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Treasurer:
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Membership Secretary:
Val. T. Caple
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Q1 Minutes

Apologies: Mavis Crockett, Derek Butler, Joan Lake, Annie & Milton Eskins, Nora Lindop, Ron & Sylvia Free (DCRA Friendship commitment), Gloria Surridge (DCRA Friendship commitment), Margaret McMillan, Mary & Brian Currie

Chairman's Report



Made it through my second quarter as chairman - thanks to everyone for your support. I particularly enjoyed the walkers' Christmas lunch and note with anticipation the destination of next year's.

Bath Christmas market was a great trip and very well supported.

We had some good ideas from our meeting with DC management, some of which you will see today and some of which will take longer to bring to fruition.

Some ideas were thrown around for making more use of the shop facility, but extending hours is not practical. Using it as an advert for our activities, however, looks like a winner.

It is very refreshing to see the relationship between our organisations growing again.

Last quarter I talked about fitness for purpose and what we need to address as an organisation to meet the challenges of the next decade and more.

It's not going to get a lot of individual support when the majority of the membership expect to be dead by then. Such selfishness is commonplace in all organisations, but we need to guard against drifting blindly into the situation where we lose the vitality and will to survive.

Those people who take on the task of organising trips, meals, skittles and other events don't do it for the good of their egos. However, they suffer the constant background sniping from malcontents who don't come forward with their complaints to the committee where they could be discussed and addressed.

Instead we get third-hand comments and mutterings in supermarkets, shops or wherever they find themselves cornered. If there's something we can improve, let's get together and do it. Better still, come forward and help instead of moaning that not enough is being done for the apathetic.

As we look to the future, we need to increase our income before we have to decrease our expenditure.

Currently we rely on the shop takings to fund Tesco vouchers and subsidise events. Membership income doesn't come close to meeting these costs.

Just looking at Tesco vouchers, we take in about £600 in memberships and pay out £3,000 in vouchers. I am not aware of any other organisation which returns five times as much to their members as the fees are.

If we raised the fees to £5 a year, we'd still be returning double that in vouchers, but have more security for the future and be able to fund new activities as well as subsidise existing ones.

That's not a proposal, just a wake-up call. Have a think about it and come back to the committee with ideas which you think will mean somebody is in this chair after we've all gone.

Cheers, Bob

Secretaries Report

I wish to offer my sincere thanks to Richard Thomas, our treasurer, who has juggled meeting the demands of treasurer and stepping in as coordinator for the friendship group. Not an easy task.

Bob Connell who stepped up to the challenge of chairman at the last AGM. Bob has brought with him specific skills and is eager to continue Don's excellent leadership of the association.

Already we have seen changes which may not be noticeable to the members but worthy of a mention in my report. The executive committee now have regular meetings with the Dow Corning representative (Vicky Edwards) usually within days of our quarterly meetings. These meetings give both sides a chance to update one another on issues such as site working practices. Thanks to Vicky, we now have a poster that explains 'who we are' displayed on the site community board. We have also been invited to 'meet and greet' employees in the foyer just outside these two training centres at least four times/year just ahead of our quarterly meetings. These changes are positives that give the association a chance to explain what the association is all about such as the walking group, short breaks, skittles plus an explanation about the newer friendship group.

We will promote the shop by displaying items on a table top.

The majority of Members are completely unaware of the voluntary contribution certain individuals make to ensure our experience of being a Member is a pleasant one. Much time is spent at meetings and individually working at home for DCRA. Another good example is Derek Butler who with Ruth Beasley organised the 2014 Dinner. Derek is prepared to put work in to organise a dinner for October this year but he needs assistance now because Ruth is no longer in a position to assist. We currently seek two members to come on board the committee and are desperately seeking someone to relieve Richard of the Friendship coordinator duties a role Richard took on during Bryan Clements illness. Meanwhile, I am sure you will join me in thanking them all and if you think you can help the Association in any way please contact me.

The quarterly June meeting will be two committee members short namely Richard and myself. Bob will be in the chair as usual assisted by Don who has agreed to deputise for Richard. Rest assured I will order the refreshments for you before taking leave.



