

Skibbereen Walking Group Annual General Meeting 2018

Friday, 16th November 2018, 8.00pm; Leap Inn.

Attendance: (23 total) **2018 Committee:** Chairman - Donal O'Donovan, Secretary - Ian Hardy, Treasurer - Rosemary O'Mahoney, Environmental Officer- Richard Kingston.

SWG Members: Jacqueline & Eamonn Murphy, Eric & Liz Threapleton, David & Marie Sprott, Angela O'Donovan, Donal Duggan, Wilmie & David Owen, Margaret Ennis, Desmond Barry, Denis O'Sullivan, Lal Thompson, Jean O'Hanlon, Susan Thomas, Adrian Thomas, Gert Skerra, Monica Greenwood.

1 - Apologies: Brigid O'Brien, Bernadette O'Driscoll, Con McCarthy, Con Minihane, Charlie & Sekeeta Crowley, Heather Hogg, Deirdre Hardy, Jutta & Derry O'Regan, Terry Fitzgerald, Ann Whooley, Rianne Smith, Eileen Daly, Brendan Duloherly, Betty Kingston.

2 – AGM 2017 Minutes

The Chairman welcomed all to the AGM. The minutes of last year's AGM were circulated; there were no objections or matters raised. They were proposed by Eric Threapleton and seconded by Margaret Ennis.

3 - Correspondence/Matters Arising

An email recently received by SWG regarding access to the Reeks was summarised by Adrian Thomas. At the current time the situation is unclear but it appears that the landowners have asked groups to apply in advance before walking in the Reeks. This is to be done through an agency in Killarney and some groups may be asked to change their plans if it is felt that the hill is likely to become too busy on a given day.

4 – Reports

Chairman's Report: The chairman said that it had been a successful year; all walks had been completed albeit with a few last minute changes to accommodate bad weather. He said that the institution of the Easy Walks had been a success and had been well attended and thanked David and Marie Sprott for starting these. He thanked the walk leaders, the walks coordinators and his fellow officers of the club for their assistance in various aspects of the functioning of the club.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer circulated copies of the financial report. (see Appendices) There were 97 full members of the club and 18 associated members in 2018. The SWG membership fee for 2019 is unchanged because our payments to Mountaineering Ireland remains the same. The Treasurer was thanked from the floor and the financial report was proposed by Liz Threapleton and seconded by Margaret Ennis.

Secretary's Report: The secretary read out a note prepared by David Sprott regarding the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). (See Appendices). He reported briefly on the Skibbereen Walking Festival organised by the Chamber of Commerce. Although this had been successful from their point of view, it was felt that we ought to formalise our liaison with them and establish contact earlier with a view to taking part in the planning of the walks.

Environmental Officer's Report: Richard Kingston summarised a number of ongoing issues. (see Appendices)

Walks Coordinators' Report: Margaret Ennis read a report from the walks coordinator group. (see Appendices)

5 - Election of Officers

The posts of Chairperson and Treasurer needed to be filled as both incumbents had completed three years in post. Adrian Thomas was proposed as Chairperson by Derry O'Regan (by correspondence) and also by Marie Sprott, seconded by Liz Threapleton. Adrian was elected Chairperson by unanimous consent.

Desmond Barry was proposed as Treasurer by Rosemarie O'Mahoney, seconded by Margaret Ennis. Desmond was elected by unanimous consent.

Ian Hardy was proposed as Secretary by Denis O'Sullivan and seconded by Monica Greenwood. Ian was elected by unanimous consent.

Terry Fitzgerald was proposed as PRO by David Sprott, seconded by Desmond Barry. Terry was elected by unanimous consent.

Richard Kingston was proposed as Environmental Officer by Denis O'Sullivan and seconded by Monica Greenwood. Richard was elected by unanimous consent.

