

MINUTES OF 59th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 22 FEBRUARY 2006 AT CREWE LIBRARY

PRESENT:

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Committee | Peter Dawson (PD) Chair | Pauline Vawdrey (PV) | Bryan Roe (BR) |
| | Joan Yarwood (JY) | Kath Conroy (KC) | Grace Harding (GH) |
| | Marilyn Norbury (MAN) | John Fuller (JF) | Keith Hallows (KH) |
| | Eileen O'Toole (EO'T) | | |

Members 28 general members were present

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from: Paul & Margaret Harvey, Harry Nottingham, Veronica & Eric Reade, Humphrey Palethorpe, Barbara & Geoff Vaughan, Sheila Nicholls, Chris England, Stan Thomason, Olive Ward, June Arthurs, Marie Leek and Joe Taylor.

2 Minutes of previous meeting – 23 February 2005

The minutes of the AGM on 23 February 2005 were approved. Proposed by Peter Norbury and seconded by Keith Nowell. There were was one amendment: Page 4 Minute No 11 – The coach company providing transport for the Gilsland weekend was Happy Days and not Fishers.

3 Matters arising from the minutes – 23 February 2005

3.1 P2 Minute No 4 – Club Website

Bryan Roe updated the meeting on the Club Web site. Following the 2005 AGM, agreement was reached in committee to proceed with a club web site. The site was launched in July 2005 and had on average 220 visits a month since. The visits would have been a mixture of genuine people accessing the site and search engines regularly trawling the internet. The site served two main purposes, firstly to keep members up to date and secondly it was an information point for potential new members. To reinforce this second point, Bryan stated the club web site had a link from the Cheshire County Council web site – a focal point for people new to Cheshire. The club also had information on the Time Outdoors web site as well as a link from there to our web site.

A recent innovation to the site had been the ‘electronic’ copy of the walk boards currently being circulated on the coach. This enabled potential walk leaders to check what slots were still available and had been used to great advantage during the last week. The web site version was kept up to date with information gathered after each circulation of the board. Finally Bryan said he was starting to compile snippets of information about the origins of the club and these were gradually being put onto the web site.

3.2 P2 Minute No 5 Para 2 – Phone Cascade

Following discussion in committee it was agreed not to proceed with the reintroduction of a phone message cascade system. Experience of this had been breaks in the cascade, when people were not available and this caused it to fail. However, the committee did agree that the name of the organiser/leader of club events should be shown on the card and they could then be contacted direct.

3.3 P2 Minute No 6 – 60 Years Celebration

Peter Dawson provided an update on the arrangements for the 60 Years Celebration to be held at Hunters Lodge on Thursday 16 October 2006. Planning of the menu, ticket price and a guest speaker was in hand with the committee.

3.4 Any further matters arising from Members

There were no further matters raised.

4 Chairman's Report – The Chairman, Peter Dawson, welcomed those present to the AGM in the 60th year of the Club. He offered many thanks to the retiring committee members, Marilyn for her secretarial work, John for his many unselfish hours, Eddie for his hospitality at Waverley Court and also to Vivienne for her time on the committee. These vacancies would be filled later in the meeting.

Peter went on to say it had also been his intention to retire as Chairman at this time, however, he had been persuaded to stand for re-election for one further year to see the 60th Anniversary arrangements through and settle in the new committee and officers.

As could be seen from the Treasurer's report the club has had a very successful year. The A Party strength had increased, B walks had been excellent and although there had been some silent criticism at the outset, C Walks had given senior members, and people recovering from illness and operations a great help. C walks also provided financial support to keep the coaches running.

In conclusion Peter wished to thank Pauline and Bryan for their sterling work and support to him as Chairman and Kath, Keith, Grace, Peter and Joan for their work in various different ways.

Finally Peter announced that Ken Willington, a founder member of the club, had been invited to become President and had accepted. Ken, in his well known humorous way commented that all he had done was 'to simply be around', over the 60 years there had been 'many seismic movements' – he would now look forward to something 'more down to earth'. He thanked everyone for bestowing the honour on him. Ken was to lead his first club walk (with some help from his friends!) from Chirk to Llangollen on 15 October 06.

Peter reminded members of the need for people to volunteer to lead walks and put themselves forward to work on the committee – remember NO COMMITTEE, NO RAMBLING CLUB, NO WALKS.

5 Treasurer's Report – Pauline Vawdrey drew the attention of members to the balance sheet from which it could be seen that the Club had made a profit of £612.31 which together with interest of £129 meant the funds at the end of 2005 were £4,287.11.

