

Ramblers Sheffield 40's Walking Group

(Draft) Minutes of Annual General Meeting

The Fat Cat, Sheffield October 19th 2017 7.30pm

Committee members present - Wayne Grounsell, Chairman. Emma Myers, Group & Membership Secretary. Jill Brogden, Treasurer. Jez Kenyon, Website Editor. Tracey Lyne, Socials Coordinator. Martin Wistow, Walks Co-ordinator.

Present – Members – Jim C, Liz A, Jane P, Lyn G, Jean B, Russell M, Debra B, James S, ETC approx 20 members.

Apologies: Debbie M, Richard B

Chair welcomed all to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

1. Minutes of last year's AGM of October 19th 2016

Proposed by Russell M as a true record of the meeting and seconded by James S. Jim C was upset that the Attachments were not on the website with last year's minutes.

2. Matters arising not on the agenda

No matters to discuss.

3. Chairman's Report

Business as usual I am very pleased to say. We still continue to provide 3 walks on most weekends, we have a whole host of very differing socials throughout the year and have had a successful programme of weekends away which have been great fun for all those who participated.

We have made a slight change this year moving the area of responsibility for co-ordinating the weekends away from the treasurer to the social co-ordinator and the Socials Sub-committee, which is where it used to be a few years ago. I would like to thank Jill for taking on this extra work over the years, and doing a great job with it, and thanks to Tracey and her team for taking this on.

10 Years

It has been ten years and still counting for our group which has grown from those humble beginnings to over 230 members and still holding. There were those that thought after the retirement of the early organisers that the group would fold however how wrong they proved to be with the group as strong and functional as ever.

Thanks

So let me express my sincere thanks to your volunteer committee members both past and present for giving up their time and putting in the effort so that we may all enjoy our times together.

Ramblers

It's been a bit different for, certainly me this year, with the need to become more involved with the Ramblers. This came about by our decision to accept the hosting of the Area Ramblers AGM in January this year. Thanks to all those that took part in making this a very successful event, and shining a good light on the SF40s WG.

So I became an attender at the Area Council meetings to find out what they were about and to find out what their requirements were. And I have been attending ever since. It is at this point I would

like to thank Julie, as I like to thank all volunteers, who kindly offered to attend area meetings at last year's AGM, but due to these circumstances I felt I needed to go. And having attended all year I have learnt that the other attendees are all Officers of their groups who then decide area policy, so it makes sense for our delegates to be Committee members, which is our policy.

By attending the meetings it has now added the face to face contact with the Area Officers which has resulted in the payment of our group allocation, and the promise of further funding, should we require it, to be able to pay deposits for weekends away etc.

We have also been able to shape the policy of the area on issues, and one I will highlight is the choice of our Presidential nomination. This will be offered to Carey Davies, who is a journalist and Hill walking officer of the British Mountaineering Council. If he accepts, this will provide a younger face to the Area Ramblers image and hopefully move the image of the Ramblers away from the pensioner's day out in the hills.

Sheffield Country Walk

We have further upped our area involvement by agreeing to monitor and partially maintain the Sheffield Country Walk, taking this responsibility off the Sheffield Ramblers group. Our thanks go to Pete R for agreeing to be our champion for the route, well done Pete.

4. Treasurers Report

I am pleased to present the accounts of the group for the year ending 30th September 2017

In accordance with Ramblers policy our group accounting is split into two 'funding' types – Main and Self-funded

'Main' funds are for running a programme to promote walking and supporting the Ramblers charitable objectives and Self-funded' funds are for socials and weekends away.

Main

Total income for the year was £335.

£315 is coming from the Ramblers and £20 from Ramblers holidays.

Total expenditure was (£280). (£196) was spent on supplying first aid kits to walk leaders, (£72) web hosting and (£12) on refreshments for the Area AGM which we hosted in January.

Total surplus for the year £55

Self-funded

There were 3 events funded through the group this year with the following results –

Christmas at the Shakespeare generated a loss of (£10)

New Year weekend away in Allendale generated a loss of (£388)

Awards evening at Regather generated a surplus of £46

Overall loss for the year is (£352)

Other items that passed through are deposits paid and receipts in for future events.

10th Anniversary meal – receipts in £42

Christmas Meal at Sir William (£100) deposit paid, £23 received in

Total net payments for future events (£35)

Funding for the Group

The funding for our Main accounts has come from 2 sources. This year we received an annual allocation from Ramblers whose working numbers consisted of a group payment of £95 and £0.98 per member. The other source of funding came from Ramblers holidays - When a member of our group books a holiday with Ramblers we receive a donation of £20.

If we require further funding this can be made available from Ramblers. This can only be received in line with Ramblers policies. If any members would like to make use of this further funding available

e.g. first aid training for walk leaders please approach the committee with costs etc. who will be able to support you.

