

MINUTES FOR 70TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 1 FEBRUARY 2017 AT THE BRITTLES, WISTASTON, CREWE

1 Chairman's opening remarks

BR Welcomed everyone to the 70th AGM and apologised for the late change of venue, due to circumstances beyond our control.

Unlike last year when we had a number of members who had passed away during that year, we only have one this year. A long standing member - Jill Hayes - please stand for a short silence in memory of Jill.

2 Apologies for absence

Peter & Mavis Thorpe, Maureen Nash, Carol Davenport, Marlene Flannery, Peter Dawson, Grace Harding, Peter Howard, Brend Gladden, Pat Cunliffe, Peter Norbury, Mario Di Bratto, Anita Mc Bride and Harvey Washburn.

3 Approval for minutes from previous AGM 24th February 2016

The minutes were approved.

4 Matters arising from minutes of previous AGM 24th February 2016

Proposal 1, concerning Ken Willington's legacy, was rejected. No further action.

Proposals 2 & 3 concerned Potential Changes to Membership Rules & Membership Payment, Committee Roles & Walk Organisers.

These were taken away from the AGM and discussed at length by the Committee, resulting in clarification/amendments to the membership rules, a review of methods of payment of Membership fees to include the ability to pay by Bank Transfer and or Standing Order - this was in place for the payment of 2017/8 membership Fees. The proposals on walk organisers were not implemented.

5 Chairman's report

BR noted that, following the resignation of Paul Tudor for personal reasons, the Committee asked me, as Vice Chairman, to hold the Chairman's role until this AGM from which post I will stand down later in the evening. On behalf of the club, I would like to thank Paul for his service to the club, not just in the Treasurer's role, for which he kept a beady eye on the finances at which he excelled, but also for his enthusiastic approach to recycling and leading the many walks he did for the club over some 20+ years.

This has been a momentous year for the Club, celebrating its 70th Anniversary in October 2016 with a walk and meal at Longnor in Derbyshire that had 54 people attending. Onwards to the 75 & 80 Anniversaries!

We continue to attract new members, by word of mouth, the website & Facebook - many members are now posting photos from the Sunday walks on Facebook. No doubt the Rambler Organiser will give you more detail in his report.

The Social side of the Club continues to flourish with Bowls & Skittles Evenings a Christmas Meal & the return of UK and Foreign Walking holidays, for which members should be grateful that people have taken the time and effort to organise these events. We must not forget the Reminisce Group which Grace Harding runs, largely for those who no longer walk regularly, but like to keep in touch.

Last week 11 members attended a course in emergency first aid meaning we now have good coverage in terms of members who can help out in the event of an accident.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Committee Members for their help and support during the year, no one individual runs the club, the whole team working together is greater than the sum of its parts.

6 Treasurer's report and annual accounts year ending 31st December 2016

RB reported that the subscriptions have increased slightly as two people paid life time membership. The coach made a loss of £1439.40, which is the reason the committee decided to increase the coach fares to £10. I realise that some people will say that as we still have a considerable amount in the bank it was not necessary, but I feel it was the correct thing to do. If we had not increased the coach fare now, in a few years time we would have a problem as costs will increase.

The 70th Anniversary meal made a slight loss as there were a few expenses that helped to make the event a little special. I added to the tip for the pub as I felt that the amount put in the glass was not very generous.

The general expenses have not increased significantly. We donated a £100 to the Northeast Wales Search and Rescue for their help in rescuing Kathlyn Roberts after her fall, which I think everyone agree was very worthwhile. As agreed at the last AGM the tree and plaque in memory of Ken Willington were put in place.

Overall we made a loss on the year of £656.39 which is mainly due to keeping most of our costs as low as possible. I have to thank my son Thomas for his help in putting the club accounts on to spread sheets, so hopefully making the figures easier to check.

7 Auditor's report

Nothing new to report. The auditor is happy to do the accounts again next year.

8 Membership Secretary's report

ML confirmed that the membership is now 144 including 11 life members. There were 11 new members this year.

9 Ramble Organiser's report

BC noted that 2016 was another successful walking year for the club with 79 Sunday Walks successfully completed. These walks went to 27 different locations with 12 Crewe starts and 14 Nantwich starts and were led by a total of 25 different Club Members.

The nearest walk location was ASTBURY MERE PARK, CONGLETON, 20 miles distance and the furthest location was SETTLE. NORTH YORKSHIRE, 90 miles distance.

8 Thursday Evening Walks were also organised to various near bye localities.

I would like to thank all the members who have led these walks especially those who have led several walks. I would also particularly like to thank the new Walk Leaders who have come forward in 2016 to join the established Walk Leaders.

I would like to remind members who are thinking of leading a walk for the first time that help is available from the Ramble Organisers and other regular leaders.

My thanks also to Richard Farrall for his assistance as Ramble Organiser in 2016 and to Philip Mellor who is now taking over as Ramble Organiser.

10 Election of officers and committee members was follows :

Bryan Clydesdale	Chairman
Marie Leekey	Members Secretary
Kath Conroy	Correspondence secretary
Stuart Watkinson	Minutes Secretary
Ruth Beech	Treasurer
Bryan Roe	News Letter
Phil Mellor	Ramble organiser 1
Richard Farrall	Ramble organiser 2

With five general committee members:

Pete Winby, Marilyn Norbury, Howard Gibson, Grace Harding and Keith Nowall.