



**TADCASTER COUNTRY WALKING CLUB
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 16TH MARCH 2015
AT TADCASTER SOCIAL CLUB**

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone, particularly new members to the AGM. He explained that the meeting was in two parts. First there would be the AGM, where the Committee would report on the previous year, and then the second part would be the General Meeting, where all members have the opportunity to discuss or raise any issues they wanted airing.

1 The meeting opened at 7.30pm and was attended by 31 members:-

Michael and Kate Arnold, Pat and Stuart Bowman, Kath and Geoff Ballance, Joyce Webster, Joan and Ivan Horner, Pat Overton, John Notley, Martin Nulty, Jean Hanby, Mary Ramsden, Kathleen Horton, Denise and Steve Gorton, David Atkinson, Steve Cobb, Roderic Parker, Richard McLoughlin, Angela and Derek Marshall, Elwin Raistrick, Chris Hawkin, Maura Whittaker, Frances Gigg, Christine Eason, Alan Brooke and Wendy Ware.

2 Apologies for absence were received from 24 members:-

Sue and Dave Howard, Maura and John Hunt, Joan and Eddy Thomas, Edward French, Ken and Lavina Beaumont, Lyn Parkin, Joy Ingram, Mary Auton, Monica Ivey, Julie Grant, Carol Pettifar, John Haithwaite, Felicity Hill, John Horton, David Moss, Jean Linley, Edna Feenan, Shirley Bambridge, Pat Shackleton and Dina Dixon.

3 The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 25th February 2014, were accepted as a true record by members. Proposed by John Notley, seconded by Geoff Ballance.

4 Chairman's Review of the Last 12 Months

Michael reported that the last year had been another successful year for the club, with a varied programme of long and short Tuesday walks, and very often longer walks at the weekends.

In addition to the main Walking Programme, the club offered several other walking opportunities. These included a fairly challenging walking holiday along the part of the Pennine Way, a distance of about 110 miles in 6 days (organised by Michael).

A small group of members also tackled the 'Blubberhouses 25' Challenge walk, and walks were organised to coincide with the 'Tour de France', so that walkers could get close to the event as it passed through the Dales.

The club website is now up and running, thanks to Roderic, and it would be demonstrated after the AGM, so members can see what is on it.

The club also held the ever popular annual Christmas walk and lunch, organised by John Notley and his team. The most recent event was the Annual Dinner and Quiz and Wetherby golf club, organised by Sue and Dave, again very successful.

On behalf of the club, Michael thanked all those who continue to support the club. They range from the walk leaders, the car drivers, members who organise social events, email buddies, those who provide refreshments on the Christmas walk and many more. It's through their continuing support that the club works.

5 Walks Co-ordinator's Report

As the Walks Co-Ordinator was unable to attend the meeting, his report was presented by the Chairman.

The new walks programme is almost complete, with the last few details to be confirmed. Attendance at walks has remained at the previous level, with higher numbers on the 'regular' Tuesday walks. A striking thing the statistics showed was that 5 leaders between them led half of the walks, so there is a need for others to step up and share the burden.

6 Secretary's Report

Pat reported that we now have 91 members, with 8 new members joining in the year ended 31st January 2015.

They are:- Richard McLoughlin, Rob Young, David and Margaret Spavin, David Moss, Steve Molloy, Kath Bailey and Don Paterson.

Membership numbers are continuing to rise slowly, but in order to update the club's records, all members have been asked this year to complete a membership renewal form or notify the secretary if they leave the club. No fee has been charged. The results of this exercise will not be known for a few more weeks.

The e-mail buddy system is working well, and helps keep our costs down.

7 Treasurer's Annual Review

Kath presented the Financial Statement for the year ending 31 January 2014, which showed in summary that the Club had begun the year £195.73 in credit, and ended £182.84 in credit.

8 Election of New Committee

All four committee members were willing to stand for a further year, and there were no other nominations. The meeting voted unanimously in favour of re-electing the present committee. Proposed by Martin, seconded by Geoff.

Following the AGM, the Chairman demonstrated the Club website and showed some of its content. It was explained that this was an additional source of information, all of which would still be available using traditional methods and emails. The website allows members to see up to date walks programmes, download a copy of the programme and joining instructions and view other club news.

The address of the website is <http://tadcasterwalking.co.uk/>

Ordinary Meeting

Items for discussion were as follows:-

1 Our walks and whether we have the right balance of difficulty, distances walked, areas and start times.

Members were happy with the variety of walks on the programme. If a walk is likely to take longer than usual then an earlier start time may be published in the programme, and members should check this.

2 Walks Leaders.

Following on from the Walks Review during the AGM, the Chairman reminded members that a Walks Co-ordinator can only make up the programme from the walks that members have volunteered to lead. More walks leaders are always needed to share the load.

3 Car mileage to remain at 25p per mile, divided between the passengers.

The Chairman had done some research into motoring costs which showed that 25p was still a fair and reasonable amount to pay. The meeting voted in favour.

4 E-mail and internet buddy system.

Working well, with no problems reported. The secretary reminded members that if the walks leader has provided his/her mobile phone number, it can be very useful to have the number with you (and your phone) on the walk.

5 Joining fee to remain at £2.

Kath said that although the Club did not actually need the £2, the payment of a small fee indicated commitment to the Club. Members voted in favour of £2 for all new members.

6 Christmas Walk and Lunch.

This popular event was discussed, and John and his team agreed to organise it again at the Arabian Horse, Aberford. Members agreed that although we have walked in this area many times, it is not a problem, and the walk and lunch made a very enjoyable combination.

7 Annual Dinner

Members had again enjoyed this year's dinner at Wetherby Golf Club, and agreed that there was nowhere they could think of that would be better. Although unable to attend the AGM, Sue and Dave Howard offered to organise next year's dinner, and had made a provisional reservation for Friday 22nd January 2016.

There was a suggestion that, to avoid possible bad weather, perhaps future dinners could be held in the summer. Whilst there was some limited support for this idea, no one volunteered to organise this for 2016. As such, the reservation for the Wetherby Golf Club in January 2016 was confirmed.

8 Any Other Business

Michael proposed 3 possible walking events for members to consider in the coming year:

Walking the Pembrokeshire Coast Path – the whole path is 186 miles long and can take 14 days to walk. It could be walked as 2 halves taking 7 -8 days for each half. Each day should be no longer than 15 miles with many days shorter. Actual arrangements will depend on what members want to do. The plan is to go in late August / early September and approximate costs could be £70 -£80 per night for B&B and luggage transfer. Any members who were interested were asked to contact Michael before the end of March.

Morecombe Bay Crossing – This is a 7 -8 mile walk across the sands of Morecombe Bay led by the Queens Guide, Cedric Robinson. It's in support of charity and likely dates this year will be Sat 25th or Sun 26th July. Details will be circulated nearer the time.

Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge - The proposal is to do the walk on a weekday when the weather is better and the daylight is longer. There should be no large sponsored walks during the week to overcrowd the route. A firm date will be announced nearer the time but if anyone is interested, then please let me know beforehand.

The secretary reminded members planning walks that the club owns a good selection of Ordnance Survey maps, which are available to borrow by contacting Pat Bowman.

John Notley reminded walkers of the convoy rule i.e. if the group starts to get spread out when walking, then walkers must ensure that those behind them can see where to go, before catching up with those ahead. This should ensure that the group does not get separated.

Roderic told members that the Ex-Barnardo's footpath enquiry, which several members had attended in February, was still awaiting the Inspector's decision. The result should be published in May, and we hope the footpath to the viaduct can then be re-opened.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.