

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF LEADERS HELD AT EL CID RESTAURANTE ON TUESDAY
31 MARCH 2015 AT 11.30 PM

PRESENT: Carol Harbach (Chair), Theresa Boyle, David Brain, Jean Russell, Lee O'Neil, Mary Gough, Adrian Murray, David Harbach, John McClland, Katy Phipps, Ralph Phipps, John Male, Helen Granville, Mike Granville, Geoffrey Cobb, Peter Greig, Angie Elliott, Clodagh Brown, John Mail

APOLOGIES: Dick Handscombe, Robert & Pauline Chalmers, Anne Price, Martin Brain, Bill Burford, Kees & Meike Andriessen, Alan Jackson, Tim Fawle, Helen & Paul Martin, Peter Greene, Geoff Ellis, Jan Luxton, Bob Fisher, Gordon Gleeson, Jon Lyons, Alan Jackson

The meeting remembered Pat Charles and Alan Jackson who had sadly passed away since the last meeting.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING - The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

BADGES: Martin Dunkley was thanked in his absence for producing badges which were proving popular. It was made clear that the cost of producing the badges and sales is totally independent of the contribution to group running costs.

MEMBERS CONTRIBUTION TO GROUP RUNNING COSTS (FOBS)

(Ratification of proposal made at the last meeting that all walkers should be expected to donate – see mins of last meeting). This proposal had been supported at the previous meeting and put on this agenda to give those leaders not present at the previous meeting, time to consider this proposal. The Chair reported no objections had been received. There had been a general consensus of agreement at the previous meeting. The proposal was carried by all present with the exception of Peter Greig and John McClland voting against. This now becomes a new convention. Appropriate changes will be made to the current statement on the front page of the website, i.e “...we do however expect everyone who walks with us to make an annual contribution towards the cost of our websites. This year's contribution is 2€ per person. A key ring with our motif will be given to those that contribute by way of both a receipt and a thank you. These can be attached to your rucksack should you wish” (this paragraph will appear at the beginning of the Autumn Season)

CONVENTIONS: Last reviewed in 2009. Ralph Phipps and Carol have recently reviewed the conventions and attempted to “tidy up” the contents with particular emphasis on defining responsibilities between 1) Administration 2) Leaders and 3) Individuals.

The following amendments were made:

Individual Responsibilities: 1) Agreed strong sole boots” OR SHOES suitable for walking in the mountains” be added.

2) Walkers should “sign out” of the sweeper’s book if leaving the walk.

ADDITION– the following proposal had been circulated to all leaders prior to the meeting.

Individual Responsibilities: “Stay in contact with the people ahead of you and behind you and if too large a gap opens up then signal to the leader for a stop so that the gap can be closed”.

Following discussion it was agreed this proposal be amended by adding “particularly at junctions” This proposal was then unanimously carried.

The conventions will now be updated accordingly and be available on the website.

WEBSITES: Prior to the meeting leaders had been given the link to the proposed development/changes to the original website. It was recognised that since inception the site had

grown organically and now needs a refresher. It is hoped that the changes are improvements which address some of the issues such as easier access to the programme. The site is to be transferred to another system of operation with the objective in the foreseeable future of enabling more than one person to update all or part of the site at any time.

Since the last meeting the CD's (originally made by Maurice Gibbs) given by Bob Fisher have been transferred via Youtube and are now available in the archives section. Thanks to Bob Hall for making this possible. Many old photos, walk reports and programmes have now been transferred to the archive section. Nic Law was thanked for her contribution here.

A new system for uploading photos easier is now operative and details are available on the website.

WALKSINSPAIN: Set up 2 years ago and now has 270 walks written up (218 in Costa Blanca) Several leaders were thanked for their contributions. There is now the need to reconcile the walks included in the data base with WalksinSpain. Leaders are asked to look at the towns nearest to the start of their walks and identify which walks are led by themselves – and then tell Ralph.