The Expenditure/Income account showed the 24 during the year rambles had made a small loss of £36.50. The average numbers that had been out on each walk were A walk 14, B walk 20 and C walk 12. This gave a total average of 46 which was the same as 2004. The social evening in January 2005 made a profit of £10.58 and membership fees increased to £1,154. Other expenses for insurance, maps, photocopying etc were similar to the previous year. The £30 parking fine had been incurred on the Hollingworth walk.

Pauline invited questions from the body of the meeting but none were raised.

6 Auditor's Report

Vic Ward, Club Auditor, advised the meeting that he had gone through the papers and books and they were all in order. The Treasurer, Pauline Vawdrey, had done a very good job and made his role very easy.

7 Membership Secretary's Report

Keith Hallows reported current membership was:
4 life members (one less than last year following the death of Lillian Guildford)
72 full members and 96 retired members making a total of 172.

The number of members attending for walks had necessitated the use of cars on some occasions, but there was no need to limit membership at present. All members had paid their subscriptions in the previous year and Keith expressed appreciation to the many who paid prior to the AGM.

8 Ramble Organisers Report

John Fuller said it was his pleasure again to be able to report on another successful rambling year – this success had been reflected in the attendance figures that the Treasurer had reported on.

Thanks as ever went to the ramble leaders who diligently completed the walks board each half year. More walks than ever were being done, with almost a full programme of 'C' rambles. The Sunday rambles were, of course complemented by the very popular Thursday rambles. His thanks went to Andy Mills who led his Ingleton ramble in the summer of 2005 when he was unable to do so because of injury. Thanks too to Chris England for printing the card and matching his verse with a suitable photo.

The Summer/Autumn 2006 boards were being passed around the meeting and he urged members to help fill the gaps. Also passed round the meeting was notification of a night ramble in June as part of the anniversary year events. This would also be passed round the coach and further details would follow nearer the date, interested members were asked to sign the list.

Finally John advised that he had decided to stand down as Ramble Organiser. He took the opportunity to thank the Committee for their support and especially the Chairman. Last, but not least, a big thank you to all who have led rambles over the past years and helped to make the job much easier. He offered his best wishes to Keith Nowell and Pete Winby as they took up the reins.

9 Club weekends

Grace Harding reported that the weekend booked at Gilsland for early May 2006 was full with a waiting list. The Newquay week arranged for Autumn 2006 still had vacancies and further details would follow.

Joan Yarwood was obtaining details on holiday opportunities in the Fishguard/Pembrokeshire area. Members were encouraged to suggest holiday areas – all ideas were welcome and did not need to come from the committee.

Gordon Fleet raised the problem of the Newquay week clashing with the Chamois weekend. Peter Dawson responded that this had not been deliberate and hoped it would not inconvenience too many members. Such clashes of dates would be avoided in future. Any shortfall on income for the Chamois weekend would be met by the Club.

10 Election of Officers

Retiring officers were as follows:

Minute Secretary – Marilyn Norbury
Ramble Organiser – John Fuller
Committee Member – Eddie Mullock
Committee Member – Vivien McDonald

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| Chairman | Peter Dawson | - proposed Keith Nowell, seconded Grace Harding |
| Vice Chairman | Bryan Roe | - proposed Peter Norbury, seconded Joan Yarwood |
| Treasurer | Pauline Vawdrey | - proposed Grace Harding, seconded Julie Colclough |
| Correspondence Sec | Kath Conroy | - proposed Vic Ward, seconded Mavis Thorpe |
| Minute Secretary | Eileen O'Toole | - proposed Kath Conroy, seconded Joyce Dawson |
| Ramble Organisers | Peter Winby & Keith Nowell | - proposed John Colclough, seconded Maurice Hackling |
| Newsletter Editor | Bryan Roe | - proposed Peter Norbury, seconded Joan Yarwood |
| Membership Secretary | Keith Hallows | - proposed Peter Norbury, seconded Mike O'Toole |
| Committee Members | Grace Harding | - proposed Sylvia Goodwin, seconded Peter Thorpe |
| | Joan Yarwood | - proposed Brian Arthurs, seconded Ken Willington |
| | Ken Willington | - proposed Keith Hallows, seconded Peter Norbury |
| | Mavis Thorpe | - proposed Grace Harding, seconded Maurice Hackling |
| | Ken Elkins | - proposed Joyce Dawson, seconded Pete Winby |

The business of the meeting had been completed in good time and the Chairman invited open discussion on any matters members wished to raise.

- Members were asked to note that Manchester Metropolitan University had named a new building in memory of the late Frances Sealey. Frances had many friends in the Rambling Club and all may not have been aware of the naming of the building.
- For information – CCC produce an annual leaflet detailing Countryside Rangers activities – copies to be obtained and circulated round the coach.
- Brian Arthurs and Keith Shaw offered to organise some walks and activities to encourage junior members.

11 Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm

The new venue for committee meetings would be the Iris Centre in Edleston Road, Crewe