

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7.30 p.m. Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014



## RUTLAND ARMS PUB

### Present

#### Committee

Sandra Knaggs (Chair) Jill Brogden (Treasurer), Peter Robinson (Web Editor), Sara Collin (Membership Secretary), Sue Killeen (Walks Co Ordinator), Jean Billingham (Walks Co Ordinator)

#### Members

26 other members attended.

### Apologies

Received from Jim Bell, Graham Ford. Raj Joshi and Jillian Gilbert, both expected to be late arriving. Kathryn Ellerby nominated Debbie Clark as a proxy voter. Jean Billingham apologised for the discrepancies in the start time of the meeting.

### 1. Minutes from 2013 AGM

#### a) First Aid Kit

Still not carried by Walk Leaders. First Aid Kit in the Group Resources.

#### b) Change of Email Supplier

The Committee and members have had no problems over the last year; therefore, the Hotmail email supplier has not been changed.

#### c) Group Resources

Have been held over the past year by Sandra, to be passed on. The resources contain maps, tents, GPS etc. A list of resources still to be placed on the website.

#### d) Training on GPS

The GPS is currently held by Sue. Jill undertook GPS training.

#### e) Annual Report Chair

Excellent State.

#### d) Web Editor

Ticking over well. The Group now has a better system which is easier to use. It is now a lot easier to put the photos onto the website Gallery and Flickr is to be closed down. There have been no website crashes or problems with Hotmail. It was thought Keef, a previous user had problems because he used apple.

#### f) Treasurer

Due to the earlier meeting of the AGM in 2013 the finances were not completed for the year.

The Minutes from the 2013 Annual General Meeting were accepted and agreed as a good record.

## 2. Report from Chair

Sandra thanked the Group and other Committee members for their support and read out the attached report. See below.

## 3. Issues Raised by Members

### a) Change of Facebook Name

Peter has been trying to protect the group by clearing out the Facebook Account and has now put the original name back. Access to the Facebook account is now members only. Members of the public had been putting their advertising and charity requests on the site.

### b) Urgent Messages to Members

Currently sent by group email or by walk leader's texting members who had signed up for their walk. Something for the new committee to look at.

### c) Message Board

Message Board not used as much as in the past. The viewer numbers shown on the board are not accurate. The message board is a good way of getting new ideas and suggestions from members.

## 4. Report from Treasurer

### a) Finances Arising from Last Year's AGM

As 2012/2013's finances could not be finalised at the 2013 AGM Jill has created an account for this year based on the formatted accounts for last year.

Jill is not putting last year's accounts onto the web site because she did not do them but once agreed this years will be placed on the website.

An issue Jill has found is that there is no identified independent examiner. This person should be appointed each year at the AGM. Jill has asked her finance manager at work to fill this post. She has more details on his credentials if requested. He has no day to day involvement with the Ramblers area or group.

Jill presented to the meeting the accounts for 2013/2014.

## 5. Weekends Away

Jill presented the Weekends Away Report for 2013/2014. The account is in credit by £4.00. Report to be placed on website.

## 6. Membership Secretary

At the end of 2013 there were 204 members, current membership is 224. It was felt this is a good number and just the right size, anymore and the group will become too unwieldy. The contact list has been updated so everyone should be receiving emails.

## 7. Walks Co Ordinator

See attached report below.

A discussion re transport to walks - better ways of organising transport - car sharing, e.g. layby and car parks around Lady Bower always full on a Sunday. Meeting at car park in centre of town then sharing cars from there. Co ordinating on web site within the walk details etc.

## 8. Web Editor

Thanks to Jez for new web site, made job much easier and better. Main issue Facebook, non-members entering site, this has now been made available to members only. The web site sells the group.

## 9. Motion from Member

### a) Jim Conibear

Jim thanked the Committee for all its hard work throughout the year. New people come into the group and others drop out. He highlighted the continual need for a volunteering effort to ensure the smooth running. Jim gets impression some people are capable of leading walks but are wary. He made the motion that the group should look at ways of getting more people volunteering. Volunteers can be found for the Olympic Games and the Tour de France. He asked that something be added into the welcome pack asking new members to volunteer.

A suggestion of buddying prospective walk leaders to build up their confidence, one advantage of this would be a wider range of alternative walks. Mike & Pauline started leading walks this year; they can read a map, check the weather forecast and use a mobile. Leaders do not need more than that. Walk Leaders need to be a member.

James Scott seconded the motion.

## 10. Any Other Business

### a) Concern that private matters are being taken on board by the Committee which have nothing to do with the walking group. The Committee was asked why they felt the need to get involved in a personal matter.

The meeting was told that the Committee was asked to become involved as the matter was impacting on its members, some of whom complained. The Committee did not take the matter lightly and approached several organisations from which it took and acted on advice. It has received information and taken appropriate action and feels the matter is now closed.

