

## **ALTRINCHAM & DISTRICT RAMBLING CLUB**

Minutes of AGM held on 11 November 2021

Present: 40 members signed the register

Venue: All Saints Church Hall, Hale Barns

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30 pm and welcomed members to the 2021 AGM.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from: Judy Bailey, Clive Bould, Phil & Sue Brownhill, John Capel, Norman & Frances Felton, Jill & John Jagger, Jean Lewis, Roy Merrick, Hazel & Colin Baldwin

### **2. Approval of Minutes of last AGM**

The Minutes of the last AGM held on 7 November 2019 were adopted as an accurate record of that meeting.

### **3. Matters Arising**

There were no Matters Arising

### **4. Presidents Opening Remarks – Heather Wykes (HW)**

HW started the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and remarking that this has been an atrocious year and half, which has not been an easy time for many. She hoped members had found comfort from being connected to ADRC and praised those members, especially the Committee, who have been working perhaps harder than usual during this period. Heather gave special thanks to our web master, Phil, who not only kept us informed of constant changes in regulations (allowing walks where possible) but also set up the club gazette which kept us socially entertained. Sadly, we have lost quite a few members during this time, who will be remembered by all. On a positive note, we have gained quite a few members also. In September we celebrated the 65<sup>th</sup> birthday of the club, an occasion which was well supported. Gill Wetters (daughter of Russel Marsh – founder of the Club) sent a message to Heather to say how delighted she and husband, Alan, had been to attend. They could see what a wonderful club it is and knew how delighted her father would have been. Finally, HW thanked everyone involved in the organisation, which was first class, and hoped “long may Altrincham Ramblers continue”.

## **5. REPORTS**

### **5a) Chairman – Beverly Harrison (BHa)**

The Chairman briefly mentioned how positive the 2019 AGM Minutes had been and reminded members that everything changed on 18 March 2020. She talked of times when groups of 6 were allowed to walk, the Lockdown Journal (created by Phil) and quizzes provided by Chris Sadler and Heather. BHa told members that since the last AGM the Committee has held 9 meetings, using a variety of venues and tools such as Zoom, emails, the meeting room and even John & Edna’s garden. Thanks were given to the committee for keeping members abreast of changing situations, with special mention to walks organisers and assistants – Phil, John, Les and Heather. Thanks also to Monica for providing necessary proof when the legality of walks was challenged by a member at one point. BHa pointed out less obvious work had been undertaken

by the Treasurer to keep ADRC insured and solvent, which will be expanded on by Terry in his report.

Sadly, Ian Stenhouse (club Chairman from 2007-2010 and more recently Programme Secretary) died on Tuesday, which is a great loss. Beverly gave details of the funeral arrangements to members and offered condolences to Josie and family.

As Goodwill Secretaries, Leslie and Jeanne have been busy responding to the sad loss of members but also informed us when there was a cause for celebration. BHa welcomed Gill Winn, our new General Secretary, to her first AGM. Monica, John and Les have made efforts to publicise the club and their successes will be remarked on in the Membership Secretary's report.

Credit was given to Phil for maintaining the club's website, which was paramount to keeping the club as a cohesive whole. Since October Phil has also been acting as Programme Secretary in addition to all his other responsibilities. BHa reminded everyone that Phil has drawn up a job description so that members can judge if they have the required computer and organisational skills to take on this post and asked for applications.

On a more positive note, BHa reported on the success of the organised events for John Drinkwater's memorial and the 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration, where badges and pens were given out to donated from a legacy left in Heather's care from Derrick Hamer.

With regards to the Club Holiday, BHa confirmed that 2 members of the Committee (Mike and Joan) are retiring, and that Jill Jagger and Pauline Glover are joining. The Committee were unable to carry out the 2020 programme, but it is hoped to organise trips for 2022. The Scarborough trip in 2022 should go ahead as planned.

From January, at the request of members, BHa reported that walks will be timed from Altrincham Station. We will, therefore, return to the usual procedure of those wanting lifts and those prepared to offer lifts going to the Station. Members were reminded that, as prior to Covid, there is no guarantee that a lift will be available. The Club is sorry that some members were unable to join walks when car-sharing was considered a risk of infection but reminded everyone there was a need to maintain caution. It is hoped that we don't have to return to these restrictions.

The Chairman hoped she had summarised the main events of the last 2 years and given praise where it was due. She also apologised if anyone's contribution had been omitted and thanked everyone for attending the AGM, saying the club cannot run without the members.

