

CHELTENHAM RAMBLING CLUB

75th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at the VICTORY CLUB

13th NOVEMBER 2017 7.30PM

PRESENT: *Chairperson, Dave Tomlin. General Secretary, Jenny Cotterell. Treasurer, Trish Ostojitsch. Programme secretary, Keith Gyseman. Membership Secretary, Liz Johnson. Ordinary Members, Mary Gyseman, Stephen Wall (Health and Safety Advisor), Lynne Hindmarch and Paul Finegan.*

CLUB MEMBERS: 26 + 2 guests + 9 committee. Total = 37

The chairman welcomed everyone.

APOLOGIES: Chris & Sue West, Blanche Shill, Sheila Gibson, Barbara Pettit, Roger Swift

MINUTES: The 2016 AGM minutes were taken as read and approved.

MATTERS ARISING: None

REPORTS:

Treasurer:

CRC Treasurer's report for AGM 2017

Our major source of Income comes from membership subscriptions and was up on 2016.

We derived a small amount of income from our partnership with Rambler's holidays, thank you Ann and Don - the money subsidised a minibus for a recent leg of the Donnington Way.

Generally our expenses rose slightly on the previous year.

People remembered to claim their walkover expenses this year and Barry's legacy finally came off the books as it subsidised the welcome drink at the 75th Anniversary dinner .

Donations were made on behalf of the club to the Cotswold Wardens, the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and to the charity, nominated by her family, in memory of Kathy Slee.

The operating account made a profit for the year.

Re other activities:

These showed a loss for the following reasons.

Walking weekends : a major activity for the committee this year was the revision and updating of the rules for holiday organisers. The anomaly that meant an organiser could claim for a contribution for a recce if the weekend was termed a camping weekend but not if it was deemed to be a DIY weekend with people camping was removed. The amount shown is the organisers claim for the Lyme Regis DIY weekend in July.

The week leading to the May Bank holiday was sadly more stressful than usual with the number of participants fluctuating daily. The holiday was showing profit with money to be refunded to participants as per club rules . In an effort to simplify administration, take pressure off the organisers and to not financially penalise all who did (or should have participated) the agreed level of refunds was, in retrospect, slightly too generous resulting in the recorded shortfall.

Overall we made a loss of under £5 for year.

The club's current account still holds money and the reserve account remains untouched for the year so the club finances are still viable.

T.Ostojitsch 13.11.17.

The Treasurer thanked Angela Gatliff for overseeing the accounts.

The club is in a healthy financial position and continues to look good going forward. There is a balance of £4690 in the accumulated fund.

The accounts were accepted as correct.

Proposer: Liz Johnson

Secunder: Des Fry All in agreement

Programme Secretary: Keith's report for 2016-17 (2015-16) is as follows;

STATISTICS

Walk Type and Number		Average attendance
Full day	44 (42)	14.4 (13.8)
1/2 & 3/4 day	22 (25)	16.9 (14.8)
Evening	19 (21)	16.1 (16.7)
<u>Morning</u>	<u>33 (31)</u>	<u>15.9 (13.9)</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>118 (119)</u>	<u>15.8 (14.8)</u> overall attendance

Walks cancelled: 1. No Walk Offered: 11 (7 Saturday, 4 Sunday)

Total miles: 831 (837)
Average length: 7.04 miles (7.16)
Total attendance: 1806 (1699)
(All data taken from the period November 2016 - October 2017)

NOTES

- Total walks offered remained constant at 118 + 1 walk cancelled (119).
- There were 11 unfilled dates where a walk had not been offered: 7 Saturday, 4 Sunday.
- There was a slight drop in attendance again for the evening walks.
- Saturday, Sunday and midweek morning walks saw a healthy increase which is reflected in the total attendance figure above. Up by over 100 on the year.
- Total number of leaders was 36 (31). It is very encouraging to see new and past leaders offering walks.

Most walks led: 1st Liz & David with 12 walks, **2nd** Chris Jones with 10 walks, **3rd** Allan Jones with 9 walks.

Highest attendance on a walk: 28 – Nick H & Pete L, which was their midweek morning walk from Colesbourne in April.

EVENTS 2017

Tenby Coach & Hotel Weekend	May	Mary H
Donnington Way	May onwards	David & Liz
DIY Weekend Lyme Regis	June	Mary & Keith
The B's have it	September onwards	Guy V
75 th Anniversary Meal	October	Jenny C, Lynne H

EVENTS 2018

Scarborough Coach & Hotel Weekend	May	David & Liz
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Again, a very successful year although the events have dwindled significantly. Any suggestions for the coming year would be most welcome.

I would like to thank our walk leaders for their support over the last three years and also to those who have organised a splendid programme of events.

David Tomlin thanked Keith for all his hard work as programme secretary over the past three years. The members gave Keith a round of applause in thanks and appreciation.

<u>Membership Secretary:</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Memberships	150	144
Members	204	197

Liz was pleased to report that membership numbers are buoyant. She feels that the revamped website has helped with this.

Web Master:

Chris West was unable to be at the AGM but sent in this report which was circulated;
Cheltenham Rambling Club AGM Website Report 2017

I continue to get good feedback on the club website and thank the committee for their continued support of the site and the new format (since February 2016). The cost of the website hosting contract rose slightly in April from £8.39 to £ 10.79 per month. However, I think that the service: hosting of site, storage, email and software support is still good value for money.

