

Proposal for an event booking policy.

The background.

It has been the practice over the years for volunteers within the Club to organise social events, both at home and abroad, that require money to be paid in advance to secure accommodation, ferry crossings and the like. The recent failure of a major tour operator has highlighted the fact that this is a potentially risky thing to do. The Club is not a travel agent or tour operator and as such is not ABTA or ATOL bonded, unlike the High Street retailers we normally book our individual holidays with. The Club cannot afford to underwrite the risk of a hotel or ferry company failing after being paid a substantial amount of members' money and no insurance to cover us for such a risk has been found. Volunteers make bookings in good faith with suppliers they believe to be reputable but ultimately, where a significant sum of money is involved, members attending such events may wish to consider checking the supplier failure conditions of their travel insurance policies.

The policy

To avoid the risk of a section or register losing a large sum of money it should be considered normal practice for each member attending a pre-paid event to pay their own costs using their personal credit card to benefit from the protection offered by Section 75 of the Consumer Credit Act 1974. Where a block booking discount is offered the supplier should be asked to give a discount code to allow attendees to enjoy the benefit of the discount. Although this policy is not mandatory the Club will not underwrite losses where this policy is not followed.