#### **5b) Treasurer's Report – Terry Clarke (TC)**

TC started his report by reminding members that copies of the financial statement had been given out, and that he is willing to take subscriptions at the end of the AGM if anyone wishes to pay. He stated that there had been some banking problems earlier in the year, but these were resolved using cheques until bank transfers could be resumed. The club ended the year £617.02 in surplus. The decision had been at the Committee meeting at the end of last year to raise the subscription to £10 to avoid an end of year deficit. Due to meeting cancellations and therefore lack of room rentals to be paid, plus a change of Insurance Company (which meant we did not have to be affiliated to the Ramblers), combined with a reduction in donations, savings of £528.94 were made. Subtracting the savings from the surplus leaves £88.08. TC stated that without the addition of £180 from new members joining fees, the club would have been about £100 in deficit. Therefore, the increase in subscriptions was necessary. He also remarked that

although coach trips have generated a surplus for the club in the past, an increase in prices from coach companies may not make this possible this year. In conclusion, TC feels, the committee may have to consider further ways of saving money. He thanked members of the Committee for informing him promptly of any payments into the bank account and a special thanks to the Auditors John Beardmore, assisted by John Jagger.

**5c) Auditors' Report – John Beardmore (JB) assisted by John Jagger (JJ)**

The Auditor confirmed his opinion that the accounts represent a true reflection of the Club's financial position. The Meeting duly adopted the Accounts.

**5d) Legacies Fund Report – Beverly Harrison (BHa)**

BHa reported that Terry, Elsie Edwards and herself agreed to release £100 to Heather towards funding the Clubs 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration at Lyme Park. However, Heather was frugal and only half was spent. BHa hopes we will find more occasions to celebrate the club's existence in future years. A donation to the Legacy Fund of £1000 was made from the estate of Robert Fyshe.

**5e) General Secretary' Report – Gill Winn (GW)**

No report

**5f) Membership Secretary's Report – Monica Beardmore (MB)**

MB confirmed that, at the end of September, there were 216 members, compared with 230 at the end of the 2019/2020 season and 257 at the end of 2018/2019, which reflected the Covid pandemic period during which 29 resignations and 8 deaths occurred during 2019/2020 and 26 resignations plus 6 deaths during 2020/2021. However, during the last 2 years we have gained 26 new members, including 4 members signed since the end of September with several more ongoing. We received 96 enquiries during the 2020/2021 season, many due to ongoing work on the Website by Phil Worsley and advertisements on social media. Members were reminded that new members are needed to help with the running of the club and MB reiterated that suggestions for attracting new members are welcomed. MB praised the work of our walk organisers and leaders, who do so much to ensure walks are provided on both Wednesdays and Sundays. Without them we could not continue. She hoped we would be able to enjoy all other activities the club usually enjoys in the coming year and thanked members for continued support.

**5g) Programme Secretary's Report – Phil Worsley (PW)**

Phil started his report by sharing his sadness that he was giving this report instead of the much-missed Ian Stenhouse. He explained that, as the circular has had to contain additional information (mostly Covid related) the layout has been changed and adjusted during the last year. The latest changes, commencing in the December issue, show the top of the first page has been condensed to allow room for walk entries and ensure the circular maintains a 4-page format. The latter being for printing and cost control. PW mentioned this means members need to refer to various documentation themselves rather than checking the circular. PW confirmed that Judy Bailey has offered to take over the role of Programme Distribution (from Josie Stenhouse). The role of Programme Secretary however remains vacant, and the Committee will keep members advised of developments. Finally, PW thanked walk leaders and contributors of other circular entries for submitting on time, reminded members of the cut-off date being the 10<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

### **5h) Sunday Walks Organiser – Phil Worsley (PW)**

Phil commenced the report by talking of the disruptions to the walking season due to Covid, stating that comparisons to previous season are difficult. In the past year we were unable to walk for 19 Sundays. However, he stated, the following is the breakdown of walks that were successfully undertaken:-

There were a total of 71 Sunday walks with an overall participation of 1064.

