

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF LEADERS HELD AT EL CID RESTAURANTE
ON TUESDAY 30 JANUARY 2018 AT 10.30 AM

PRESENT: Carol Harbach (Chair) Pauline Chalmers, Robert Chalmers, David Harbach, Joan Fitzpatrick, Fergus Fitzpatrick, Tony Clarke, Jean Russell, Lee O'Neil, David Shaw, Hazel Marsden, Richard Marsden, Martin Dunkley, Veronica Dunkley, Nic Laws, Ralph Phipps, Katy Phipps, Marina, Gordon Gleeson, Geoff Ellis, Ann Price, Angie Elliott, Peter Greene, Andy Marsh, Alan Jackson, Jo Fletcher, John Price, Sue Bonsor, Peter Christofolis, Christine Acton, Tony Shaw, Annette Shaw, Colin Reid, John E Mail, Clodagh Brown, Brian Sear, Alastair Greenbank

APOLOGIES: Del & Sue Gadd, Mike & Helen Granville, Mike Broadley, Geoff Cobb, Adrian Murray, Barry Carter, Angela Colgate, Martin Connolly, Tim & Sandy Fawle, John McClland, Jon Lyons, Margot Jackson, Paul Elliott, John Male.
Best wishes for a speedy recovery to be passed to Angela Colgate.

NEW LEADERS (in the current programme) are Fergus and Joan Fitzpatrick leading a walk tomorrow.

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

SECRETARIAT APPOINTMENTS:

MARTIN & VERONICA DUNKLEY offered themselves for election as Social Secretaries. This was unanimously carried.

In accordance with an agreement made in 2003 a review takes place every two years and individuals are required to offer themselves for re-election.

RALPH & KATY PHIPPS offered themselves for re-election as Programme Secretaries. This was unanimously carried.

ALAN JACKSON offered himself for re-election as "Fobmeister". This was unanimously carried.

CAROL HARBACH offered herself for re-election as Chair. This was unanimously carried.

FINANCE: The group's annual financial position (as at 31 05 2017) was reported to the last meeting.

David Harbach confirmed that since then there had been no abnormal expenditure. Following the recent "stock take" of unsold fobs the financial statement would now be updated and form an addendum to the minutes of this meeting.

DISTRIBUTION OF FOBS: Alan Jackson reported that he no longer has fobs available. However following the recent "stock take" there is now a record of which leaders still have fobs in their possession. Leaders are asked to contact Alan to find out who to contact for more fobs. (approximately 40 fobs out with leaders)

Following discussion on improvement of distribution, the following suggestions were made and agreed.

- 1) Fobs to be made available and sold to ALL WALKERS at the opening meet. These to be available alongside merchandise, i.e. Tshirt, badges etc. at the restaurant before start of walks.
- 2) Fobs to be given to leaders at the beginning of the season. More fobs to be given to those leaders leading walks early in the season.
- 3) Leaders to choose to pay upfront for their supply of fobs. Agreed this would result in less work for Alan and encourage leaders to sell fobs and also pass on to other leaders.
- 4) “Stock takes” to be carried out periodically.

PROGRAMMING: There had been a noticeable reduction in the number of walkers during the Christmas period. Opinions were sought as to whether fewer walks should be programmed during this time. Agreed no change.

Numbers on walks are now collated and available on the website weekly.

Further analysis of these figures showed that a higher percentage of walkers participate in the E & M walks. Despite efforts made by existing leaders to lead E & M walks it has been disappointing that this has produced only a few more new leaders for these categories of walks.

In previous programmes gaps have been highlighted when an E/M walk is required. Agreed this should be discontinued. Alternatively it is hoped that through the website people can volunteer to lead this grade of walk by either providing a walk or choosing a walk available from the list of “available” walks. As a result of the ongoing reconciliation of the data base with WalksinSpain many of these walks are written up. Leaders remain committed to encouraging particularly new walkers to begin by choosing an E/M walk to begin and find their level.

REMINDER: Walk offers for the Autumn Programme - PLEASE SUBMIT ON OR BEFORE 31 MAY 2018.

RECOMMENDATION: “CONVENTIONS – LEADERS’ RESPONSIBILITIES (6) “If anyone proves unfit (or unwell)” Leaders were asked to consider the recommendation to change this convention to “at least 2 people to return with the affected person..” This was agreed by all present. However, this recommendation had not been on the agenda for the meeting and those leaders not present are not aware of the recommendation. Following circulation of the minutes of this meeting and no objection and/or amendment being made by leaders not in attendance, within two weeks of the date of this meeting then this decision represents a change to Convention No 6.

WEBSITES: No specific change in current costs. Plug Ins (discussed at the last meeting) – a suitable and appropriate donation had been made.

WALKSinSPAIN: 340 now written up in the Costa Blanca region. There are still many programmed walks to be written up.

Walkers volunteering to lead additional (E/M) walks after the finalisation of the

programme to be asked to put details on Stop Press.

PRESS: Good relations have been established with particularly the CBNews by the press secretaries. Good coverage has continued with good photos being an important asset. Almond Blossom Festival about to be reported in CBNews.

Now included in regular articles (when written up) is a link to WalksinSpain. available.

Ralph Phipps has agreed to provide CBNews with “journalistic” articles of some of our walks. Congratulations and good luck was given to Ralph in his new vocation.

SOCIAL: Veronica Dunkley expressed commitment to the social activities being an important part of the wider community of the group. The events encourage walkers of all grades to meet up and enjoy each others company. The Spring Festival (programmed) needs volunteers for 3 walks. Volunteers are also needed for the end of season meet to lead M & MS walks.

XMAS 2018: Angela Elliott recommended an evening dinner on Thursday 6 December. Venue and arrangements to be as last year. Angie and Paul were thanked for the success of Xmas 2017 and for volunteering again for this year.

BRUSHING/CUTTING MACHINE: This is stored (temporarily) at Jo’s house. Any leader requiring use for clearing a path is asked to contact Mary Gough who will co-ordinate the use of the machine during Ralph’s absence on holiday until March.

Two gardening days have been included in the Spring programme. Whilst both have been programmed in Ralph’s name volunteers are asked to replace him either in Tormos as programmed or any other area needing cutting.

CONTACT WITH OTHER WALKING GROUPS.

As agreed at the last meeting the names and contact details have been obtained for three groups and a suitable letter (in spanish) has been prepared.

Before contact is made however Leaders (plus all walkers) are asked if they are willing to participate in meeting other groups and building up relationships and sharing information. Other groups were suggested, i.e. A group in Calpe organised by Annette and Tony Shaw and a small Monday group organised by Pat Moss. Willing participants to contact Ralph Phipp

CONTACT WITH LOCAL AUTHORITY: Pete Green reported a deteriorated and in places dangerous track from Campell to Isberts House. Whilst yellow and white posts have been erected the track is dangerous in parts Contact is needed with the appropriate authority. John Price subsequently volunteered to obtain information from Valencia to help to establish appropriate contact.

TRIPS

Current trips organised are:

