

**COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS  
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF LEADERS HELD AT EL CID RESTAURANTE  
ON TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2017**

**PRESENT:** Carol Harbach (Chair), Pauline Chalmers, Robert Chalmers, Tony Clarke, Veronica Dunkley, Martin Dunkley, David Harbach, Katy Phipps, Ralph Phipps, Andy Marsh, John McClland, Adrian Murray, Lee O'Neil, David Shaw, Jean Russell, Mary Gough, Ann Price, Jo Fletcher, Tim Fawle, Martin Connelly, Geoff Ellis, David Brain, Theresa Boyule, John Male, Mike Broadley, Sue Bonsor, Richard Marsden, Gordon Gleeson, Derek Gadd, Sue Gadd, Alan Jackson, Angie Elliott, Alastair Greenbank, Christine Acton, Angela Colgate (part) Geoff Cobb (part)

**APOLOGIES:** John Price, Jon Lyons, Nic & Neil Laws, Colin Read, Helen & Mike Granville, Annette & Tony Shaw, John Mail, Clodagh Brown, Brian Sears, Peter Greene, Paul Elliott

**NEW LEADERS** welcomed to the meeting were Christine Acton and Tony Clarke

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:** Accepted as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

**FINANCIAL POSITION:** David Harbach presented the financial statement as at 31 May 2017 showing a total surplus of 1712.12 Euros.

**PROGRAMMING: DATE BASE RECONCILIATION WITH WALKSinSPAIN -** Good progress made to date. Leaders will be asked (by email) to check their walks and provide information where appropriate. Deadline for response will be 14 December, after which date unidentified walks will become available and published for others to lead. Email to be sent by programme secretaries and will form an addendum to the minutes of the meeting.

Certain Leaders' walks (not having being lead for over 2 years) were highlighted, i.e. Dick Handscombe, Costa Blanca Way (Peter Greene), Peter Barraclough, Peter Greig, Verity Waddel.

If these leaders have the intention to lead these walks in the next programme they are asked to contact the programme secretaries. If there is no response then these walks will be deleted from the date base and made available for others to lead.

**CANCELLING WALKS:** Reinstated that this is the responsibility of the leader to find a deputy. If no deputy is available then the walk has to be cancelled.

**PROGRAMME PREPARATION:** More time has been added to the preparation of the programme to allow time for proof reading. Mike Granville was thanked for the proof reading to date. The Spring programme will be available by 7 January and Autumn Programme by 7 September.

**LAST DATE FOR WALK OFFERS FOR SPRING PROGRAMME:** 30 NOVEMBER - Leaders asked NOT to wait until the last day!!

**WALK GRADINGS:** Discussion took place regarding some walks perhaps needing additional information in the walk description in the programme. Agreed this is desirable occasionally and leaders were asked to consider this in relation to all their walks.

**KNOW YOUR LEADER:** See website. The “mugshot” page of leaders is informative, particularly for new walkers. Leaders are asked to contribute a few words describing themselves as leaders (see existing comments for inspiration) The walk gradings together with extra information re exceptional terrain etc. in the programme is felt to be sufficient/adequate.

Responsibility on the mountains must be shared by both leaders and walkers. Leaders advised to emphasise to walkers that they themselves share responsibility for their safety and should periodically revisit the “Individual Responsibilities” section of our Conventions.

**THE ROLE OF THE SWEEPER:** The secretariat had been asked to review and revisit the role of the sweeper in terms of knowing the route of the walk and being able to replace the leader if necessary.

Following an open discussion (and comments from two leaders not present) it was agreed there should be no change to the existing Conventions.

In conclusion however leaders recognise the need to be mindful of their role as leaders particularly with the continual growth in numbers of walkers. Agreed the role of the sweeper should be strengthened and more attention is needed to keep the group together, i.e. leaders to keep looking back to the sweeper. Other suggestions were made, i.e. place new walkers in the middle of the group (depending on size) and when possible the sweeper (or someone in the group) should carry a written description of the walk and also map if possible.

## WEBSITES

**PLUG INS:** Agreed both websites should donate 10 euros to approximately 16 plug ins (less if appropriate). the cost of which will be accommodated within the provisional sum of 200 euros for development costs authorised at the last meeting.

**WalksinSpain:** Currently has 442 walks of which 321 are in the Costa Blanca. Since the last meeting a FAQ page has been added to the website. ([cbmwalkers.org](http://cbmwalkers.org))

**PRESS:** 45 publications successfully achieved since the last meeting in The Costa Blanca News and other local free papers. Photos normally extracted from Facebook but everyone asked to contribute towards information and photos on walks.

**SOCIAL:** David and Theresa formally retire and were thanked again for their enormous contribution. They are to be replaced by Veronica and Martin Dunkley who will offer themselves for election at the next meeting. Veronica presented their initial thoughts and ideas for forthcoming social events.

**TRIPS:** (1) John Male presented an outline of a proposed trip to MARRAKECH,

likely to be in the first week in June 2018. Final arrangements to be made and details will then to be published on the website.

(2) JO – PICOS - 13 – 19 May & 19 – 25 May - Details on website.

(3) JO – ANDORRA - Possibly 24 June – 1 July – To be confirmed.

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

CONVENTION NO 6: CARRYING OF STICKS - Reminder that walkers with sticks should be asked to carry them “forward”

GARDENING: A brush cutting machine is available for use on accessible tracks. In view of the abnormal growth covering many paths it was agreed “gardening days” become part of the Spring programme, say one day a month and possibly followed by a short walk and possibly lunch. The cost of fuel (estimated to be minimal) to be funded from group funds. Leaders are asked to suggest areas for cutting . Programme secretaries will then prioritise and programme.

Communication and collaboration with other walking groups, particularly Spanish would be beneficial to the group.

The meeting was closed by the Chair reflecting in this 30<sup>th</sup> year of the formation of the group that the group does not and cannot stand still. As numbers continue to grow the need to introduce and maintain systems is necessary, but the strong culture of this group continues. The group goes forward as an INFORMAL GROUP, NO MEMBERSHIP, SUBSCRIPTIONS and little formality.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY 30 JANUARY 2018  
WITH AN OPEN FORUM

#### SUBSEQUENT TO THE MEETING:

Dr Marina has kindly offered to give a short talk on some very basic procedures to follow in the case of an accident on the mountains.

#### WORDS FOR SIGNING IN BOOKS

“I CONFIRM I HAVE READ AND ACCEPTED THE CONVENTIONS ON THE CBMWALKERS WEBSITE AND KNOW AND UNDERSTAND I WALK AT MY OWN RISK”