### b) Monthly Socials

A request for some monthly socials to be held on Saturday evening. Some members are unable to attend on Friday.

### c) Why a New Nomination to the Committee

The post of Footpath Secretary has arisen after an article in the Ramblers magazine. The footpath secretary will raise any concerns about footpaths to the Ramblers Area group. The aim is to support the long term use of footpaths in the British Isles and shows the groups concern.

### d) Thank You

Raj thanked the outgoing Committee for all their work over the last year. He thanked the members for supporting the Committee. The primary function of the group is to go walking. A vital cog in our wheels is walk leaders and he hoped everyone attending will volunteer.

## 11. Election of New committee

Vote for Treasurer - The following two people were nominated as Treasurer:

Glynn Hollingsworth	Nominated by	Jillian Gilbert & Graham Ford
Jill Brogden	Nominated by	Ian Watson & Wayne Grounsell

After a ballot the vote was counted, the results were read out to the meeting:

Glyn Hollingworth	0	Jill Brogden	32	Abstention	1
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Sandra read out the names of the following nominations. All were accepted by the meeting and were welcomed onto the new committee.

Chairperson	Raj Joshi	Nominated by	James Scott & Wayne Grounsell
Membership Secretary	Alan Plimmer	Nominated by	Jude Flanagan & Raj Joshi
Group Secretary	Beverley Kenyon	Nominated by	Peter Robinson & Jeremy Kenyon
Website Editor	Jeremy Kenyon	Nominated by	Peter Robinson & Beverley Kenyon
Walks Co Ordinator	Sue Killeen	Nominated by	Sandra Knaggs & Sara Collin
Social Secretary	Jean Billingham	Nominated by	Sue Killeen & Jane Percival
Weekends Away Co Ordinator	Dennis Crossland	Nominated by	Mandy Kippax & Jean Billingham
Footpath Secretary	Keef Hopkinson	Nominated by	Sara Collin & Jill Brogden

Date of Next Committee Meeting

7.00 p.m. Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

## Report from the Chair

Thank you all for attending its always great to share times with our friends of old and to welcome our new members who will soon enjoy great friendships in this friendly welcoming group.

Over the past year we have enjoyed many walks which have been led by our fantastic walk leaders (whom without there would not be a group) posted by our walk-coordinators and entered by Peter who works tirelessly to keep the website updated.

Not an easy task when you think there were seven walks posted at the August bank holiday weekend including the walks for Clun.

The weekend in Clun was a huge success volunteered by a member, Jude to organise, as members, realise how time consuming the organising of such a big group can be.

When members help in little ways, it helps us and the group to get together better. For e.g. Colin and Jane bringing their BBQ to Dent and Clun which was great fun and enjoyed by all present.

So don't be shy if you have an idea for a weekend or a walk we would love you to volunteer.

We have many socials through the year, meals, Chatsworth, dancing in the soul pub. We try to cater for everyone but whatever you join us for there will be chatter (very loud) fun, laughter and friendship.

## WALK COORDINATORS REPORT 2014

I have had a wonderful year working with a hardworking and excellent committee, especially alongside Jean as joint walks co coordinator.

Looking back through the amazing walk archive produced for the group's use this year, I have recorded that 42 of our members have been involved in leading walks since the last AGM. Some Leaders have offered loads of walks - especially notable for this have been Jim Conibear, James Scott and Martin Wistow - while others have led maybe only one but everyone's involvement has been very greatly appreciated. Leading even one walk for us adds variety to our walks programme.

Apart from there being no walk on a couple of Saturdays this year, we have managed to offer three walks each week as well as a wide range of different types of walks. We have also offered a great variety of walks on all our weekends away. Some weeks in the summer we were able to offer evening walks too and would have welcomed even more of these.

This year we have happily welcomed some new leaders in our group: Julie, Pauline and Mike, Sally, Sheila, Claire and Monica. Julie successfully led her first solo walk a couple of weeks ago.

We had our first STAN walk ever for Bob and Heather with the Hens being led one way by Kath Copley and the Stags the other by Pete Hewitt. It was great fun with tea and refreshments afterwards too!

Walk leaders have been very diligent in filling in detailed, informative walk templates for the website. On weekends away, however, we have had to decide that in order to encourage Walk Leaders to come forward to lead walks that we accept that the templates cannot necessarily be quite so detailed. Walk Leaders may not always be able to check walks they will lead beforehand on weekends away but will still be able to give an outline as to the length and expected difficulty of the route.

Although our walks programme has been very successful this year, we are, however, always looking for more Leaders to keep our walks varied and interesting.

Thanks to everyone who has been involved in leading or helping to check walks this year. Without all your hard work, we would not be the successful walking group we are.