

MOURNE RAMBLING GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

3.30pm, Sunday, 1st October 2023

Venue: Tollymore National Outdoor Centre

Present: George Acheson, Robert Campbell, Fionnuala Carragher, Norman Elliott, Roisin Franklin, Nigel Garrett, David Johnston, Robert Marshall, Gabriel McCauley, Dora McCavera, Gillian McClelland, Domnall McComish, Gordon McCreery, Dermot Mac Dermott, Vincent McKenna, Gordon McKenzie, Andrew McKibben, Shelagh Murphy, Maggie Pridgen, Jen Rainey, Noel Rice, Bert Rima, Graeme Stevenson, Ian Stuart, Vincent Trainor, Pat Tumilty and Pam Quiery.(27)

Peter opened the meeting by welcoming those present.

1. A quorum of 15 or one-fifth of the membership (32), whichever is the lesser, was present.
2. **Apologies:** Adam Brett, Marie Doran, Harry Goodman, Ray Gray, Joan Hamilton, Teresa Hughes, Mary Joy, Victor Knox, Mary McLaughlin, Carmel Quinn, Dymrna Sands and Briege Turley.
3. **Minutes of the 2022 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:** Peter referred to the purpose/s of the Mourne Rambling Group – to provide an opportunity for people to participate in hill-walking. This is achieved by a combination of supporting leaders and engendering a positive social aspect to walks, whilst appreciating and caring for the environment. The club has been successful in providing over 150 hill walks since our last AGM within a safe, friendly and welcoming atmosphere. Peter encouraged members to support the club's social events such as the "slide" show. There had been one away trip to The Galtees attended by 35 members – a successful trip; such trips require considerable organisation and help with organising future trips would be appreciated. He commented on the club's website and Facebook presence – both serving the club well. He concluded by saying we are an active club seeking to bring in new blood – something that every member can be involved in.
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 used, giving comparisons with the previous year. The closing balance is £4,969.12 (£5026.13 in 2022). In light of this healthy financial position he proposed that the present membership fee of £20.00 pa be retained – this was agreed by all. Some discussion revolved around the posting out of the Programme of Walks/emailing these to members. It was agreed that the incoming Committee would further consider this matter. Some postage is inevitable eg UFRC membership cards.
7. **Committee Business:**
 - **Leadership matters:** our leaders do "sterling" work which is much appreciated
 - **Grades of Walks:** the Committee continues to gather information and consider the appropriateness of the grades of walks as outlined in our programme. Members are encouraged to move to a more strenuous level as their fitness and stamina increases. The C+ walks have proved popular. Every group warmly welcomes new walkers to its ranks.

- **Membership matters:** Fionnuala and Ray continue to play an essential, and at times a challenging role when speaking with. and guiding aspirant members.
 - **Training:** navigation training and practise within a small group has proved very effective. More training will take place next year.
 - **UFRC:** the club continues to support and work closely with the UFRC.
 - **Other matters:** none
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 Norman Elliott oversaw this part of the meeting-
- Chairman:** Peter McGowan Peter was unanimously elected
- Secretary:** George Acheson George was unanimously elected
- Treasurer:** Vincent Trainor Vincent was unanimously elected
- Group Representation:** the following members of the serving committee had said, if proposed, he/she would be willing to continue to serve on the committee – Robert Campbell, Fionnuala Carragher, Roisin Franklin, Harry Goodman, Ray Gray, Robert Marshall, Noel Rice and Ian Stuart. These former committee members were unanimously elected. Jennifer Rainey proposed by Graeme Stevenson; seconded by Ian Stuart. Robert Roulston will continue to be co-opted to oversee the review and future development of the club’s website.
- George said he hoped to retire from being Secretary in October 2024 and that to help ensure continuity someone from within the Committee should “work” alongside him throughout the year. Vincent also said that having a second person knowledgeable of the workings of the Treasurer’s role would be beneficial.
10. **Closure of meeting:** the meeting closed at 4.40pm.

A date was set for the next Committee Meeting: Tuesday, 7th November 2023 at 7.30pm.