



MINUTES OF THE CREWE AND NANTWICH RAMBLING CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



DATE: Tuesday 13th February 2024

LOCATION: The Brittles Pavilion, WSLA, Crewe CW2 8EZ

PRESENT: 20 Members

1.0 CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

Good evening and I would like to welcome you all to the 2024 AGM of the Crewe and Nantwich Rambling Club.

Its excellent to see you all here and thank you for attending.

Traditionally each year we like to remember those of our members who have passed away since our last AGM.

These are:

Joan Yarwood

Joan was a committee member who was very involved in organising club holidays,

Sylvia Elkins

Sylvia carried out the role of Secretary for several years.

Richard Farrall

Richard was a very active club member who continued to carry out the role of Membership Secretary despite medical problems.

Barbara Waters

Barbara will be remembered for her relentless determination to go on.

Brian Wrench

Brian was a regular walker some years ago.

Margaret Harvey

Margaret was a member as a child walking with her parents, Mary and Ernest Bint, who were both Club Presidents.

So, I would ask you to take a moment to remember them.

Thank you.

On a happier note, I would like to welcome all our many new members who have joined us for our walks.



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APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Ruth Beach; Belinda Swiatyi; John Chambers; Tony Goodwin; and Deborah Ronson

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM MEETING 14 FEBRUARY 2023

The minutes were approved.

4.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM MEETING

None

5.0 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This year has been a mixed year for our club. Although we have managed to maintain our normal program of walks, unfortunately we have experienced some very low turnouts on our Sunday Walks which has resulted in some financial losses. However, we continue to attract new members and hope that as 2024 progresses we will manage to persuade these new members as well as our old members to come out on our walks and support our club.

We are continuing to use the coach services of Global Travel who have given us good service throughout the year.

On behalf of the club, I would like to thank all of our Committee Members for the excellent support throughout the year.

Brenda Farrall who took over the position of Membership after the unfortunate passing of her husband Richard. Brenda has continued brilliantly with her excellent job of introducing new members into the club.

Judith Ruff for her work as Club Treasurer collecting money on the coach, maintaining the Club Accounts and arranged the auditing of these.

Lynn Richards for her work on publicity for the Club arranging the posting of regular adverts about the club in local magazines.

Kath Conroy for her work as our Club Safety Representative.

Marilyn Norbury for her organisation of our Social Meetings.

Esther Williams in the position as Secretary who is doing excellent work on the production of the Committee Meeting Minutes.

John Moreton and Peter Johnson for organising a full program of Sunday and Thursday Walks throughout the year.



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John Chambers for the organisation of the 2024 Club Holiday.

Peter Winby for organising our Skittles and Bowls Evenings.

Michael Taylor for his work on the Club Newsletter, the Club Website and Facebook.

I would like to also to mention Bill Pearson who has been instrumental in maintaining the operation of our Club Website.

Thank you, Applause.

6.0 **TREASURER'S REPORT AND ANNUAL ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2023.**

6.1 Thank you

I hope that you have all had the opportunity to read the financial report for year ending December 2023 (attached).

As you will have read the bank balance has reduced significantly since January 2023.

This was due to not enough walkers attending, so the coach made a loss on every walk last year.

You may ask why we didn't increase the fares in 2023?

The committee did keep looking at the bank balance and made the decision to absorb these costs as we did have a high bank balance, so we kept the coach fare at £12.00 to attract current and new members to walk with the club regularly. We held on as long as we could, but the coach costs are increasing so we must now bring the fares in line with this. We are therefore increasing the fares to £15.00. I am sure that you were all expecting this to happen.

The increase will start on the next coach walk which is this Sunday (18 February 2024), where we are heading to Willaston on The Wirral.

6.2 I have to thank David Cattell again for auditing the accounts, we are extremely grateful to him for giving us his time.

I have the books here if anyone wishes to view them.

6.3 The membership total stood at the end of December 2023 at 120 members.

We have had some new members join us this year and the total has risen to 123.

The start of 2024 has been extremely positive with the numbers attending



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the walks high.

This I can tell you has made me very happy; long may it continue!

7.0 AUDITOR'S REPORT

Attached

8.0 MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Included in the Treasurer's Report

9.0 RAMBLE ORGANISERS.

2023 was a successful year with 23 Sunday walks organised, a holiday and a Car walk, plus 11 Thursday morning walks and social events such as bowling skittles, the Christmas dinner and the Reminiscence.

Highlights were the long distant walk in Grasmere and the meal walk in Penmaenmawr which were both well attended.

Unfortunately, some Sunday walks were poorly attended hence the loss of funds.

We went to some nice places with a good variety of areas. We will continue to do so. I am always open to suggestions for locations and of course leaders, which is an on-going problem and is still falling to the same small group of people. Please let me know if you can lead a walk or know anyone that can.

A word about Rob at Global Travel I think you will all agree he is providing an excellent service and is reasonably priced, so I hope that continues. So to sum up I hope 2024 continues with improved attendance for some good walking days out.

10.0 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

All of the committee members are willing to serve for another year and were duly elected:

Chair	BRYAN CLYDESDALE
Vice Chair	MARILYN NORBURY
Treasurer	JUDITH RUFF
Secretary	ESTHER WILLIAMS
Membership Secretary	BRENDA FARRALL
Newsletter Editor	MICHAEL TAYLOR
Ramble Organiser 1	JOHN MORETON
Ramble Organiser 2	PETER JOHNSON
Co-opted member Social	MARILYN NORBURY
Co-opted member Publicity	LYNN RICHARDS



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Co-opted member First Aid	PETER JOHNSON
Co-opted member Club Holiday 2024	JOHN CHAMBERS
Co-opted member Skittles & Bowls	PETER WINBY
Co-opted member Safety	KATH CONROY

11.0 MOTIONS

None received.

12.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

12.1 The Chair led a discussion on coach numbers. Recently there have been two occasions when the coach has been full. In order to avoid turning people away, club rules make provision for alternative arrangements which involve using cars as a back-up. A volunteer driver will be nominated for last pick-up at Nantwich and Crewe respectively. Walkers can also make their own way.

This system works best when walks are circular. It would be more difficult to get back to where cars are parked if the walk is linear.

As an alternative, enquiries are being made with Global Travel regarding the possibility of hiring a slightly larger coach and the costs involved.

12.2 The Chair informed the meeting of Cheshire East Council's plans to introduce charging for parking on Sundays later in the year, which could affect members' ability to park. The club will investigate possible alternative parking sites and coach pick-up points, to avoid charges impacting on members as much as possible.

12.3 A query was raised regarding the intention to introduce the increased coach fare on the next Sunday walk and whether there would be enough time to notify members. The new fare has been advertised for the next walk on the club's web page and an email will be sent to all members following the meeting. Michael Taylor will advise members by email and Brenda Farrall will telephone the remaining membership advising of the increase in coach pricing. Because of the depletion of funds, the committee had agreed that the club could not afford to wait a further two weeks before introducing the new fare.

12.4 Reminders for renewing memberships, which remains at £15, will also be sent out following the meeting.

End of meeting