



Torbay Rambling Club

AGM

Saturday 22nd November 2025 at Churston Golf Club

There were 61 members present and apologies had been received from 12 members. The meeting was chaired by Club Chairman, Rod Wilson.

1. Welcome

Rod welcomed members and gave a special welcome to new members attending their first AGM. He reminded members that 'In Case of Emergency' cards were available to complete and have laminated.

2. Minutes of 2024 AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on 30th November 2024 had been previously circulated to members. One amendment had been proposed by our outgoing Membership Secretary, Susie Cormac. She asked that under item 10 'Proposals to amend the Constitution', in the sentence 'The annual membership subscription was payable in advance by 1st November', the word 'by' be replaced by 'before' to clarify that subs should be paid by 31st October. The meeting was content to agree to this amendment. The amended minutes were then approved by the meeting and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters Arising

Maureen Chivers, Club Secretary, referred to a section of the Wednesday Walk Co-ordinator's report in last year's minutes. Peter Hancock had said that he was organising a repeat of the Club's inaugural walk in 1950. This would take place in November 2025 and he hoped to use it to raise money for Children in Need. As BBC Countryfile organises the Countryfile Ramble for Children in Need, Peter had been planning to contact the programme makers to see whether they would like to do a feature on the Club and the fact that we were celebrating our 75th anniversary. Maureen went on to say that the idea of linking the walk with Children in Need was not proceeded with. The planned walk was moved from November to October in the hope of better weather but the date coincided with a named storm, so the walk was postponed to Spring 2026. We did, however, have some involvement with Children in Need as we were invited by Radio Devon to provide walkers to take part in the 1000 mile challenge (local radio presenters walking 3-legged with people of interest). Maureen and Barbara each walked a short distance with BBC Radio Devon's

Michael Chequer, who conducted a live interview with Barbara which was broadcast on the radio. This led to Rod and Anne-Marie being invited to be interviewed on Radio Devon about the Club and its anniversary. This interview took place on 19th November, the 75th anniversary of the Club's inaugural walk.

4. Chairman's Report

Rod gave the following report:

2025 has been a significant year for Torbay Rambling Club. We have achieved 75 years of continuous existence since the Club was founded in 1950, making us one of the longest established rambling clubs in Britain. To mark our 75th anniversary we have had several activities including 2 holidays (one abroad), musical evenings, and many more events culminating in a lovely cream tea last week. which I will not go into here as Anne-Marie and Kevin will talk about them in their report. So, all in all, it has been a good year for the Club.

Having said this, the year has been over shadowed by the events of our former webmaster Cliff Howell doing his very best to sue the Club, Maureen and yours truly for negligence. According to our insurer's solicitors, we did everything within our power to ensure the safety of our walkers and they have informed Cliff that unless he comes up with significant new evidence there is no case for the Club to answer. Here I must say a sincere "thank you" to our acting Safety Officer Chris Brennan for his hard work in pursuing this matter on our behalf. I know that he has put in a monumental effort to persuade the solicitors to reverse their original decision of us accepting responsibility and paying up. *(At this point, Rod presented Chris with a gift from himself and Maureen in gratitude for all Chris's work on the matter)*

Next, I must acknowledge the input of our wonderful walk leaders; without their dedicated hard work there would be no Club. They have provided us with a fantastic programme of walks on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays which have covered a wide area along the South Coast and into Cornwall as well as many parts of Dartmoor. To all our walk leaders may I offer on behalf of the Club a very sincere "thank you" for your help in providing us with a varied and interesting walks programme. As a former walk leader myself, I know how difficult it can be to organise a walk but this is usually offset when members attending walks are heard chatting and laughing during the walk, which is very rewarding. This might be the place to make a further appeal for new walk leaders to volunteer to lead a walk Anyone who does so will receive training and support to ensure that their walk goes according to plan. Providing the Club's safety rules are adhered to, there should be no problem with any legalities which might arise.

Over the last year we have lost one or two long standing members and our thoughts and condolences go out to their loved ones and relatives.

