

MINUTES OF THE CREWE AND NANTWICH RAMBLING CLUB 72nd ANNUAL AGM

Date: Monday 25th February 2019 @ 19.30

Number attending: 34

Location: Brittles Pavilion, Church Lane, Crewe, CW2 8EZ.

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

Welcome to you all and thank you for attending the 72nd AGM of the Crewe and Nantwich Rambling Club. Please take a moment to remember Mavis Williams, Brian Arthurs, Michael O'Toole, Arthur Fisher, Grace Harding and Brendan Schofield members who have walked with us and have passed away this year.

2.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST AGM

The minutes of the previous were approved.

4.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM.

There were no matters arising.

5.0 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

First I am pleased to announce that we have four new members joining our committee this year. I would like to welcome Judith Ruff who will take over as Treasurer, John Moreton who will stand as Ramble Organiser 2 and Annette Cope and Lynn Richards who will stand as General Committee Members.

It is excellent to see a new group of younger members joining the committee and I hope that this will encourage other younger club members to come forward and stand on the committee.

Outgoing committee members are:

Ruth Beach - I should like to thank her for maintaining the club accounts and arranged the auditing of these.

Howard Gibson - I should like to thank him for organising the Club Holidays which I understand he will continue to do while not a committee member.

I would also like to thank:

Phil Mellor and Richard Farrall for organising a full program of Sunday and Thursday Walks throughout the year. Richard has also acted as Membership Secretary and worked hard introducing new members into the club.

Bryan Roe for his work on the club Newsletter, the Club Website and Facebook page.

Kath Conroy for looking after the organisation of club committee meetings and her work providing Get-Well or Sympathy cards to Club Members who are ill or who have lost loved ones or other similar circumstances.

Marilyn Norbury for organising the Club Holidays and Reminisce Lunches.

Peter Winby for organising a Skittles Evening and a Bowls Evening.

Last but certainly not least our faithful scribe Stuart Watkinson who has worked hard on the very difficult job of producing accurate minutes of our committee meetings.

I would like to point out that there are still vacancies on the committee and if anyone is interested in joining our committee and be involved in making decisions as to how the club operates please contact me anytime.

6.0 TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS ENDING 31ST DEC 2018

Generally it has not been a good year financially for the Club with a deficit of £2071.87. This was mainly due to low turn outs on quite a number of walks. It was not only the bad weather early in 2018 , but on several other occasions, when several of the coach ramblers had extremely low turn outs. We need to encourage members not to be put off by the weather forecasts as it is often not as bad as it appears. We had an example of this only a few weeks ago when the Roaches walk was just superb in the snow and we only had 35 on the coach. As you are aware we have now increased the coach fare to hopefully alleviate this. We still need to be careful and try to keep our expenses as low as possible. The cost of the coaches is our main problem as wages and fuel keep rising. The committee have looked at other coach companies, but Burland are still the cheapest available.

The membership is slightly down again to 131 from 136 in 2017, but we have already received 4 new members this year, so that is encouraging. Kath has recently done some advertising in local outlets, which has been helped.

7.0 AUDITOR'S REPORT

The auditor approved and signed off on the accounts.

8.0 MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Total members for 2018 was 131 including 12 Life Members and 15 new members. Several new members joined following the Thursday morning walks.

9.0 RAMBLE ORGANISER'S REPORT

After the Beast from the East we then had the long hot summer that kept the walk numbers down – average walkers on the Sunday walks have been 39. Highlights of the walking year have been Snowdon and Ingleborough which were both well attended with excellent weather. Probably the worst attended was the Clun walk which was at the height of the hot weather although unknown to the C walkers Morris had planned a walk in the shade to keep out of the heat. This years Car Ramble was held at Froghall and for a second visit during the year we had the meal walk at Prestatyn with a Carvery Meal. Burland have continue to provide a satisfactory service with value for money and for the walk destinations we have tried to provide good walks with places of interest, pubs, cafes etc. which can be used for returning walkers whilst waiting for the coach departure time.

10.0 ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

The committee was elected as follows:

Bryan Clydesdale	Chairman
Stuart Watkinson	Vice Chairman
Judith Ruff	Treasurer
Phil Mellor	Ramble Organiser 1
John Morton	Ramble Organiser 2
Richard Farrall	Membership secretary
Bryan Roe	News Letter
Stuart Watkinson.	Minutes Secretary
Kath Conroy	Correspondence Secretary
Marylin Notbury	General Committee 1
Annette Cope.	General Committee 2
Lynn Richards	General Committee 3

IMPROVING ATTENDANCE QUESTIONNAIRE

As you are no doubt aware we've carried out a survey aimed at finding out why we were getting low turn out on some walks. Thanks to everyone who responded. Out of 140 sent out we received 20 back.

The first half of the survey set out a number of possible reasons why people weren't coming out as often as they used to. We asked you to tick which ones you thought were most applicable. I tallied up all the ticks and came up with the results that are as follows. Tied in first place with 11 points each was the weather, which we can't do a lot about, and length and difficulty of walks. People felt that leader should be careful not to do excessive milage for their walk and that they should take care to represent the distance of their walk accurately on the walk sheet. This is something many walk leaders, myself included, have had a problem with and we could probably do to double check that we are giving an accurate representation of the distances involved so people can make a proper assessment of whether they will enjoy a particular walk from the walk sheets.

The next two possibilities are tied at eight votes. One was the fact that people have other interests. Again something we can't do a lot about and the other with eight points was long journeys. We should bare in mind when looking at this question that our volunteer leaders often pick the locations involved and that they are leading that walk because they are enthusiastic about that particular area. We will try to bare in mind however that we don't want too many long journeys in a given walking year.

The other responses were way behind those first four and are not really note worthy other than the fact that no one felt the cost of the coach was a deciding factor.

In the section where we asked for people's thoughts and ideas we received some very good suggestions.

It was suggested that we try to base the coach some where interesting like town centres so C walkers have places of interest to visit after their walk. Also that walk leaders could research points of interest on their walk and that we could even try themed walks. A few people mentioned that there should be less road walking and, where possible, walks should head to areas with great views. For times when it looks like it's going to be a very hot day walk leaders could perhaps try to give an idea of the amount of shade on their walk as this might also help them to pick a suitable walk.

All of your responses have been gratefully received and even if not mentioned here have been considered at committee. This is an ongoing process so if you have any further thoughts please share them in writing with your name attached and we will discuss them at the next committee meeting and give you a reply.