

MINUTES OF THE 61ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE DURBAN RAMBLERS' HIKING CLUB HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY 1993

PRESENT: 43 members and two visitors as per register.

1. APOLOGIES: Marcia Wilde, Audrey Ralph, Trish Ogle, Clive Booth, Mervyn Hackner, Jack Schaffer, Ismail Vahed, Jean Jacobs, Ivan Schneidermann, Lance Wingfield, Margret Kirsten, Audrey Vickers, Joan Christian.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: Proposed by Vic Conrad, seconded by Colin Turner.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:
The Club's typewriters were discussed, and it was agreed that the heavy typewriter would be sold, as the members acting as Secretary normally did the Club work on their office machines.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: As appended.
The Meeting agreed that this was very satisfactory.
Proposed by Jean Foster, seconded by Gretel Hartmann.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT: The balance sheet and income and expenditure statement were circulated.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer commented that it was fortunate that the Club had managed to hold its own during the year, and that there was nothing special to report.
Day hikes had shown a profit - this was due to the increase from R1 to R2 per member in own cars, together with the lower number of reccis undertaken.
During the year one tent had been stolen; the insurance company had paid out R900,00 in compensation.
Magazine costs had increased considerably as we now have to produce the magazine ourselves and have it duplicated.
Proposed by Chris Hayward, seconded by Linda Holmes.

6. CHANGES TO CLUB RULES:

Old Clause 10 - Definition and number of Executive Committee members amended.
Proposed by Gerald Hall
Seconded by Philip Gatenby

- Add clause: "No member should remain in a particular office for more than three consecutive years."
Proposed by Sue Ferguson
Seconded by Reg Blow

Old Clause 11 - Add clause: "Each Organiser may be assisted by a sub-Committee which may be elected by the Annual General Meeting, or co-opted."
Proposed by Sue Ferguson
Seconded by Reg Blow

6. CHANGES TO CLUB RULES (contd)

Old Clause 12 - Editorial Committee : Delete
Proposed by Chris Hayward
Seconded by Stan Christian

Old Clause 16(d) Replace with: "The election of the Officers and Executive Committee for the ensuing year, and such sub-Committees as may be required."
Proposed by Philip Gatenby
Seconded by Sue Ferguson

Old Clause 20 - Honoraria : Delete
Proposed by Gerald Hall
Seconded by Jack Aumord

Old Clause 30 - Alcoholic Liquor : Delete
Proposed by Linda Holmes
Seconded by Jack Aumord

A show of hands indicated 75% majority in favour of deleting this clause.

Insert new clause : Item No. 28 - "CONDUCT ON HIKES: Members should at all times respect the interests of the land-owners through whose lands they pass, exercise care to protect the safety of themselves and other members of the party, and observe the decisions of the leader."
Proposed by Bill Hyslop
Seconded by Pam Podmore

7. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:

CHAIRMAN	Bill Hyslop	Proposed by Jo Strayton Seconded by Jean Foster
SECRETARY	Linda Holmes	Proposed by Vic Conrad Seconded by John Kyle
TREASURER	Margret Kirsten	Proposed by Jo Strayton Seconded by Bill Hyslop
DAY HIKE ORGANISER	Sue Ferguson	Proposed by Pam Podmore Seconded by Chris Hayward
BERG HIKE ORGANISER	Chris Hayward	Proposed by Dick Billet Seconded by Sue Ferguson
TRAILS ORGANISER	Steve Watson	Proposed by Sue Ferguson Seconded by Chris Hayward
SOCIALS ORGANISER (Outdoor Meets)	Bruce Medway	Proposed by Marie Gurr Seconded by Bill Hyslop
EDITOR	- Vacant -	
PUBLICITY ORGANISER	Sandy Gautier	Proposed by Philip Gatenby Seconded by Mike White
ORDINARY MEMBER *	Philip Gatenby	Proposed by Bruce Medway Seconded by Bill Hyslop

* During current year this position bears responsibility for the Club's technical equipment; in addition P. Gatenby will officiate as Deputy Chairman where necessary.

