



Minutes for DCRA AGM 2nd Sept 2019

Agenda

- Apologies
- Re-election of officers to the committee
- Chairman's Report
- Treasures Report
- Secretaries report
- Membership report
- Trips and activities report
- Walking group report
- AOB
- **Talk by the Blood Bikes and the work they do.**

Re-election of officers to the committee

Sue, Kaye and Russ stepped down as social secretaries. Trevor, Richard and Margaret agreed to continue as chairman, secretary and treasurer.

Don thanked the committee for the work they do and Sue, Kaye and Russ for their hard work on organizing the social activities which was much appreciated.

Chairman's Report

14 people attended the meeting

Apologies from Robin Pitcher, Mary Currie, Mike Dams, Graham Pugh, Diane Doble, Steve Kraus, Helen Kraus, Mavis Crockett, Brenda Saunders, Mike Bullows, Jane and Rob Wardle, Johanne Stacey-Davies, Peter Davies, Kaye and Russ Inceldon.

Also present were Nigel and Martin from Blood Bikes Wales.

Bereavements

Sadly, we report the passing of June Brown and Leah Manley.

Secretaries Report

The minutes from last month were reviewed and there were no matters arising.

Treasurers Report

Margaret went through the financial report and a copy is attached. This month's expenditure was discussed and there were no matters arising.

Membership Report

As of September 2019 we have 284 renewals and 9 new members, total of 293. There were 30 non renewals and 7 deceased members.

There was agreement that we should continue to produce a newsletter next year. Please can members send any photos they might have of the 2018 Christmas lunch, the quiz night and the Tenby trip.

Members were asked if wanted to have any additions to the website. Please send any ideas to any member of the committee.

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Walking group Report

Stuart went through the walking group report (full report attached).

Trips and Activities Report

A new social secretary is required, any member(s) interested in taking this on should contact any member of the committee.

AOB

We had a wonderful talk by Blood Bikes Wales.

It is a free out of hours courier service covering the whole of Wales. It is manned by volunteers covering weekends and bank holidays. Apart from blood products they transport samples for testing, x-rays, patients notes, medication (chemo etc.), other medical equipment as well as breast milk for premature babies.

They are a charity funded through public donations and business sponsorship. The first meeting was in 2011 and all health boards are covered except Cardiff/Heath.

Jobs in the charity include:-

- Riders
- Coordinators
- Fundraisers
- Committee members
- Publicity and PR

Liveried blood bikes can get through faster than taxis and free up emergency services. Health services paid £25,000 on taxis on 2011-2012.

An example of the mileage covered on a typical job for premature baby breast milk collections would be, collection of milk donation in Wales and transfer to Birmingham where it is screened/treated it's then returned back to Wales for delivery. A typical mileage of 290 miles.

Running costs are £240 per month on tyres, £450 insurance costs, £12500 bike cost and £450 in Hi-Vis.

There are 31 UK groups with a total of 3371 members performing 93,480 runs in 2018.

Recently students were asked to make PR videos as part of their university of South Wales course and screened in a cinema. Some can be seen on YouTube
For more information about blood bikes go to
www.bloodbikes.wales
or email mid-pr@bloodbikes

Next Meeting Dec 2nd, 2019 at 2pm at the Nature Centre

Talk by Richard Taylor on brewing beer, from grain to beer and everything in between (including some chemistry and samples to try).

DOW CORNING RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION WALKING GROUP
REPORT TO 2nd SEPTEMBER 2019 MEETING

The June walk was proposed by Mike and Anne Dams and took us to Machen, where most of the walkers found the correct carpark at first attempt, albeit not Stuart, so we started a few minutes late. Machen is dominated by Mynydd Machen and that's where we headed to get the 360 degree views and a coffee break. Having climbed up, we kept high by walking the splendid Rhymney Valley Ridgeway path with good views towards Mynydd y Grug, where we had lunch. After cutting down to a farm, we attempted to follow a footpath that turned out to be both jungle and an assault course, but the combined efforts of Bill Riseborough and Robin Pitcher managed to gather us safely on the Sirhowy Valley footpath (a dismantled railway track) until we had to climb back up to the col and then descend back into Machen. This challenging, 11 mile walk was enjoyed by 14 walkers in mostly sunny weather. A good day!

In June 14 members travelled to Lake Bled, Slovenia for a week's walking holiday. The hotel, 1903 local pub, walking routes, people we met, scenery and all team members, contributed to make this a fantastic holiday. The weather was variable and two long rainstorms soaked us, but did not dampen our enthusiasm for Lake Bled.

Our love for our local Brecon Beacons saw us return to Pen Y Fan for our July walk. Nine of us gathered at Cwm Gwdi to walk up the north face of PYF at 886 metres before turning towards Cribyn and the Drovers trail. After a steep, stony descent over the escarpment we walked down into pastures green to make our way back to the cars, completing this 8 mile challenging walk in good weather.

It was off to the Forest of Dean for our August walk. 13 met near the Speech House hotel and set off walking through the arboretum before crossing to Speech House Lake, through what used to be a lovely wooded walk but had been cut down in the past year or so. The walking paths are well maintained, but also used by many cyclists in some areas. The paths along the two Cannop Ponds was a welcome diversion, but then came the first climb through the forest of trees. We found a long fallen tree for our lunchtime seating just as a shower set in. Bracken has grown very high this year making route finding quite interesting. We dropped down to cross the Lyd stream and then another longer climb back to Speech House for welcome refreshments.

Upcoming walks are;

4 Sept	Carmarthen Fans (Bannau Sir Gaer, Picws Du, Fan Brycheiniog)	9.5	C
	Meet 1030 at Llanddeusant off A4069 from Brynamman to Llandovery road (SN 798 238)		
2 Oct	Brecon Beacons Mountain Centre and Fan Frynach	8	M
	Meet 1030 at Mountain Centre (SN 977 262) off A470 at Libanus		
6 Nov	Penmaen, Cefn Bryn, Reynoldston, Penrice, Oxwich, Coast Path	10	M
	Meet at 1030 at National Trust car park off A4118 by Penmaen Church. (SS 533 887)		
4 Dec	St Fagans Three Saints Walk (short) and Christmas Lunch	4.5	E
	Meet 1000 at Plymouth Arms car park St Fagans CF5 6DU		

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).

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

Dow Corning Retirees Association

Income and Expenditure Account for YTD 31st August 2019	
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2019 Income		2019 Expenditure	
Welfare Members	0.00	Welfare	180.00
Subscriptions	491.00	Xmas cards/gifts	25.00
Admin	0.00	Admin	104.90
Coach Trips	0.00	Coach Trips	0.00
Annual Dinner/Lunch	30.00	Annual Dinner /Lunch	30.00
Interest earned	0.56	Nordic Walking Group	0.00
		Walking Group Expenses	320.23
		Secretary's Expenses	0.00
		Treasurers Expenses	0.00
		Subs	0.00
Total Income	521.56	Total Expense	660.13

Surplus for 2019	-138.57
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-138.57

Balances -End of Dec. 2018		Balances - August 31st 2019	
Current Account	4141.29	Current Account	3922.39
Unpresented Cheques at the end of 2018	-20.00	Unpresented Cheques	-20.00
Savings Account	1664.74	Savings Account	1665.30
Treasurers Float	0.00	Treasurers Float	0.00
Secretary's Float	0.00	Secretary's Float	0.00
Walking Group Float	-5.10	Walking Group Float	74.67
Coach Trips Float	0.00	Coach Trips Float	0.00
		Net Assets year to-date	5642.36
		Minus surplus year to-date	138.57
	5780.93		5780.93