



DCRA Quarterly Meeting Minutes 16th Jan 2023

Agenda

- Chairman's Welcome
- Apologies
- Bereavements
- Treasurers Report
- Membership Report
- Walking Group Report
- Brewing Group Report
- Secretaries Report
- AOB
- Tea/Coffee and Mini Beer tasting and mocktail.

There were 10 people at the meeting.

Apologies

Graham Pugh	Steve Kraus	Mike Dams
Gloria Suridge	Carwyn Vale	Anne Dams
Kaye Incledon		

Bereavements

Thelma Manley	Ken Chilton	Brian Stark
Karsan Bhudia		

Treasurers Report

Margaret went through the accounts.

Income Year to date £406.84

Expenditure to date £561.65

Assets Year to date £4756.01

Total loss for the year £154.81

Income and assets are declining each year due to lower membership numbers and no outside support (DC).

The main expenses are liability Insurance, In memory donations, printing and support for the walking group.

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.

The walking group no longer receives financial support from DCRA as we no longer receive funding from Dow. 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.

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Membership Report

Val went through the membership report.

We have 226 members, 157 have paid already and 22 will pay in Feb.

Secretaries Report

There were no matters arising or comments from the last meeting minutes.

Walking group Report

Stuart went through the walking group report.

The October walk attracted the least number of walkers ever recorded for the group, just two hardy and resolute 'trampers' who were not put off by the weather or the route, namely Peter Davies and Robert Griffiths. They enjoyed undertaking the Pen Y Fan Southern Horseshoe walk of 7 miles in reasonable weather. It truly is a superb walk. Hats off to you both!

Six walkers turned out for the November walk which had to be delayed a week because of foul weather on the planned day. It was in the Swansea area, suggested by Bill Riseborough but led by Simon Acey and incorporated an 8 mile route from Pontarddulais, via Pen y Cwar, St Illtyds Walk, Graig Fawr, back to Pontarddulais and offered some great views.

Cosmeston Lakes Country Park, Penarth was the venue for our short December walk and this coupled with a Christmas Lunch afterwards at the nearby Ego at The Schooner Restaurant attracted some 20 members. The excellent festive meal was so good that we will be returning in December 2023.

During 2022 the Walking Group members walked a total of 218 Km (136 miles), climbed nearly 5000 metres (16,400 feet) over a period of 75 hours and had 180 walkers turn out.

The 2023 Walking Group Programme of walks was compiled and distributed in early December with valued input from members for their favoured or new walks to be included.

The first walk of 2023 was shortish and local and followed a period of days of heavy and protracted rainfall - nothing new there then - but the route was shortened to 6 miles to omit known muddy paths. So 14 walkers gathered at roadside parking in Wenvoe and walked up to The Downs to have coffee and then down to St Lythans to have lunch. We visited St Lythans burial chamber before walking back to Wenvoe. Paul Hodges really impressed us with his 'Cow Whispering Skills' to gain a safe passage across a field. This was the first walk that Stuart has led since a hip issue in September. Thanks to Simon for his valued standing in.

Upcoming walks are;

15 Feb, Kenfig Burrows

Meet 1030 at Kenfig Burrows Visitor Centre (SS 802 810: Sat Nav CF33 4PT). A48 then A416 to Nottage, minor road to Mawdlam.

1 Mar, Castell Coch, Garth and Craig yr Alt

Meet 1030 on road below at Castell Coch

5 Apr, Llantwit Major, Coastal Path, Nash Point, Circular

Meet 1030 Llantwit Major Town Hall Sat Nav: CF61 1SB

Stuart is currently attempting to arrange (with some difficulty) for a week's walking holiday in Croatia on two Dalmatian islands' in June 2023.

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>>.

Brewing and Fermentation group Report

Richard ran through the activities of the brewing group.

We have had 2 tastings in the last 3 months in November and January.

At the November meeting we tried 8 beers ranging from a wheat beer to a black IPA. The challenge for this meeting was to brew a Scottish 80 shilling ale similar to something like Belhaven 80 shilling. The 80 shilling denotes the amount of duty paid on a barrel of beer at the time and is related to the alcoholic strength of the beer. There were 5 people at the meeting with one not drinking beer.

The beach hut brewery (Richard) scored 6.62

Sunden Brewery (Paul) scored 6.88

The coffee scored 9!

Other beers tried were Wye Valley bitter clone called Wye Not, Buzz wheat beer, Aurum best bitter, Ink Blot black IPA, Black Hole Black IPA.

At the second meeting in January, we had 6 beers to try Christmas stocking bitter, back to me roots experimental porter, Mepton Shallet best bitter, The grim reaper Rye IPA, Bramble Ramble blackberry stout, Christmas Cake strong bitter brewed in 2021.

Christmas stocking came out top with 8.7.

The experimental beer was brewed with the addition of root vegetables as part of a local homebrew challenge at rebel homebrew. It contained roasted sweet potatoes and beetroot so was a lovely burgundy colour. It was a young beer and requires more maturing but it scored 6.4.

Next meeting will be 24th March at 11am, contact Richard for more info on rgtaylo1@gmail.com or 07814702589.

The challenges for the next tasting are to make a grey trees mosaic clone and a random beer. This was determined by having a matrix of 6 different colours ranging from straw to black, 6 different strengths from 3.5 to 6+ and 3 different bitterness from 25 to 50 IBU. We then rolled 3 dice to determine the beers characteristics.

Paul got colour 17-20, strength 6+% and bitterness 30 IBU. Dark ruby mild

Richard got colour 30+, strength 4.5% and bitterness 40 IBU. Chocolate stout

The game is afoot, Let the challenge begin!

AOB

The Evening reunion, memorabilia event will be going ahead on 17th February at 7pm at Highlight park community centre in Barry.

Don thanked the committee for their contributions and hard work.

Meeting Dates

Next Meeting

Tuesday 17th April 2023, 2pm at Highlight Park Community centre Barry.

Any feedback to Richard on rgtaylo1@gmail.com or phone 07814 702589 or 02920 530524

All the best.

Richard

07814 702589

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