SOUTH LAKES WALKING CLUB.

MINUTES OF 83RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 20TH FEBRUARY 2019. – 7.30 P.M.

Apologies for Absence.

Christine Aston, Dorothy Bayliss, Helga Brown, David Bullas, Bev. Cavender, Pauline Goodridge, Barbie Handley, Alison Jones, Dianne Kenny, Denis Pook, Graham Spiby, Dot Ward, Marilyn Wright.

Minutes of last year’s AGM held on 21st of February 2018 were approved and signed by the President.

Matters arising: Regarding the donation to the Mountain Rescue services, Les Fielden asked when it is paid. The Treasurer said late autumn, and reminded the meeting that Kirkby Stephen MRT were now benefitting from our donations; we were giving £150.00 p.a. to Kendal and £150.00 p.a. to Kirkby Stephen.

The Sunday Rambles Secretary reported a good walking year, the walk from Seatoller in July being the worst for wet weather. He said that, in planning a programme, he tried to offer variety, including a walk along Hadrian’s Wall and also in the Forest of Bowland. A weekend away on 21st. of June was planned, this being in Malvern, and a similar stay at Glaramara Hotel in Borrowdale was under consideration. The July-December programme was now complete, and leaders were being sought. Those who lead walks in the past year were thanked, especially those who stepped up at short notice. Those who had never led walks in the past were encouraged to try it, and a number of experienced leaders would be happy to mentor beginners.

The Sunday Coach Secretary reported an improvement this year to previous years in that there were no coach breakdowns! He also paid tribute to our regular driver Barry, describing him as helpful and obliging. A deficit of £281.00 for the year was recorded up to September, at which point the £10.00 fare was increased to £12.00. The average number on last year’s coach trips was 36, making an average take of £360.00 per trip – unsustainable on a coach hire fee of £380.00. However, the £2.00 increase on an attendance of 36 would yield an income of £432.00 per trip. We were reminded that the coach hire cost would soon increase to £390.00. Turning to the matter of the telephone booking system, Brian said that, although the two weeks between the coach walks were available to members wishing to book, the reality was that practically no-one rang him in the first week, resulting in him being available for non-existent calls. It was proposed therefore, that to give him more freedom, he would only accept calls from the Monday of the second week. This proposal was unanimously accepted by the meeting, and would take effect from 1st of March.

The Saturday Walks Secretary reported a full programme of walks for last year, although some were rained off. More leaders were required for the forthcoming year. The procedure for the Saturday walks is that cars assemble at B. & Q. in Kendal and drive to the start of the walk from there. However, if the leader’s home is actually on the walk route, it is agreed that it would not be reasonable to expect the leader to journey to B. & Q., and in that case, the walk would be asterisked, indicating that the leader would meet the group at the start of the walk. As a rule, drivers should go to B. &Q. if possible.

The Monday Evening Walks Secretary reported a good year, with an average of 16.5 members attending the Monday Walks. Some complained that the fine summer meant that it was too hot to walk! It was announced to the meeting that changes would be forthcoming this year, these being a 6.00 p.m. leaving time from Natland Road (previously 6.30 p.m.) and a one-week extension to the Monday evening season at both the start and the end of the programme. Those who led walks last year were thanked, and an appeal was made for more leaders for this year.

The Social Secretary reported a successful year, and said that all places for the Weekend Away in September were now taken. He stressed that holiday insurance would be recommended for those attending. He was looking at the possibility of a Birthday Meal.

The Treasurer reported a decrease in membership last year, from 139 members to 131. He said that, to date, only 80 members had renewed their membership, and this being the case, the likelihood was that the membership roll would fall to around 100 this year. He told the meeting that Holiday Fellowship paid the Club £50.00 to advertise them to our members, but regretted that, despite prompting, they were not promoting our Club on their website. The AGM change of venue from the Town Hall resulted in a considerable saving; Abbott Hall Social Centre were charging the Club £29.00 for the evening. Also, the insurance was free with HF. It was restated that the sum of £300.00 per annum was donated to the Mountain Rescue service, half to Kendal and half to Kirkby Stephen. A bank balance of £2,400.00 was currently in place.

The Treasurer proposed the formation of a new category of membership to be discussed and voted upon. This new category would be called Social Membership, and would be aimed primarily at long-standing members who were once active but who no longer were, most likely due to infirmity. The Social Membership would give all the benefits which regular members enjoyed, except participation on a Walks Programme. The annual subscription for a Social Member was proposed to be set at £1.00, and with immediate effect. These proposals were unanimously accepted by the Meeting.

The Officers and Committee, were all re-elected, and as regards the vacancy for a committee member, Ray Holmes put himself forward and was duly elected. Joan Meakin pointed up the hard work which went on in Committee, and thanked the Committee accordingly. Bill Wood was again proposed and accepted as Auditor – proposed by Nigel Markham, seconded by Dave Harrison.

In Any Other Business, some discussion ensued regarding emergency shelters, and the Meeting were reminded of the Walking Festival, this year from 10th to 12th of May.

41 members attended the meeting. Meeting closed, 8.45 p. m.