

Dear Mourne Ramblers member

Following guidance from the NI Executive and the Department for the Communities and Leisure the club is allowed to start organised walking again in the Mournes with up to 15 members per group from **18 April 2021**.

We will organise the walking for the different grades similarly to the way we operated in October to December of last year. Fionnuala Carragher will act as convener for walks by the D group, Peter McGowan will do the C group and I will email starting times, leaders, routes etc to the A/B group.

Last year we stipulated that that people should indicate by Friday evening that they would participate. However, because the guidance from SportsNI indicates that under no circumstances will it be allowable that more than 15 people mingle before an organised event, we need to be strict in applying this deadline. Furthermore, the fact that if there are more than 15 people, we need to split the group and this will place a greater emphasis on your commitment that if you say you come you do indeed do so, because we will need to find additional leaders for a second group at each grade level and also start at different times or locations.

We expect that the continued pathway out of the restrictions will allow us to operate soon under less formal regulations but at the moment it is important to recognize that allowing sports clubs to restart their training and organising events like ourselves carries a risk of an upturn in the number of COVID-19 cases.

In any case I hope and expect that all will be happy to act responsible and we look forward to seeing you on 18 April.

For the Committee

Bert Rima