- 33 'A' walks with an overall attendance of 448, giving an average of 13.6 per walk
- 5 'B' walks with an overall attendance of 57, giving an average of 11.4 per walk
- 33 'C' walks with an overall attendance of 559, giving an average of 16.9 per walk

PW reflected that these figures compared reasonably well to previous averages. He reminded members that a successful season is dependent on people working hard for us, particularly leaders of walks. The figures show that 33 'A' walks had 12 leaders, 5 'B' walks had 2 leaders and 33 'C' walks had 20 leaders. He pointed out that the club does not have enough leaders, particularly in the 'A' and 'B' walk categories. For perspective, PW noted that the Club had 223 members and of those 92 have not walked at all in the past year and 35 have only walked once. Therefore, the Club had 127 people unlikely to contribute in that area, almost 57%. He assured members that Heather and himself (for Sundays) and John and Les (for Wednesdays) will continue to work hard to try and secure a full programme of walks and confirmed there had been a small number of new leaders coming forward in the past year, which he hopes will continue.

PW went on to thank members who had supported walks in varying weather conditions and went on to say that 30 Sundays walks are already in place for the coming Sunday walking season. He also thanked Heather for working hard in securing walks and leaders for the Sunday shorter walks. Special thanks were given to the leaders/leader groups without whom the club would not be able to exist. He asked those who have not yet led a walk to please consider this going forward.

### **5i) Wednesday Walks Organiser – John Capel (JC) [presented by Gill Winn]**

John sent apologies for being unable to attend the AGM tonight. He noted that the last AGM was in 2019, which meant it was difficult to summarise the 2021 season in a comparative manner. Walks had commenced on 14 April, following release from the Jan-Mar lockdown, but some walks were cancelled due to hot weather in July and a fuel shortage in September. He confirmed the success of the booking system with both walk leaders and walkers, which is considered useful going forward. JC gave thanks to Les ('C' walks) and John Beardmore ('B' walks) for organising their respective programme and other walk leaders, without whom there would be no walking. JC mentioned that Covid infections had affected some 'active' members and the areas of our walks. He confirmed communication continues to be very good, via the website and circular and there was one known 'reportable' H&S issue on a walk during the period.

### **Walking Statistics and Details**

Since the last AGM, months of Dec 20 then April to October 21 there have been:-

- 32 'A' walks (>9miles) – supported by 393 walkers giving an average of 12.3
- 2 'B' walks (6.5-9 miles) – supported by 22 walkers, giving an average of 11.0
- 32 'C' walks (<6.5 miles) – supported by 645 walkers, giving an average of 20.2

John noted that despite the difficulties of recent times, the average figures held on reasonably well, albeit with the 'A' and 'C' walks being slightly down. The 'B' walk programme is in the process of being reintroduced. JC felt that, based on a recently issued walk leader's survey, a full and varied programme can be developed for 2021/2022. The 'A', 'B' and 'C' walking groups are heavily reliant on the same leaders and would appreciate more support from new walkers. JC confirmed he, Les and John B are willing to support new leaders and have lots of resources to do so.

**Other Matters** - After the success of the charity afternoon event during the Cracken Edge walk this year, it is proposed to repeat it next year and also consider adding a late season (Nov) charity walking day for the Children in Need charity. Finally, JC thanked the organisers of the Christmas lunch for 'A'/'B' walkers (mainly Jill and Susie) and Phil for his help and support during the last couple of difficult years.

**5j) Coach Trip Report – Mike Jones (MJ)**

Mike reminded members that the COVID pandemic had caused the abandonment of the 2020 programme and resulted in no coach programme in 2021. He stated that the coach committee had met and proposed a limited number of trips for 2022. The fare, however, will have to increase and may have to be paid in advance due to higher prices and coach company conditions. MJ thanked members of the coach committee – Joan Jeffrey (stepping down this year), Jenny Rydell, Beryl Hunwick, Beverly Harrison. He also welcomed Pauline Glover to the committee and Jill Jagger, who is taking over as organiser as MJ steps down from the post.

**5k) Club Holiday Organiser – Beryl Hunwick (Hu)**

No Report

**5l) Social Organiser – Heather Wykes (HW)**

No Report

**5m) Goodwill Secretaries – Lesley Short (LSH) & Jeanne Gregory (JG) [report presented by JG]**

JG announced that in the last 12 months (Nov 20/21) 14 Get Well cards and 7 'Special' birthday cards were sent. Sadly, there have been 23 members who have died since the last AGM, which was November 2019. A minutes silence was held to remember the following much missed club members:- Mary Clarke (Nov 19), Harry Betts, Mike Kenyon (Jan 20), Robert Fysh [Hon Member] (March 20), Ivan Aldridge, Margaret Rayburn, Connie Williams, Alan Thorpe [Hon Member] (April 20), Sally Ferrans, Katherine Kennedy (May 20), Ken Thorley (June 20), Bill St Leger (Oct 20), Ken Roe (Dec 20), Jim Malin, John Drinkwater [Hon Member & President] (Jan 21), Jean Armsden, Mavis Weetman (Feb 21), Derrick Hamer (March 21), Geoff Hawthorn (April 21), Bruce Merrick (May 21), Bernard Butterworth (July 21), Ron Armsden (Sept 21), Ian Stenhouse [Chairman & Programme Secretary] (Nov 21).

