



TADCASTER COUNTRY WALKING CLUB
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 26th FEBRUARY 2013
AT TADCASTER SOCIAL CLUB

- 1 The meeting opened at 7.30pm and was attended by 47 members.
Apologies for absence were received from:-
Geoff Ballance, Lavina Beaumont, Peter Beeton, Carmela Bravo-Marcos, Jean Hanby, Sue Howard, Monica Ivey, Jean Linley, Carol Pettifar and Angela and Derek Marshall.
- 2 The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 22nd February 2011, were accepted as a true record by the members.
- 3 Chairman's report.
Edward reminded us of how the club was started in 1999 by Paul Grier, with Brian Webster as mid-week walks co-ordinator and Derek Jones for weekends. Pat Overton took over in 2001 when the programme was abandoned due to foot and mouth. Since then we've walked over 5,000 miles, had a lot of fun, formed new friendships and sadly lost some.
The club has almost doubled in size, and its continued success depends on the members who lead the walks, drive the cars and arrange social events. Edward stressed that there needs to be a variety of walks on different days to please as many members as possible.
- 4 Walks Co-ordinator's Report.
Joy thanked all walks leaders and reminded members that if they want their preferred walks, they must be prepared to put them in the Programme. No-one should overtake the walk leader, and all leaders should carry maps.
Over the past year, there have been walks on 26 Tuesdays and 46 weekends, totalling 681 miles. 7 walks were cancelled, one due to snow.
Average members per walk:
Summer 12 on Tuesdays 8 on weekends
Winter (so far) 13 on Tuesdays 11 on weekends
The increased number of weekend walks is keeping numbers down to manageable levels on each walk.
- 5 Secretary's report.
We now have 74 members, including 8 who have joined in the past year:
David Atkinson, Carmela Bravo-Marcos, Marjorie Brennan, Phillip Clarke,
Christine Eason, Adrian Kite, Anne Wharldall and Chris Wolf
A further member, Steve Dove has joined tonight.

Members were reminded that only their names and e-mail addresses were circulated to the whole club, plus their phone numbers when published on the Walks Programme.
Pat passed round a list of e-mail addresses and internet buddies for members to check.

- 6 Treasurer's Annual Review. Joyce stated that due to increased use of the internet, the club's expenses were minimal. The balance for the year ending 31 January 2013 was £178.67, compared with £158.68 last year.
- 7 Election of Officers. Martin proposed that the Committee be re-elected en-masse. Seconded by Edna and supported by the members. Joyce announced that she intends to step down from the position of treasurer at the end of the year.
Edward proposed that Michael Arnold be elected Chairman. Seconded by Steve Gorton. No other nominations received. Proposal carried by show of hands.
Edward thanked everyone for their support over the past 10 years. On behalf of all the members, Kath Ballance proposed a vote of thanks to Edward, and presented him with a card and gift.

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

The new Chairman, Mike Arnold, thanked Edward for all his work and for making the club the success it was today. By any measure the club was thriving.

The Chairman then outlined his views on the role of the Chairman. He considered the role was one of guidance to continue to lead a successful club into the future with the help of the committee and the support of the members. The club needed to meet the needs of all its members both now and in the future.

Being newly appointed and as a fairly new member of the club compared to many of the present members, the Chairman felt it was important for members to understand his views on what the club was all about. These were:

- a) Shorter walks on alternate Tuesdays were the best attended walks. These are so popular that until a couple of years ago membership was closed to new members to prevent too many people going on the walk.
- b) Travel to the start of walks is normally in private cars and occasionally public transport.
- c) In recent years the number of weekend walks has increased a lot, many of these are longer and require more travel to get to the start. These walks attract less members than the Tuesday walks but are no less important to the members who go on them.
- d) The Chairman's view was that the club needs to retain what is obviously working well whilst continuing to develop the club to meet the needs of all its members into the future.

ORDINARY MEETING

1. The Walks Programme for Summer 2013 is now almost complete. Members were invited to share their views on the type of walks we do. (There was no interest in evening walks). Tuesday is the preferred day for walks and a number of members objected to longer walks being put into the programme on Tuesdays. Some members can only do shorter walks, but if no-one offers to lead short walks, then the longer ones will be accepted.

It was widely agreed that if you do not like the walk offered in the programme, it is not acceptable to undermine the programme by offering to lead an alternative walk on the same day. This does not mean that groups of friends cannot go out for a walk together, simply that all club walks must be in the Walks Programme.

2. Walks leaders. Joy appealed for more members to offer to lead walks. Fifteen members led walks last year. If members want more short walks, they should offer to lead them. Joy has a selection of the club's maps and ideas for walks, and suggested that anyone not confident about leading a walk on their own could get together with one or two others.
3. Internet buddies. Although this system has only been in place for a year, it has proved to be a useful way to convey information about walks, and saves expense. The system is not 100% reliable due to members' holidays etc, so the onus needs to be on the member without e-mail to contact the walks leader if they are concerned by a particular walk. All official club communications are sent in hardcopy to those without e-mail.

Club Constitution

There had been concern that the club has no written rules, so all members were given a proposed constitution to consider. The meeting voted decisively in favour of adopting this constitution, with some minor changes.

Regarding item 14, members agreed that dog owners should determine that a walk is suitable, and must remain fully responsible for the dog.

On rule 15, it was agreed that the suitability of walks for individual members is a personal matter. Walks leaders can advise and inform, but it is up to the individual to assess their own suitability for walks.

Edward suggested using the 'other' Tuesdays for walks. Lyn asked Joy if this would be a problem for her as Walks Co-ordinator, and Joy replied that this could be done if enough walks are submitted. After much discussion it was agreed that members would like shorter walks on the 'usual' Tuesdays and longer walks on the 'other' Tuesdays. Again this depends on members offering to lead sufficient short walks.

The £2.00 membership fee remains unchanged.

To clarify questions on the sharing of petrol costs, it was agreed that the 25p per mile is shared between the passengers, but not the driver. There is no rule, but usually if the car is not full, the driver will pay a share. The same applies to parking fees.

Membership numbers.

We now have 75 members, with one more joining us tonight. We are not actively seeking new members because of the problems managing large groups, or car parking space at the start of walks.

Members asked if there were some on the list who never walked. Pat said that she was aware of some who were unable to join walks at present, and others who only walked infrequently. If we have not heard from someone during the past year, we do try to check whether they wish to remain a member.

There have been more enquiries than usual from people interested in joining the club, possibly because of increased publicity in the Wetherby News and the Walkers are Welcome website.

At present there is no limit to the number of members the club has, but if membership continues to increase rapidly, we may need to set an upper limit.

Members expressed concern that their names and phone numbers were being made public and that we need to maintain control of our walks programme.

Action – Michael to investigate and have our programmes removed from outside websites.

Only brief details of the club are to be publicised. An ‘anonymous’ club e-mail address to be created for the club secretary.

4. Following the success of this year’s Annual Dinner, the chairman asked for a volunteer to organize the next one. Dave Howard offered to organize the dinner and quiz at the same venue as this year, Wetherby Golf Club. Members welcomed this proposal and thanked Dave for volunteering again.
5. When asked about a Christmas Walk, John Notley offered to organize his Christmas walk and buffet lunch at the Arabian Horse, Aberford, which has become a popular tradition. Again this proposal was unanimously welcomed.

The meeting concluded at 8.35pm.