

GALWAY WALKING CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Jameson's Hotel January 23rd 1997

Agenda

- 1) Ratification of the Galway Walking Club Constitution.
- 2) Minutes of the 1995 AGM Held in the Galway Arms.
- 3) Chairman's Address.
- 4) Secretary's Report.
- 5) Treasurer's Report.
- 6) Election of Club Officers and Committee Members
- 7) Any Other Business

Secretary's Report to the Annual General Meeting Jameson's Hotel, Galway - 23rd January 1997.

Committee Meetings.

Following the 1995 A.G.M., held in the Galway Arms on the 25th of January 1995, our first Committee Meeting was held in Steve Wright's House on the 5th of February. After one year of establishment, there were many loose ends to tie up to make the club smooth running and efficient. A set of guidelines were drawn up from which the Committee have operated to date. The names and contact numbers of Committee members were printed on the back of the Membership Card and also appear in the Newsletter. Subsequent Committee meetings dealt with the organisation of the Walks list and urgent business and a brief report was given to the members at the meetings and via the Newsletter.

Membership.

The Membership at the year end was 254 which contains three free mailings of our Newsletter to Walking World Ireland (Frank Grealley), Paddy Dillon (Contributing Editor of same), and the Castlebar Walking Festival. The membership of 254 was 105 more than last year which is a clear indication that many more people are becoming aware of the benefits of walking as a hobby. There are still many more out there who will join if the promotional material is placed in the right direction.

Walk Leaders.

We are indebted to our walk leaders who bring us on some excellent walks following research beforehand - they often have to do them two or three times! We are always seeking new ideas and locations for a walk so feel free to propose new ideas even if they have to be followed up at a later date.

Rambles, Short Walks and Hillwalking.

At one Committee Meeting Ann O'Connor mentioned that some members found the longer Rambles a little difficult and also time consuming. Hillwalking was proposed at another meeting and Tom Rea kindly volunteered to take the task of leading them. At a later date we amalgamated our Hill Walks with the Hospital Social Club Hillwalkers and shared the facility of their bus. The Hillwalks and short walks are now held on the same day as there seems to be no conflicting interest.

Insurance.

No club is immune from the potential problems of third party liability and to this end we are to

all of our walk leaders. Those who wish to take out individual insurance may do so at same price as our leaders if they contact the committee.

Club Outings.

From time to time we organise walking weekends away. The last two had to be cancelled due to lack of support and our method of organisation will now change as a result. Those wishing to participate in a weekend trip will be given the name of the guest houses, hostels, or hotels in the general area and will make their own arrangements for accommodation - the committee will not take the responsibility of collecting moneys for the trip. We hope to organise trips again this year but we urge members to give a full commitment if they wish to travel.

Social Functions.

Our "Mid Summer" Barbecue was supported by 35 and turned out to be great fun. We hope to run this next year with a few in attendance. The Christmas Social was supported by 79 members and was deemed an overwhelming success. Jackson's Restaurant really did us proud and a good night was had by all. We thank all those who brought spot prizes along and made the night more entertaining. The Cheese and Wine Party was a surprise party for those who supported the meetings every fortnight. Nobody was told it was to occur as it was just sprung on those who turned up. This party occurred at the last meeting of 1996.

Newsletter.

The Newsletter is now in its sixth issue and has been distributed to all members by post. Some copies are sent to other organisations and also to Walking World Ireland. As a result of the Walking World Ireland mailing we have been publicised in the Christmas Annual and our Editor has also had an article published. Next month will see a profile on our Club. Special thanks go to Mel for the high quality of printing in our newsletter. As always, we would appreciate more contributors of walking related topics.

Publicity.

Our Newsletter, Walking World Ireland, the Outdoor shops and our members have been a good source of publicity. We would also like to thank Val Groarke of the Connaught Tribune and the Galway Advertiser for their assistance.

Acknowledgements

The Galway Walking Club owes its existence to the Committee and Walk Leaders who have undertaken to give their time voluntarily to the organisation of Club events. We thank the Outdoor shops in town who have given their support to the Newsletter in the form of Advertising which has covered the cost of postage and supported some of our social events. Lastly we thank the members who have supported the walks and functions over the last year.