

Oakley Ramblers Club



Affiliated to HF Holidays Limited

MINUTES

Annual General Meeting

Monday 12th February 2024 at 7pm

Held at Malshanger Room, St Leonard's Centre, Oakley

Attendees:	Tim Parry	Chairman	Lynn Martin	Committee
	Pat Dominey	Secretary	Julie Shawley	Committee
			Dave Thomas	Committee
			Pauline Haynes	Committee

In total, 16 members were in attendance

1. Tim Parry opened the meeting at 7pm, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

2. Apologies

Received from: Carolyn Currie, Treasurer; Christine & Steve Savage; Karen Mackrill; Richard & Heather Wilson; Pauline & Peter Shead; Heather Wilshaw; Chris Williams.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the AGM, held on Wednesday, 8th February 2023, were accepted as an accurate and true representation by the attendees and signed by Tim Parry.

4. Matters Arising

None

5. Chairman's Report

The Club continues to provide walking and social opportunities for local residents. There were approximately 24 walks with varying degrees of participation. We held a number of social functions including skittles evenings and a BBQ. Thanks go to Lynn for her organisation.

At the last count we had around 40 members and assets of £532.14 in the bank. Membership is in decline and we must all do what we can to encourage new members.

Committee met on several occasions during the year and I must express my thanks and yours to efforts of all committee members. You will be hard pressed to find a more dedicated and professional group of people.

The committee will be making a couple of recommendations this evening :-

- 1) To increase subs to £7 p.a.
- 2) To cease membership of the Ramblers Association (RA), saving around £70 p.a.

Members of committee standing down are Lynn Martin as Social Sec (but will remain on committee) and Pauline Haynes as Publicity Officer and committee member. We thank them both for their hard work. As the paperwork suggests we are seeking nominations from the membership to fill these roles and join committee.

Sadly Veronica Steele, a longstanding member, passed away recently.

My own participation as an active member has been limited due to a variety of factors. I have indicated that I am happy to continue but would, of course, be happy to stand down if someone else wishes to stand. Thanks to Secretary, other Officers and committee. I can assure you Chair is not an onerous duty.

Tim asked whether there were any questions

What are the responsibilities of Publicity Officer? Pauline Haynes gave a brief outline.

Lynn Martin asked that we thank Dave Thomas for his work managing the walks diary and for providing the map reading training. All agreed.

On behalf of all, Pat presented Pauline and Lynn with flowers to express our thanks for their valuable work on committee.

6. Treasurer's Report 2023

Read by Pat in Carolyn's absence

Membership

The number of paid up members at the end of 2022 was 42. Going into 2023, 6 members didn't renew their membership but we welcomed 2 returning new members during the year. We had 40 members at the end of 2023. The income from their subscriptions was £200.00.

Our AGM was held on February 8th in Oakley Village Hall, hired for the sum of £22.00. Lynn Martin kindly provided the Wine and Cheese at a cost of £60.43.

Annual Costs

The annual renewal fee for RA was £69.00, an increase of £3.50 from last year

Website

The Website annual fee increased to £19.00 due to our Government insisting we pay VAT.

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

£20.00 was spent on a retirement gift for Christine Williams who stepped down completely from the Committee.

Skittles Evening

There were 2 Skittles Evenings held during the year at The Four Horseshoes Pub, Sherfield on Loddon. All who attended enjoyed the evening and meal.

The Skittle Alley cost £60 to hire on each occasion. With 11 members attending in June we made a profit of £6 and with 17 members in October a profit of £25.

Navigation Course – Dave Thomas

Oakley Ramblers member Dave Thomas very kindly agreed to provide, free of charge, instruction on how to navigate an Ordnance Survey map and compile walks.

Our course was similar to the one Dave provides for Duke of Edinburgh Award students and was attended by 10 members. A pack of Hogsback Tea Beers was given to Dave as thanks and donations amounting to £95 were paid to Dave's favourite charity 'The Classrooms in the Clouds', Nepal.

BBQ

A midsummer BBQ was held on a warm summer evening in July at Basingstoke Golf Club, Dummer. It was attended by 19 members and all enjoyed social time and wonderful food.

2023 Walking Weekend in September was enjoyed by 10 club members at the HF Holidays Country House Monk Coniston in southern Lake District.

HF Holiday Shares

Interest from the shares for the year 2022 – 2023 was £1.84. Our £100 of HF shares are now worth £125.30.

Conclusion

We unfortunately made a loss of **£38.99** at the end of the year. Our end of year bank balance, as of 31/12/2023, was £551.14.

As the Club has made a loss on each of the last 3 years it was decided our annual subscriptions should increase to £7 per person for 2024. This is the first increase we have made in the last 10 years.

We have £1.21 cash in hand.

Question raised - how many current members? Don't have that figure today but estimate is 35 members this year

Report and accounts were agreed and approved unanimously

7. Election of Committee.

Chairman: Tim Parry proposed Ray Wilshaw, seconded by Lynn Martin, elected by the meeting.

Secretary: Pat Dominey proposed Ray Wilshaw, seconded by Pauline Haynes, elected by the meeting.

Treasurer: Carolyn Currie elected unanimously by the attendees .

Committee

The remaining committee members Julie Shawley, Lynn Martin and Dave Thomas were unanimously re-elected by the meeting.

Jenny Banks confirmed she would be happy to take on the role of Publicity Officer and to join committee. All agreed.

8. Programme for 2024

a) Walks / events diary. Volunteers are needed to lead the walks. There is a sign up sheet at the back of the room.

b) Walking break 2024 in Church Stretton has 10 ladies signed up, the minimum for a group booking. Final payment will be due in July.

c) Walking break 2025. Dave Thomas is looking at some options other than HF, eg, booking a hotel, with no minimum group requirements, and providing own leaders or buying leadership. Possibly in Snowdonia or other parts of UK not yet visited. Suggestions welcome. Other options are walking in Slovenia or Majorca.

This will be discussed at the first committee meeting

9. Any Other Business

a) Committee proposal to increase subs for 2024 from £5 to £7 was agreed unanimously.

b) Reference our membership of RA, Tim summarised.

The business case is not strong, as affiliated members receive no benefits other than 1 copy of the quarterly magazine and access to reduced price insurance - we buy appropriate insurance more cheaply elsewhere.

The moral case against leaving is that RA promotes walking and maintaining our pathways. Individual ORC members can join RA and some have done so.

All accepted the committee recommendation to cease our membership.

c) How do we promote recruitment to ORC?

There were many comments and some discussion and to summarise :-

Some potential members may think they need to drive / walk a long way from Oakley; varying the day of the week for walks may discourage walkers who like to plan ahead, however this is a positive to others.

Question raised was whether we should provide a number to call for further details.

Our most recent member confirmed that the current situation didn't put her off joining.

Suggestions are :-

To publicise that lifts can be offered; most walks are within 20 miles of Oakley; perhaps organise some local walks around Oakley; not too much commitment is involved; perhaps offer family navigation training / geocaching to encourage younger members.

Word of mouth seems to be best and all members need to spread the word.

10. Date of Next AGM

Monday 10th February 2025 at a venue yet to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 19.40

Meeting followed by social time with wine / soft drinks, cheese, bread, biscuits and other nibbles

Signed..... Date.....