



## Q1 MINUTES

Chairperson:  
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Secretary:  
Robert N. Wardle  
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Treasurer:  
Richard J. Thomas  
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Membership Secretary:  
Val. T. Caple  
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**MARCH 13 2017**

### APOLOGIES:

Graham Pugh, Russ & Kaye Incledon, Frank Maltby, Margaret & Stuart McMillan, Tom & Doreen Williams\*, Don Partridge, Brian Rich, Diane Doble, Larry James, Brian & Mary Currie, Bert & Brenda Dowdell

\* comment from T&DW in chairman's report

**Attendees: 17**

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Welcome all to our meeting today.

Apologies for absence.

It is with regret Tom and Doreen Williams are no longer able to participate in the meetings due to health and age related problems.

We are sorry at the passing of Colin Jones, 88, a long term member.

Adjusting to life after the death of your partner is not easy. Between your grief and all the things you suddenly find yourself responsible for, it can feel overwhelming. To help you deal with this new situation, we outline one small financial area that you will need to think about and take control of when paying your subscription by standing order. Please notify your bank to alter the SO to DCRA to £2:00 (single member). Banks continue to pay the dual membership of £3:00 into the DCRA account unless notified.

I hope that those who went on the trip to Bournemouth all had an enjoyable time. We will have a report from Ken Doble posted in these minutes.

Seven DCRA members plus one non member requested a car park pass.

At the AGM last September Richard Thomas and Rob Wardle both wish to stand down after five years on committee. I would be grateful for members to come forward before the AGM this year. New members most welcome.

**Best Wishes..... Trevor Rees.**

### SECRETARY'S REPORT:

A follow up to the Cadoxton Ponds Request for volunteers from Catherine Lewis (Education Officer), one DCRA member made themselves available for the February launch. Two additional members have told Catherine that they will be available from May. A quick reminder of Catherine's schedule is set out below.

- Bramble/Reed control – there will be lots of this!!!!
- Maintenance of benches and path edging??

- Painting sheds
- Building a super bug hotel as a demonstration model for visiting schools

Is this something you would be interested in?

Please contact Catherine, Monday through Wednesday on 01446 723173 or mobile 07972 176963 or via the Wild Life Trust : 01656 724100

A question we have been recently asked is, can spouses join the gym? Your committee of 2014\* addressed this issue and with Robin Pitcher's intervention were able to allow member spouses to use the gym. Firstly the spouse must be a **JOINT MEMBER** of the association. They need to contact the medical department (Maggie Pinkney - nurse or Kirby Starr - administrator) on site (01446 732350) to arrange for an induction and to sign an agreement at the clinic. Afterwards they need to arrange an induction with an instructor at the gym. They are available Monday to Thursday 10:30am – 1pm and Friday 11am – 1pm to help or answer any questions. Afterwards, they will then be eligible to use the gym with their partner (**ex DC employee**) who **MUST** always be in attendance. (Rules confirmed by Sarah Cayton, March 2017).

Sarah or one of the other instructors will arrange for a gym door entry key fob whilst a car pass can be requested through the secretary of DCRA (currently robert.n.wardle@tesco.net).

- Bob Connell (chairman) Rob Wardle (secretary) Richard Thomas (Treasurer) Val Caple (membership secretary) Ruth Beasley, Bob Griffiths, Sue Sugden, Derek Butler

The recent short break to Bournemouth was marred by the pick up of passengers on the day of departure. For some unknown reason the coach driver initially stopped in the pick up area and then pulled out and parked the coach alongside the visitors car park. His action by doing this caused passengers to walk into the road to enter the coach. Some employees entering site had to pull right over onto the wrong side of the road to pass both the coach and passengers. As a result and several emails being exchanged between site management and me, a directive from site was issued to be implemented for the homeward journey. All trips in future will have to start from the South gate.

