

Minutes of Ross and District Walking Group 38th AGM

Wednesday 6 April 2022

<u>Agenda</u>	<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Action</u>
Apologies	<p>Roy Matthews, Pauline Thomas, Jas Kang, Gill and Stuart Blows, Mary Hacker, Carole and Tony Newport, Jane Wright, Peter Gratton, Margaret Davies, Kath Baldwin, Mary Richards, Elaine Lutkin, Lynn Howells, Bryan Bunting, Sylvia Jardine, Glyn Edmunds, Judith Stares, Alex Boswell, Margaret Wood, John Moxham,</p> <p>Welcome to the 38th AGM and thanks to Graham Brown for leading the pre AGM walk.</p>	
Minutes of 38th AGM	<p>Proposed –John Pullen, seconded – David Mason Signed as correct. No matters arising.</p>	
Chairman's Report (Jan Lelièvre)	<p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, our first face to face AGM since 2019 due to Covid. Jan outlined how we continued to adapt due to the impact of Covid in the last year, advising leaders to allow extra parking at the start of walks due to less car sharing, then advising members to take a lateral flow test before car sharing and we introduced a Covid policy to help keep everyone safe. We were surprised by how many lovely new local walks leaders found and gradually members returned to group walking. In the autumn we enjoyed a cream tea at the Sports Centre, a skittles evening and a quiz and ploughman's supper. The 2021 Round the Houses became Round the Gardens and was greatly enjoyed by those who attended, but sadly the New Year walk and lunch had to be cancelled. The Committee continued to meet either face to face or via Zoom meetings and Jan thanked the committee for all their hard work to keep the group walking when we were allowed to do so, throughout the pandemic. She also thanked all the club members who contribute in so many ways to the great success of the club, the committee, walk leaders, social event organisers, and the many others who look after the website, communications, walking stats etcetera. Jan particularly wished to thank Hilary and John Smart for organising the last 5 group holidays and the forthcoming trip to Dolgellau in May which will be the last one they lead. Their organisation and efficiency are outstanding and they and the other holiday walk leaders give up a lot of their time to plan and recce the walks. Very many thanks.</p> <p>One member had raised the issue of no longer having a two monthly walks programme since the introduction of the new club website. Jan said we cannot now go back to the old system but the new Committee will consider this issue and ideas from members are welcome. She pointed out that we have been relying on a small group of leaders to submit walks in recent months and encouraged more members to submit walks as we return to normal. Walks can be submitted well in advance of the walk date and this would help us with the problem outlined above. She suggested new members look at the recently updated guidance on leading walks on the website and ask more experienced leaders for help with their first walks.</p> <p>There are 2 social events planned for the summer, a Jubilee celebration on 2 June with 3 alternative walks followed by a cream tea at the Yew Tree, Peterstow and a Barbecue on 12 July, also at the Yew Tree.</p>	
Treasurer's Report (David Egan)	<p>David referred to the Statement of Accounts which shows a large balance as HF has still not cashed our cheque for £7127 for the holiday in May. Also, we have collected all of last year's subs and almost half of this year's up to 31 Mar 22.</p>	

	<p>Subscriptions bring in about £520 a year and of this, £260 goes on insurance, website renewal and hosting and OS Maps. This year, a further £60 will be taken by bank charges, as a monthly bank charge has been introduced for our bank account. We generally have about £200 to spend in-year and last year we spent £80 of that on car parking donations at the start of walks, such as at village halls. Therefore RWG is financially sound.</p> <p>Bank charges have also been introduced for paying cash and cheques into our account and David made a plea for members to make online payments to the RWG account using BACS, wherever possible. Otherwise we may ask members to pay an extra 40p per transaction to cover these charges. David was asked if he had considered changing to a different bank and he explained he had researched alternatives, but most banks have introduced similar charges Of the few that have not, none would accept an account transfer.</p> <p>Members unanimously accepted the Treasurer’s report. Proposed – Hilary Smart. Seconded – Veronica Bunting.</p> <p>A vote of thanks was given to Cindy Smith for auditing the accounts. Cindy agreed to audit the accounts again next year.</p> <p>The Committee proposed we continue to have a flat rate membership fee of £5 per walking member and £2 for social members . Proposal agreed. Proposed – Jean Harrison. Seconded – John Smart</p>	
<p>Membership Secretary’s report (David Egan)</p>	<p>As at 31 March 2022 there were 108 members (including 8 social members), down from 116 last year. During the year, 3 of our members passed away, 3 moved away and 2 did not renew.</p>	
<p>Walks Co-ordinator’s report (Harry Britten Austin on behalf of Roy Matthews)</p>	<p>By the start of the new year (1 Apr 21) we were finally free of the restrictions on numbers which were brought in to help fight Covid.</p> <p>Over the year to 31st March 2022 we ran a total of 97 walks averaging just over 2 per week.</p> <p>The online booking system has worked well but, following a request from members, we have reintroduced the forward planner to allow members to reserve slots well in advance.</p> <p>As all the walks are proposed through the online form, and this data is captured, it is comparatively easy to extract the annual archive data. The archive for 2021 has been added to the website.</p> <p>When a member wants to proceed directly to the start of the walk they have been encouraged to advise the leaders. To facilitate this, we have circulated a list of regular leaders and their contact details. This list will be periodically updated to reflect new leaders or when leaders no longer wish to propose walks.</p>	
<p>Walking statistics (Rosemary Sutton)</p>	<p>Rosemary referred to the detailed stats she had prepared for members to peruse after the meeting. Of the 97 walks on the programme;- Walks per grade Grade 1 - 3, grade 2 - 32 and grade 3 - 54</p> <p>In the number of walks per mileage category, 4 were less than 4 miles, 22 were between 5 and 6 miles and 4 were over 9 miles.</p> <p>28 members led or co-led walks. The member who led most walks was Roy Matthews, 18 walks, closely followed by Pauline Thomas who led 17 walks. Thank you to Roy and Pauline who did a lot to keep us walking in this difficult</p>	

	<p>year. Number of walks completed by members Mary Sears - 51 and Mary retains the “knitted walker” for a second year. Mary Richards - 47 walks. 88 members completed at least one walk.</p> <p>Election of Officers</p> <p>There being one nomination for each of the vacant positions, the following were unanimously elected unopposed:</p> <p>Jan Lelièvre – Chairman Kath Baldwin – Secretary Don Wood – Treasurer/Membership Secretary Pauline Thomas – Walks Co-ordinator Bob Carter – Committee Glyn Edmunds - Committee Diane Hudson - Committee</p> <p>Retirement of Officers</p> <p>Shirley and David Egan have come to the end of their 3 year term on the committee and Roy Matthews has decided to step down after 2 years. Jan thanked them for their contributions to the Committee which have been greatly appreciated. Ellie Wiltshire resigned half way through last year to start a new life on Orkney. Harry Britten-Austin has come to the end of his 3 year term as President. Harry has been very supportive to the Committee and could be relied on to come up with a solution no matter what the problem. His lockdown project was to bring Ross Walking Group into the 21st century by designing and creating our new website and Jan wholeheartedly thanked him for his innovation and commitment.</p> <p>The Committee would like to propose Gill James as the next Ross Walking Group President and this was unanimously agreed by members.</p> <p>President Harry Britten-Austin</p> <p>Harry said it had been a privilege and an honour to serve as President and thanked the Committee for their unanimous support.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 12.40</p> <p>Signed.....</p> <p>Jan Lelièvre 19 April 2022</p>	
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