

**COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF LEADERS HELD AT EL CID RESTAURANTE
ON TUESDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2018 AT 10.30 AM**

PRESENT: Carol Harbach (Chair), Nic Laws, Mary Gough, Jean Russell, David Harbach, John Price, Ann Price, Dr Marina, Veronica Dunkley, Martin Dunkley, Christine Acton, Tim Fawle, Theresa Brain, David Brain, Martin Connolly, Jo Fletcher, Geoff Cobb, Peter Christofolis, Brian Sear, Allan Green, Tony Clarke, Richard Marsden, Hazel Marsden, John Mail, Derek Gadd, Sue Gadd, Andy Marsh, Colin Read, Fergus Fitzpatrick, Joan Fitzpatrick, Clodagh Brown, Adrian Murray, Tony Shaw, Annette Shaw, Angela Elliott, Paul Elliott, Mike Granville, Helen Granville, Alan Jackson, Katy Phipps, Ralph Phipps, Angela Colgate (part)

APOLOGIES: Robert & Pauline Chalmers, Geoff Ellis, Charles Pye, Barry Carter, John McClland, Marc Jennes, David Shaw, Mike Broadley, Sue Bonsor, Jon Lyons, Peter Greene, John Male, Gordon Gleeson.

The meeting opened by remembering those people having passed away since the last meeting. Christine Nixon, Rosemary McKernan and Brian Lambourne.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Accepted as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

NEW LEADERS THIS SEASON ARE: Marc Jennes (sent apologies) and Allan Green who was welcomed to the meeting.

RE-ELECTIONS: Due in January 2019 – **ROBERT & PAULINE CHALMERS** will not be offering themselves for re-election. Replacements are needed.

JO FLETCHER – Willing to be re-elected for next two years, after which time a replacement will be needed.

ALAN JACKSON – Formally resigns. Tony Clarke has undertaken this task and may offer himself for election in January 2019.

FINANCE: David Harbach presented the group's annual financial position as at 31 May 2018, together with a cash flow forecast statement to today's date. This will be circulated as an addendum to the minutes of this meeting.

During the past year website costs had decreased and there had been an increase in the number of walkers and their donations. For this reason the Secretariat (using their given authority) had reduced the donation this year to 1 euro.

The funds of the group have now transferred from Alan Jackson to David Harbach who will refund all approved expenses and receive monies collected from Tony.

FOBS: Periodic "stock takes" of fobs will be made.

Suggested that in view of the reduced donation this season, and therefore very little income being generated, then perhaps contributions should be abandoned.

There was no support to this suggestion.

Agreed thought be given to producing “reusable fobs”

All ideas to Tony please.

CLANGING FOBS: Many people are now walking in the peace of the mountains clanging a handful of fobs on their rucksacks. This also makes it difficult to distinguish the current fob from old ones.

Agreed walkers to be asked to remedy this practice and display only one fob, i.e. The fob for the current year only.

ALL LEADERS ARE ASKED TO MAKE THIS REQUEST AT THE BEGINNING OF WALKS IMMEDIATELY.

WEBSITES: Information on the website with the exception of the Conventions and the Programme has been generated and written by Jo Fletcher. If anyone has ever any doubt of the validity and/or accuracy of any information please let Jo know, with suggestions for amendments of course. Ideally a volunteer is needed to spend time reading all the information with a critical eye.

GDPR: The Secretariat has researched this new legislation and sought appropriate advice. Whilst we are an informal/non affiliated group we do maintain a data base of personal information, i.e email addresses, tel nos etc. Following due consideration all appropriate procedures have been put in place to comply.

Mike Granville has agreed to be “the owner” of our documents and will ensure the “Secretariat” complies annually to the necessary procedures and requirements.

JOHN MAIL (re: BRIAN LAMBOURNE)

John gave a resume of Clodagh and himself in dealing with the unfortunate death (from natural causes) whilst on one of their walks.

Since that incident two more rescues had been made on walks (both on the same day).

In all cases no requests for payment for rescue or hospital treatment have been made to date. Requests were made for 1) ID and 2) SIP card or EHIC card.

Following John’s talk a general discussion took place and the following recommendations agreed. The signing in procedure should be improved (Brian Lambourne had signed in with another name). An example of another walker doing similar was made.

- 1 Agreed walkers should print their names and also initial.
- 2 Ensure everyone signs for themselves (no proxy signatures by friends or partners)
- 3 It is a legal requirement in Spain to carry ID at all times. All walkers to be reminded of this.
- 4 Everyone be asked to always carry with them the name of a contact (in the unfortunate event of an incident)
- 5 The leader or sweeper should ensure all participants are correctly signed in.

ALL LEADERS ARE ASKED TO COMPLY WITH THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS IMMEDIATELY

Dr Marina confirmed that when dialling 112 always ask for “English”. This will save time . Once an emergency call has been made offer first aid if required but Dr advised against applying any other form of treatment as this could do more harm than good. The casualty is the responsibility of the rescue services after the call has been made.

Tim Fawle volunteered to obtain information from a local fire prevention organisation which may give us a better understanding of making contact with the rescue services.

LEADERS’ PREPARATION

Jo reminded all present of the information on the website, i.e. full details of Emergency procedures (the perspex card is an abridged version) and other information listed in the Conventions.