Regards - Rob

## TREASURER'S REPORT:

### 1. Financial status year to-date:

Current account balance:	3561.52
Unpresented Cheques:	
Welfare.	-60.00
Annual Lunch (returns).	-36.00
Admin (Newsletter printing).	-78.64
DC Shop Takings (2 cheques).	-1120.00
Tesco Vouchers (cheques in lieu of vouchers from 2016).	-25.00
Savings account balance.	1663.15
Float totals.	296.09
	=====
<b>Net Assets YTD =</b>	<b><u>£ 4201.12</u></b>

See additional sheet (Income and Expenditure Account for 2017 up to 5th March) for a summary of 2017 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 2016:

The 2016 accounts are ready to be audited and the files will be sent on for audit following the meeting provided there are no concerns or errors identified by members.

We ended up with a surplus of £618.54 for the year.

See additional sheet (Income and Expenditure Account for 2016) for a summary of 2016 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 payment option for 2017 Membership Subs:

The option of paying subscription by Standing Order was offered again for 2017 subscriptions and an additional 20 plus subscriptions have so far been paid this way.

Richard Thomas (DCRA Treasurer)

Income and Expenditure Account for 2017					
2017 Income			2017 Expenditure		
Welfare		0.00	Welfare		70.00
Members Subscriptions		470.00	Xmas cards/gifts		0.00
Dow Corning Part Matched Subscriptions		0.00	Tesco Vouchers		0.00
Manning DC Shop (Paid by Dow Corning)		1065.68	Manning DC Shop		55.28
DC Shop Takings		620.00	DC Shop Takings		620.00
Admin		0.00	Admin		84.31
Coach Trips		0.00	Coach Trips		450.00
Annual Dinner/Lunch		0.00	Annual Dinner		0.00
Friendship Group		0.00	Friendship Group		0.00
Interest earned (end July 2014).		0.07	Nordic Walking Group		0.00
			Skittles Group Expenses		0.00
			Walking Group Expenses		44.20
			Secretary's Expenses		0.00
			Treasurers Expenses		0.00
	Total Income	2155.75		Total Expense	1323.79
Surplus year to-date					831.96
Balances -End of Dec. 2016			Balances - March 5th 2017		
Current Account		2039.35	Current Account		3561.52
Unpresented Cheques at the end of 2016		-673.56	Unpresented Cheques		-1319.64
Savings Account		1663.08	Savings Account		1663.15
Treasurers Float		0.00	Treasurers Float		0.00
Secretary's Float		0.00	Secretary's Float		0.00
Skittles Float		4.18	Skittles Float		4.18
Walking Group Float		36.11	Walking Group Float		-8.09
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		4201.12
			Minus surplus year to-date		-831.96
		3369.16			3369.16



## FRIENDSHIP GROUP REPORT:

### Volunteer activity:

No new volunteers recruited following the “call for volunteers” via the DCRA newsletter and 2017 subscription renewal form, this means that with current volunteer availability significantly less than when we launched the service two years ago, we cannot provide the high level of trip take-up that we had at the start and it is likely that we will have to decline some future requests.

I will continue to coordinate requests, but when no volunteers are available, I will recommend that the member in-need contact “Greenlinks” a Vale of Glamorgan Council Community Transport service (Tel: 0800 294 1113). Details can be found on the VOG Council website.

**If anyone is interested in becoming a volunteer or Group Coordinator please contact me (Richard Thomas) on 01446 737218, email [rjthomas@maintop.co.uk](mailto:rjthomas@maintop.co.uk).**

Richard Thomas (Friendship Group Coordinator / Secretary).

## WALKING GROUP REPORT:

The annual New Year’s Day climb up onto Pen Y Fan was cancelled this year owing to adverse weather conditions. No walk or mince pies, mulled wine or whisky. Shame

The scheduled January walk was held around the Merthyr Mawr dunes system, starting at Newton church, walking along the Wales Coast Path and up the River Ogwr estuary to Candlestone Castle which was duly inspected before having lunch nearby. The 13 walkers returned to Newton by paths through the dunes, having completed the 7 mile, easy walk, before retiring into the nearby hostelry for refreshments.

February’s walk was closer to home and at low altitude to avoid the vagaries of winter weather, especially on the Brecon Beacons. The 9 walkers led by Mike Dams started the 8 mile walk at Castell Coch and walked along part of the Taff Trail before descending and crossing the River Taff itself. The stiff climb up to Gwaelod y Garth and then up onto Garth ‘Mountain’ at 1009 feet, was completed in good time, before descending back over the Taff and back to the cars for some of the group to slip off for their pressing appointments. A lovely walk in good company.

