



**TADCASTER COUNTRY WALKING CLUB  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2014  
AT TADCASTER SOCIAL CLUB**

**Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed all members of the club and particularly new members to the AGM. He explained that it was the opportunity for all members to have their say on what went well, what could have been done better and to discuss proposals for changes that should improve the club in the future.

**1** The meeting opened at 7.30pm and was attended by 34 members:-  
Michael Arnold, Joy Ingram, Pat Bowman, Joyce Webster, Joan Horner, Ivan Horner, Stuart Bowman, Pat Overton, John Notley, Martin Nulty, Jean Hanby, Mary Ramsden, Joyce Preene, Kathleen Horton, Mary Auton, Hilary Battye, Edna Feenan, David Atkinson, Lyn Parkin, Steve Dove, Sue Howard, Dave Howard, Maura Hunt, John Hunt, Ruth O'Brien, Paul Ingram, Jillian Lawson, Steve Cobb, Roderic Parker, Richard McLoughlin, Angela Marshall, Derek Marshall, Kath Ballance and Geoff Ballance.

Apologies for absence were received from 24 members:-  
Joan and Eddy Thomas, Edward French, Ken and Lavina Beaumont, Denise and Steve Gorton, Alan Brooke, Monica Ivey, Julie Grant, Wendy Ware, Kate Arnold, Peter and Barbara Beeton, Carol Pettifar, Chris Hawkin, John Haithwaite, Kate Parker, Elvis Sirvinskas, Felicity Hill, John Horton, Ellen Coles, Pat Shackleton and Dina Dixon.

**2** The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2013, were accepted as a true record by members. Last year, members had expressed concern about their names and phone numbers being made public, and in some cases appearing on outside websites. Michael had endeavoured to track down the owners of these websites and, wherever possible, have our information removed. Michael has also set up an 'anonymous' Club e-mail address, so that outside enquiries are re-directed to the Club Secretary.

**3 Chairman's Review of the Last 12 Months**

Michael reported that the last 12 months the club had continued to thrive. Attendance on walks, both on Tuesdays and at the weekends continues to be good and has not fallen even with the increased number of walks being offered. New members continue to join and enjoy the walks.

In addition to the main Walking Programme, the club offered several other walking opportunities. These included a walking holiday along the Cleveland Way organised by Edward and a challenge walk called the Blubberhouses 25 where 6 club members finished almost last out of the 220

walkers, nevertheless they enjoyed the walk and can only improve in future year. The club is thinking about arranging another walking holiday this year.

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 remains popular and well attended.

#### **4 Walks Co-ordinator's Report**

Joy reported that the Club had enjoyed another successful year of walks, with 25 members offering to lead walks in the Summer Programme and 21 in the Winter.

We walked 454 miles in Summer and 336 in Winter, a total of 790 miles, compared with 681 last year.

In the Summer programme there were 45 walks, with an average of 10 walkers, and in the Winter 40 walks with an average of 12 on each walk. Only 2 walks were cancelled due to ill health, with no cancellations due to weather.

Joy reminded everyone that they must continue to offer the sort of walks they like to put on the programme.

The April-September 2014 programme, which will be Joy's last one as Walks Co-ordinator, is almost complete, and Joy asked for volunteers to fill the last few Tuesdays in September.

#### **5 Secretary's Report**

Pat reported that we now have 83 members, with 12 new members joining in the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014.

They are:- Phillip Clarke, Steve Dove, Julie Grant, Christine Snowdon, Janet Simpson, Lynn Dickie, Pat Davis, Jillian Lawson, Kate Parker, Arvydas (Elvis) Sirvinskis, Hilary Battye and Helen Chambers.

New members still pay the £2 joining fee, which covers expenses. The membership application form has been revised so that new members agree to have read and be bound by the Constitution, which the Club adopted last year.

Perhaps because we don't ask for an annual membership fee/registration, members rarely resign from the Club. We have some members who walk very infrequently, and if we have no contact for several months, I try to find out whether they wish to continue as members.

Membership numbers continue to rise, and there are plenty of walks to choose from, so we do not have a problem with excessively large numbers on any one walk. This is something to bear in mind because very large groups are harder to lead, and car parking space is sometimes limited at the places we walk from.

The e-mail buddy system is working well, and helps keep our costs down. Your e-mail address is the only information shared with the whole Club, and on the understanding that it is not mis-used in any way.

#### **6 Treasurer's Annual Review**

Joyce circulated copies of the Financial Statement for the year ending 31 January 2014, which showed that the Club's expenses are minimal, whilst a large amount of money went through the account at the time of the Annual Dinner. There was a surplus of £17.06 for the year, and a closing balance of £195.73.