CONTRIBUTION TO GROUP RUNNING COSTS: David Harbach presented a financial statement as at 31 03 2015. This statement will accompany the minutes of this meeting. This shows a surplus going forward at today's date of 1154.52€ with 18 fobs remaining in the field. Included in expenses is an amount of 79€ reimbursed to Ralph Phipps for the purchase of a programme (Oziexplorer) some time ago. This has proved vital to the development of WalksinSpain. Therefore agreed the funding of the programme should now be refunded. Future expenses have been estimated and based on all known information David Harbach proposed a reduction in Members Contribution to 2€ for the year 2015/2016. This was welcomed. (At the previous meeting leaders had given delegated authority to the Secretariat to fix the price for the year)

PRESS: David and Theresa are still wishing to pass on this job to someone, but will continue to act as Social Secretaries organising the end of season meet and Christmas Party etc.

USE OF CO-ORDINATES: In 2013 leaders discussed and agreed these be introduced where possible. No specific timescale was set. However with the help of technology it has been possible to establish co-ordinates for 305 walks out of the total of 388 on the data base. More work is therefore needed and those leaders unable to obtain the information are asked to Contact Ralph for help. Ralph outlined the three different standard formats for expressing co-ordinates, i.e. 1) degrees and decimals of degrees, 2) degrees, minutes and decimals of minutes 3) degrees, minutes and seconds. It was agreed the present format being used, i.e. No 1 should continue. For those not present at the meeting please contact Ralph for more information.

The meeting supported the continuance of the introduction and use of co-ordinates but it is again confirmed that the introduction of co-ordinates does not replace the name of the nearest town and the Km number in the programme.

GP - The Chair gave a summary of various communications that had taken place mainly between GP and certain members of the Secretariat which began when GP objected to co-ordinates being added to some of his walk descriptions.

This matter has been ongoing since last year and taken up a lot of time. The Secretariat stated that they are of the opinion that GP is not prepared to operate in the framework of a consensus management organisation and this has proved to cause too many problems to be acceptable to them. They are no longer prepared to work with him and future walks submitted by him will not be accepted. The meeting gave their total support and do not wish GP to continue using the name of CBMW.

TRIPS: Leaders were reminded that all group trips should be co-ordinated through the Chair to avoid duplication of venue and /or timing. Possible future trips include: Madeira, Italy and north of Barcelona.

SUMMER PROGRAMME: (subsequent to the meeting Verity has volunteered to co-ordinate this year's programme)

PROGRAMMING: The following dates are established for the future:

	AUTUMN	SPRING
Date of submission of walk offers	31 May	30 November
Date of publication of programme on website.	31 August	31 December

Start of Autumn Season 2015 - First walk 30 September 2015

(Traditionally the start is the first Wednesday in October. This year this is 7th October.)

All present agreed 30 September.

Discussion took place on encouraging new leaders by leaving some gaps in the programme, the dates of which could be put on the stop press. No conclusion other than the best way to get new leaders has to be to take them and show them walks.

Introduction of New Leaders: Katy proposed a procedure to welcome new leaders and give them information and guidance. Volunteers were asked to read the drafts prepared and give opinions before putting into use. Peter Greig and John Mail offered their assistance.

Iconic Walks: Ralph suggested selecting a set of iconic walks to be featured in the next programme. Many of these walks have been "lost" owing to their leaders retiring. Certain mountains to be chosen and volunteers then asked to lead.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

OPEN FORUM MEETINGS: Despite low attendance of the meetings held it is felt important to continue the invitation for everyone to attend. Agreed they should continue to be held but not at every meeting.

WHISTLES: Suggested everyone should always carry a whistle. Agreed. This to be added to Conventions "Individual Responsibilities" - added to the clause re First Aid etc.

INCLEMENT WEATHER – WEATHER WARNINGS/ALERTS:

Advice had been sought from the Austrian Alpine Club. This confirms that regardless of weather conditions OAV members are insured in their home country. Therefore everyone is advised to check their home country status.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: To be agreed.

This concludes the business of the meeting.

See Financial Statement below

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS
FINANCIAL STATEMENT PRESENTED TO MEETING OF LEADERS 31 MARCH 2015

Total surplus reported 04 11 2014	366.80
Expenses to date	(208.28)

	158.52
Contributions to date by 332 walkers	996.00

TOTAL SURPLUS GOING FORWARD 31 03 2015	1154.52

NOTE: Remaining fobs in the field - 18