Funding for our Self-funded accounts is generated by members who participate in socials and weekends away.

Thanks

Thank you to all of you who helped with organising events and providing the necessary paperwork to keep the accounts in order. Special thanks to Mrs. Adele King who gives her time to act as our Independent Auditor.

Jim wanted the Accounts final amount, Jill told him this had not been made available because it had not been agreed by area yet, but the amount was £735.15.

5. Secretary and Membership Report

Current membership stands at 232, around the same as last year and we continue to see healthy numbers on walks and at socials.

We currently have 32 active walk leaders who between them led 141 walks in the last year, mainly in the rich and varied landscape of the Peak District but also in the surrounding areas of Sheffield and Rotherham and occasionally as far afield as Cleethorpes and Bridlington! Many thanks to Martin, our walks co-ordinator for his hard work in ensuring we have been able to provide a varied and extensive walks programme throughout the year.

As a group we continue to enjoy regular social activities. The Socials and Weekends Away Committee led by Tracey meets regularly and every month organise at least one social event all of which have been well supported and well attended.

The weekends away again have proved to be very popular. Thank you to the members who have put in a great deal of effort in arranging these this year namely Jill, Mave, Colin, Gillian and Anne - all were a huge success.

The Group continues to thrive and we look forward to another successful and enjoyable year.

6. Walk Co-Ordinator Report

Summary of the year

There was a Total no' of walks this year - 141 (out of a possible 156) 156 being 3 walks on a weekend as standard.

New walk leaders – 7

Active walk leaders - 32

James this year - 99 miles with 6 walks

Jim this year - 164 with 19 walks

Longest walk - James with 21 miles

Shortest walk - Paul H with 4 miles

10 Year Section - as stated I can't do this for the 10 years, so it's going back 4 years. (It's something)

James has covered in the last 4 years a total of - 1067 miles in 61 walks

Jim has covered in the last 4 years a total of - 891 miles in 99 walks (know that Jim did his 100th walk some time ago but we do not have complete records)

Longest walk on record - James with his 27 miles

Next section on how we have encouraged new walk leaders - 17 on my watch. Details of walk leaders who can be contacted for walk leader 'training' Myself, Sue, Julie, Wayne & Jim

Next section explaining the email that went out to all covering what is expected of a walk leader & the acknowledgement of us all in respect of walk leaders. There is a lot of stress involved in walk leading, but walk leaders encouraged to send in their reports.

Did a joint walk with Decathlon, not sure if any members went, but would get a goody bag if went.

7. Social Report

Have been the Social co-ordinator for two years; have recently added to this the role of weekend away co-ordinator. Helping me to plan and organise various functions, is a small dedicated team (Jean, Sue, Mave, Lyn, Debby, Gillian and Colin) Anyone who would like to join the Social Committee, or have any suggestions about future events, please email the Gmail account.

We have organised various wonderful events in that time, starting with 15th January 2015 Games night at the fat Cat. We have tried pub Crawls in various locations in Sheffield including, Chesterfield (Brampton Mile) and Castleton. We have put on the site some of the local music and beer festivals (Sunfest at Rising Sun, Tramlines at CADS, Rail ale trail in Cleethorpes, three valleys in Dronfield) we have tried meal in restaurants (Otto's, Baldwin's, BB's) We did a couple of days out that were fantastic, Spurn point (looking round the lighthouse, was great) also Flamborough Head to see the sea birds at Bempton Cliffs.

We tried music nights (music in the gardens, Soul Night) we have regular new member's nights, to give people chance to meet in social setting to help get to know each other.

We have had a couple of successful Awards nights, Harland Café (for Pie and peas and a music and finish at the old crown, with Highway child) for 2016 and this year at Regather (buffet and our in house DJ Lynn, which was great) a lot of hard work went into both events by the social group, were we gave out various Awards (longest, wettest, Most on a walk, most led walks, etc.) we also did a photo completion which was voted for on the night.

There has been a great Christmas event 2016, where we went to the Shakespeare and had a curry with a great DJ.

I would like to ask if anyone would like to join the Social group or just send in new events or ideas to help us keep the social interesting.

In the new part of my role as Weekend Away Co-Ordinator, will be looking for people to put weekend's on, with walkers organising their own accommodation , but meeting up for walks. I would like to thank everyone in the Social group, also anyone who has put on a weekend away this year, or contributed with any event.

The Anniversary walk and meal is this Sunday 22nd October, Short walk done by Emma, Long walk by Wayne, there is a meal after at the Woodroffe Arms.

8. Weekend Away Report

The group held a total of 6 weekends away during the year all organised by our own members.

