

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF LEADERS HELD AT EL CID RESTAURANTE ON TUESDAY
21 FEBRUARY 2017 AT 10.30 AM

PRESENT; Carol Harbach (Chair) Nic Laws, Jean Russell, David Shaw, Lee O'Neil, Mary Gough John E Mail, John Male, Andy Marsh, Theresa Boyle, David Brain, John McClland, Sue Bonsor, Brian Sear, Peter Greene, Richard Marsden, Robert Chalmers, Jo Fletcher, Geoff Ellis, Alan Jackson, David Harbach, Peter Christofis, Ralph Phipps, Katy Phipps, Angie Elliott (part), Angela Colgate (part)

APOLOGIES RECEIVED; Neil Law, Geoff Cobb, Ann & John Price, Del & Sue Gadd, Martin Dunkley, Paul Elliott, Gordon Gleeson, Pauline Chalmers, Glodagh Brown, Jon Lyons, Charles Pye

PETER GREIG has tendered his "retirement" from the group as a Leader.
The meeting thanked Peter for his contribution during many years.

NEW LEADERS WELCOMED TO THE MEETING WERE: David Shaw and Richard Marsden.

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

Since the last meeting Nic Laws had volunteered assistance to anyone needing help to complete a walks offer form. The total number of E & M walks in the Spring programme was 31.

FINANCIAL POSITION (WALKERS' CONTRIBUTIONS)

David Harbach presented the financial position as at 21 February 2017 which includes a contingency of 100 euros and a provisional sum of 200 euros for potential development costs of the website. This provisional sum will only be spent when considered necessary and authorised by the Secretariat. The change of the timing of the website contract was noted, i.e. previous statements showed the main website payment being paid 4 years in advance. This has now changed to an annual payment.

The cost of foil survival blankets and energy gels are included. The purchase of these items was proposed at the previous meeting, details circulated to all leaders and there being no dissension this was approved between meetings.

The next and ongoing financial statements will be produced to the end of the walking year, i.e. 31 May 2017 and presented to the Autumn Meetings.

FOBS: Alan is confident that the total number of fobs sold will total 400. However there are still many unsold fobs held by Leaders. All leaders are asked to take all unsold fobs with them on all walks to pass on and sell when needed.

Based on the above financial position the members contribution remains at 2 EUROS for the year 2017/18.

DISTRIBUTION OF FOBS: Agreed fobs be sold on the day of the Opening Meet in October.

PROGRAMMING:

DATES: Leaders are reminded that the dates set for offers of walks etc. are THE LATEST dates for submission.

PROGRAMME (ADDITIONAL) INFORMATION (chair Statement, Secretariat, etc ON WEBSITE) -

A review will be made of this information and where it should be displayed. Changes may be made.

XMAS WALKS: Discussion as to whether there should be less walks during the December and January period Inconclusive, no change proposed..

NEW YEAR'S DAY WALK: Agreed this needs "regenerating" and publicising more.

DATA BASE: Recent working party identified walks with a) duplicate leaders b) same walks with different names c) Description in programme not compatible with description in WalksinSpain. d) some walks in the data base are in names of "inactive, retired or semi retired leaders".

Agreed programmers to contact all appropriate leaders in an attempt to "tidy up", achieve compatibility with walksinSpain and confirm and/or establish some leaders' status, i.e. inactive for a period or retired etc.

Those leaders wishing to relinquish some or all of their walks, particularly to promote new leaders, should ideally ensure they are written up, post them on the "walks available" list and if possible offer to show the route to any potential new leader.

WEATHER WARNINGS: Reminder that official weather warnings given by AMET include warnings for all kinds of severe weather conditions, i.e. wind, extreme cold etc. (not just rain).

Cancellations when necessary can be posted on Stop Press on the website (please give webmaster sufficient notice – not just a couple of hours before the walk).

The decision to cancel remains the sole responsibility of each leaders, and the responsibility of every walker to contact the leader if in doubt.

FACEBOOK: Confirmed this is a closed group to CBMW but everyone must be aware that anyone can independently circulate any photos taken on walks.

DISCLAIMER: The proposal to introduce a "disclaimer clause" (making everyone aware that their photo may be taken and put on facebook) was not supported.

CPR TRAINING (PROPOSAL BY BRIAN SEAR – CIRCULATED PRIOR TO THE MEETING)

The meeting was not supportive of this being initiated by the group as it was felt this could be interpreted as organisational infrastructure and a duty of care in legal terms. Brian was thanked for his time in researching this subject.

WEBSITES: The calendar on the "new look" website has now been removed owing to confusion caused by some people not looking for details of walks in the programme etc.