The Nordic walking initiative is slower than anticipated on the uptake. We do have two guest speakers joining us from the Age Cymru Nordic walking group to discuss the benefits of exercising whilst walking with Nordic poles.



Put cash into NS&I's three-year pensioner bond – and then take it out after just 12 months

National Savings & Investments' "65+ Guaranteed Growth Bonds" pay the highest rates on the market for those who are aged over 65. The one-year bond pays 2.8pc and the three-year bond pays 4pc. But the drawback is that these pensioner bonds pay interest only at the end of the term, so savers who want the 4pc rate must wait three years before they see any returns on their cash.

There is a sneaky way of getting around this, says Anna Bowes, director at rate-monitoring site Savings Champion, that will mean savers earn slightly less than 4pc but will still receive more interest than they would on the one-year bond.

It works like this. If you invest £10,000 into the three-year pensioner bond, in the first year you would earn £320 after basic-rate tax is deducted.

Withdrawing this money after 12 months will incur a penalty of 90 days' loss of interest, which equates to £79. If you deducted this, the total interest earned would be £241.

That is equivalent to a rate of 3.01pc, before tax, and so still beats the rate offered on the one-year bond.

After 12 months, the one-year bond would accrue interest of £224. This is £17 less than the three-year bond.

Rob Wardle - Secretary



1. Financial status year to-date:

Current account balance	2636.34
Cheques not presented from 2015:	
2557 – C. Anderson (Hospital)	-10.00
2561 – B. Allen (Hospital)	-10.00
2562 – K. Bolt (Hospital)	-10.00
2563 – Prostrate Cancer Support (In Memory of C. Prew)	-20.00
2564 – VCVS (Photocopying Flyers)	-8.89
2565 – VCVS (Photocopying Flyers)	-6.99
2131 – Mainline Coaches (Chelt. Trip)	-420.00
2132 – Address labels	-9.54
Cheques not presented from 2014	
2544 – M. Thomas (Tesco Voucher)	-10.00
2546 – F. Maltby (Tesco Voucher)	-10.00
2553 – M.Prew (C. Prew in Hospital)	-10.00
Savings account balance	1661.47
Float totals	318.39
	=====
Net Assets YTD =	<u>£ 4090.78</u>

See additional sheet (Income and Expenditure Account for 2015 up to the end of February) for a summary of 2015 accounts year to-date.

A further breakdown is available during the meeting for those members wishing to see it. Any further queries please contact the treasurer.

2. DCRA accounts for 2014:

The 2014 accounts have been prepared ready for audit. They will be passed onto the auditor once the members have had chance to see them.

See additional sheet (Income and Expenditure Account for 2014) for a summary of the 2014 accounts.

A further breakdown is available during the meeting for those members wishing to see it. Any further queries please contact the treasurer.

3. Standing Order Trial for payment of 2015 Membership Subs:

The trial was seen as successful, with 16 standing order payments received with clear details of who paid (see was helped by adding membership numbers as a reference when setting up the standing order). The trial will be discussed with the membership secretary to decide on how this could be rolled out as an option for all members to be able to pay next years subscriptions.

