

HARROGATE RAMBLING CLUB

Minutes of the 88th Annual General Meeting held on 17th October 2024

1. Obituaries

The following had been drawn to the attention of the meeting:

Tom Snelling, John Foster, Alan Storer, Simon Townson, Yvonne Sumner.

2. Apologies for Absence

46 members attended the meeting and apologies for absence were received from Rod and Shirley Carpenter, Jan Mason, Judith and Ralph Cornfield, Janice Sharp, Phil and Cheryl Johnston, David Bonsels, David and Jennifer Riley, Nick Kemp, Paul Andrew, David and Pat Rang, Mick Leach, Pippa Cowie.

3. Approval of the Minutes of 87th AGM (19.10.2022)

Approval of the minutes was agreed.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Annual Reports

5a General Secretary

John Hopkins reported there had been one incident in the past year, when Mary Plumb had slipped on the ice and had been taken to hospital by other HRC members on the walk.

Events which had taken place included socials at Starling bar organised by Stan Robertson, which had generally been well supported and enjoyed by those attending. David Riley had organised a successful coach ramble to Whitby to whom thanks were made. Sue Marriott and John had attended a health and wellbeing event at Menwith Hill, but little interest in the club was shown.

The £2,500 donated to the Yorkshire Dales National Park for the construction of a board walk at Gunnerside has been completed. John and Greg visited the site recently and felt the Park had done a good job.

5b Programme Secretary

Jonathan Marriott reported we have offered more than 300 walks in the past year including a very successful coach ramble (thanks to David Riley) where 4 different levels of walk were enjoyed by around 45 members, followed by some liquid refreshment and fish and chips.

Unfortunately, during the year, we have seen the suspension of E Group walks (2 -4 miles), due to a lack of interest and no Walks Collector. Thanks must go to Ann Dickinson for her efforts over the years. Any offers to resurrect this group would be greatly appreciated by the committee, so please let me know. We are also struggling to attract walkers to the Sunday C/D Group, with only 4 walks (2 leaders) in the current programme, and only 1 in the next. The Wednesday C & D groups both continue to be strong, so we can only assume members of these groups don't want to walk on Sundays, unless you know different?

I would like to thank all the Group walk collectors for their tireless efforts in filling their respective programmes, whether by chivvying, cajoling, arm twisting or even bribing members to lead walks. I cannot let this evening pass without paying tribute to Jan

Mason for her sterling efforts as C Group walks collector for the last 10 years, a remarkable feat. She will be succeeded by Alison Young.

I feel it is also pertinent here to mention Noreen and Oliver Logan, who despite no longer being active walking members, continue to fulfill the thankless task of enveloping and preparing the programmes for posting 3 times a year.

Finally for the photographers amongst you, if you would like to see your photos grace the cover of future programmes please email them to me, portrait only please.

5c Membership Secretary

Nick Anderson reported at the beginning of September the Club membership was 289 as compared to 306 in 2023. We have 13 honorary members. Most of the reduction in membership is due to people not renewing their subscription because they were no longer walking with the Club or did not wish to continue to be 'social' members. We have 19 new members who have joined during the last 12 months. As in previous years, most members who have decided not to renew their subscription don't inform me. I didn't send out reminders this year and so a handful of people contacted me when they didn't receive the August-November Club handbook, wishing to continue their membership by paying £13, the rejoining fee. After 4 years as Membership Secretary I'm handing over to Andy Wills, whom I'm sure will be able to do an excellent job. My thanks to the Committee for their support over the last 4 years and especially to Greg for his masterly leadership.

5d Administrator

Sue Marriott said lots of emails have been going out and the feedback has been positive however if club members have any suggestions to improve communications please let her know. Sue strongly advised walk leaders who had to make changes to their walks to use the walk change form on the website and give as much notice of changes, so that members can be advised as soon as possible. The website is the best place to find the up to date information on walks

5e Webmaster

Julia Riddington reported the following:

1. Our website hosting has now moved to another supplier. Apart from some initial teething problems with passwords it now seems to be working well. Any issues please let me know.
2. There is one more change that needs to happen to completely free us from our old supplier (move of domain name) which I hope to do next week so there may be a short interruption when that happens.
3. The walks archive database has been live on the website for a few months. It covers walks between 2018-2023. Walks from the 2024 programme will be added at some point over the winter. Please take a look if you've not used it yet. One of its main purposes is to encourage more walk leaders by having tried and tested routes they can pick from. Find it under the Members menu and there is no longer a password on it.

6. Annual Accounts for year ended 31st August 2023

6a Treasurer

In David Bonsels absence, John Hopkins reported that the club is in a sound financial position. As we have fewer members our subscription income is down, but our printing costs have also gone down, by including the Presidents newsletter in the walks booklet. Reserves have reduced to £7310, as a result of the donation for the Gunnerside board walk. In response to a question about the level of reserves, it was confirmed the Committee considered the level appropriate, in order to cater for the situation when we might have to pay for the services currently provided by our Webmaster.

