

MOURNE RAMBLING GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

3.30pm, Sunday, 2nd October 2022

Venue: Tollymore National Outdoor Centre

Present: George Acheson, Adam Brett, Robert Campbell, Fionnuala Carragher, Malachy Devlin, Norman Elliott, Nigel Garrett, Paula Daley Hayes, Harry Goodman, Ray Gray, David Johnston, Karen Laurenson, Robert Marshall, Domnall McComish, Sheila Murphy, Francis Mackey, Gordon McCreery, Pamela Quiery, Noel Rice, Bert Rima, Ian Stuart, John Taylor, Vincent Trainor, Pat Tumility. (24)

Bert opened the meeting by welcoming those present.

1. A quorum of 15 or one-fifth of the membership (31), whichever is the lesser, was present.
2. **Apologies:** Anna Carragher, Marie Doran, Roisin Franklin, Ellen Greaney, Catherine Greer, Maire Hanna, Mary Joy, Pat Kelly, Victor Knox, Gabriel Macauley, Peter Magowan, Rodney Magowan, Dora McCavera, Beth Mulhall, John Mulhall, Wendy Patterson, Robert Roulston, Hazel Smyth, Ray Smyth, Helen Templeton, Briega Turley. (21)
3. **Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting:** draft minutes had been sent out to all members by email/post – they were also included in a Newsletter. The minutes were taken as read – it was unanimously agreed that they were a true and accurate record.
4. **Chairman's Report:** Bert reflected that he had completed three years in this role, the maximum term, and that it was time to appoint a new Chairman. During his time as Chairman Covid 19 spread throughout the country creating complications for hillwalkers; and, for a while we could not walk as a club. However, general footfall in the Mournes increased significantly and car parking areas overflowed with cars during this time. Nevertheless, recently the MRG has seen an increase in membership this indicates a healthy club. He thanked the committee members for their support and for performing important (often unseen) roles; and all those who led walks and organised events.
5. **Secretary's Report:** copies were circulated at the beginning of the meeting for members to read. George went through the main points of the report – members were given the opportunity to comment and ask questions, no questions were posed.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Vincent had prepared and circulated a report. He explained the figures and banking system followed in detail, giving comparisons with the previous year. The balance is £5026.13 (£4662.79 in 2021) a healthy financial situation. He proposed that the club reduce the subscription to £20.00 for one year only. This was seconded by Robert Campbell and unanimously agreed (two members expressed a concern). At the latest count the MRG has 157 members.
7. **Committee Business:** Bert referred to the need for more leaders and the training/mentor support the club provided for those willing to take on this role. There had been a fair amount of in-house training - this would continue. Some members had also availed of courses organised by the UFRC.
8. **Consideration of motion/s:** no motions had been received.
9. **Election of Office Bearers and Committee:** at this point all positions were declared vacant Bert oversaw this part of the meeting-
Chairman: Peter McGowan Proposed by Ray Gray; Seconded by Sheila Murphy
Secretary: George Acheson Proposed by Fionnuala Carragher; Seconded by Adam Brett
Treasurer: Vincent Trainor Proposed by Ian Stuart; Seconded by Sheila Murphy
Group Representation

A group representatives: Robert Campbell, Robert Marshall and Karen Laurenson proposed by Ray Gray; seconded by Adam Brett

B group representatives: Paula Daley Hayes Proposed by Bert Rima; Seconded by Fionnuala Carragher

C group representatives: Roisin Franklin, Bert Rima, Ian Stuart and Noel Rice Proposed by Fionnuala Carragher; Seconded by Robert Marshall

D group representatives: Fionnuala Carragher, Harry Goodman and Ray Gray Proposed by Ian Stuart; Seconded by Noel Rice,
Robert Roulston was co-opted to oversee the club website.

Bert drew to the attention of members present issues connected with the A, B, and C groups which needed to be addressed.

- Need to consider the participation of walkers in these groups re numbers and pace
- Some of those walking with the B group are really A group standard
- C group numbers are often very large. Many new walkers start in the C group and, for a variety of reasons, wish to remain in the C group though they could walk with the B group
- The Committee does not wish to say to members which group they should walk with – this is a personal decision

Members present were asked for their view/s. Listed below are the points mentioned

- Should we create a C+ group?
- There could be an A group walk every week; this would leave fewer B group walkers who could be joined by those in a C+ group. These walkers, combined, would make up a “new” B group
- There had been one C+ walk this had worked well
- Do we have sufficient leaders?
- When beginning at the same starting point walkers could decide which group they would walk with on that day. However, groups do not often start at the same place this could change in the future
- Some walkers check who is leading a walk beforehand
- How do C group leaders try to accommodate all walkers in their group?
- May need to carefully “nudge” walkers into the “new” B group if they are fit for it
- It is difficult to set a pace which suits everyone in a group
- There should be discussion among leaders
- Some consider the B group to be really fast
- We are not out to set records
- Walkers prefer to walk in smaller groups
- Consider an open discussion with all members
- The Committee should consider the points mentioned above - feedback to members then, make decisions as a club

Pam Quiry, on behalf of the B group, made a presentation to Noel Rice for “The worst walk of the Year” it was on a particularly cold, wet, windy and miserable day around the Back Castles, Binnian. Noel was justly proud.

10. **Closure of meeting:** the meeting closed at 4.47pm.

A date was set for the next Committee Meeting: Tuesday, 15th November 2022.