Dow Corning Retirees Association					
Income and Expenditure Account for 2015 (28th Feb 2015)					
2015 Income YTD			2015 Expenditure YTD		
Members Subscriptions	582.00		Welfare	100.00	
Dow Corning Part Matched Subscriptions	0.00		Xmas cards/gifts	0.00	
Manning DC Shop (Paid by Dow Corning)	1065.68		Manning DC Shop	62.28	
DC Shop Takings	615.00		DC Shop Takings	615.00	
Admin	0.00		Admin	9.54	
Coach Trips	517.00		Coach Trips	435.88	
Annual Dinner/Lunch	0.00		Annual Dinner.	0.00	
Interest earned.	0.07		Tesco Vouchers	0.00	
			Friendship Group	0.00	
			Skittles Group Expenses	0.00	
			Walking Group Expenses	0.00	
			Secretary's Expenses	0.00	
			Treasurers Expenses	0.00	
	Total Income	2779.75		Total Expense	1222.70
Surplus for 2015					1557.05
Balances -End of Dec. 2014			Balances - YTD 2015		
Current Account	819.62		Current Account	2636.34	
Unpresented Cheques at the end of 2014	-265.68		Unpresented Cheques	-525.42	
Savings Account	1661.40		Savings Account	1661.47	
Treasurers Float	0.00		Treasurers Float	0.00	
Secretary's Float	0.00		Secretary's Float	0.00	
Skittles Float	18.39		Skittles Float	18.39	
Walking Group Float	0.00		Walking Group Float	0.00	
Coach Trips Float	0.00		Coach Trips Float	0.00	
DC Shop Float	300.00		DC Shop Float	300.00	
			Net Assets year to-date 2015	4090.78	
			Minus surplus year to-date 2015	-1557.05	
	2533.73			2533.73	

Dow Corning Retirees Association				
Income and Expenditure Account for 2014				
2014 Income			2014 Expenditure	
Members Subscriptions	627.00		Welfare	450.00
Dow Corning Part Matched Subscriptions	308.00		Xmas cards/gifts	103.97
Manning DC Shop (Paid by Dow Corning)	4292.92		Manning DC Shop	152.92
DC Shop Takings	4275.00		DC Shop Takings	4275.00
Admin	154.50		Admin	1121.22
Coach Trips	70.82		Coach Trips	974.35
Annual Dinner/Lunch	1413.00		Annual Dinner (2014)	1402.24
			Tesco Vouchers (plus cheques)	3120.00
Interest earned	0.84		Friendship Group	36.00
			Skittles Group Expenses	39.66
			Walking Group Expenses	227.93
			Secretary's Expenses	20.08
			Treasurers Expenses	0.00
		Total Income	Total Expense	11923.37
		11142.08		
Deficit for 2014				-781.29
Balances -End of Dec. 2013			Balances - End of Dec. 2014	
Current Account	2146.61		Current Account	819.62
Unpresented Cheques for 2013	-790.00		Unpresented Cheques for 2014	-265.68
Savings Account	1660.56		Savings Account	1661.40
Treasurers Float	-7.34		Treasurers Float	0.00
Secretary's Float	0.00		Secretary's Float	0.00
Skittles Float	8.05		Skittles Float	18.39
Walking Group Float	-13.68		Walking Group Float	0.00
Coach Trips Float	10.82		Coach Trips Float	0.00
DC Shop Float	300.00		DC Shop Float	300.00
			Net Assets year to-date 2014	2533.73
			Plus deficit year to-date 2014	781.29
		3315.02		3315.02

Site Shop Report

Following recent meetings and discussions there are some changes to the Shop activities.



On Wednesday 11th.March 2015 the shop opening times will change to the following times. 1130 a.m.
To 1.30 p.m..

This will allow Dow Corning staff to visit the shop during lunch breaks.

If anyone find it difficult to make a Wednesday or the new times they can contact me and hopefully an alternative arrangement will be made.

As many of you know that has always been available to you.

Contact details are given at the end of this report.

The cost of purchasing sealants will now be £1.60. A rise of 20 pence.

The small sealants remain at £1.00.

We have a

comprehensive range of Pyrex goods, arguably the best in South Wales. We still have some promotional items at very competitive prices and we are always looking to purchase new lines.

Sealants remain our best seller and are still a very good buy.

My thanks go to the Retirees committee for the support they are giving to the shop and hope to see many retired members in the near future.

Finally my thanks as always to Ruth Beasley and those that assist in shop duties...



From March 11
New Opening Hours
11:30 am until 1:30 pm



Contact Information:
Don Surridge 01446 735437
Mobile 07811076015
Shop 01446 746619
Now there should be no more
excuses in obtaining items
from the shop

Regards, Don Surridge

Short Breaks & Day Trips

We are really hoping for good weather on April 21 as forty seven members, family and friends journey on the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire steam train journeying from the Cotswold area of Toddington to Cheltenham race course before boarding the coach for an afternoon in Cheltenham. We have chosen Mainline coaches for the day trip based on cost which has made our cost for the trip much lower than if we stayed with Edwards.

