

Oakley Ramblers Club



Affiliated to HF Holidays Limited

MINUTES

Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 8th February 2023 at 7.30 pm
Held at Oakley Village Hall, Andover Road.

Attendees:	Tim Parry	Chairman	Lynn Martin	Committee
	Pat Dominey	Secretary	Christine Williams	Committee
	Carolyn Currie	Treasurer	Pauline Haynes	Committee
			Julie Shawley	Committee

17 members in total were in attendance

1. Tim Parry opened the meeting at 7.30p.m., welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

2. Apologies

Were received from: Karen & Derek Beere, Annie Vicars, Pauline Shead, Enid Rouse

3. Minutes

The minutes of the AGM, held on Wednesday, 9th February 2022, were accepted as accurate by the attendees and signed by Tim Parry.

4. Matters Arising

None identified. Acceptance of minutes proposed by Richard Wilson & seconded by Chris Williams.

5. Chairman's Report

This is my first AGM as your Chairman, and I am not quite sure what constitutes a successful year in the context of Oakley Ramblers. The club, during 2022, maintained a full programme of 26 walks, with an average attendance of 7.5, but varied from 3 to around 15. Walks were on various days and locations and were between 3 and 11 miles. All who attended appreciated the walks, therefore it would be deemed successful.

We have maintained consistent levels of membership at around 42 members throughout the year. The attendance at walks has been mixed - some have been well attended others have only been attended by two or three members. What matters is that they all have been enjoyed and appreciated by those who attended.

Regards our financial well-being, we had a small operational loss, but are still solvent.

It is vital that the club reflects, and remains relevant to, the needs of members. The committee you elected last year has tried to ensure that we do so. I am sure the new committee elected tonight will do its utmost to maintain that objective. We are always open to new ideas and suggestions. As we move forward the main issue remains trying to find enough walk leaders. I would urge members present tonight to put

themselves forward as walk leaders and complete the scheduled list of walks for 2023 that Pat has circulated to members.

We need to consider ideas for social events. We held a successful Christmas Dinner at the Golf Club in December. However, we seem to have lost the skittles evening as there is no longer a suitable venue. We would welcome ideas from members.

We hope in 2023 to provide an interesting and varied range of walks so we need to ensure walks have leaders. There is a form at the back to sign your availability. Please sign up as it is important to proceed with a full range of walks.

It remains for me to thank all members of the committee. The club is fortunate to have a good team of Officers - Secretary, Pat, & Treasurer, Carolyn. They and committee members, Julie, Lynn, Pauline and Chris are all working well. Their collective and individual efforts on your behalf are beyond praise. They ensure the smooth operation of the Ramblers.

We are sorry to be losing the services of Christine Williams from the committee. She has been a stalwart of the team for several years including as past secretary. Many thanks for your work and commitment, and we hope to catch up on future walks.

It is important to ensure the committee retains relevance.

Thank you

6. Treasurer's Report

Membership

The number of paid up members at the end of 2021 was 48. Going into 2022, 10 members chose not to renew their membership but we were able to welcome 4 new members during the year. We therefore had 42 members at the end of 2022. The income we received from their subscriptions was £210.00.

AGM

Our AGM was held on February 9th in Oakley Village Hall which was hired for the evening for the sum of £20.00 and Lynn Martin kindly provided the Wine and Cheese at a cost of £61.75.

Annual Costs

Ramblers Association The annual renewal fee of £65.50 was paid to the Ramblers Association.

Website The Website annual renewal fee remained the same at £15.

Public Liability Insurance Cover

Protectivity Public Life Insurance, who specialise in activity insurance, was again considered the best option to cover our needs and the annual premium remained the same at £50.40.

Retirement Gifts

The sum of £42.70 was spent on retirement gifts for Peter and Pauline Shead who were retiring from the positions of Chairman and Website Administrator, Sandy Steele as Secretary and Roy Yeoman as the HF Holidays co ordinator.

Skittles Evening

With the unfortunate lack of pubs in the area available with a Skittles Alley we were unable to make any arrangements for our annual social evening of Skittles.

2022 Walking Weekend at HF Holidays Chy Morvah, Cornwall

In September, 17 club members enjoyed a weekend away at the HF Holidays Country House, Chy Morvah, situated in St. Ives, Cornwall.

As a group booking HF Holidays deducted the cost of one room and their administration fee of £10 from our invoice which was passed on as a deduction of £26.10 to each person from the cost of their holiday.

HF Holiday Shares

Interest from the shares for the year 2021 – 2022 amounts to £2.55. Our £100 of HF shares are now worth £123.46.

Conclusion

We unfortunately made a loss of **-£41.84** at the end of the year. Our end of year bank balance, as of 31/12/2022, was £589.97 and it was decided our annual subscriptions will remain at £5 per person for 2023. We have the sum of £3.21 cash in hand.

Tim Parry asked whether there were any questions. Lynn Martin wished to thank Carolyn. All agreed.