There was a brief discussion as to how the Walk Coordinators (of which there are five) should be represented on the committee. It was generally agreed that not all the walk coordinators need be, nor wished to be, on the committee. It was also agreed that given that walking is the club's "core business" and that weekly walks is almost our only activity, it was important that the group be adequately represented. It was agreed that the 2019 committee will discuss and resolve.

6 - Any Other Business

1. The Walk Coordinators Group have pencilled in the Burren in May 2019 and the Chair invited comment and suggestions from the floor. It seems that Clonakilty Hillwalking Club are also going to The Burren in May and it was suggested that we might team up with them. There was some discussion and it was agreed that a task force of Eric Threapleton, Desmond Barry and Donal O'Donovan would come up with a number of suitable destinations for "Away Weekends" and report back to the committee in early January.
2. Proposed minor changes to SWG constitution

4.3 The Committee shall also have the power to co-opt additional non-voting Members.

Proposed change to:

4.3 The Committee shall also have the power to co-opt additional members to fulfill specific tasks and duties for the current membership year. Members of the Committee to be notified to all SWG members. (non-Officer roles such as Walk Coordinator(s), PRO, Expedition Officer, Training Officer, Safety Officer may be filled in this way.)

5.4 A quorum for a meeting of the Committee shall be half of the elected members.

Proposed change to:

5.4 A quorum for a meeting of the SWG Committee shall be half of the current members. All members of the committee must be given at least one week's notice of any meeting and all are entitled to attend such meetings.

4.7 In addition to the AGM, the Committee shall hold at least two meetings each year.

Proposed change to:

4.7 In addition to the AGM, the Committee shall hold at least one meeting in each quarter, the agreed minutes being made available to SWG members within two weeks following said meetings.

There was a brief discussion on each topic and all of the changes proposed were agreed by unanimous consent.

Action – Chair to update previous constitution, publish on SWG website and circulate link to members.

3. The Chairman invited discussion of membership development initiatives concerning numbers, age, skills, ability profile and limitations. Should we set targets for membership? Should we subsidise new members (eg 2 years for the price of 1) or reward recruiters with one year free membership for every new recruit enrolled? A wide ranging discussion followed. Among the points raised the following were generally approved: advertising; we should be more active; a column in the Southern Star; production of a leaflet advertising the club; appealing to families, possibly by a reduced family membership or specific family walks; combining with other walking clubs so that a wider range of walks can be offered; leadership skills, money is available and there is expertise in-house.

Action – Committee to scope out the possibilities re column in Southern Star

Action – Committee to design/print a leaflet suitable for promotion.

Action – Chair to offer Clonakilty Hillwalking Club and Dunmanway Walking Club unlimited free walks with SWG during 2019 without the need to become Affiliate Members.

4. There was a brief discussion re grant received from Mountaineering Ireland for leader training. No progress was made with this training during 2018 and MI have agreed to roll it over to 2019.
Action – Committee to discuss training options and formulate a plan.
5. Traditionally, there has been a contribution made to a charity such as Kerry Mountain Rescue. After much discussion it was proposed that SWG could afford to make a donation to the total of €1000 and it was agreed that €500 be donated to KMC and another €500 to a more local charity (to be decided).
Action – Treasurer to arrange cheque/draft for KMC and committee to discuss how this was to be presented.
Action – Committee to discuss the possible recipients of second €500 and circulate proposal to membership for feedback.

Appendices

1. Correspondence from MI re Reeks
2. Secretaries' Report re GDPR
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Environmental Officer's Report
5. Walk Coordinator's Report

Appendix 1 - Correspondence from MI re Reeks

Just wanted to send a quick reminder that ALL clubs need to submit an event sheet to The MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain Access Forum **prior** to any walks/hikes taking place in the MacGillycuddy Reeks.

Please forward completed sheets to reeksforum@skdp.net or submit online at www.macgillycuddyreekskerry.com/events

This is a requirement for all groups of ten or more accessing the Reeks.

We also require a copy of your clubs public liability insurance.