We had planned a day trip to the National Botanic Gardens in Wales and afterwards onto Carmarthen Town on May 15. So far there has been a poor response which looks like this trip will have to be cancelled after the close out date of March 12.

Invitations have been sent out for a five day short break commencing October 12 to Morecambe, the lakes and Yorkshire dales with an evening coach tour of Blackpool illuminations. If you did not receive an invite and would like to participate, please contact Ken Doble on Barry 734679.

Rob & Ken

Walking Group

Our December walk was five miles and easy in the Vale of Glamorgan taking in a section of the Wales Coast Path, plus pastureland and through woods. It was a short walk so we could get back to the Horse Shoe Inn at Marcross



where the 21 walkers enjoyed Christmas Lunch with very good food and choice of wines and real ales.

The annual New Year's Day walk onto Pen Y Fan was cancelled again this year because of high winds, whilst the January walk was brought forward by one day to enjoy sunshine as we walked around St Briavels, Bigsweir, Brockweir and Hewelsfield in the Forest of Dean, finding a different, easier way up a steep climb, only to turn the wrong way at the top – so the 9 mile walk was a little longer than

planned. The nine walkers returned to St Briavels to find one pub shut down but tastefully converted into a house and The George not open until the evening. Fortunately Margaret had brought plentiful supplies of hot mulled wine and a mince pies, so all's well that ends well, eh?

The February walk was a linear walk from Barry Dock rail station out onto the Wales Coast path, along Sully beach, past Swanbridge and 'Bare Bum Bay' to Lavernock Point before turning north to Penarth and then into St Augustine Church to see the epitaph of Dr. Joseph Parry, a Welsh composer of some note. We walked along Paget Road to overlook Cardiff Bay before descending the new zig-zag path to Penarth Marina and onto Cogan railway station to make our journeys home. Although the air temp was 5C, the sun was shining almost all day with light winds. A very enjoyable walk of almost 11 miles for the ten walkers who turned out.

Upcoming Walks are:

4 Mar	Craig-y-nos, Cribarth and the Henrhyd Falls Meet 1030 at Craig-y-nos Country Park on A4067 (SN 840 156)	8.5	C
1 Apr	Clydach Gorge and Lonely Shepherd plus Devil's Bridge Meet 1030 at Clydach picnic site (SO 231 135) off A465.	7	M
6 May	Llangynidr and Tor y Foel Meet 1030 Coach and Horses car park B4558 (NP8 1LS; SO 145 199)	10	M
3 June	Brecon Beacons Northern Horseshoe (Cribyn, PYF, Corn Du) Meet 1030 at Cwm Gwdi carpark (SO 025 248)	9.5	C

Anyone wishing to join, or wanting more information may contact Stuart McMillan (Tel 029 2070 5234, or e-mail mcmillan42H@talktalk.net).

We thank the Retiree's Association and the Executive for their continued support.

Stuart McMillan - Co-ordinator

Membership Secretaries Report

2014 /15 has been a busy year for the membership secretary with both the membership and website.

We received a number of enquiries from new personal who have since joined DCRA in 2014/15:

Mrs Krista Thomas, Mr Arfon Vale, (husband of Ceinwen Morgan), Mrs Rose Dawson, (wife of Brian Dawson).

DCRA members who have not renewed their membership this year include:

Mr Dave & Mrs, Carol Pocknell, (Rhoose) Mr. Gareth Jones, (Penarth) Mrs. Audrey Jones, (Dinas Powis) Mrs. Maureen Western, (Barry) Mrs. Wendy Cowdrey, (Barry) Mr. David Curtis,(Barry) Mrs. Florence King, (Barry) Mr. Charles Robson, (Barry) Mr Barry & Mrs. Adelaide Sales,(Barry) Mrs. Beryl Williams,(Cardiff) Mrs. Rosemarie Jones,(Bedfordshire) Mr. Mike Stephens. (Barry)

There are currently 363 members subscribed DCRA 95 singles 134 doubles.