A Minutes silence was held to remember those who had died.

**5n) Webmaster's Report – Phil Worsley (PW)**

Phil stated that his report for 2020/2021 is very similar to previous versions in that the Club website and associated social media page via Facebook continue to run well and attract potential new members with the website attracting most enquires. Since the last AGM there have been no 'major' issues but one or two 'minor' issues that were resolved. In terms of

Security the password will again change on 31 January, with the username and new password being printed on membership cards for the coming season to maintain security for the “Members Area”. Reminders will be printed in both the December and January circulars, but members should not try to use the new password prior to 1 February. Only those who have paid their subscriptions will have access to the restricted area after that time so members should renew subscriptions and also consider receiving circulars online to save money for themselves and the club.

#### **5o) Health & Safety Report – Beverly Harrison (BHa)**

BHa confirmed there had been no major incidents recorded this year and stated that the advice on the website has been made more readily available. She said that leaders are required to be more hazard aware because of Covid restrictions but that it is impossible to judge the effect of variable weather conditions.

#### **6 Election of Officers**

BHa announced the following nominations:

Les Stockton (Ordinary Committee Member – renewal) Proposed by JC, Seconded by BHu

Judy Bailey (Ordinary Committee Member & Programme Distributer) Proposed by MB, Seconded by PW

Jill Jagger (Coach Trip Organiser) Proposed by BHa, Seconded by GW

**Voted and agreed by all members present.**

#### **7 Donations**

TC announced that Donations were made to the Lake District Search and Mountain Rescue Organisation, the Peak District Mountain Rescue Team, Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue Organisation, Rossendale and Pendle Mountain Rescue Organisation, Oldham Mountain Rescue Team, Buxton Mountain Rescue Team and the Peak and Northern Footpath Society. The reduced amount of £50 was given (as reported in the Treasurer’s Report) but TC added that consideration would be given to reverting to £75 per organisation.

#### **8 Constitutional Changes**

In accordance with Clause 11 of the ADRC Constitution, Notice of Motions to Amend were put forward by the Committee.

##### **1 Section 8 -Annual General Meeting. Instead of “28 days” paragraph 2 to now read:**

*Formal notification of the date of the Annual General Meeting shall be sent to members at least 8 weeks before the date of the Meeting.*

##### **2 Section 3(b) (b) Honorary Membership. Instead of “at least 2 months” paragraph to now read:**

*The Club shall consider for Honorary Membership any person who has made an outstanding contribution to the aims and activities of the Club. Nominations for Honorary Membership are to be sent to the General Secretary at least 6 weeks before the date of the AGM.*

##### **3 Section 4(a) Subscriptions. Instead of “determined” paragraph to now read:**

*The Annual subscription shall be announced at the Annual General Meeting and shall become due immediately following the meeting. From 2 months after the AGM each year, the Circular and correspondence regarding Club activities shall be sent only to those whose current*

*subscriptions, due after the AGM have been paid. If their subscriptions remain unpaid at the following 31<sup>st</sup> January, their names shall be removed from the Membership List.*

**3 Section 4(b) Subscriptions. Remove this clause**

*The joining Fee shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting and shall become due for all new members elected after the meeting.*

**Motion was Proposed by BHa, Seconded by MB. Voted and agreed by all members present.**

**9 Any Other Business**

- 1 Dave White asked if there were any volunteers to store the present sound system, which is quite large. Alternatively, he suggested the club sell the current system and purchase a more compact one at an approximate price of £150-200, which could come from the Legacy Fund. As there were no volunteers the latter suggestion was agreed by the Chairman.
- 2 There was a short discussion on the pros and cons of a postcode and BHa suggested that both GR number and postcode could be useful, but it was confirmed by PW that a postcode is not a requirement for the circular.
- 3 Keith Wykes mentioned that the possibility of training days had been raised a few years ago and wondered if it could be discussed again. BHa commented that overall the website was very clear, containing full and necessary information.

The Meeting closed at 9.15 pm

**Date Of Next Meeting**

The next Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 10 November 2022 at All Saints Church Hall, Hale Barns.