

THE BUSH CLUB INC

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at McMahons Point Community Centre
165 Blues Point Rd North Sydney at
6.50 PM on Thursday 3th December 2015

Present: : Jan Armour, Suzanne Aubrun, Walter Baer, Kaye Birch, Peter Birch, Sandra Bushell, Renee Canuto, Robyn Christie, Lydia Chua, Graham Conden, Christa Carey, Leonie Cains, Lynn Dabbs, Libby Dabbs, Tim Dabbs, Evelyn Dowling, Ian Edwards, Chris Edwards, John Friend, Katherine Gloor, Jill Green, Shirley Hart, Cavan Hogue, Anna Hayes, Carol Henderson, Jacqui Hickson, Tony Hickson, Charo Hogan, John Hungerford, Colin Isaac, Helen Kershaw, Henrike Korner, Graeme Lawless, Lyndal Lawless, Helen Litchfield, Colleen Loudon, Bill Macks, John Maltby, Jan Mathieson, Keith Maxwell, Rose Maxwell, Diane McPhail, Alan McPhail, Ron Mead, Jane Millgate, Paul Millgate, Barbara Mitchell, Maureen Murphy, Shelagh Miller, John Miller, Anthea Michelis, Winnie Mau, Vince Murtagh, Belinda McKenzie, Judy O'Connor, Lynne Outhred, Mike Pickles, Michael Pratt, Col Prentice, Steve Procter, Colin Reid, Julie Rea, Robert Robinson, John Renzen Brink, Margaret (Peggy) Sniffin, Bob Taffel, Anne Tribe, Joan Walsh, Dick Weston, John Wilson, Jan Wilson, Bob Wood, Marlene Wood.

Apologies: Graham Lewarne, Alan Sauran, Bev Barnett, Neil Schafer, Elizabeth Hungerford, Arthur Cunningham, , Michael Keats

President's Welcome to the Membership:

Bush Club President Cavan Hogue welcomed the membership to the Annual General Meeting.

Confirmation of Minutes of the 2014 AGM:

The President announced an amendment to the 2014 minutes. The words "tabled and attached" to be removed from the section titled the "Treasurers Report".

Motion: "That the Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting be confirmed as amended".

Moved: Cavan Hogue

Seconded: Members - All in Favour

Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Barbara Mitchell

Barbara thanked the Committee for their support during the year. Particular thanks to Tam Khut and Noelene Wallace for assisting during Barbara's absence.

Total income from Members was consistent with previous years. Printing costs continue to decline with more members taking electronic copies of the newsletter.

On recommendation from our Auditor Bob Wood, the committee has discussed and implemented ways to reduce our surplus funds by using them for the benefit of members. Barbara also requested members input and suggestions regarding use of Bush Club funds.

Motion 1: "That the Financial Report as tabled, and prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act, 2009 for a Tier 2 Association, be adopted."

Moved: Barbara Mitchell

Seconded: Members - All in Favour

Carried.

The Financial Report prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act 2009 for a tier 2 Association was received and adopted by the meeting.

Walks Secretary's Report: Colin Reid

Colin opened by acknowledging the walk leaders without whom there would be no Bush Club and his predecessor John Cooper for his sound advice whenever requested.

The report detailed numbers of walks and participants but noted that the number of walks and members leading walks has declined in 2015. The Short Notice program is becoming increasingly important and with the addition of a list of vacant days, has helped to fill gaps in the Quarterly program.

Colin thanked Jacqui Hickson, Ron Mead and Lynn Dabbs for their considerable efforts in keeping the electronic program and the short notice program functioning smoothly.

Colin concluded by thanking all Members, Committee Members and Walks Grading Committee.

Motion: "That the Walks Secretary's Report be accepted".

Moved: Colin Reid **Seconded:** Members - All in Favour **Carried.**

Attracting and Encouraging Leaders Report: John Hungerford

John has had a busy year encouraging members to lead walks, but recognises that some members don't wish to lead but a happy to help in other ways. We have 17 new leaders and the return of two 'lapsed' leaders.

John concluded by asking all members present who had led walks to stand for a round of applause. John on behalf of the Club expressed gratitude to all leaders, they are the backbone of the Bush Club.

Moved: John Hungerford **Seconded:** Members - All in Favour **Carried.**

Membership Secretary's Report: Diane McPhail

Diane reported that numbers of members continues to grow at a consistent rate with most new members again this year coming through word of mouth.