6b Approval of Accounts

The Approval of the accounts was proposed, seconded and agreed by the meeting

6c Appointment of Honorary Auditor

Linda Wilson had kindly audited the accounts and has agreed to do so next year.

7. President's Address

Welcome to the hottest AGM of the hottest Rambling Club in Harrogate. As I have said many times before this club and the president could not function without the superb hard-working committee. After three years as president, I should have become an expert at rambling, but I have a feeling that is in loquacity rather than walking.

Faithful as a retriever
Always the president's sanctuary
John is a wonderful secretary
Who would always eschew the contrary
He works like a beaver

David Riley has organised much
Always with a soft touch
Of rambles with coaches
And social approaches
And to all his wisdom I clutch

Jonathan took over from Nick
With the programme both are so quick
Checking every detail
deadlining without fail
So programmes come out at a lick

We're now up on Instagram
A social media programme
Organised by Laura
With skills, a plethora
It all makes sense without Spam

Bonsels rhymes less well than Dave
For money we rely on to save
a truly wonderful treasurer
responsible funds measurer
He really knows how to behave.

With skills and talents peculiar
Our skilled web manager Julia
Creates our website
That we cannot write
And saves us from verbal diahorrea

Taking over for our membership
From Nick to Andy sans slip
Conscientious to a tee
As I'm sure Andy will be
And will certainly retain a firm grip

Lovely Noreen and Oliver Logan
provide programme distribution
which must be a plateful
for which we are grateful
and hope the round is still fun

Sue took over from Stella
Of walk changes she's the best seller
Neat and concise
And ever so nice
Of uncertainty she is the best queller

Now let me ask who will lead
For leaders we're always in need
It is quite an ask
to take on this task
But please, Oh please do take heed

With apologies for my scansion, but I am a philistine not a poet, and I know it. I have really enjoyed being with you over the past three years, well 13 actually. The walking keeps us fit and the social chit chat keeps us sane, what a great way to spend our time. Rambling both physically, socially and appreciatively is doing us a power of good, so long may we enjoy it. A feeling reinforced by Elizabeth Gaskell over 15 years ago, on Yorkshire people 'A solitary life cherishes mere fancies until they become manias', quite clearly the community of our club helps us avoid. In the words of Peter Cook and Dudley Moore.

Now is the time to say goodbye (goodbye)
Now is the time to yield a sigh (yield it, yield it)
Now is the time to wend our way-eee
Until we meet again, some sunny day

Thank you all for the privilege of being president for a most enjoyable three years with the support of such a wonderful set of people.
Greg was thanked for his contribution to the club as Secretary and President, for keeping the club in good shape and on track

8. Proposed Amendments to the Constitution

Two amendments were proposed:
Section 4 Membership.

In order to welcome visitors to the club who are in the area for more than two weeks (the current limit), the following amendment was proposed:

Temporary Membership shall apply for a period covering the first two walks for intending members and four weeks for visitors.

Section 5 Subscription

As an incentive to joining the club part way through the year, it was proposed that the two free months for Members joining in January or February (current arrangements) be extended to four, the following amendment was proposed:

In the case of Members joining in November, December, January or February in any year, the first subscription shall be deemed to cover the period from the date of joining to the end of the following year.

These proposals were proposed, seconded and agreed by the meeting.

9. Election of President, Officers and Committee Members

All ten posts on the committee become vacant at each AGM. There is no limit to the length of time that a committee member can serve, other than the president who can only serve for three years. The year of first election to the role is in brackets. Nominations received are as follows:-

Post	Current incumbent	Nominations
President	Greg Richardson (2021)	Sue Riley Proposed by Greg Richardson Seconded by Andy Wills
General Secretary	John Hopkins (2021)	John Hopkins Proposed by Julia Riddington Seconded by Greg Richardson
Treasurer	David Bonsels (2022)	David Bonsels Proposed by Nick Anderson Seconded by John Hopkins
Programme Secretary	Jonathan Marriott (2023)	Jonathan Marriott Proposed by Nick Kemp Seconded by Sue Riley
Membership Secretary	Nick Anderson (2020)	Andy Wills Proposed by Nick Anderson Seconded by Greg Richardson
Administrator	Sue Marriott (2022)	Sue Marriott Proposed by Stan Robertson Seconded by Laura Buckley
Committee Members	Nick Kemp(2023)	
	Laura Buckley (2023)	Laura Buckley Proposed by Sue Marriott Seconded by Jonathan Marriott
	Stan Robertson (2017)	Stan Robertson Proposed by Laura Buckley Seconded by Jonathan Marriott
	David Riley (2023)	David Riley Proposed by Stan Robertson Seconded by Andy Wills

There being no other nominations, it was proposed seconded and agreed by the members present that these members were duly elected

The webmaster is a non-elected post and is appointed by the committee and is invited to all committee meetings.

Webmaster

Julia Riddington

10. Any Other Business

None

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.

Signed

Date.....