Finally, I must acknowledge the hard work of our committee members. To Adam, Hazel, Peter and Teresa for co-ordinating our walks programme and keeping it up to date, assisted by Paul H and Denise M; to Susie who has done a really good job as Membership Secretary and wishes to step down as of this meeting; to Anne-Marie and Kevin for organising a marvellous selection of social events; to Chris B for his hard work as Club Treasurer and Acting Safety Officer; finally to

our wonderful secretary Maureen who somehow manages to keep right on top of things and lets everyone know what is going on within the Club. To all those I must add my sincere thanks for their loyal support to me in particular and to the Club in general.

Rod then presented Susie with a gift from the Club in recognition of her years of service on the Committee.

5. Financial Report

Chris Brennan, Club Treasurer, had prepared detailed and summary financial statements which had been circulated to members and are attached to these minutes. He reminded members that the name of the Club was Torbay Rambling Club, NOT Torbay Ramblers. It was important that the correct name of the Club was used. This year, we had had to pay for a redesign of the Club sign erected in Royal Terrace Gardens because SWISCO had understood that we were 'Torbay Ramblers' and used that wording on the original design. Chris gave the following report for the year 1st November 2024 – 31st October 2025 (24/25).

This report comes with a single page Summary Finances sheet and a two page More Detailed Finances sheet for those who want to know where the £6960.01 paid in came from and where the £11,010.17 paid out, went.

The fact that I changed my car in March is irrelevant. So, let me walk you through the finances.

Easy report - Everything is fine, under control and we have ended the year with more than last year. The £1000 legacy from the estate of previous Chair, Derek Hexter, arrived and has contributed half the cost of our 75th Anniversary Party and Cream Tea and the whole cost of the plaques on Rock Walk. We have £173 left.

Moderate report – At the end of our last financial year on 31st October 2024 we had £8213.34 in the bank, this year we have finished with £4163.18, so you might disbelieve me if I say we are much better off this year, but it's true.

That £8213 included £3763 for members' Brittany holiday earlier this year and £1300 for last year's Christmas Party. £3150 of it was Club Funds of which about £2000 reserves.

This year we have £3980 of Club Funds including perhaps £2300 of reserves, depending on our budget for 25/26.

Harder report – The membership fee has gone up to £10 after being £7 for 10 years, which raises about £450. Club events made a small surplus of £154.01. Our bank, Lloyds, started charging us a minimum £4.25 a month in February.

We donated £75 to Dartmoor National Park and £75 to the South West Coast Path Association and I intend to propose those again and add £50 to the Dartmoor Rescue Group who will be coming to talk to us in March.

Our Club income is front loaded. We receive most of our subscriptions in the previous financial year and spend them the year after. Our year end finances pay for most of next year's Club expenditure; the remainder is a reserve. Is a reserve of £2300 too much?

No. This year we have had to contend with the possibility of having to pay for website maintenance. We were quoted locally £97 per hour + VAT.

And more importantly we also considered seeking our own legal advice recently with the personal injury claim and may need to in future if we want to become an incorporated body, solicitors'

fees can be £242 per hour and a paralegal £139. Those sorts of costs would eat up our small reserve very quickly.

6. Social Secretaries' Report

Anne-Marie Cochrane gave the following report:

This has been a very special year for us being the 75th anniversary year of TRC. It has to be remembered that we wouldn't have such a vibrant social calendar without the help of you, the members, pitching in and this year many of you have stepped up to help to ensure that it has been an enjoyable and memorable year.

This report includes special thanks for those of you who have helped to stage each event and make them so successful.

In addition, we need to remember the hard work that goes on behind the scenes and give a special thank you to Maureen our hard-working secretary and to Chris Brennan, our club treasurer who does a stellar job taking payments and making bookings on our behalf. Without them, these events would not take place.

- **Oh So Easy walks**

A big thank you to Helen U, Sylvia, Maureen and Paul S for helping me to put on these monthly social walks. They were initially popular but as attendance dropped, it was decided that they had run their course. At the present time therefore, there will be no further Oh So Easy walks

- **December: Christmas Party**

A big thank you to Chris H for arranging both last year's party which was a huge success and also for putting on the event again this year. Some of us enjoyed an overnight stay at the hotel and it was brilliant sharing breakfast and memories of the night's celebration.

- **Sunday 16th February: Sunday lunch and games afternoon**

Thank you to David Lamb for organising this afternoon. I didn't get to go myself but understood that it was a pleasant afternoon.