Diane would like to acknowledge the wonderful work of Jacqui Hickson (website), Ron Mead (database & membership subcommittee) and Graham Conden (membership subcommittee). Also Col Prentice and Ian Edwards for their assistance while Diane was on overseas.

Diane concluded with an amusing anecdote that confirmed she is constantly on the job as Membership Secretary.

Motion: "That the Membership Report be accepted".

Moved: Diane McPhail **Seconded:** Members - All in Favour **Carried.**

President's Report: Cavan Hogue

Cavan commenced by thanking the retiring committee members, Lynne Outhred, Carol Henderson, John Hungerford and Judy O'Connor. Their experience has been a great strength to the Club.

Cavan raised the issue that it has been a decade since any major changes have been made to the Club culture. There is a need to re-evaluate and set in motion reforms that will attract new, younger members to sustain our Club going into the future. In the coming year the Committee plans to put together a document outlining our aims. It welcomes and encourages members to put forward ideas letting us know what members want from their Club.

Cavan concluded by thanking Shirley Hart and her team for their wonderful efforts providing catering for tonight's function.

Motion: "That the President's report be accepted".

Moved: Cavan Hogue

Seconded: Members - All in Favour

Carried.

The President handed over the meeting to Graham Conden as Returning Office.

Graham Conden took the Chair thanking the out going Committee and declaring all positions vacant.

Election of Office Bearers for 2015-16

Nominations were:

President: Cavan Hogue

Vice President: Helen Kershaw

Vice President: Jan Mathieson

Secretary: Henrike Korner

Assistant Secretary: Katherine Gloor

Treasurer/Public Officer: Barbara Mitchell

Membership Secretary: Diane McPhail

Walks Secretary: Colin Reid

Events Coordinator: Shirley Hart

Ordinary Member Responsible for New Leaders: Chris Edwards

No further nominations were received from the floor and the Returning Officer declared all above to be elected unopposed.

Committee Ratified Positions:

The following committee appointments will be ratified by the Bush Club Committee at the February Committee Meeting

Other Office Bearer Positions Determined by the Committee

Webmaster: Jacqui Hickson

Two Ordinary Members to be appointed by the Committee

Ordinary Member: Walter Baer

Ordinary Member: Anthea Michelis

Auditor

Honorary Auditor: Bob Wood

Other appointments to assist the Committee

Membership Registrar: Ron Mead

Newsletter Editor: Colleen Loudon

Newsletter: Bev Barnett, Tam Khuat

Electronic Program Coordinator: Jacqui Hickson

Updates Coordinator: Lynn Dabbs

Insurance Officer: Alan Sauran

Librarian/Archivist: Michael Keats

Training Officer: Sandra Bushell

BWRS representative: Keith Maxwell

Confederation Representatives: Dick Weston

Search and Rescue Reps: Graham Conden, Keith Maxwell.

Updates Program Approval Sub-committee: Graham Conden, John Cooper, Lionel Sonntag, Bob Taffel.

New Members Approval Sub-committee: Graham Conden, Ron Mead, Diane McPhail.

Advisory Panel: Graham Conden, John Cooper, Bob Taffel, Graeme Lawless

Following confirmation of committee positions for 2015/16, Graham invited Cavan Hogue to take the Chair as President.

Closing Remarks: Cavan welcomed the new Committee Members, repeated his thanks to the outgoing members and thanked all for attending the AGM. Cavan extended an invitation to any members who wished to attend the Committee meetings on the 1st Thursday of every month, next meeting will be in February. Cavan concluded by inviting all to enjoy the rest of the evening and look forward to enjoying a good year of walking.

The meeting closed at 7:40 pm.

All tabled reports attached

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Treasurer's Report

The Bush Club Inc
Treasurer's report for the year ended 30th June 2015

I would like to thank all the committee for their ongoing support. Particular thanks must go to Tam Khuat and Noelene Wallis who collected and banked cheques in my absence.

The total income from members was consistent with the previous year. The income from members opting to contribute towards the cost of receiving paper copies was \$1,010.

Surprisingly we had a small increase in interest income

I would like to thank all members who made additional contributions to Club funds. Once again Emirates Resort, in the Wolgan valley, made a contribution as a result of navigational assistance provided to them by Geoff Fox.

Printing costs are gradually declining as more members take up the electronic options, however we continue to mail copies of the quarterly newsletter to Valued Former Members.

