

## MOURNE RAMBLING GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7.30pm Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Venue: Zoom meeting

Present: George Acheson, Fionnuala Carragher, Harry Goodman, Ray Gray, Ann Keown, Domnall McComish, Rodney Magowan, Robert Marshall, Peter McGowan, Janet Muller, Noel Rice, Bert Rima, Ian Stuart, Anne Trainor and Vincent Trainor (15).

Bert opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to this meeting by Zoom.

1. A quorum of 15 people or one fifth of the membership, whichever is lesser, was present

2. **Apologies:** Irene Cauley, Marie Doran and Maire Hanna.

3. **Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting:** draft minutes had been sent out to all members by email/post – they were also included in a Newsletter. The minutes were taken as read – it was unanimously agreed that they were a true and accurate record.

4. **Chairperson's Report:** Bert reflected on a challenging and, at times, sad year. Covid-19 restrictions introduced in March had greatly influenced the club's activities. Initially the programme of walks was cancelled – with led walks beginning again from 28<sup>th</sup> June – it was good from a physical and mental point of view to get back into the hills. He also commented on the deaths of David Oldfield and Joe McKnight – both had significantly contributed to the MRG and other mountain organisations. We will miss them.

5. **Secretary's Report:** a copy (Appendix 1) had been circulated prior to the meeting for members to read. Members present were given the opportunity to comment on the report and ask questions. Janet commented on the difficulties caused by Covid-19 and its impact on training. George agreed that training should resume as soon as it was safe to do so. Domnall said that Tollymore NOC would hopefully be opening for training soon. Bert said this was an issue, together with leadership, that we would return to – it was important we build up our pool of leaders.

6. **Treasurer's Report:** Vincent had prepared and circulated a report (Appendix 2). He explained the figures, which included a comparison with the previous year. The balance is £4228.76 – he recommended subs should remain at £25.00 pa. No questions were posed.

7. **Committee Business:**

- **Leadership matters** – as a result of a concern expressed regarding some members spreading out too much on walks a survey had been sent to leaders asking them to list two difficulties they may have experienced whilst leading that proved difficult to cope with. Feedback would be considered by the Committee.

- a request had been made for the Committee to consider creating a further grade to cater for, in this case, former "B" walkers who found "C" walks insufficiently challenging. Similar challenges may exist at the "A"/"B" levels. Bearing in mind the number of leaders we presently have (ref. agenda item 5) it would be difficult to incorporate more grades. This issue would be considered by the next Committee.

- **Membership matters** – Rodney had asked, in view of the extra demands placed on the Mourne Mountain Rescue Team due to the Covid-19 outbreak that, as a one off gesture, the MRG should increase donation its by £250.00 next year. This was agreed.

- **Training** – this important aspect of the club needs to be addressed in a safe way. The matter of effective leadership was discussed – and the impact on other walking clubs noted. The club had agreed to allocate money to training. This matter would also be taken on board by the next Committee when a new training co-ordinator was in place.

- **UFRC** – George would represent the MRG at its forthcoming Zoom AGM

- **Other matters** – none

8. **Consideration of motions:** no motions received

9. **Election of Office Bearers and Committee:** Bert suggested that due to the difficulty electing a new committee under present circumstances that the Office Bearers (who had indicated they were willing to be re-elected) – should be re-elected. This was proposed by Domnall McComish and seconded by Noel Rice. All agreed.

All present committee members had indicated they were willing to be re-elected. This was proposed by Ian Stuart and seconded by Ann Keown. All agreed.

Bert had approached several members last year about joining the committee as we were keen to get members to participate in the running of the club. Noel referred to a survey in May following which a small number of members indicated a willingness to lead. This will be followed up.

**Any other business:** the matter of ascertaining leaders willing to lead walks in the 2021 Programme was raised. Bert, Peter and Fionnuala will contact “A”/”B”, “C” and “D” groups respectively and inform Vincent. As Covid-19 restrictions may still operate in 2021 it should be understood that starting points would need to be confirmed depending on the decisions of leaders.

10. **Closure of meeting:** the meeting closed at 8.55pm

The incoming committee agreed the first Committee meeting would be held by Zoom on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 7.30pm.