SOUTH LAKES WALKING CLUB.

MINUTES OF 84TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 19TH FEBRUARY2020 – 7.30 P. M.

Apologies for Absence.

Christine Aston, Trevor Aston, Roger Baldwin, Jenny Barker, Jeanette Brady, David Bullas, Bev Cavender, Gillian Cochrane, Pauline Goodridge, Avril Hallam, Barbie Handley, Yvonne Houfe, Brian Meakin, Joan Meakin, Camille Ogden, Jenny Paley, Lynne Robbins, Digby Singleton, Sue Singleton, Gemma Vilanova, Marilyn Wright.

Minutes of last year’s AGM held on 20th of February 2019 were approved and signed by the President.

Matters arising: none.

The Sunday Rambles Secretary reminded the Meeting that the weather conditions play a large part in how enjoyable a walk is likely to be, and cited a recent walk to Garstang which was particularly muddy, but which ultimately afforded good views. He pointed out that the walks as described on the programme were suggestions only, and that leaders were free to vary the walks as they saw fit. Whilst thanking those who are leading on the current programme, he said that there were ten vacancies on the current programme, and that those who had not led before but would like to could go to John Ryder or himself for encouragement and guidance. Finally, as regards the next programme, he would welcome suggestions from members.

The Sunday Coach Secretary reported a good year, again paying tribute to Barry, our regular driver. He reported a £564.00 profit on the coach, largely due to a £2.00 per head increase on the fare. However, the annual coach hire figure will increase by £250.00 this year, but if the current takeup of places on the coach was maintained, the Club should break even. Overall, he said that, as regards the financial running of the Coach, we were in a healthy position, although it was a delicate balance between profit and loss. Two more points: he said that it would help if, rather than simply turning up on the day, members would book in advance by ringing him, and he also asked members not to pay the coach fare if they were leading a walk, however well-intentioned their motives were by paying. He gave thanks to all for, as he put it, “piling in”.

The Saturday Walks Secretary was not present, but in his absence the President said that a full programme went ahead last year, helped by Chris Watson who was available to lead. As regards the meeting place, B&Q was where most Saturday walkers met, although those joining at the start of the walk rather than at B&Q should contact the leader beforehand.

The Monday Evening Walks Co-ordinator reported a good year, averaging 13.5 members per walk. The 6.00 p.m. start from Natland Road had worked well, as had the extended Monday Evening season. More leaders were needed for July and August, although two members had put themselves forward to lead for the first time. The £2.00 fare to the driver would stay. Those who would like to lead but lacked the confidence to do so could always approach experienced leaders for help. Those who led walks during the year were thanked.

The Social Secretary reported a successful Weekend Away, although complicated by the voucher scheme, whereby vouchers were given by Holiday Fellowship as compensation for shortcomings at the accommodation. As regards the Birthday Meal, he had Restaurant 17, Milnthorpe in mind for a two-course meal, and the Crooklands Hotel for three courses.

The Treasurer guided the Meeting through the Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31st. December 2019, pointing out the net surplus balance of £3,754.59 at the Year- end – considerably more than at the corresponding period for the year before. This was largely due to the £5.00 per head increase in annual subscriptions, and the £2.00 per head increase in the coach fare. It was pointed out that, had the increased fare not been put into effect, the coach expenses would have resulted in a loss to the Club, rather than the profit of £564.71 which it made. As regards membership numbers, the Treasurer reported 120 full members and 6 Social Members – a downward decline from the highest ever figure of 178. Regarding the Club’s Public Liability Insurance, the Treasurer had been informed that Holiday Fellowship would cease insuring the Club from November of this year, obliging us to look elsewhere for cover, possibly returning to the Ramblers Association. A decision would be made in Committee about this. A question from the floor touched on the feasibility of doing without Public Liability Insurance altogether. The Treasurer gave the opinion that it would be unwise. As regards the balance of £3754.59 at the Year-end and the use to which it would be put, this again would be for the Committee to consider.

As regards the vacancy on the Committee, no nominations were received to fill it, and no-one was put forward at the meeting, so the vacancy remains unfilled. The Meeting voted unanimously for the retention of all the current officers and committee, and the President thanked Mel McCreesh for her services whilst on the Committee. Bill Wood was retained as auditor.

The Meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.