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8. CORRESPONDENCE: Letter received from Gerald Hall regarding the replacement of stolen tent. It was decided that enquiries should be made in respect of manufacture of a tent to our specification.
9. HONORARY MEMBERS: Honorary Life Membership was awarded to Winnie Jackson, and to Gerald and Di Hall, for their services to the Club. Proposed by Regina Billiet, seconded by Stephanie Tuer.
10. ELECTION OF AUDITOR: Colin Turner Proposed by Pam Podmore
Seconded by Irene Coward
11. GENERAL: A lengthy discussion took place regarding the use, hire, maintenance, storage and reproofing of the Club tents, and the responsibilities involved.
- Vic Conrad suggested that the Club should express appreciation to Melvyn Oliver for his efforts during his time with the Club. The new Secretary is to write to him in this regard.
- Vic Conrad proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing Executive Committee for their contribution during the past year.
- Margaret Pershouse proposed a vote of thanks to the Editress for her work during 1992.
- Colin Turner drew attention to the increased costs involved in the publication of the magazine; means of increasing the Club's income were discussed.
- The Meeting then agreed to the following rise in subscriptions:
- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| Single Member | R20,00 p/a |
| Family Member | R30,00 p/a |
| Country Member | R15,00 p/a |
- Proposed by Jean Foster, seconded by Ingla Munstermann.
- Sandy Gautier advised the Meeting of a Holiday & Leisure Expo which will be held shortly, where we would be able to promote Club activities.
- Steve Watson drew attention to the dangers of smoking during hikes and the safe disposal of cigarette ends.
- Bill Hyslop advised the Meeting of complaints received about members' cars being left for long periods at the Musgrave Medical car parking area.
- Colin Turner asked if there were any hikes available to those people who can hike during the week. Vic Conrad is able to lead hikes during the week if demand is sufficient.
12. PRESENTATION OF TROPHY: The Chief Leader's Floating Trophy was presented to Marie Gurr for her considerable contribution to Club activities during the past year.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 10.10 p.m.

L. J. M. S.
.....
SECRETARY

M. Hyslop
.....
CHAIRMAN
DATE: 25th Feb. 1994

PROPOSED CHANGES
TO THE CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF
DURBAN RAMBLERS' HIKING CLUB

10. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

First paragraph to be replaced by the following :-

" The entire management of the Club and its property shall be deputed to an Executive Committee consisting of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Day Hike Organiser, Berg Hike Organiser, Trails Organiser, Entertainment Organiser, Magazine Editor, Publicity 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 ten. 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. "

Second paragraph to remain as previously tabled.

Following to be added to Item 10:-

" No member should remain in a particular office for more than three consecutive years. "

11. SOCIAL, HIKE LEADERS AND CAMP COMMITTEES:

Following sentence to be inserted after first sentence:-

" Each Organiser may be assisted by a sub-Committee which may be elected by the Annual General Meeting, or co-opted. "

12. EDITORIAL COMMITTEE: Delete, as duplicates Item No. 11.

N.B. : From Item 12 onwards the numbering sequence will now change.

previous 16 (now 15) point (d)

" The election of the Officers and Executive Committee for the ensuing year, and such sub-Committees as may be required. "

previous 20. HONORARIA: Delete.

previous 30. ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR: Delete.

Replace with following item:-

(now Item 28)" CONDUCT ON HIKES:

Members should at all times respect the interests of the landowners through whose lands they pass, exercise care to protect the safety of themselves and other members of the party, and observe the decisions of the leader. "

* * * * *

COMMITTEE REPORT : FEBRUARY 1993

Our 60th year passed quietly but pleasantly, and to many of us the high spot of the celebrations was the Dinner/Dance at the Rob Roy Hotel, followed by the Recovery Walk the following day. Just over 90 people attended, and the sense of camaraderie between the various ages was something which none of us will forget. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Margret Kirsten and Marge Blake for organising this event.

The Anniversary Walk from Pietermaritzburg to Durban resulted in an enthusiastic turn-out of around 60 people, and the Saturday-night stop in a windswept barn was memorable as a triumph of joy over suffering! The result was the award of 22 certificates to members who successfully completed the course. Our thanks go most heartily to Jack Aumord and his team of helpers.