STOP PRESS & NOTICES: Stop Press will now appear at the top and notices given will be non standard items only.

A link to "events" will be made more prominent.

WALKSINSPAIN: (384 walks) The "new look" and improved site has gone "live" in the last few days.

Thanks were given to Robbie Jackson for his help with Ralph Phipps to improve the site.

FACEBOOK: Pauline will continue to "vet" all new applicants who will be accepted with minimal enquiry. Any new member posting anything unsuitable or irrelevant will be withdrawn as a member immediately.

PRESS: Robert and Pauline (absent) had been successful in achieving weekly press coverage in most freebies during the Autumn season. Leaders are asked to encourage all walkers to give Robert and Pauline information about walks and particularly trips to enable the press secretaries to get suitable articles in the press.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING; TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2017

THE MEETING TERMINATED AT 12.00 AND RECONVENED WITH AN OPEN FORUM WELCOMING NON LEADERS TO THE MEETING.

WALKERS PRESENT: Ebbe + 1, Christine Acton, Irene Hiscock, Tracey & Alan Moore, Vivienne & Phil Freakley, Brian Norman, Tom & Sue Gorman, Bob Fisher.

All walkers were welcomed by the Chair and introductions made by the Secretariat.

SOCIAL: David and Theresa confirmed all arrangements in hand for the forthcoming Almond Blossom Festival (22 February) and Cherry Blossom Festival in April. All details are on the website.

Arrangements are being made for a Wine and Walking Festival in November 2017. This will include acknowledging the formation of the group 30 years ago. Martin and Veronica Dunkley have offered to acquire commemorative, badges, hats, Tshirts. A commemorative fob will also be produced.

SUMMER PROGRAMME: David and Theresa have once again offered to co-ordinate this and asked for walkers to be thinking of any appropriate summer activity for inclusion in the programme.

XMAS 2017: Angela Elliott confirmed this year's celebration will be an evening dinner at a venue yet to be confirmed. Possible dates are Monday 4 or Monday 11 December (or any other day available) depending on restaurant availability. Overnight accommodation to be available if possible.

NEW YEAR'S DAY: Agreed this should be detailed and promoted more in the programme and website etc.

MS WALKS: Christine Acton asked if it were possible for some of the MS walks to be led by an additional leader going at a slower pace. Sometimes on the same day and maybe sometimes in reverse etc.

Christine was encouraged to lead. Some of Peter Greig's walks could be suitable. Christine was advised to offer walks and modify the description in the programme emphasising the walk will be taken at a "slow" pace etc.

TRIPS: John Mail has two vacancies for his forthcoming trip in April.

ELS PORTS (Brian Norman) FULL

CPR/FIRST AID TRAINING: Discussions during the Leaders meeting were related to all present. Brian Sears had proposed training of Leaders. The leaders were not supportive as this could be interpreted as organisational infrastructure and a "duty of care" in legal terms.

WEATHER WARNINGS: A reminder that any kind of official warning (AMET) could allegedly negate claims for cost of recovery and/or insurance cover. Warnings include those for wind and cold weather in addition to rain. It is the Leader's responsibility to cancel a walk BUT it is every walker's responsibility to be aware of any warning and remember that every person walks at their own risk.

FOBS 2017/18: Walkers contribution remains at 2 euros. Commemorative fob to be produced. These will be distributed at the Opening Meet of the Autumn season 2017.

NEW LEADERS: A "public" request for offers of walks for 2017/18 will be communicated via website/email etc. (not just existing leaders).

VOLUNTEERS: Needed for checking grades of walks on the data base, proof reading programme, information for press, Social Activities (including Summer Programme) Trips (30th year special?) Two hands were shown.

OPENING MEET AUTUMN 2017 (Details in Spring 2017 programme)

Following the exceptional hot weather last year the Leaders are mindful of the need to give a "health warning" to walkers. Arrangements will be made for second leaders to be in place in support of large groups on the day or indeed all large groups at any other time.

VOTE OF THANKS

TOM, SUE GORMAN: Tom thanked Leaders for the opportunity to attend the meeting which in turn gave them the opportunity to thank everyone involved for providing a well run group which gave them and many others so much pleasure.

The Chair summed up the meeting, thanking everyone for attendance and participation. The group remains by desire an “informal” group encouraging walkers of all ages and capabilities to enjoy the mountains. As numbers grow it is necessary to introduce and maintain administrative systems etc. but the group remains a non affiliated group with hopefully a continuing strong culture of pioneering tracks in the mountains and making our routes available for everyone to enjoy.

That concludes the business of the meeting which terminated at 1.15 pm.