

East Yorkshire and Derwent Area Ramblers Association

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 1st February 2025 at the Bishop Wilton Village Hall

Present: Sam Borman (Acting Chair), S. Anderson, Tony Ashbridge, Peter Ayling, Josephine Bell, Wendy Borman, Gill Bradish, Barbara Chamberlain, Helen Clark, Tony Corrigan, Keith Dalby, Teresa Dalby, Jenn Devonshire, Stephen Down, Anne Exton, Cathryn Ferris, Peter Godfrey, Ann Harper, Martin Hill, Penny Hudson, Steve Hoather, Fay Humphries, Paul Hutchinson, Janet Johnson, Steve Lack, Denese Lester, Howard Lester, Gary Malcolm, John Motley, Joe Neal, Caroline Newland, David Nunns, Enid Nunns, David Pahlen, Anne Peacock, Kate Plumb, Richard Primmer, Chris Prince, Elaine Prince, Ian Reavill, Irene Smith, Wendy Smith, J S Stock, Elaine Tague, Marian Thomas (Secretary), Colin Van Eck, Karen Van Eck, Michael Waudby, Sally White, Izabele Wisniewska, Michael Woodhouse, Di Wragg (52).

Apologies: Phil Catterall, Jane Lovell, Tom Halstead.

AGM 1/25 Acting Chair's welcome

Treasurer and acting chair Sam Borman welcomed members to the meeting. He explained that there was no trustee available to speak to members at our AGM; because of the travel disruption due to engineering works there were no trains running from Kings Cross to York today. Since most of the Trustees were based in the south east of England, this made travel to our AGM difficult.

AGM 2/25 Minutes of the 2024 AGM

The minutes were accepted without amendment, except it was pointed out that several Scarborough members were present at the AGM but their names did not appear in the attendance list. Fay Humphries to supply the secretary with the missing names, MT would then correct this.

Proposed: Karen Van Eck, **Seconded:** Stephen Down. Approved unanimously

AGM 3/25 Matters arising

There were no matters arising not dealt with elsewhere, except members asked after Les Atkinson who had a heart attack last January. A Scarborough member replied that Les was making a good recovery.

AGM 4/25 Annual report 2023 – 2024

SB thanked Groups and Area Officers for their contributions to the Annual report. He then went through the Annual Report page by page, asking Area Officers and Group secretaries if they wished to give any updates to their reports and if members had any questions.

SB said that the initial item was a report by the Area Secretary instead of the Chair as would be expected; the position of Area chair had been vacant for a year now, after the resignation of Roy Hunt in January 2024. SB had agreed to chair Area Council meetings on a temporary basis, since having a chairperson was a mandatory requirement for an area to function.

Midlife Hikers: SD reported that this new group was flourishing, it was aimed at people in their 40s and 50s. The group was an off shoot from GYBO which had been formed 20 years ago and was aimed at young people in their 20s and 30s. Midlife Hikers is a flexi group, meaning it has no committee; the group will just organise walks and any expenses will be claimed back from the Area treasurer. At the group's first walk in early January there were 38 walkers, including about 20 people new to the Ramblers. The group spent £45 on advertising on Facebook which worked really well, subsequent walks have been very well attended. GYBO has not been adversely effected by this breakaway group, on the last walk GYBO walk there were 40 walkers; GYBO also uses Facebook very successfully.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer SB said the Area ended the financial year with a very healthy budget of £8,465.32, more than was needed; as our reserves and estimated expenditure are well above that recommended by Central Office guidance, SB has solved this problem by not claiming any money for area expenditure for this financial year, only for group expenditure. In 2023/24 publications and badges (Minster Way and Open Access Booklet) amounted to £733.62 of income; in addition there has been £655 in donations from Ultra Trails. There was an increase in expenditure for the newsletter and publicity, mainly connected with the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Chalkland Way.

The question was asked what stock valued at £2,119.60 does the Area hold? SB said this took the form of publications, such as the Minster Way and North Yorkshire Open Access booklets and also badges. No more questions were asked and the Treasurer's report and financial statement were accepted.

Proposed: Marian Thomas, **Seconded:** Ian Reavill, **Vote:** Carried unanimously

Foot Path Report for East Riding & Hull- Tony Corrigan.

TC said it was vital for footpaths to remain open and accessible, this was one of the Ramblers main charitable aims and it takes a lot of work. He had volunteered to temporarily fill the role of Footpath Officer for East Yorkshire and Hull for one year, but no volunteers had come forward during the year to take on this important role. TC agreed to continue in this role for a further year.

TC said that there was proliferation of offshore wind farms and solar farm developments in East Yorkshire, these will be impacting on many rights of way. It was important that Ramblers Groups should get involved early in the public consultation process to enable input into the probable re-routing & creation of paths.

He said there was still no Area footpath secretary for North Yorkshire to act as a contact with North Yorkshire Council. David Nunns said he was still the footpath secretary for York and was happy to help volunteers from Ryedale and Scarborough Groups if necessary. SB suggested that TC and DN write statements about what being a footpath officer entails, what they do and how many hours per week it involves. SB thanked TC for all his hard work.