An even greater number of members attended the Anniversary Camping Weekend at Injasuti. The weather was dreadful, but groping our way through mist and lashing rain we agreed that a count of around 140 members was about right. Fortunately the organiser, Mick McConnell, had wisely booked all the hutted accommodation in the place, so that those staying in luxury were able to offer succour and comfort to the half-drowned members in tents, and he offered the patio of his hut as a shelter for the party on Saturday night. It is a special pleasure that Mick, as a representative of an earlier generation of members, still retains his enthusiasm for keeping the old friendships alive.

It is interesting to note that the Club's desire for an occasional walk down memory lane extended itself to the Anniversary Evening Meet, organised by Chris Hayward at the Collegians Club, when we looked at each other's historic slides.

The Evening Meets have generally been badly attended, but this particular meet saw us all jammed into a rather unsuitable room for slide-viewing in such numbers, and the sociable atmosphere more than made up for the discomforts.

All in all, the Anniversary celebrations cost us around R1000,00, which is well within the budget maximum allowed by the last Annual General Meeting for this purpose.

Turning to the general business of the Club, the Committee has been short-handed this year, as you know, and some of us have had to double-up on our portfolios. Chris Hayward has doubled the job of Indoor Meets with Berg Hike Organiser, and I have doubled the job of Chairman with Day Hike Organiser.

This need to re-allocate our workloads has resulted in a sharpening of our ideas on the functions which are necessary within the Committee, and in order to benefit from this awareness we are placing before you certain amendments to our Constitution which we hope you will approve at this Meeting.

Turning to the comments from these various portfolio-holders, I will dispose of mine on the day hikes in order to get them out of the way. About four years ago, many of us were worried by the small number of hikes available to us locally, as one by one urban development strangled our opportunities. I decided to embark upon a mission to try to find as many new hikes as I could within a reasonable distance from Durban, and often accompanied by only one or two people (generally either Margret Kirsten or Melvyn Oliver) and sometimes alone, I set out on a programme of reconnaissance which has resulted in not only 52 different hikes for every Sunday of the year, but a choice for many of these Sundays. The response that followed has been gratifying, and

there has been a regular growth in membership of people who believe that we, as a Club, can show them more of the little-known and attractive corners of beautiful Natal than any other organisation.

Our thanks go to all those who have volunteered to lead the increased repertoire of hikes, and to those who have reconnoitred new ones.

Reporting on the smaller numbers attending the weekends in the Berg, we have to remember that travelling to the Berg is becoming increasingly expensive, that the Natal Parks Board is generally rather lacking in welcome when we get there (they still refuse to accept that most of us work a five-day week and cannot hope to get to the gate before 6 p.m. on Fridays), and that, of course, we have other clubs competing for our members - and, more important, for our leaders. Despite this, Chris Hayward reports that small numbers have not spoiled the pleasure of those attending - rather the reverse, in fact.

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BERG SECTION - REPORT FROM CHRIS HAYWARD

This year did not get off to a good start due to the lack of a Berg Organiser. There were also some clashes with other Club functions in the beginning of the year but these were sorted out by mid-year. The Club has seen the most welcome return of some old leaders to lead hikes. We have had a good and varied programme in the Berg as well as hikes in other areas.

Attendance has been moderate, but a few hikes had to be abandoned due to lack of support.

I would like to thank all of the leaders for their tireless work and support for the continuing functioning of this section of the Club.

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Melvyn Oliver's base-camp weekends suffered from competition generated within our own Committee and this has to be regretted. But none of the many who attended his camps at Blinkwater and Nhlosane will remember them as anything other than delightful. We have to thank him for the inconvenience of having some tents and rucksacks to store in a rather confined amount of space, and Gerald and Di Hall for looking after the bulk of the camping equipment. We also owe thanks to Philip Gatenby for storing and maintaining Club rucksacks.

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As you know, Philip has also looked after our Trails programme, and he reports as follows :-

Support for this activity could best be described as patchy. Some events received good support, but the epics of yesteryear, which are still fondly discussed by the 'whenwe' brigade, were so poorly supported that to undertake them in the present situation might have been hazardous. Perhaps the problem is that they do not appear in Jaynee - who's book and the new trailers of the nineties need their trails predigested by thousands of others, rather than a wilderness adventure.

