



## DCRA AGM Meeting Minutes 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023

### Agenda

- Chairman's Welcome
- Re-election of officers to the committee and election of any new officers.
- Apologies
- Bereavements
- Treasurers Report
- Membership Report
- Secretaries report
- Walking Group Report
- Brewing Group report
- AOB
- Tea/Coffee

### Apologies

Brenda Dowdel  
Sue Sugden

Sue Taylor  
Mike Dams

Margaret McMillan

### Attendance

**There were only 6 people at the meeting!!**

### Bereavements

Ivor Morris

### Re-election of the Committee

All members of the committee were re-elected for another year. Stuart thanked the committee members for their continued support.

### Treasurers Report

Richard ran through Margaret's report in her absence.

DCRA Treasurer's Report September 2023cr

Income Year to date £411.53

Expenditure to date £269.67

Assets Year to date £4763.06

Total gain for the year-to-date £141.86

The decision was taken at the 2022 AGM to no longer issue £20 cheques when a member has passed away. Instead every year a charity will be selected by the members and a £100 donation will be issued to that charity in memory of all those who have passed away. The charity selected at the meeting for the 2023 donation was Alzheimer's Society, thank you letter received. The charity for 2023 will be agreed at this AGM.

The walking group no longer receives financial support from DCRA as we no longer receive funding from Dow. The balance of £16.17 has been returned to the DCRA account.

Liability Insurance cost is increasing each year. Alternative policies were investigated to try to reduce the cost in 2022 but no suitable alternative was found. The renewal notice for 2023 has been received and cost this year reduced slightly from £380.53 to £372.03 and has been renewed.

Accounts attached at the end of these minutes.

## Membership Report

We now have 214 members, 2 new members since last meeting, Laura and Aaron Griffiths

## Walking group Report

Stuart went through the walking group report.

The July walk saw seven walkers gather in the 'hard to find' roadside car park hidden in the bracken above Darren near Llangattock. One person could not find it so returned home very frustrated. It was the start of an interesting day. The first section of the walk was to walk along the flank of the hill and gradually climb the escarpment above to reach the rock structure named the 'Lonely Shepherd' but after walking for less than an hour one walker experienced a medical incident that required calling for an ambulance. We managed to assist the walker down to the nearby road where an ambulance car and medic gave the walker an intensive medical examination but could not establish any cause for the incident. It was decided that five remaining walkers would continue the walk whilst the patient and companion would travel home. The remaining five walkers completed about two thirds on the intended 7 mile walk in fine weather.

A foul weather forecast delayed the August walk in the Black Mountain by a week when 7 hardy walkers turned out to travel to Tafarn y Garreg in the Swansea valley to climb steeply up onto Fan Hir, Fan Brycheiniog (802 metres), where we had a late lunch in the round circle of stones before pressing on to Fan Foel (781 metres), where the route returned to Fan Brycheiniog, still lost in the low cloud so no astounding views which was very disappointing, then steeply down the rocky escarpment steps to Llyn y Fan Fawr and southwards along the glacial moraines. There was an abnormally high amount of water coming off the hillside making stream crossings exciting, especially for some. The later part of the return path was horrible, wet, muddy and absolutely loaded with upstanding stones and bracken so you had to watch intently where you placed your feet. The 10 mile walk took almost 7 hours to complete and was reclassified as tough by the group.

The September walk was one the group has done a number of times, Fan y Big and Taf Fechan Forest from Torpantau car park on the Pontsticill to Talybont road. At 8 miles and moderate it attracted 8 walkers in favourable weather who thoroughly enjoyed the experience and views with many photos being taken, at least one with a brave walker stood out on the 'diving board' (a protruding stone overhanging the rockface) looking over the valley and drovers track far below. Returning to Torpantau the walk was adjudged as a good day out with Simon kindly leading the walk in Stuart's absence.

