

MINUTES OF 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 21<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2007  
AT CREWE LIBRARY.

PRESENT

Committee	Peter Dawson (PD ) Chair	Bryan Roe ( BR )
	Joan Yarwood ( JY )	Grace Harding ( GH )
	Eileen O'Toole ( EO'T )	Ken Willington ( KW )
	Pauline Vawdrey ( PV )	Ken Elkins ( KE )
	Kath Conroy ( KC )	Mavis Thorpe ( MT )
	Peter Winby ( PW )	Keith Nowell ( KN )

Members 31 general members present

1 Apologies for absence.

V & E Reade, J & B Vaughan, S Thomason, C England, K Hallows, H Gibson, R&B Gladden, M Leake, J&J Colclough, M Jewell, B&M Warrington, K Burrows, H Nottingham, B&J Arthurs.

2 Minutes of previous meeting—22nd February 2006.

The minutes of the AGM on 22 February were approved . Proposed by Peter Winby & seconded by Peter Thorpe. The minutes had not been distributed at the AGM meeting as the committee had agreed that, because they had previously been made available to members on the coach trips as well as via the web site & the Newsletter, it was not necessary to do so & was an unnecessary expense.

3 Matters arising from the minutes – 22 February 2006

Bryan Roe informed the meeting that there had been 300 “ visits “ to the Club website per month recently. The site is also linked to the Cheshire County Council website so this is valuable for informing newcomers to the area of the existence of the group. Keith Hallows is understood to be getting e mails from local providers including a walking shop in Northwich which is offering a 10% discount to members.

No further matters arising

4 Chairman's Report

The Chairman, Peter Dawson, started by commenting that his 4 year tenure had given him great satisfaction although the previous twelve months had sometimes proven difficult as he & other committee members had experienced a variety of health issues. Nonetheless, despite his unavailability, all the committee had been supportive & the club had continued to thrive with a good turn out for most walks.

Peter went on to comment on the success of the “C” walks since the first one took place in 2000 in Buxton & described how he saw them as an avenue for members who perhaps found the longer walks as too daunting for a variety of reasons but were glad to be able to enjoy a shorter walk in the company of friends. It did mean that the C walkers had to wait

at the end of their walk but generally this had worked well & there hadn't been too many problems. Plus the extra revenue from a higher turn out was proving useful in making the coach trips viable.

Peter ended by thanking the committee in general for their support but singled out Pauline Vawdrey ( and his wife Joyce when necessary ) for the hard work which goes into collecting the money & keeping such immaculate records. It is his sincere hope that the club will continue well in the future.

## 5 Treasurer's Report

Pauline Vawdrey first looked at the Income & Expenditure which recorded that there had been 23 rambles during the Year which showed a loss of £474.50. There was an average of 47 people on each walk, an increase of one on the previous two years. The breakdown between the A,B& C walks was 13 on each of the A&C walks & 21 on the B. The 3 holidays broke even with £45 paid to the organisers to cover expenses. The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner made a loss of just 65p. The next three items of insurance, RA membership & hire of room were the same as the previous year. Printing, photocopying, etc. cost £137.91 & we made donations of £65 to the Ramblers Association & Wulvern Scout Group. On the income side the Hot Pot raffle made a profit of £44, membership fees fell by £178 to £976 & we received a donation of £30 from one of our members.

The Balance Sheet records a profit of £160.94 with interest to be added of £102.77, giving total funds of £4550.82

Pauline invited questions from the floor & Gordon Fleet asked what reduction there had been in the membership but it was expected that this would be addressed in the Membership Secretary's report later.

## 6 Auditor's Report

Vic Ward, Club Auditor, verified that the accounts were in order & that the club was in a good financial position. He commended Pauline Vawdrey, the Treasurer, on her neat & tidy accounts.

## 7 Membership Secretary's Report.( Via Pauline Vawdrey as Keith Hallows was not present ).

The Membership Secretary's written report read as follows ;

"I wish to thank all those members who have already paid their subscriptions – 80 to date. It makes it so much easier when they come in a trickle rather than a flood .

The final breakdown for this year is as follows ( previous years in brackets ).