Some rapid mental activity was called for when two ladies, who had embarked on a four-day trip, suddenly discovered that it was not just a weekend one. Fortunately an easy option was available and four letter words were not used.

Innocently sleeping reptiles were disturbed, occasionally, - producing the usual spectacular choreography to shatter the beautiful tranquillity of the walks, and newcomers were encouraged to notice their interest in retreating to safety, rather than rushing around trying to bite humans.

May we long have access to our wilderness areas.

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As you know, we manage our programme by means of a bi-monthly newsletter to all members. The correct information, correctly printed and timeously delivered is therefore crucial to our affairs. The burden of this responsibility fell on Belinda Eisenhauer, who reports as follows :-

This has been a disruptive year for the magazine, with three changes in publishers; in July 1992, Bayclub Publishers were bought out by Mr Trevor Steenekamp and, after two issues of the magazine, it was decided, in October, to revert to the original format.

Another headache experienced this past year was the inconsistency of details on the mailing lists of the Editor, Secretary and Treasurer. One single data-base, preferably on disc, for the Committee's use would ease the situation.

As the Editor did not have a word-processor, a necessity for this portfolio, she has had to rely on Ms Irene Coward for copying magazine material onto disc, updating of mailing list and printing out of address labels every two months for the magazine envelopes. The Editor's gratitude must be expressed for her time and help.

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Under the present Constitution, those indoor meets which are designated "Photographic Evenings" are under the control of Chris Hayward (even if they don't involve photographs!), and other indoor and outdoor meets which are described as "social" come under the control of Marie Gurr. We hope to have a tidier division of labour if you accept the proposed constitutional amendments. In the meanwhile, let Marie speak first :-

Major highlights in our 60th Anniversary year must be the dinner/dance celebration at the Rob Roy in April, for which sincere thanks to Margret Kirsten and Marge Blake; the Pietermaritzburg to Durban weekend walk in August (a million thanks to Jack Aumond and everyone else involved); the ever-popular Hlabeni party weekend at the end of August; being offered complimentary space on one of the Wildlife EXPO stands (many thanks to Sandy Gautier, Irene Coward and all our volunteers) and the 60th Anniversary weekend, kindly organised by Mick McConnell, at Injasuti in November. Many thanks to Mick!

In between times we tried, not too successfully, to find a permanent, inexpensive base for regular Club gatherings. We had braais and singalongs at Collegians at Kings Park, braaied and played darts and snooker at the Umgeni Country Club, and partied twice at Collegians Bowling Club as it proved so popular. The search continues and, hopefully, we'll settle down in 1993!

There was also a variety of social Saturday afternoon gatherings - a moonlight hike and braai at Palmiet, a stroll and braai at J.C. Robertson Nature Reserve, Scottburgh; a tour of Virginia Bush followed by a braai and party at Barry Busby's house, and a walk around Burman Bush, followed again by a braai.

We had pub evenings - at The Keg & Thistle, Idlers and The Keg and Anchor; a steam train journey to Kelso, and an evening of tenpin bowling. On two public holidays we had social outings, although the anticipated booze cruise didn't take place - we must encourage our members to read their magazine carefully, plan in advance and pay up promptly if we ever want a party on the high seas!

As a spin-off to Ramblers' stand at EXPO, the Quartermaster at the Workshop hosted us to cheese and wine, and the social year will round off with a car rally in March, which I hope all will enjoy.

I sincerely believe, purely from response to these functions, that there is a very definite need to continue with Ramblers' socials. If we wish to attract new, younger members this is something we have to concentrate on. There are a lot of lovely, lively, happy, friendly people out there who don't necessarily wish to devote complete weekends, or even regular Sundays, to enjoying the great outdoors.

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Chris Hayward's comments are :-

The year got off to a poor start with lack of support by the Club members. It was then decided by the Committee to change the emphasis from purely photographic to a much broader base and the name was changed from "Photographic" to "Evening Meets". Two special meetings were held to celebrate our 60th Anniversary by having two slide shows of slides over the years, the slides being supplied by our members.

We had various speakers give us some very informative talks during the year; some of them being Colonel Dennis of the S.A. Police, David Pelser of the Ingomi Rover Crew and Mike Loverage with his "ways to make memories".