On recommendation from our auditor Bob Wood, the Committee has had discussions as to how to best use our surplus funds. The following decisions were made.

To reimburse 100% of First Aid Training Fees for members who lead walks.

Functions such as tonight and the leaders Get together will be fully funded

New software may be purchased to assist in the running of the club, eg website, database, publications and accounting.

You will note the increase in expenses in these areas

At 30th June 2015 we had a healthy \$42,939 in cash deposits, represented by:

\$14,500 in prepaid fees and donations,

\$9,000 Contingency Fund,

Funds for Conservation donations \$447, and Members equity \$18,992

Member donations for Conservation activities resulted in \$100 being donated on your behalf to each of the following:

Foundation for NPWS

Colong Foundation

Kosc Huts Association

Blue Mts Conservation

We look forward to a good year, both for walking and financially

Thank you for listening, I move that the Audited Financial Report, as tabled, be accepted.



THE BUSH CLUB INC.

**Income and Expenditure Statement
Year ended 30 June 2015**

2014		2013
	Income	
	<i>Subscriptions and fees received</i>	
16,250.00	Individual memberships	17,685.00
6,190.00	Prospective members	5,590.00
0.00	Levy	1,010.00
<u>22,440</u>		<u>24,285.00</u>
	<i>Other Income</i>	
196.00	Donations Received	499.00
4.00	Balance of Banks & CDs	0.00
157.08	Interest Income	934.88
<u>1,057</u>		<u>1,393.88</u>
<u>23,497</u>	Total Income	<u>25,678.88</u>
	Expenditure	
	<i>Administrative Expenses</i>	
0	Bank fees	9.00
4,033.79	Printing & Distribution -Newsletter/Walks Program	2,533.33
53.69	Other Printing and Stationery	75.64
226.25	Other Postage and Phone	273.55
3,276.00	Public Liability Insurance	3,435.08
3,152.00	Personal Accident Insurance	4,192.10
697.50	Rent - Meeting Room	493.00
1,496.87	Social expenses	3,215.83
0.00	Book Publication costs '75 Years & Still Walking'	7,656.29
52.00	Annual Statement lodgement fee	53.00
45.00	Dues and Subscriptions	0.00
59.40	Club Website and Software costs	499.44
160.00	First Aid Course fees	717.50
39.10	Sundry expenses: Training	52.82
<u>14,196</u>		<u>23,168.58</u>

	<i>Affiliation Fees</i>	
2,295.00	The Confederation of Bushwalking Clubs of NSW	2,295.00
550.00	Nature Conservation Council of NSW	550.00
65.00	Australian Conservation Foundation	130.00
85.00	National Parks Association	85.00
<u>2,955</u>		<u>3,020.00</u>
<u>17,151</u>	Total Expenditure	<u>26,188.58</u>
<u>6,546</u>	Operating Deficit - Expenditures in excess of Income	<u>-809.78</u>



THE BUSH CLUB INC.

Conservation Fund
Year ended 30 June 2015

2014		2015
182	Balance 01 July 2014	212.80
930	Donations Received from Members	695.00
<u>612</u>		<u>847.00</u>
	Deduct:	
	<i>Donations paid out Y/E 30 June 2015</i>	
100	Colong Foundation For Wilderness	100.00
100	Foundation for National Parks & Wildlife	100.00
100	The Blue Mountains Conservation Society	100.00
100	Koolahelo Huts Association	100.00
<u>400</u>		<u>400.00</u>
<u>212</u>	Balance 30 June 2015	<u>447.80</u>



THE BUSH CLUB INC.

**Statement of Financial Position
at 30 June 2015**

2014		2013
	<u>Current Assets</u>	
790.80	Cash at Bank	1,158.22
40,149.08	ING "Business Optimiser" Deposit Account	41,280.96
280.00	Prepaid Costs: Deposit 75th Birthday Plaza venue	0.00
785.00	Prepaid Costs: Deposit 2015AGM venue	0.00
0.00	Mifrons Light Industries: Refund of book mailout deposit	500.00
<u>42,005</u>	Total Assets	<u>42,939.18</u>
	 <u>Current Liabilities</u>	
12,590.00	Members Subscriptions Received in Advance	13,140.00
111.00	Prepaid Donations	565.00
590.00	Prepaid Levy	660.00
0.00	Creditors	135.00
<u>13,291</u>	Total Liabilities	<u>14,500.00</u>
 <u>28,714</u>	 <u>Net Assets</u>	 <u>28,439.18</u>
	 <u>Accumulated Funds</u>	
	General Fund:	
15,155	Opening Balance (01 July 2014)	19,501.88
6,346	deduct: Operating Deficit - Expenditures in excess of Income YB June 2015	-509.70
<u>19,502</u>		<u>18,992.18</u>
0	deduct: Amount transferred to Contingency Fund	0.00
<u>19,502</u>	General Fund	<u>18,992.18</u>
9,000	Contingency Fund	9,000.00
212	Conservation Fund	447.00
<u>28,714</u>	Total Accumulated Funds	<u>28,439.18</u>

