**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

**of the Durban Ramblers Hiking Club**

**Held on 7th February 2015 at the Palmiet Nature Reserve**

1. **Welcome:**

The Chairman, Werner Vanslembrouck, welcomed all the members to the AGM in the clubs 83rd year.

**2 Present:**

1. members in attendance, see attendance register
2. **Apologies:**

Jeanette McMahon, Roy and Rose Glen, Judy Conlon, Cornel Schutte, Anita Soland, Sue McMahon, Erica Clark, Gordon Tomlinson.

1. **Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2014 AGM**:

Proposed by Rolf Klein and seconded by Jill Dunstone as a true reflection of AGM of 2014

1. **Matters Arising**: None

6 **Receive and Approve the Chairman’s Report:**

The year past had been a good year, the committee functioned well, and the Chairman thanked both the committee and the hike leaders for their dedication. He also thanked members for their attendance not only at our AGM, but also for their support throughout the year by attending the hikes.

The magazine has seen some changes to its format, it now includes grade and distance, helping hikers on what to expect. The Chairman thanked Gordon Tomlinson for producing the magazine. A job well done!

The year had some hitches, not all our fault. Both the Magazine and our website had to be taken over from Linda and Duncan Hiles. At first we all thought “no problem”but we soon realized that especially the Website would be a challenge. Then the distribution of the Magazine had to be sorted out.

The website had been managed by a system known to Duncan, but to take over was virtually impossible, because the system in use was old and there are new and better systems available. This meant that the club had to incur about R7000 to update it. It also meant that some of the committee had to be trained on the new website. Both Linda Smith and Philip Collyer put in time and effort in getting our Website up and running, and, the Chairman was sure those members present who had seen the new website would agree with him that they deserve a big thank you.

Gordon Tomlinson also went to these meetings, and, as a result our posting of the magazine both through Mail and Email has been sorted. The Chairman sincerely hoped that our new look website will attract members that we desperately need so as to increase our membership.

The next step that was initiated last year was the archiving of all old club records and documents. Successive committees had the idea of putting all the clubs information on record, so that members could look back and find information about the club’s history. Because all the archiving was done this year, all the costs thereof had to be borne this year. The cost exceeded R20, 000.

Once the members see what had to be done and, that it will be available on our website it is still in a Dropbox), you will agree it is worthwhile. The Chairman then called on Philip Collyer to tell us all about the archives of the club.

Philp Collyer gave a short update on how the R20000 had been spent on the 3 months project. A lot of old documents could not go through on normal scanners and had to be scanned one by one – each page was 1 Meg. Some articles go to back to 1932, the magazine to 1939. . Phillip said his personal assistant had done all this work at a much reduced rate and that the process of uploading these documents onto the website will start in due course. They will be in be in PDF format

Discussion then followed on what format the members would like the annual Christmas function to follow. Currently members bring their own meat and the club pays for the hall, salads, desserts, music etc. This means we are able to keep the cost to a minimum being R75 per person. Committee and hike leaders- are invited guests and do not pay this as recognition for the work done during the year.

It had been suggested that a different type of function be held. For instance, a venue like Giba, which would arrange everything and provide a buffet. This would cost between R175- R200 per person.

Another option is for the club to provide the music and hall and use an outside caterer e.g. a spit braai. This would cost between R150- R175 per person.

The Chairman asked for input from the members which was as follows:

* Biff Maggs suggested members give the committee details of possible other venues as some people find the scout hall in Hillcrest too far to travel to.
* Sanet Meyer mentioned a possible venue in Hilary which is easy to find – Werda school. She said there is lots of parking and a pool. It would cost approximately R300 for the facility and members can take their own drinks (alcohol as well).
* Jenny Rooks mentioned a spit braai organiser who does it for half the price the Chairman quoted i.e. KZN Catering.
* Trevor Thompson said that the club had tried outside caterers over the years but there were ongoing complaints re quality and quantity of food.

The Chairperson requested members to vote on the 3 options on the table and the majority voted to retain the current format but at the Hilary venue.

**7 Receive and Approve the Financial Report**

Biff Maggs handed out copies of the balance sheet and income and expenses. There being no queries these were accepted.

1. **Proposed Amendments to the Constitution**

It was proposed to change the composition of the Executive Committee (item 10) by changing the title of the Weekends and Trails Organiser to Weekends organiser and add the position of Website Organiser. The wording in the constitution will now read as follows:

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

The entire management of the Club and its property shall be deputed to an Executive Committee consisting of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Day Hike Organiser, Weekends Organiser, Socials Organiser, Magazine Editor, Publicity Organiser, Saturday Hike Organiser, Website Organiser and Ordinary Member. Should two or more of these functions be fulfilled by one member, then sufficient extra Committee Members may be elected to bring the total number of Committee Members to at least ten. Two members may fill one of the functions. This Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting, but shall have the power to appoint a member to fill any vacancy, which might occur on the Committee. No member of the committee shall hold the same position for more than three consecutive years

The members unanimously voted to the 2 changes.

**8 To pay respect to past members**

The Chairman informed the meeting of the passing of Brian O’Connell, Brian Boyd and Ron Horley.

1. **Honorary Life Membership – 30 years or more as a Club Member or a person who has rendered special services to the club (2/3 of the members present at the meeting make the decision to award this category of membership to an individual**)

The Chairman stated there were no new members who qualified in terms of the 30 years rule. However the committee would like to recommend Jeanette McMahon under the special services category. Jeanette does so much work every year for the Christmas function. This was unanimously agreed.

1. **To elect the Office Bearers and the Executive Committee**

The following were unanimously elected:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Office** | **Person** | **Proposed** | **Seconded** |
| **Chairperson** | **Phillip Collyer** | **W Vanslembrouck** | **Linda Smith** |
| **Secretary** | **Janet Elliott** | **W Vanslembrouck** | **Biff Maggs** |
| **Treasurer** | **Margot Barraclough** | **Biff Maggs** | **W Vanslembrouck** |
| **Sunday Hike Organiser** |  **Stella Ward** | **Jenny Rooks** | **Marie Gurr** |
| **Saturday Hike Organiser** | **Linda Smith** | **W Vanslembrouck** | **Biff Maggs** |
| **Weekends Organiser** | **Marie Gurr** | **W Vanslembrouck** | **Biff Maggs** |
| **Social Organiser** | **Gordon Tomlinson** | **W Vanslembrouck** | **Janet Elliott** |
| **Magazine Editor** | **Gordon Tomlinson** | **W Vanslembrouck** | **Janet Elliott** |
| **Publicity Organiser** | **Tina Regnard** | **W Vanslembrouck** | **Biff Maggs** |
| **Ordinary Member** | **Coleen Seath** | **Jill Dunstone** | **W Vanslembrouck** |
| **Website Organiser** | **Abdulla Dada** | **Ismail Vahed** | **W Vanslembrouck** |

1. **To elect the Honorary Auditor**

Biff Maggs stated that Colin Turner has agreed to continue as the auditor and thanked him for all the years he has done it.

 12 **Presentation of the Floating Trophy**

The Chairman stated that the committee had unanimously decided to award this to Philip Collyer for his work as a hike leader, hike organiser, doing the archiving, assisting to set up the new website and creating name tags for members with all their details on**.**