



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 15th February 2022

Online by Zoom at 7.30pm

1. Chairman's Welcome

Tadcaster Country Walking Club's Annual General Meeting was, for a second year, held as a Zoom online meeting, and hosted by Steve Gorton.

The Chairman, Michael Arnold, welcomed all members and reminded us of our first Zoom AGM in 2021, when the country was in its 3rd Covid lockdown. This year, although restrictions have been lifted, the members voted by a small majority to use Zoom once more.

The meeting was attended by 20 members, Michael and Kate Arnold, Mary Auton, Pat Bowman, Edward French, Frances and David Gigg, Denise and Steve Gorton, Rod Horton, Dave and Kaye Howard, Sue Howard, Maura and John Hunt, Jillian Lawson, Lyn Parkin, Mary Ramsden, Christine Snowdon, and Joyce Webster.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Kath and Geoff Balance, Stuart Bowman, Helen Chambers, Jo Curtis, Jennifer French, Peter and Ros Galley, Felicity Hill, Joan Horner, Dave Howard, Debbie Johnson, Adrian and Dee Lockwood, Angela and Derek Marshall, Christine Mitchell, Jane and Andy Steel, Eddie and Joan Thomas and Mike Wareham.

Many of these members also added a vote of thanks to everyone who contributes in different ways to the success of our walks.

3. Agreement of Previous Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 23rd February 2021, have been seen and were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Edward, seconded by Sue.

Action taken. Last year we discussed the problem of footpaths in need of repair. Michael emailed members for their comments, and it was agreed that it is up to the individual to report problems as they find them. There are smart phone apps that help to do this, but they don't work with all local authorities, so reporting problems may require persistence.

Pat has updated membership details for everyone who wishes to continue as a member, and collected their Emergency Contact Details.

4. Chairman's Review of the Past 12 Months

2021 started badly, with a 3rd National lockdown, and continued in the same vein, with constantly changing rules. Interpreting these rules and managing the walks programme required a fair amount of effort from Sue, Frances and Pat, so we could continue to walk.

One of the positive things we have gained from the difficulties of the last two years is that we have made more use of the internet. The walks programme is more easily accessible and members can book onto walks. We have updated our membership records, and collected everyone's emergency contact numbers.

We have also achieved internet banking, which Frances will explain later.

With all the uncertainty of the past year apart from walking, none of our other events – Cober Hill, the Christmas walk and buffet at the Arabian Horse, and the Annual Dinner and Quiz at Wetherby Golf Course went ahead. What we did have was a Christmas walk with food, drinks and carols arranged by Kath and Geoff, celebrating their Golden Wedding. A most enjoyable day – Thank you Kath and Geoff.

The Club's website, now in need of a re-vamp, has been kept going by Roderic for several years now. David Gigg is working on updating the website and has also been helping to introduce new systems such as the one email address, and the online booking system.

In summary, the Club has weathered the last year well, with everyone working to try to make sure we continue to have a viable club.

5. Walk Co-Ordinator's Review.

At the start of 2021 we were in lockdown 3, with the Tier system in force. We still managed to offer 3 different walks for groups of up to 6 people in their own areas.

We were then locked down until March, when the tier system was scrapped and we could walk in groups of 6. Amazingly we managed to have up to 3 different walks on a Tuesday and 2 on a Saturday. Sometimes 2 or 3 groups would set off at different times, or in the opposite direction. Thank you to all the walk leaders, especially Felicity, who led a walk almost every Tuesday.

The maximum number of walkers on a Saturday was 24, and on a Tuesday 29, except for the Christmas walk when there was a record 33.

I am now producing a 3-month program, and trying to simplify the online booking system.

6. Secretary's Report.

Last year the club had 110 members, but some of these members had had no contact with the club since well before the pandemic.

All members were invited to re-register and to provide an emergency contact number. 89 people wished to remain members.

Each of the four committee members has the complete list of emergency contacts, and even in the unlikely event of a contact number being needed and no committee member present, it should always be possible to reach one of us by phone.

It was agreed last year that members should each carry a small card with their emergency contact details. Please see Sue if you need a card.

When covid restrictions eased last May, we could start to accept new members.

Four new members joined the Club last year, Rob Horton, Carmel Hopkins, and Peter and Ros Galley. One member resigned, and membership now stands at 92.

The six members without email addresses are informed about club activities by their 'internet buddies'.

When answering email enquiries from prospective members, I try to ensure that they start with a walk that is well within their abilities, and that they walk as a guest for their first two walks before joining as members.

7. Treasurer's Annual Review.

All members had been sent a copy of the Club's accounts, which were quite minimal this year because no social events took place. There was an income of £20 from four new members, and a small amount of secretarial expenses from last year, leaving a new balance of £161.30.

The biggest task had been organising a new bank account for Club funds, which proved to be far from simple. There had been problems with HSBC, who wanted to charge us £5 a month plus charges for transactions. Eventually we settled for NatWest, who can provide a more suitable account for a non-profit organisation.

We now have internet banking, which is much more convenient.

All in all, the Club's finances are in good order.

8. Election of New Committee

The present Committee were all prepared to stand again if members agreed, and were unanimously re-elected.

Ordinary Meeting

Items for discussion were as follows: -

1. Walks and Holidays for the Coming Year.

Our walks programme is looking healthy again, with walks every Tuesday and Saturday, and a shorter walk on alternate Tuesdays.

Members had asked about a possible return visit to Cober Hill, Cloughton, nr Scarborough.

We have been offered a group booking for Monday 18th to Wednesday 20th July 2022.

Two nights B&B, and evening meal would be £154 per person. Pat will contact everyone as soon as the official quotation is received from Cober Hill.

2. Car Share Costs.

We have not resumed the car sharing arrangements we had pre-covid, so although costs will have risen from the previous 25p per mile, any car sharing remains a matter for individuals.

3. Annual Dinner and Christmas Walk.

Having successfully arranged a Christmas walk and Buffet meal for several years, Kath and Geoff are stepping down, and we thank them for many happy times.

Maura and John have volunteered to plan this year's Christmas walk.

Concern about covid, and also a change of chef at Wetherby Golf Club had made it impossible to arrange the Annual Dinner in January this year. Members suggested that perhaps a Summer event could be held. Sue and Dave Howard are to make enquiries about a date in August.

4. Joining Fee to Remain at £5.

It was agreed that £5 remains a sensible amount.

5. Any Other Business.

With no other matters arising, the meeting closed at 8.58pm.

Pat Bowman

24th February 2022