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Walks Secretary's Report:
The Bush Club 2015 AGM
Report from the Walks Secretary

Acknowledgements

The Bush Club walk leaders must be the first to be acknowledged. Without leaders there would be no Bush Club and no walks program.

I also am indebted to the legacy of John Cooper who proceeded me as Walks Secretary. John has drawn on his great experience and knowledge to provide sound advice whenever requested.

Jacqui Hickson and Lynn Dabbs contributions must also be recognized. Jacqui contributes to the Club in so many ways, from IT development and support including the website, policy development and publication, back-up for others and even gets time to lead walks. Lynn does a great job with the short notice program, which is an area of significant growth and upon which the Club is increasingly reliant.

Developments over the past year

In general, the number of walks and the number of members leading walks declined in 2015.

John Cooper nominated developments that would benefit the Club in his report to the 2014 AGM. These were:

- 'More walks 'in the bush' outside the boundaries of city and suburbs – after all, we are The Bush Club;
- A greater number of multi day trips, overnight walks and pack walks. Many fill quickly and are oversubscribed;
- Increased number of trips at the easy grades, focused on newer members; and
- More walks at weekends, for the increasing number of members in full time employment.'

To help assess whether these 'beneficial' outcomes were achieved, the following reviews the walks program for the recent months of September and October. In addition, I have compared the October 2015 outcomes to October 2014.

In September 2015 there were 44 walks on the program. These included:

- 17 short notice walks
- 2 overseas walks
- 2 overnight pack walks

Of these:

- 4 walks were cancelled (3 due to lack of numbers, including 1 pack walk, and 1 for which no reason was supplied)
- when I compiled these figures for September (at the beginning of October) there were no reports for an additional 3 walks (excluding the overseas walks), although reports have since been filed.

Details of the local days walks for which reports were available (34):

- The average number on each walk was 11
- Numbers varied from 4 upwards including 20 walks with 10 or more walkers

The distribution of walks over the days of the week was:

M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
7	4	6	2	6	9	0

The Saturday numbers were boosted by members' support for the Club's birthday celebration. There were no Sunday walks.

Number of walks by Grade:

1	2	3	4+
1	5	16	12

The walk grades reflect the popularity of Grade 3 and higher walks, but the 15 per cent of walks at Grade 2 provided a variety of choice for members.

Contrary to some earlier months, the walk outcomes for October 2014 and 2015 were broadly consistent.

The first table compares the number of walks on the original program broken down by the number of day walks originally scheduled, the additional short notice day walks subsequently added, overnight walks and overseas walks.

Year	Day Walks		Overnight	Overseas	Total
	Original Pgm	Short Notice			
2014	25	17	6	0	48
2015	20	18	2	1	41

The second table shows the number of walks that were cancelled, and reasons given, or there was no report.

Year	Insufficient numbers	Conflict in the program	Unavailability of leader	No report
2014	5 (incl. 1 overnight walk)	0	2	4 (incl. 2 overnight walks)
2015	2 (incl. 1 overnight walk)	1	2	0

The third table shows the number of day walks that proceeded and were reported by Grade.

Year	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4+	Total
2014	1	5	19	9	34
2015	1	6	19	8	34

The fourth table shows the number of day walks that proceeded and were reported by day of the week.

Year	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total
2014	6	5	8	3	5	6	1	34
2015	4	7	3	3	6	8	3	34

The number of weekend walks for October 2015 increased after a call for weekend walks in the short notice program.

For day walks that proceeded and were reported, the fifth table shows the average number of members on day walks, the range of numbers and the number of leaders of day walks for the month. Some leaders led multiple walks.