A look at Merthyr Tydfil area’s glorious history in the industrial revolution and in particular iron making was the background for our March walk on St David’s Day. We walked from Cyfarthfa Castle, taking in cast iron bridges, blast furnaces, Taff Trail, viaducts at Cefn Coed and Pontsarn, iron-master Robert Crawshay’s church at Vaynor and his huge tomb, a Norman church crypt on top of Morlais Hill, tramways, nature reserves, leats. It was a gem of a walk for the ten walkers who covered the 10 miles buoyed up on Barra Brith and Welsh Cakes. We even had good weather!

Membership of the Walking Group has increased by three in 2017. That’s good news.

### Upcoming walks are;

5 Apr	<b>Skirrid, Llangattock Lingoed</b> Meet 1030 NT roadside car park (SO 328 164) on B4521 to Llanwytherin/Cross Ash. (Robin to lead walk in Stuart’s absence.)	8.5	M/C
3 May	<b>Cwm yr Argoed and the Afon Valley (via Bryn if conditions OK)</b> Meet 1030 Afan Argoed Country Park on A4107 to Cymer Sat Nav: SA13 3HG	6/9	E/M

<b>7 June</b>	<b>Llanthony Priory, Bal Bach, Queens Head, Hatterrall Hill</b> Meet 1030 Llanthony Priory (SO 288 279) Sat Nav: NP7 7NN. Turn off A465 Abergavenny to Hereford road at Llanvihangle Crucorney.	<b>12</b>	<b>C</b>
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To join or need more information, contact Stuart McMillan (Tel 029 2070 5234, or e-mail [mcmillan42H@talktalk.net](mailto:mcmillan42H@talktalk.net)).

[Regards - Stuart McMillan](#)

#### **NORDIC WALKING GROUP:**

Members from the association who participate remain stable and continue to meet weekly.

#### **DAY TRIPS / SHORT BREAKS:**

We left Dow on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March arriving at the Riviera Hotel and Apartments mid-afternoon, after a 2 hour lunch break in Blandford Forum, check-in was fast and efficient and there was tea/coffee for those who wanted it.

On Tuesday we drove to Salisbury where some visited the cathedral, others the museum, but the majority – shopping. I thought that the open-air market was one of the best I have seen, with a great variety of food and goods.

Wednesday was a free day and was dull and damp, but not that bad to stop some, walking along the promenade, past hundreds of beach huts, to the pier. Others visited the Oceanarium, and some did - shopping.

Thursday saw the majority of us heading for Monkey World ( An Ape Rescue Centre ) while others were dropped off at Poole Pottery. The Rescue Centre has chimpanzees, orang-utans, gibbons, capuchins, marmosets, woolly monkeys and 11 ring-tailed lemurs. The latter are allowed to walk amongst the visitors, within their compound. It was a really warm day and all of our party enjoyed the viewing of our relatives and the others were very pleased with their afternoon in Poole.

The hotel's staff, food and accommodation were all excellent, the entertainment (a different singer over three nights) were well received, not outstanding, but they did manage to get half of us on the dance floor.

On Friday we left at 10.00 a.m., and, with a small comfort break, we got home early afternoon. This would allow our Irish driver Joe, time enough to take his coach back the depot, clean and refuel it, make a half-hour drive to his home in time to see his Ireland lose against Wales 22-9.

[Regards Ken](#)

#### **MEMBERSHIP:**

Members who have renewed heir membership in 2017, 321 (95 singles 113 doubles).

New members who we welcome in 2017 6 (2 single, 2 doubles) These are: Dr R. G. Taylor, Mr. G. Hawkins, Mr & Mrs S. Bennett, Mr & Mrs D. Walbeoff.

Where possible I plan to email FINAL reminders to our outstanding members.

[Regards Val](#)

#### **ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS:**

None - Meeting closed 15:05

**DONM Monday June 05, 14:00 hours**