A huge thank you to all who helped makes these events take place.

Allendale at New Year organised by Jill B

Ambleside in May organised by Mave M

Dentdale Beer and Music Festival in June organised by Colin P

Kettlewell in August with walks led by James Scott and Michael C

Keswick at August Bank Holiday organised by Jillian G

Dent in September organised by Anne B

Weekends were attended by an average 12 members which is around 5% of our membership.

Numbers have declined from last year where figures were twice this.

Only Allendale was financed by the group and it generated a loss.

This was the second weekend in a row that had lost money, so it was decided by the committee not to financially support further weekends away for this year.

The Allendale accommodation had been booked around 18 months prior to the event. The dynamics of the group having changed in the meantime with reducing numbers of members attending weekends away.

Weekends away continue but the accommodation has become 'book your own'.

I have been able to make 4 of the weekends this year – all excellent, so another big thank you to our organisers and walk leaders.

So far for the year ahead, we have one weekend away planned in June to Keswick Mountain Festival.

The role of weekend away co-ordinator has now been merged with that of Social Secretary. Anyone who would like to organise a weekend away for the group, please drop us an email and contact the Social Secretary.

It was asked if we could carry on with the group accommodation? Not everyone was interested in this, as the last time we organised this we lost money, so what Tracey (in her additional role as Weekends away co-ordinator) she will add at the bottom of notice, ' if any one wishes to be booked into group accommodation, to email the group ASAP, and Tracey will try to arrange this. Tracey will send an email out to ask for possible locations, try for locations not so far away. Also when these are organised add the walks to site info.

9. Website Report

The website continues to work OK. There are some new photos on the home page, and because many people bookmark the walks calendar page, I have also added the newsflashes to that page.

There was some background work to fix a few minor issues, but nothing very visible to most users.

How many of you use the home page and how many the walk calendar pages? Most people do both.

I would also be interested to know how many people read the newsletters from the Ramblers CEO that I have been putting in the newsflash. There was only one person.

One more thing - hands up if you saw the newsflash and installed a first aid app on your phone. Most people said yes they had seen this.

The walks continue to be uploaded to the Ramblers website as well, usually on a weekly basis. If there is a last minute change, that may possibly not make it onto the Ramblers website, but as the sign-up details are there as well, anyone who finds a walk on the Ramblers site should also be contacting the leader, who can let them know if things have changed.

I don't know if people will have the info to answer this - it would be good to know how often we get people finding us from the Ramblers website. It probably isn't something most people ask a new face, but it might be interesting to include in walk reports, so we know how we are recruiting new members. I have spoken to a few people who found us via Ramblers site. Has anyone else found that? A couple of walk leaders said they had people from other groups coming.

Except for texting, Facebook is by far the most active way our members interact these days, so as the bulletin board is not being used, unless there is a good reason not to, it will be shut down. It was agreed to shut the bulletin board down.

Can we get rid of the message board? If no one looks at this, all members at meeting said they don't use this facility. Jez will remove.

It was asked if Jez could add a 'return button' on the bottom of the gallery as well as top.

It was asked if more people on committee could be trained on how to cancel a walk, with the bad weather coming.

10. The Constitution

It has been accepted by Area office. Wayne asked if it could be ratified, Proposed Jim C and Seconded by James S.

11. Elections of Committee

Chairman: - Wayne Grounsell

Treasurer: - Jill Brogden

Secretary and Membership: - Emma Myers

Walks Co-Ordinator: - Vacancy

Social and Weekend: - Tracey Lyne

Website: - Jez Kenyon

Election for the walks co-ordinator, Julie Sweeting put her name forward. We had a vote; it was proposed by Russell M and seconded by Bev K. Agreed.

12. Items for discussion.

Jim C sent in three questions.

- A. What can be done to fill the walks program? This was answered with offering walk leaders chance to get help with recce of walks, ask interested walk leaders offer buddy walks, tell them about the walks archive and the links, with walks from the ramblers, find a walk website, 20's-30's website. Walking Britain.
- B. Explain about Group walking etiquette. This helps the walk leader, Get there on time, Read the walk details so members know where they are going and if they are late back (some are saying they have to get back for a certain time) Don't text the walk leader after the appointed time, (even though some leaders are ok with this) when on a walk if they want to leave half way make sure you tell the walk leader as otherwise they will look for them. The walk leader will set the pace according to the ability's on the walk, don't overtake the walk leader. If a member has a friend asks if they will be up to the walk. Respect walks leaders.
- C. The Sheffield Country Walk why have we taken this on and what will we be expected to do? Wayne answered that Pete Robinson is monitoring this, he will be adding missing stickers

and if they have any issues will send info to path watch, No one else will have to do anything.

Meeting finished at 21.42 PM.