Looking at the general figures, most months in 2017 saw an increase of visitors compared to 2016 – with exceptions of August and October. The strongest month for hits was May (745) and the lowest June (481), although no great conclusions can be reached on the difference in figures. The main headline is that there is a growing improvement in site visitor numbers up to May this year, but this has slightly tailed off from June this year.

Thanks to all those members who forwarded their photos for the site – please keep sending them – they enable the site to maintain an up-to-date feel. On the gallery page, the numbers of photos had started to build up a bit and some were also starting to get a bit dated; so I have recently taken out older pictures to prevent the gallery slide show from getting too long. Please don't be offended if your favourite picture has been taken down.

I'm happy to continue to manage the website for another year. However, I'm coming up to 10 years in this unofficial role and if anyone fancies taking it on, I'll be happy to give a hand-over. It does not require any great quantity of time or technical ability; just enthusiasm to bring fresh ideas and keep it updated.

Chris West (November 2017)

Rambler's Association Report:

Dave welcomed Bernard Gill from the Gloucester Area R.A.

Bernard was pleased to hear that once again, our numbers are increasing. This goes against the general trend. He said it was nice to see a vibrant club!

He said that the R.A. is relatively buoyant but on a downward slope. He said the Pathwatch App (mobile App) is proving popular. It is used for reporting problems e.g. broken fences etc. GCC are good at picking up messages but he wasn't sure how proactive they were in doing repairs. Bikes on paths is an issue. Bridleways are open to bikes but there is discussion on whether other paths could/should have shared use. The bike lobby is strong.

The Countryside and Rights of Way act aims to open up access to land. The R.A. is looking at this.

Des Fry asked about footpaths crossing railway tracks. Network Rail are looking at level crossings on a one by one basis and closing where they deem necessary. The R.A. is trying to respond.

Dave thanked Bernard for his time.

FOLK Presentation

Dave welcomed Geoff Holt from FOLK – Friends of Leckhampton Hill and Charlton Kings Common.

FOLK was formed in 2000 when questions about the use of the hill occurred. They have 175 members and work with CBC, who own the site. They give advice to CBC, give talks on accessibility and organise work parties. FOLK are keen to know the views of users, Ramblers amongst them. They would like to co-opt someone from CRC on to their committee to possibly organise joint work parties. Geoff left copies of their newsletter and business cards for anyone interested.

Dave thanked Geoff for his time and for raising our awareness of FOLK.

ELECTION of OFFICERS and COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Keith is standing down as programme secretary and will be replaced by Paul Finegan, with Margaret Churchman acting as assistant. Keith and Mary are happy to stay on the committee as ordinary members with Keith assisting Paul if necessary. Dave gave Keith a vote of thanks.

Dave Tomlin said he will stay as Chairman for one more year but will definitely step down at the next AGM.

Nominations received:

Ordinary Member: Alan Skidmore

Proposed: Linda Skidmore *Seconded:* Mary Harris *Vote:* accepted unanimously

Remaining Officers: Dave Tomlin (Chair), Liz Johnson (Membership), Jenny Cotterell (General Secretary) Paul Finegan (Programme Secretary), Trish Ostojitsch (Treasurer)

Remaining Ordinary Members: Stephen Wall (health and safety advisor), Keith Gyseman, Mary Gyseman and Lynne Hindmarch were nominated en bloc

Proposed: Keith Gyseman *Seconded:* Paul Finegan *Vote:* accepted unanimously

No one else came forward for nomination as an Ordinary Member of the committee.

Total Committee Members: 10

Web Master: Chris West was re-elected in his respective role.

Proposed: Trish Ostojitsch *Seconded:* Mike Gibson *Vote:* accepted unanimously

Examiner of Accounts: Angela Gatliff

Proposed: Des Fry *Seconded:* Liz Johnson *Vote:* accepted unanimously

MOTIONS:

No motions were received this year.

A.O.B.

a. Health and Safety: Stephen reported that it had been a quiet year. He was concerned about an incident when walkers ended up on both sides of the road when a car passed – this needs addressing. Stephen felt leaders need to be objective about Health and Safety in their walk description. Information is on the Website. Liz said she sends out H&S information to all new members.

Dave mentioned the need to take care when livestock are in a field. If necessary drop lead of dog.

b. Holidays:

1. Scarborough – May 2018: David Johnson is receiving bookings. There are only twin and double rooms left – always a high demand for singles. He made an appeal for walk leaders.

2. 2019 Late May bank holiday – Jenny Cotterell and Carol Sadie have made a provisional booking at St. Kilda's Hotel, Llandudno

3. 2018 DIY – Dave said campers are dwindling in number and B&Bs are getting expensive. He felt there is a need to look for a venue with lots of affordable accommodation available. Any suggestions and a volunteer to organise for next year, please come forward.

c) Donations of £50 to each of two charities to be decided.

It was unanimously agreed to make the two donations the same as last year, i.e;

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

Cotswold Wardens

d) Guy raised the subject of only nibbles (and not sandwiches and cakes) being offered this year after the meeting. There was much discussion and will be reviewed by committee.

The Meeting closed at 8.29 pm

The date of the next AGM is 26th November 2018