Year	Average number	Range	Number of leaders
2014	9.8	4-18	29
2015	9.1	4-15	26

In summary, the results vary from John’s nominated outcomes that would benefit the Club. Hence the question, what are members’ expectations going forward?

Outcomes of the survey of members

Members were recently requested to complete a survey to help assess what would:

- Attract new leaders;
- Encourage existing leaders to continue to lead.

The outcomes of that survey are attached and will provide valuable input to the review of Club operations outlined by Cavan.

Recent actions

The Short Notice program is becoming increasingly important. It is also recognized that this twice weekly communication to those members who have internet access is a valuable tool to highlight where there are gaps in the program.

This information is intended to inform members considering nominating a walk what dates are available. It will assist avoid overlaps (a source of contention) and hopefully prompt potential leaders to fill the gaps.

This is not intended to downplay the importance of the Quarterly Program, but rather to enhance the walks’ program at a time when there are growing demands on people’s time and an increasing reluctance to forward commit.

Colin Reid
Walks Secretary

****Attracting and Encouraging Leaders Report:**

Attracting and Encouraging Leaders Report for AGM 2015

Since the 2014 AGM

New Leaders Min 2 walks (11)	New Leaders 1 walk (6)	Lapsed Leaders back (2)
Sally Reynolds	Pam Irving (2 nd scheduled)	John Kennett
Ewan Cain	Freda Moxom	Cotter Erickson
Christine McColl	Diane McPhail	
Myles Ormsby	Warren Southey	
Alan McPhail	Vince Smith (2 nd scheduled)	
Joanne Armstrong		

Paul & Jane Millgate		
Jan & Margaret Mohandas		
Virginia Riley		
Richard Darke		
Michael Henderson		

John Hungerford
25 November 2015

****Membership Secretary's Report:**

**The Bush Club Inc
AGM 3rd December 2015
Membership Report**

Membership numbers as at the end of July

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Prospective Members	122	143	119	143
New Full Members	69	100	87	49
Total Full Members	646	688	724	736

The 2013-14 trend for prospective members to find the Club through word of mouth continued during the year, with 70% of the current prospective members citing word of mouth as their first reference. This trend is echoed by new full members during the year, with 66% of the new members having originally found the Club through word of mouth. Currently the Club has a slight gender imbalance with 54% female members and 58% female prospective members.

	Female	Male	Median Age
Full Members	54%	46%	65 years
Prospective Members	58%	42%	62 years

Comments from Applications for Full Membership

I acknowledge the special effort made by leaders and members to welcome and support prospective members during their three membership walks. Full member applications cite the variety and number of walks, competent leaders, friendly culture, good communication, camaraderie, safety consciousness and nice people as the chief reasons for joining the club: "Welcoming group, good company, lots of walks to choose from. Enjoyed the walks I've done. Leadership has been excellent. Thanks for the opportunity to join and for making me feel so welcome."

Acknowledgements

During my overseas holidays in 2014 and 2015, telephone and postal communications were expertly handled by Col Prentice and Ian Edwards. My thanks to our database manager Ron Mead for his meticulous record keeping and constant attention to names of members, guests and prospective members. Ron's computing skills and corporate knowledge of documents and events combine to make him an extremely valuable Bush Club asset. Jacqui Hickson

has continued to update the membership forms and processes on the Bush Club website. Each time I ask if a modification is possible, Jacqui quickly suggests and designs a practical solution.

My heartfelt thanks go to Ron and Jacqui for their quick assistance during the hacked membership email account situation in June. Jacqui established a new gmail account (together with instructions for me), and Ron was able to convert the old Hotmail account text from Arabic, back into English. It was a trying time for my husband and I while we were cycling in France and trying to communicate each evening with difficult internet connections.

The membership subcommittee reviews all full member applications before final confirmation. My thanks to Graham Condon and Ron Mead for their diligent reviews and quick responses. The confirmation process is reliant on timely walk reports – thank you to walk leaders who submit reports promptly, and carefully document significant events during the walks.

***President's Report:**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE AGM

We all know that without walks leaders we would have no club but it is only since I came onto the Committee for the first time that I really understood that without the Committee we wouldn't have a Club either. Like all organisations, our Committee should be a mix of experience and new blood. We are about to lose three very experienced and important members of the Committee: Lynne Outhred, Carol Henderson and John Hungerford. Their experience has been a great strength but they have decided to step down and make way for new blood. Thank you and thank you to our enthusiastic newsletter editor, Judy, who is also retiring. This year your Club has faced some major questions. I will not repeat what is in other people's reports but focus on a few important points.