As you are aware **all** of the land in the Reeks is privately owned, and insurance is needed to ensure the landowners are adequately covered, as this is a major concern for them, but also so that you/ your club/ organiser are covered in the event of a member having an accident, regardless of those guiding/experience or their qualifications.

We need the event sheets to ensure that:

1. events don't clash,
2. that access points are not going to get congested from a car parking perspective,
3. to manage and minimise erosion and
4. that farming activities are not negatively impacted.

We are working in conjunction with the landowners and **depend on their goodwill**, so we feel the above are not terribly difficult requests to those who care about respecting the landscape as well as the landowners who display great tolerance and patience throughout the year, with thousands of people hiking on their land.

Also we would respectfully request that your clubs access the Reeks from one of the main access points only- Breanlee, Lisliebane, Cronin's Yard or Strickeen where car parking can be facilitated appropriately.

To those of you who have supported and continue to support our path and habitat restoration work- THANK YOU! Your help is gratefully appreciated.

To those who would like to support our work please logon to the website or give us a ring to find out more.

Our priority is to Protect, Manage and Sustainably Develop this beautiful mountain range.

I would appreciate it if you would please take time to consider all of the above, and revert back to us regarding same if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

Patricia Deane,

EIP Project Manager,

South Kerry Development Partnership CLG.,

Phone: (064) 6624607/(087)2031034.

E-mail: pdeane@skdp.net

www.macgillycuddyreekskerry.com

Skibbreen Walking Group and GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)

From 25th May 2018 all European organizations large and small must comply with new data privacy laws. SWG like all organizations is required to establish formal practices over how it manages personal data. In summary organizations must have transparency over how they handle personal data so that individuals are aware of how their data is being held and used, and have the right to decide whether they are listed, what information is held, for how long and to ensure their details are accurate.

SWG Data Process:

SWG collects data about its members - the information members complete on the annual membership form is stored by the Treasurer in an Excel spreadsheet. The data comprises – MI Number, Address, Telephone numbers, Email address, Walking preferences, Gender and Date of Birth. Some elements of this data (name, telephone, email, address) are used to populate the SWG Contacts List held in Google

SWG also collects the same contact data about some non-members – individuals that have expressed interest in the group. These are classed as either possible members or ex-members. The contact sub set is also held in a mailing platform – MailChimp that is used to produce emails. The subset of data (name, telephone number) is also stored in Dropbox in Walk Registers. The data is accessible by SWG committee members that are involved in the process of managing membership and communications, specifically the Treasurer, Secretary and PRO. Membership data is retained for 12 months after a membership lapses.

Consent

Members have already implicitly given their consent to this data being stored by completing their annual membership form. From 2019 the form will be modified to make this consent explicit. Non-members will be asked to give their consent on a one-time basis and thereafter as they are added to the contact list.

Individuals' Rights

Members and non-members have the right to:

- Be removed from the list;
- See what information is stored (on them);
- Have their history deleted;
- Change details

This document is published on the SWG website to allow members and others to understand how their data is managed, and their rights as above, also providing contact details for inquiries and expectations for response time.

Governance

The SWG secretary acts as the data protection officer who makes sure all the processes are being undertaken as described, and responds to queries.

Appendix 3 - Treasurer's Report

Skibbereen Walking Group

Treasurers Report 01/11/2017 - 31/10/2018

	Income €	Expenditure €
Opening Balance 1/11/2017	1,781.69	
SWG Membership Received	3,588.00	
Other Income- Interest	1.86	
Other Income- Donation	4.00	
MI Expenditure	-2,486.82	
Other Expenditure	-104.19	
Closing Balance 31/10/2018	<u>2,784.54</u>	
 MEMBERSHIP INCOME		
76 members @ €36	2,736.00	
21 Family 2nd members @ €32	672.00	
18 Associates @ €10	180.00	
Total Actual Income Received	<u>3,588.00</u>	
96 MI Memberships @ €16.30	1,564.80	
96 MI Insurance @ €7.60	729.60	
75 Log Postage @ €4.00	300.00	
Early Bird discount	107.58	
Total MI Expenditure	<u>2486.82</u>	
DIRT		-0.73
Postage & Stationery		-74.46
Reconnaissance Exps		-29.00
Total other expenditure		<u>-104.19</u>

Appendix 4 - Environmental Officer's Report

On 30th November 2017 attended a Mountaineering Ireland strategy meeting in Mallow where we discussed different strategies. The end result was a 5 point strategy was developed.