Report was proposed by Lynn Martin and seconded by Peter Shead.

7. Election of Committee.

Chairman: Tim Parry happy to stand for another year - proposed by Pauline Haynes seconded by Lynn Martin. Elected by the meeting.

Secretary: Pat Dominey happy to stand again - proposed Julie Shawley, seconded by Corrine Thomas. Elected by the meeting.

Treasurer: Carolyn Currie happy to stand again - proposed Julie Shawley, seconded by Chris Williams. Elected by the meeting.

Committee members

Lynn Martin and Pauline Haynes each happy to stand for 1 more year. Julie Shawley happy to remain on committee. All approved by the meeting.

After an outline of the role of remaining committee position, ie diary coordinator, Dave Thomas volunteered to stand. Elected by the meeting.

Pat then presented flowers to Chris Williams, on behalf of the Club members, in thanks for her excellent service to Oakley ramblers committee.

8. Programme for 2023

- a) Walks diary. In trying to promote some discussion, questions were posed by Tim Parry - What are members looking for from walks? How do members make a decision re whether to join a walk? Is it related to location / distance / personal availability? This would help in the development of the programme.
 - What was deemed useful, would be to know further in advance an approximate distance for each walk (this detail is determined by the walk leader) for posting on the website and also advance notice in The Link to encourage new members.
 - We need members to volunteer to lead a walk during the year. Help is on hand from committee, if required, and there is information on the ORC website to give guidance to potential leaders. Please consider signing up to lead a walk. Dates can be flexible to suit.
- b) Events diary. Lynn has identified a skittle alley at The Four Horseshoes in Sherfield on Loddon. There is a £60 charge for use of the alley.
 - Another suggestion is a summer BBQ at the golf club
 - or a summer BBQ and game of pétanque at Basingstoke Rugby Club.
 - We have enjoyed meals out in the past, eg, at The Red Fort, also a pizza night.
 - Another suggestion was an evening walk to Palm Brasserie, with a meal.

- Lynn is very keen to hear of suggestions for social events.
- c) Walking weekend 2023 will be at Coniston. ten members have signed up for the holiday

9. Any Other Business

- a) Ramblers Association (RA) affiliation. Tim Parry said we need to discuss our continued membership of the Ramblers Association. There are arguments for and against. Whilst not a huge cost, its business benefits are limited. There was some discussion and key points raised were:-

- Previously costing £65pa, the charge is increasing to £69 in 2023.
- Disappointing not to be able to access maps etc as a group, while individual members can do so. Individual membership is £38.50.
- RA needs to be consulted re changes to paths in England & Wales, so, on balance, it is right to belong.
- RA is a pressure group, helping to maintain pathways, promoting walking, fighting for walkers rights and campaigning for freedom of access to land.
- Despite paying a fee, we have no contact from local RA groups.

A vote was taken, by show of hands, re ongoing membership. Vote was 7 for and 7 against with 3 abstentions, including Tim Parry acknowledging that he has a conflict of interest as he is an individual member. Decision taken was to pay the fee in 2023 and ask members for feedback at AGM 2024, as ongoing membership would then require an increase in subs. It was generally felt that our subs are very low and could readily be increased.

- b) Walking weekend in 2024. Pat has received contact from HF re option to give advance notice of a potential group booking, with preferred locations, duration and dates.

- In light of the small number of those signing up for 2023, Pat had sent out a survey to gain members feedback to help in planning future holidays. There had been limited response, but general trend was to limit distance to around 4 hours travel, with location to have access by public transport if possible. The range of 3 walks per day covers the preferences, provided the easy walks are not too hilly. General feeling was that 4 days would be better than 3. September was the preferred month for majority. Price for HF deemed good value as it is fully inclusive.
- In line with above comments, best options for 2024 could be Church Stretton, currently being refurbished, Dovedale, Selworthy or Isle of Wight.
- After a short discussion, Church Stretton and Dovedale would be proposed, with 4 days, Monday to Friday, as first option.

- c) A request had been sent out for members to provide emergency contact details to be available to walk leaders, in event of an accident / illness during a walk. A further message would be sent out to members requesting this information.

- d) Basic level map reading / navigation training is being offered to members by Dave Thomas. Aim would be to gain the confidence to look at a map and devise a route. This would be in three 2-3 hour sessions, mostly practical and outdoors. The training would be aimed at bronze level national map reading awards. Information re potential training would be sent out to members with a WhatsApp group set up for those interested.

- e) A potential long distance walk has been suggested, to walk the Clarendon Way from Salisbury cathedral to Winchester cathedral. 26 mile walk over 2 days. A pub in Broughton, approximately halfway along the route, may be opening accommodation in 2023. There was sufficient interest for this to be taken forward by committee. Another good option would be the Thames path.

Pat reminded the new committee members that the next committee meeting will be on Wednesday 29th March at 7pm

10. Date of Next AGM

Wednesday 7th February 2024 at a venue yet to be decided.
The meeting closed at 20.34

Signed.....

Date.....