Access Report: in the absence of Tom Halstead, secretary MT updated the meeting about the Yorkshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Beauty (AONB) designation project. She said that the statutory submission deadline was 13th January, TH had made a submission on behalf of EY&D Area, strongly in favour of the Yorkshire Wolds becoming a AONB. SB said that TM's earlier submission in the survey stages in 2022, had made a big impact and had led to the area under consideration being extended. SB said it was very likely that the designation of the Yorkshire Wolds as a AONB would go ahead and he thanked TH for all his efforts which are greatly appreciated.

Area Website: SB said this was a great facility, which he used all the time.

Area News: MT said there had only been one edition in the year, she stated that she wished to give up this role, partly because it was difficult to get items for publication from members but also because she had too many other roles which involved a lot of work.

Beverley Group: Peter Ayling said he was profoundly moved to receive an award from Central Office for his contribution to the Ramblers over many years at both area and group level. This was presented to him at the group AGM in November.

Get Your Boots On: SD said that GYBO are well placed to carry on after the departure of the Midlife Walkers; the GYBO committee is currently the largest it has ever been.

Howden & Goole Group: MT said sadly the group was struggling with only one walk leader at present and might fold later in the year. SB suggested that one option might be for it to become a flexi-group.

Monday Area Walks Group: Walk organiser PG said there is an upward trend in the number of walkers attending, with typically around 25 to 30 for each walk.

Pocklington Group: KP stated that although the group did not have a large membership, it had a high percentage of members who were active in the group.

Ryedale Group: JM said they were encouraged by the good attendance at their AGM in November and felt the group was progressing.

Scarborough Group: Since Christmas the group has put on two different walks most Sundays, (i.e. two separate walks of different length- some 8-10 miles but also some shorter walks).

AGM 5/25 Election of officers

i. Area President: SB said that the main role of the President was to chair the AGM- the position was currently vacant and there had been no nominations.

ii. Vice Presidents

The current vice presidents are Roy Dresser, Ann Holt, John Jefferson, Ann Laing, David Nunns, Ray Wallis, Peter Ayling. Vice President is a permanent honorary role.

iii. Area Chair: this post remained vacant, there had been no nominations. SB said he was prepared to continue as acting chair on a temporary basis.

iv. Election of Area Council Officers

For the following committee positions the current incumbents had agreed to continue in post, no further nominations had been received. They were therefore elected en bloc.

Temporary Acting Chair: Sam Borman

Secretary: Marian Thomas

Treasurer: Sam Borman

Access Officer: Tom Halstead

Minutes Secretary: Marian Thomas

Webmaster: Stephen Down

Footpath Officer for East Yorkshire & Hull: Tony Corrigan agreed to stand for a further year.

Membership Secretary: Karen Van Eck

Area News Editor: Marian Thomas said she would continue until a replacement could be found.

A discussion took place about the need for a printed and electronic Area newsletter. CP said that for many years he had edited a newsletter for another walking group, the "Windmill Walkers", but as much of this information became available on their website and on social media, usefulness of a newsletter diminished. SD said that the Area newsletter did make a difference because it put information present on the website and social media all together. KVE informed the meeting that 200 copies were printed of the last Area newsletter for members who did not have an individual e-mail addresses.

v. Vacant Posts -

A) Rights of Way Officer for North Yorkshire remained unfilled.

B) Area Environment Officer – No nominations had been received for this important post and it remained vacant

AGM 6/25 Appointment of Independent Examiner

Sam Borman thanked Emily Hunt for her assistance and stated that she was happy to continue in the role.

Proposed: Sam Borman **Seconded:** Stephen Down; **Vote:** Carried unanimously

AGM 7/25 Appointment of 2 Delegates to General Council at Birmingham NEC, 20th April

SB stated that our Area can send two voting delegates to Ramblers General Council, scheduled as a one-day event at Birmingham NEC on 5th April. It would be a chance to meet Ramblers from all over the country, vote for Trustees, hear the motions and debates, expenses paid. Marian Thomas expressed an interest in attending and Tom Halstead (who now lives in Sutton Coldfield) had also volunteered to attend again this year if no one else wished to.

Vote: Carried unanimously

AGM 8/25 Motions for General Council

None

AGM 9/25 Any other business

SB presented secretary MT with a bunch of flowers and thanked her for all her hard work.

IR reminded members that the best way to persuade someone to take on an important area or group role was speak to them personally.

The question was asked - what happens if an Area collapses? SB responded that it goes into abeyance and there is a restriction on what groups can do, especially with finance. SD said that Ramblers Central Office are currently considering this problem because there are a number of areas which are no longer functioning. Flexigroups and special interest groups have no committee, no footpath officers, no responsibility other than organising walks. Concern was expressed that if there are too many flexigroups formed, they will not be taking on any responsibility for footpath clearance and Rights of Way work. TC also remarked that small struggling groups with only a few volunteers are also not taking part in footpath work.

There was a question concerning whether new walk leaders who have recently passed their on-line training, would need to renew the training at any stage; it was stated that there is no requirement for new walk leaders to renew their training.

SB thanked the hosts Pocklington Group for organising the AGM venue, the refreshments and leading the morning walks.