Life 4 ( 4 ), Full 56 ( 72 ), Retired 91 ( 96 ), Child 1 ( 0 ). Total 152 (172 ).

The reduction in membership has made little difference to the average on rambles. Those who did not renew their membership rarely, if ever, came out with us."

It was agreed that Joan Yarwood would collect subscriptions following the meeting.

When Ken Willington asked why there was a differentiation between the amounts paid for membership i.e. £6 or £8 Bryan Roe described this as a misnomer. Men over 60 are paying the full amount but a decision had been made in the past to keep to the pension age of 65. He also remarked that half of the members are now on e mail, up from 1/3 rd last year.

## 8 Ramble Organiser's Report.

Peter Winby & Keith Nowell now share the role previously filled by John Fuller & Keith outlined some of the problems that had occurred during the year but which steps had been taken to resolve. It was stressed that, because of the structure for working out the costing of the trips, the coach company needed to have a definite drop off & pick up points for their quotations & these need to be adhered to as much as possible. He highlighted the need for the walk leaders to work together when planning the walks , particularly where the start & finish will be.

Keith also requested that walk leaders fill in the board as soon as possible to prevent last minute problems for Chris England who has to prepare the walk cards. Keith thanked everybody for their help & support mentioning particularly Paul & Margaret Harvey & extended his appreciation of John Fuller's efforts in organising the Chamois weekend

## 9 Club Weekends/ Holiday weeks.

Peter Dawson started by stressing how much work is involved in arranging the club holidays & that he felt the committee needed more support in light of the fact that so far only 28 people had expressed an interest in the holiday he was arranging for September 07 in Scarborough although the price of £220 for 5 days, 4 nights was based on 40 people going. He said that there was a chance that the holiday could go ahead but he was attempting to negotiate to keep it at the same price if there were 30 people interested in going. Peter was prepared to open it to non members but it would have to be done by tomorrow.

Grace Harding reported that the Autumn holiday in Newquay had struggled because of the price but she pointed out that good hotels don't come cheap especially in September. The club had paid £40 per night instead of the usual rate of £78 & those who had attended appreciated that it was value for money & had had a great time. Grace also said that a number of members had expressed an interest in returning to Gilsland at some time in the future.

When the question of whether or not to change the timing of the holiday from September to October was put to the meeting a show of hands proved that September was still the first choice of the members present.

For the future, some thought is being given to arranging a holiday in 2008 in Nerja & the views of Mike & Beryl Warrington will be sought when they return from their holiday there.

Joan Yarwood reported that there are 49 people booked for the Pembroke holiday in April.

Peter Dawson, Chairman, asked that members expressed their ideas & thoughts openly so that we can be successful in arranging the holidays that members will enjoy.

## 10 Election of Officers.

Peter Dawson tendered his resignation as Chairman of the club as he had previously indicated was his intention at the last AGM in February 2006 & called on Ken Willington, President, to take the chair for the election. Ken thanked Peter for all his hard work during his 4 year tenure & commented that he would be a hard act to follow. However, Bryan Roe, Vice Chairman, had already indicated his willingness to step into the role &, as there were no further candidates, Bryan was unanimously voted into the position of Chairman. Bryan thanked those present & voiced his hopes that he could do as well as the departing Chairman. All the other existing members were prepared to remain in office including Peter Dawson as a committee member.

Dave Langford was proposed & unanimously voted onto the committee in the vacancy left by Bryan. Bryan will continue in his role as Newsletter Editor.

There was, again, a unanimous vote from the floor to elect the committee as proposed.

President	Ken Willington
Chairman	Bryan Roe
Treasurer	Pauline Vawdrey
Correspondence Secretary	Kath Conroy
Minuting Secretary	Eileen O'Toole
Ramble Organiser	Peter Winby & Keith Nowell
Newsletter Editor	Bryan Roe
Membership Secretary	Keith Hallows
Committee Members	Peter Dawson Grace Harding Joan Yarwood David Langford Mavis Thorpe Ken Elkins

Authority was given to the committee to elect own Vice Chairman in the future.

Vic Ward was appointed to continue as Auditor.

No further issues were raised & the meeting was closed at 20.30