#### **7 Election of New Committee**

Michael Arnold was prepared to stand again as Chairman. Appointment proposed by Steve Cobb, seconded by Edna Feenan.

Pat Bowman was prepared to continue as Secretary. Proposed by Martin Nulty, Seconded by Sue Howard.

Ken Beaumont had expressed an interest to be the new Walks Co-ordinator . This was proposed by Edward French and seconded by Steve Cobb.

Kath Ballance was nominated for Treasurer by Joyce Webster, seconded by Maura Hunt. The meeting voted unanimously in favour of each of these proposals.

## **8 Vote of Thanks for Retiring Committee Members**

At this AGM two of the committee members, Joy and Joyce were standing down. Michael thanked them both for their work over the past years which had very much supported the growth and current success of the club. For Joy there had been the ongoing responsibility of encouraging and supporting members to lead walks. With 2 full programmes containing about 80 walks every year, this has been no mean feat and the walks programme had expanded during the time Joy had been managing it.

Joyce has been Treasurer and accounted for the clubs funds well for 11 years. Whilst the year end balances may have been low, in the course of the year a lot of money goes both in and out of the account without difficulties thanks to Joyce.

In appreciation of the work they had done and on behalf of the club, Michael presented both Joy and Joyce with a bouquet of flowers and a card signed by members. He hoped to see them both continue enjoying walking with the club in the future.

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## **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.**

A proposal from Edward French was read out, suggesting that Tuesdays be open to any type of walk, and not reserved for easier walks.

Pat Overton said that there had been several difficult walks on Tuesdays, when members would have expected there to be an easier walk. Members generally agreed that alternate Tuesdays should be primarily for easier walks, providing that they were offered. The proposal from Edward was voted against.

### **2 Walks Leaders.**

Following from the previous item Joy reminded members that a Walks Co-ordinator can only make up the programme from the walks that members have volunteered to lead. It is up to members to put forward the sort of walks they like and offer to lead them.

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

Michael had done some research into motoring costs which showed that 25p was 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.

### **5 Possible TCWC Website with Basic Information.**

This proposal was accepted and a basic website that includes the current programme (but without telephone numbers) will be launched in a few weeks. A link to view the site will be sent to members. Roderic agreed to see if he could maintain and update the site.

## **6 Finance**

The Club has £195 in the bank, and its expenses are almost covered by joining fees received. Proposals included making a donation to charity, using it towards the Christmas meal or providing refreshments at the next AGM. Members eventually voted to leave the funds as they are at present.

## **7 Joining fee to remain at £2.**

Joyce 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.

## **8 Proposed Tour de France on 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> July**

The importance of the event to Yorkshire was explained and the club welcomed the possibility of a walk linked to seeing the race. To enable more members to participate it was proposed a shorter walk to see the event from a place near Tadcaster would be ideal. The most likely day for the walk is Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July as the race starts in York that day before heading to Knaresborough and Harrogate and then on to Keighley on the way to Sheffield. Transport and parking could be difficult as many roads will be shut for up to 8 hours and parking will be at a premium.

The committee will arrange a walk and circulate details nearer the time.

## **9 Proposed UK Walking Holiday 2014**

Following last year's success of the club holiday walking the Cleveland Way, the committee propose that a similar UK based walking holiday is arranged for this year. The proposal is that a walk of 7- 8 days will be arranged during late August/early September and a walk along the central part of the Pennine Way from Horton in Ribblesdale to Greenhead, just south of Hadrian's Wall, is proposed. The total distance is 102 miles, an average of 14 miles a day. Anyone who is interested should contact Michael before the end of March so that numbers and walking dates can be firmed up and accommodation booked.

## **10 Any other proposals**

Geoff Ballance proposed that leaders and backmarkers should wear high-visibility clothing, and all members should carry a whistle.

High-viz armbands were tried in the past, but for various reasons the idea did not work.

Members agreed, however that it was a good idea for everyone to carry a whistle. This requirement will be included in future Walks Programmes.

## **11 Christmas Walk and Lunch.**

The Christmas Walk and buffet lunch at the Arabian Horse, Aberford continues to be very popular, and John Notley's offer to organise the next one was quickly voted in.

## **12 Annual Dinner.**

Members had enjoyed this year's dinner at Wetherby Golf Club, and agreed that there was nowhere they could think of that would be better. Sue and Dave Howard offered to organise next year's dinner on the understanding that there would be a small increase in cost. Their proposal was welcomed and members thanked Dave and Sue for volunteering again.

## **13 Any other business.**

Michael observed that there had been occasions either when walking or when travelling to the meeting point, when it would have been useful for members to have each others mobile phone numbers. It was agreed that walkers should make a note of the walk leader's phone number when this is given, and of course keep their phones accessible.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.