Attendance has ranged from poor to moderate.

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Our Hon. Treasurer will be reporting separately on the finances, and our Hon. Secretary wisely declines to report on the number of letters written and minutes typed, except to say that they were an awful lot.

She does however confirm that the number of members remains fairly constant at 300-plus, with resignations, deaths and writing-off of unpaid memberships balancing up with the numbers of new members joining the Club.

That is our report, Ladies and Gentlemen. We invite your comments, and, we hope, your approval.

BILL HYSLOP
CHAIRMAN

DURBAN RAMBLERS' HIKING CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING : 17 FEBRUARY 1993

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

MEMBERS

T. Swingsstone
 Mr. Leshouse
 P. J. Easton
 L. Holmes
 Gerald Hall
 Dionne Hall
 Inga Münstermann
 Grawley
 Mike E. White
 Gail
 Ian Stewart
 J. Grayton
~~John~~
 W. W. W.
 W. A. B. B.
 Robert
 Dick B. B.
 Steph Ther.
 Bruce Redway
 David Walmsley
 P. S. S.
 B. B. B.
 J. A. A.
 Belinda Eisenhauer
 Jane Hans.
 New Watson.
 R. R. R.
 J. B. B.
 R. B. B.
 S. S. S.

VISITORS

The J. B.
 Alain J. B.
 J. B. B.

MEMBERS (contd)

Dan Macastan
 Sue Ferguson.
 Sonia Ferguson.
 Gail Hartmann
 J. W. W.
 Edward.
 M. B. B.
 Colin Turner
 Vic Comas.
 Philip J. B.
 Dennis G. B.
 ALLAN LAUTENBACH.

DURBAN RAMBLERS HIKING CLUB

Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 December 1992

	1992	1991
	R	R
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
Balance as at 31 December 1991	15 040,33	13 524,83
excess of income current year	1 533,32	1 515,50
	-----	-----
	16 573,65	15 040,33
	=====	=====
REPRESENTED BY ASSETS		
Mountain Tents and Rucksacks	100,00	100,00
Office equipment	130,00	130,00
Camping equipment	50,00	50,00
Duplicator	25,00	25,00
Slide projector	20,00	20,00
Accounts receivable	402,00	504,10
Fixed Deposits	10 039,36	13 756,00
Savings Account	3 923,36	1 295,98
Cash at Bank	1 195,61	513,68
Stock of t shirts/hats	2 613,32	596,40
Float Editor	75,00	75,00
	-----	-----
	18 573,65	17 066,16

LESS: LIABILITIES
Provision for replacement of equipment
Accounts payable

	2 000,00	2 000,00
	-	25,83
	-----	-----
	2 000,00	2 025,83
	-----	-----
	16 573,65	15 040,33
	=====	=====

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B HYSLOP - CHAIRMAN

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I CORWARD - TREASURER

I have examined the books of the club. According to these books and the explanations given to me, it would appear that proper records have been kept and that the above accounts truly and fairly represent the financial state of the Club.

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C TURNER - AUDITOR

.....
DATE

DURBAN RAMBLERS HIKING CLUB

Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 December 1992

	1992	1991
	R	R
INCOME		
Insurance claim - tent	900,00	-
Subscriptions	3006,00	3321,50
Interest	1826,82	2288,01
Day hikes	1 231,49	520,55
Entrance fee	260,00	391,50
Equipment hire	297,00	342,10
Trails	77,00	(50,00)
Berg hikes	204,50	(52,12)
Camps	-	22,51
Photographic	(44,78)	5,19
Socials	108,22	(290,12)
Donations	104,00	-
Profit on sale of shirts/hats	66,23	-
	-----	-----
	8 036,48	6 510,12
LESS: EXPENDITURE		
General Expenses	1 463,91	2 387,21
Magazine Costs	3 117,66	1 954,69
Equipment & maintenance	202,15	458,37
60th Anniversary	1 460,97	-
Bank charges	258,47	194,35
	-----	-----
	6 503,16	4 994,62
Excess of Income over Expenditure transferred to Accumulated Funds	1 533,32	1 515,50
	-----	-----
	8 036,48	6 510,12
	=====	=====