May I please remind members that they should advise me of any change in their contact details to ensure that they receive all correspondence sent to them via post or email.

Thank you for continuing to support DCRA.

Val Caple - Membership secretary.

Friendship

February saw the official start of calls being received by the coordinator by members in need of help, A summary of the calls is as follows:

- A request for help to visit spouse in the high dependency ward at the Heath hospital on Monday's and Tuesday's, no end date given. There is no help available from family and friends during these days and member wants to visit every day whilst spouse's condition is serious. This requirement for assistance is still ongoing.
- A request for a home visit was received and Don Surridge was contacted and agreed to visit and assess the situation. We are now working with Don to work through the best solution for this type of request.
- A request for the loan of a wheelchair was received from an elderly member (90+) who has bruised her spine and needs a chair to be able to get about for the next couple of months. It was explained that we have no assets such as chairs or funds to obtain such items. Calls were made to find out how wheelchairs could be obtained for such a requirement and the information was passed back the member. I'm sure this didn't meet the expectation of the member and it something we need to try and make clearer that we do not provide assets, but will try and give advice where possible. This was a good learning experience.

A volunteers meeting was held on 13th February and we were able to review the above calls and put improvements in place.

A couple of key points were:

- A volunteer database is being developed with key information the Coordinator needs to know about the volunteers.
- A Coordinator script (list of questions) is being developed so that the coordinator asks all the relevant questions when calls for help are received.
- A call list is database being developed so that a history of calls is always available.
- It was recommended that volunteers should go through (or have been through) a basic first aid course. VCVS run first aid course and they will be contacted to find out suitability and cost. This will then be put to the DCRA committee with regard to possibly sponsoring the courses for volunteers.
- Although the Friendship Group does not provide DIY type help, we have been looking into what could be available to advise members with such a need. A call to the VOG Council has led us to look into a charity

called CARE – REPAIR. Some of the volunteers have heard of positive reports of this group, but we are not yet clear on what they can provide and what the criteria is for getting help from them, this is being followed up.

Any member needing help or wishing to become a volunteer should contact the coordinator Richard Thomas on 01446 738218.

Richard Thomas (Friendship Group Coordinator / Secretary).

Skittles

Regrettably as organisers we have not been able to offer a programme so far this year. Jim has been waiting for an operation we both thought should have taken place from the dates originally discussed.

Sue and Jim Sugden

AOB

George Sawicki is proposing to set up a cycling group if there is enough enthusiasm. If you have a bicycle and are willing to join George when the weather improves please contact the secretary on 07762 126533 who will pass your details onto George.

Nordic Walking Guest Speakers Geoff Hollett & Margot Deveraux



Our two guests gave an enlightening presentation to eighteen association members about the benefits of Nordic Walking and provided many leaflets about to **ADD TO YOUR LIFE** by simple changes to your lifestyle. Stuart McMillan volunteered and made a good effort to use the Nordic walking poles under guidance from Geoff Hollett. Margot showed on her presentation walking can also be done as part of the training indoors if the weather is inclement. Members can join in with our regular walkers of Steve and Alison Dawber on a Monday morning at 10:00 a.m. At Cosmeston Park by either contacting Geoff

Hollett directly on 07813 076449 or by contacting the secretary on 07762 126533. Anyone unable to meet on a Monday but would still like to try Nordic Walking should contact Geoff or Rob on the numbers shown above. Age Cymru through Geoff and Margot provide the walking poles, so just turn up but remember as it is a park, bring some decent footwear and maybe a warm jacket depending on the weather. We look forward to your company and remember any exercise is much better than nothing whatsoever.

**Come along and give it a try
There are benefits in it for your
health**



In Memoriam

Joan Curtis *December 17 2014* widow of the late Bryn Curtis

Bryan Clements *December 21 2014* Mechanical Construction Supervisor

Tom Watson *January 14 2015* Director of Manufacturing &
Engineering

Charlie Prew *January 31 2015* Basics Shift Manager