Compression bandages have now been added to First Aid kits and these are being distributed by Richard and Hazel Marsden, together with gels and perspex cards. (period stock taking will take place) The application of the bandage was demonstrated by Hazel.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The occurrence of three recent incidences raised a general discussion about responsibilities and vulnerability of the leaders.

Prior to the meeting a suggestion had been received to encourage people to take stress tests to ensure their fitness for walks. The increased numbers on recent walks was seen to be a problem.

REMINDER that at a previous meeting it had been recommended that large groups should be split and a middle marker put in place.

Views expressed included that of being seen to be providing more advice and “aids” to leaders which in turn could be interpreted as “taking responsibility” and will no longer be seen to “walk at their own risk”.

Leaders do not have insurance which protects from a claim against them in the event of an injured party claiming it was the fault of the leader.

The group is unable to provide this cover.

However the Secretariat are currently communicating with Insurance Companies and Brokers in an attempt to attain such cover – a long shot!

There may be differences here between UK and Spanish residents.

The sweeper plays an important part in communicating with the leader if anyone appears to be struggling or in their opinion not fit or capable of the walk. This should ideally be established early on in the walk.

Agreed we are all individually and collectively responsible for keeping the group together, i.e. keeping up, not allowing gaps and communicating if they observe someone “struggling”

The discussion was concluded:

Yes we are seen providing good information and sound information about First Aid. We publish our conventions which includes “Walkers responsibilities”. Our walkers sign a disclaimer to the effect they “walk at their own risk”. In the unfortunate circumstance of a leader being sued for negligence then we should be confident that any court of law would see that we use “our best endeavours” and apply “due diligence.” in everything we do.

PROGRAMMING:

Spring walk offers due end of November.

Everyone asked to always use the number of the walk and title in all communication with the programmers.

Everyone asked to look at the Data Base and ensure no-one is leading the same walk. This will avoid possible duplication. If offering a duplicate or a walk from the “not being led” list then please out of courtesy contact the previous leader.

Stop Press should not be used initially for “unable to lead”. Only cancellations, or if it’s necessary to publish name of a replacement leader. Effort should be made to find a deputy if necessary. Help will be given if unsuccessful.

If leaders stop leading or have “time off” please tell programmers.

This enables walks to be made available to others.

Changes in the Data Base are the responsibility of each leader.

SOCIAL: Successful summer programme, but more volunteers and more variety needed next year.

Events being planned are 1) Almond Blossom Festival 6 Feb, 2) Cherry Blossom Festival 3 April 3) End of Season 29 May (same venue as last year)

Xmas Party – all arrangements in hand (Angela and Paul Elliott)

NEW YEAR 2020: Agreed this should be re-invented with a new location etc.

Social Secretaries will work on it.

TRIPS: The organisers of all this year’s trips were thanked for their excellent organisation. Forthcoming trip to Cazorla (2 weeks) fully subscribed.

Segobe – 4 day trip in April (Dunkleys and Murrays)

A form has been created (Phipps) for the purpose of supporting applicants for trips who are regular walkers, support the group and not want just a cheap holiday.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

NEW LEADERS: To be advised to acquire First Aid items from Richard and Hazel Marsden. All leaders to contact the Marsdens to arrange collection.

MIKE BROADLEY: An email from Mike was tabled expressing nervousness re

“liabilities of leaders”. Discussion during the meeting had covered these points. Recommendation “unknown/new walkers should inform the leaders at least 2 weeks in advance and send their walkability CV together with any health issues” There was no support from those present at the meeting.

SUMMARY:

The recent rescues had initiated perhaps a long overdue discussion on the perceived vulnerability of leaders.

Over the years there have been many changes in Health and Safety Legislation together with a cultural change in claiming compensation.

For these reasons it is considered necessary to “use our best endeavours” and “due diligence” and to be seen to be taking all sensible steps to prevent injury or accidents. Regardless of this ever changing world the group remains an informal group who will hopefully continue to enjoy walking in our wonderful mountains. (accident free)

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY 29 JANUARY 2019

This concludes the business of the meeting

COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS
 FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS AT 31 MAY 2018 (REVISED 08 10 2018)
 (REVISED 13 11 2018)

Surplus going forward as reported to last Leaders' meeting 20 01 2018 (included the sale of 410 fobs)	1,924.62
Purchase of two further batches of 25 fobs 50 X 0.90	(47.50)
LESS forged bank note received	(5.00)
Sale of a further 90 fobs 90 x 2.00	180.00

	2,052.12
Money owed to D Harbach (website costs paid to Jo)	(53.00)
Less money owed to Helen Granville (Flickr)	(25.00)

TOTAL SURPLUS AS AT 31 MAY 2018	1,974.12

TOTAL SURPLUS As above	1.974.12
LESS fobs purchased 2018/19 500 x 0.95	(475.00)

TRANSFERRED FROM ALAN JACKSON	1,577.12
Reimbursement to DH (website costs) & Helen (Flickr)	(78.00)
Purchase of trauma dressings, slider bags, additional gels	(183.00)
Contributions received to date	195.00
Purchase of additional 100 fobs	(100.00)

SURPLUS AS AT 13 NOVEMBER 2018	1,411.12