfA within IOL SIG structure. PPG preferred option.

13. AGM

Minutes of the AGM are available separately.

14. Conference dinner

Pre-dinner drinks and a conference dinner provided excellent networking opportunities.

15. BMC symposium Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th

Most AfA delegates were either presenting at, or stayed on for, the BMC symposium. The details of this event will not be covered here but included a range of presentations, workshops and discussions that were pertinent to the work of most organisations working in the outdoor field with people with disabilities. This was also a good opportunity to present a wider range of activities to those with a mountaineering focus as well as to promote the work of IOL and the AfA.

John Crosbie

Chairman

Adventure for All Special Interest Group

Institute for Outdoor Learning

11 March 2016