- 1 Supporting Hillwalking and Developing Climbing.
- 2 Improving access.
- 3 Protecting the Mountain environment.
- 4 Training and Skills.
- 5 Modernising the Organisation.

In March this year attended the A G M of Mountaineering Ireland in Aherlow.

Cost of running the organisation was €1,068,377 for 2017/

Breakdown of membership fee,

€7.60 goes on Insurance

€6.30 General expenses.

€4.00 Mountain Log.

Coillte.No update on the re introduction of the Social and Environmental panels.

Plan to attend a Club Support Meeting organised by Mountaineering Ireland in Killarney on 29th Nov.

Appendix 5 - Walk Coordinator's Report

In 2017, and for several years before, the entire walks programme was coordinated by Charlie Crowley and this huge task is now spread across a team of five. So from Jan 2018 Road Walks have been coordinated by Margaret Ennis and Ann Whooley, Intermediate Walks by Charlie Crowley and Hill Walks by Adrian Thomas. During the Spring the Easy Walk was born and Donal O'Donovan took on the task of coordinating these. We'd all like to thank Charlie for his enthusiastic help in getting us up to speed quickly.

Since the previous AGM the running order has changed to IW, RW, HW, blank and "blank" is now frequently filled by an Easy Walk. The introduction of Easy Walks owes thanks to David and Marie Sprott to whom we are very grateful as are the many who have undertaken these leisurely perambulations! The Road Walks remain very popular come rain or shine and a dedicated hard core show up at the majority of walks along with many occasional faces depending on the route, location and weather. Some new and some old - all routes seem to be very well received. Intermediate Walks are still a relatively new innovation and are proving very popular with turnouts of 30+ not uncommon. One of the notable and commendable features of the IW is the coming together of the road walkers and the hill walkers, two groups that previously had relatively little overlap. Hats off to the inventors of the IW! The Hill Walk programme has visited some old favourites and some new and challenging routes. Sadly, the weather wiped out a few walks which were either diverted to a more sheltered location or turned into a challenge for the sturdiness of the participants and their wet weather gear. The HW programme is struggling for numbers and leaders and this will have to be a target for improvement 2019. Basically we have about four active leaders and a few occasionals and as we have agreed to have a leader and backup on each walk that's a challenge to organise. Unfortunately, five - eight is the typical number of walkers of late, and some of those are affiliates, so in 2019 we are going to make most of the hill walks a bit less challenging.

For 2019 we have a draft programme up to July and this will be circulated in a moment. Before we do so though it is worth mentioning that it isn't just Hill Walks programme that has leader problems. There are a number of members who typically lead four or five walks a year - applaud them! Sadly, there are over 50% of our members who simply never lead a walk - and that's a shame because every member should be able to lead to either an Easy or a Road Walk. Step forwards volunteers!

And finally, the Away Weekends. Last year we went to the Galtees and this spring they came to us. We had a great weekend walking in the Hungry Hill area, Garinish Island and around Glengarriff Woods. A huge thanks to Des, Paul, Adrian, Sue, Pip, Eric and Liz for leading walks on the Saturday and Sunday. The away weekend to Kerry didn't get off the ground but there is talk of heading to the Burren in the Spring - a good time for walking and seeing the wild flowers.

And finally, finally, if anyone would like to become a trainee walk coordinator please come forwards and we will get you involved!