Upcoming walks are;

4 Oct	Llangorse Lake, Mynydd Llangorse and Mynydd Troed	10	M
	Meet 1030 at Llangorse Lake Visitor Centre (SO 128 273)		
1 Nov	Newton to Candlestone Castle, Merthyr Mawr dunes and beach	7	E
	Meet 1030 at Newton Church (SS 835775; CF36 5PD) off A4106 to Porthcawl		
6 Dec	Penarth, Lavernock Point, Penarth with Christmas Lunch	4	E
	Meet 1030 at Ego at The Schooner car park (CF64 5UP).		

The 2023 week long walking holiday in the Isle of Man in late June saw 8 group members enjoy a 4 star hotel on Douglas sea front ideally located to use the electric trams at the north end of the promenade and steam trains at the south end, connected by buses and the infamous horse drawn tram to take us to and from our various walks around the island. Thanks to Mike Dams for his perseverance and determination in organising such a great trip. Thanks Mike!

Membership numbers have increased by 3 during the year to bring the total to 47, although some members seem shy or reticent to join us on the programme of walks. Why?

It is interesting to note that the recently retired members are making a strong presence in the group and are most welcome, bringing the average age tumbling down! However some 'oldies' are really starting to slow down and now walk at the back.

Anyone wishing to join the walking group, or wanting more information may contact Stuart McMillan, Tel 029 2070 5234, or e-mail [mcmillan42H@talktalk.net](mailto:mcmillan42H@talktalk.net).

**Post Meeting Note:** Simon Acey has kindly accepted to take over the lead role of the Walking Group from Stuart McMillan, effective from 1st January 2024. Stuart has led the Walking Group from its inception in 2003 and recognizes the effect of increasing age and the fact that he can no longer lead from the BACK of the group, especially up hills, but will continue to join the less strenuous walks for as long as he can. Thank you very much Simon.

#### **Secretaries Report**

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes or any other minutes for the year. Very little email traffic at all.

#### **Brewing and Fermentation group Report**

So far this year we have had 3 beer tasting meetings (the next is 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov). On average we get between 4 and 6 people attending and we try about 1/3 pint of anything up to 10 different beers that have been brewed within the group. Beers are scored out of 10 considering the aroma, bitterness, aftertaste, and personal preferences. Lunch is provided and the sessions are relaxed and jovial especially towards the end!

We always have a couple of challenge beers which are suggested by the group as well as our randomly generated beer. This is decided by the throw of a dice (or 3). A table of different colours of beer, bitterness and strength was drawn up and 3 dice are thrown to determine the beer to be brewed. Apart from that the types of malt, the hops and the process is up to the brewer and can result in some very interesting beers.

The challenge beers sampled at our last meeting were a Royal Oak (Eldridge Pope) and 322 which were the dice throws (11-15 colour units (amber in colour), 4 4.4% alcohol and 30 units of bitterness).

The best beer of the day was deemed to be the Royal Oak from Richard and the worst beer of the day was an experimental Norwegian farmhouse beer brewed with Juniper also by Richard (comments included "tastes like floor cleaner" others cannot be reported here!).

Beers tried were:-

Paul's 3DD, scored 7

Richard's 322, 7.9

Richard's Royal Oak, 8.3

Paul's Royal Oak, 7.3

Richard's Pineappling for the Fjords, 7.7

Richard's British hop IPA, 8.1

Richard's Dirt Harry Stout, 8.2

Richard's DCRA prize old ale (2 years old!), 6.7

Richard's Trolldryk (Norwegian farmhouse ale), 4.6

Next meetings challenge beer is random 444 (colour 16-20, Strength 5-5.4ABV, bitterness 40IBU) and a suggestion from Jim McCulloch, McClays 80 shilling.

Next meeting is 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov. Anyone wanting to join us please contact Richard on [rgtaylo1@gmail.com](mailto:rgtaylo1@gmail.com) or tel 07814702589.

#### **AOB**

##### **Next Meeting Dates**

**The next meeting is an Emergency General Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> December 2:00pm at the highlight park community centre in Barry.**