At the beginning of this century, Graham Conden, Ron Mead and Howard Tooth successfully changed the somewhat creaky culture of the Club and their efforts have stood the test of time up till now. However, it is time to do something similar if our Club is to prosper. The bright young things of yesteryear are a bit dimmer as I know only too well. Your Committee believes that we need to take stock of our Club culture and practices. What kind of club do we want to be? What are our aims and how do we achieve them. Some clubs put on tough walks including pack walks, others focus on the other end of the spectrum and some have a narrow geographical focus. We, however, are a club for all seasons. We have a wide range of walks in a wide range of areas and I don't think we want to change that. You can start with level 5 or 6 walks and sink slowly in the west to level 1 walks with your friends.

Committee members have made some preliminary suggestions about Club culture and we plan to put these to the incoming Committee for action. We will probably need a small group to like the unholy trinity aforementioned to draft a document but we want club members to contribute by emailing their ideas and comments to the incoming president and secretary. I set out below some of the main points you might like to consider. You may well have other ideas and they will be very welcome.

1. We should encourage younger people to join the club and younger members to serve on our committee. Some people feel they can't lead walks. We plan to help them do so but an alternative way of contributing is joining your committee. Of course a problem here is how we define "young". We have tended to focus on people in their early fifties or sixties who have recently retired and who have the time to spend. However, it has been noted that people are working longer and that we cannot rely on this group of fit retirees as in the past. Australia's work culture is changing and we must adapt or perish. So what do we do?
2. We need to cater for all by putting on weekend and weekday walks. We have a well deserved reputation for putting on more mid-week walks than other clubs and I see no reason to change that. These walks cater not only for retirees but for people who work part time, shift workers or those who work at home. But full time workers need weekend walks and we are particularly weak on Sundays.
3. Our established policy is to emphasise walks which can be reached by public transport because not everyone has cars or wants to drive them. I see no reason to change this policy but we should continue

to understand that some walks cannot be reached by public transport in which case the leader will make appropriate arrangements. This ain't broke so don't fix it.

4. We probably need to move with the times and get a presence on facebook and other forms of social media. This is something we need advice on from younger members who actually understand these things and use them.
5. If we are going to put on more pack walks and tough day walks we need to make sure we have the people who can do them and, of course, if we want to attract these people we have to put on the walks they want. We do have a range at the moment but we are short on pack walks. Our overseas walks have been very successful.
6. Why do prospective drop out? We must expect some to do so but should we do more to keep them and if so what?
7. Should we have more social functions? Now we have the walks leaders' night and the AGM. Would younger members like more social activity? Or older ones?
8. Some things we could do to encourage younger members to take leadership rolls are to provide mentors for potential walks leaders and to put potential committee members as backup for when the office bearer is away. This way they could learn about how to do things without having all the responsibility thrust on them at once. I, for example, am very grateful to Lynne and Carol for leading me through the labyrinth over the last year. In any case, we need backup Committee members.

Another issue which arose early in the year was the question of our policy on members charged with child abuse. This is also relevant to the question of whether the club should be more family friendly in the sense of putting on functions for children which we have done in the past. We found that we would get involved in complex legal requirements if we offered things specifically for minors and so stuck with our policy which you can find on the website if you missed the relevant newsletter and bulletin.

The auditor was concerned that we might have too large a balance. The Committee agreed with the Treasurer that we should provide more facilities for members rather than lower our already low fees. You will drink the result of this decision this evening and also get free first aid courses if you lead walks.

There has been discussion about walks in the quarterly program versus short notice walks. Some people have been concerned that leaders are not putting on walks in the program because they think they will put on short notice ones which they don't put on. This may be but we need both. The Walks Secretary is now indicating what days are free when the regular program comes out so that short notice leaders can find gaps to fill. This is a welcome initiative. If the short notice program is to work well, leaders must first look for free days and if they must put on a walk when others already exist, their walk cannot clash with a walk of the same level in the same area.

I will stand for a second year as president but will retire after that as I reach the magical age of 80 when I expect senility to become even more obvious. My experience has been that it is a great club with a very pleasant and helpful bunch of people on the Committee. So please step up. Remember that it is your club and can only be as strong as you make it.

Last but certainly not least I would like to thank Shirley and her band of helpers for organising this and the walks leaders function.