- **Monday 12th to Friday 16th May: Trip to Brittany**

What a fabulous holiday!! Everybody who came really enjoyed themselves. The weather was kind, the scenery stunning and the company great. Thanks to Paul who helped me arrange this trip and to Chris B who spent hours filling in booking forms and co-ordinating with Brittany Ferries.

- **Saturday 21st June 2025**

A very enjoyable day out paddling up the Dart in canoes. The weather was glorious and scenery beautiful. A lot of laughs were enjoyed along with cocktails at the Maltsters Arms and a brew-up on the banks of the Dart. Thanks to Denise for organising.

- **Saturday 28th June 2025**

75th anniversary celebration party at St George's church hall. 52 of us came along to this event. We enjoyed a delicious buffet by Seaside Catering while being entertained by Howard. Everyone joined in with the party spirit by participating in games old and new. Fun was had by all.

Thanks to Howard and the band of willing helpers on the day: Rod, Maggie, Hazel, Teresa, Peter.

- **Thursday 10th July 2025**

River boat trip on the Dart. We left from Steamer Quay in Totnes and enjoyed a relaxing cruise down the Dart to Dartmouth. The commentary was entertaining and the scenery a delight to behold. We were treated to sightings of seals, herons, egrets and Canada geese to name a few. Thank you to Gail for arranging this super event.

In addition to our 75th anniversary celebrations, Paul Scott has kindly put on two fish and chip supper evenings at the Bowling Club in Paignton, one in the spring and one to celebrate the end of summer. Paul and his friend Phil entertained us with live music while we ate our supper and then fun was had by all as we dug out our best disco dance moves. These evenings were well-received, and fun was had by all.

- **Monday 6th to Friday 10th October 2025: St Austell holiday**

The Torbay Rambling Club had a great holiday in St Austell, with good weather and impressive views of both coastline and countryside. A particular memory was having a giggle as we waded through deep slimy mud as we approached Heligan Gardens. However, we decided that it wouldn't be a proper ramble without a bit of mud!! On arrival in Mevagissey, we were rewarded with treats of ice-cream and cider before returning by bus.

Following a stunning morning walk along the coast from Charlestown, some of us enjoyed an afternoon learning about the history of the area while others continued onto Carlyon Bay for coffee on the somewhat tropical looking beach.

Evenings were spent socialising over meals, quizzes and games. Giggles were shared at some cheeky answers!! It was particularly entertaining in the mornings sharing banter with our Italian breakfast waiter.

During ten pin bowling, we made an impressive noise whenever a member scored a spare, much to the surprise of the youngsters present.

Special thanks to all who helped make this holiday so successful, including our fabulous walk leaders—Kevin, Wanda, Maureen, Teresa, Chris H, Christian, Hazel, and myself—as well as Chris B and Maureen for organising.

- **Saturday 15th November 2025**

75th Anniversary Cream Tea at the Livermead House Hotel with delicious warm scones, lashings of cream and jam and a very tasty anniversary cake.

Thank you to Teresa and Hazel for organising this.

Future events

- **Friday 5th December** As already mentioned our annual Christmas party
- **An evening with Dartmoor Search and Rescue 20th March 2026**

- **Gangsters and Molls evening** similar to the evening at Churston Golf Club pre-pandemic
- **Menorca Holiday 26th September 2026**

Thank you to Teresa for organising this holiday which is now fully booked.

What else would members like?

- Another board games evening/afternoon
- A talk by The Seal Project
- Crazy golf
- Coach trip

So, to summarise, the events wouldn't happen without your support, you, the members, who throw yourselves in with enthusiasm to anything offered. If you are able to help put on other events, have ideas for events or are happy to lead on a club walk, please let us know.

7. Acting Safety Officer's Report

Chris Brennan explained that his background meant that he was well-versed in civil and criminal law. He then gave the following report, which had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting:

Four years ago, I joined the Committee as Safety Officer and spent two years trying to protect us all... from ourselves.

What does that mean? Torbay Rambling Club doesn't exist, not in legal terms anyway, it can't make contracts, it can't be sued. It is its members, literally. Every one of us could be sued for a TRC related matter. Just the same as we could in our daily lives, and with unlimited liability.

Let's just think about a worst-case scenario. Members rambling two abreast down a lane cause a car crash in which a 30-year-old father of 2 dies. What damages could be payable? Loss of £50,000 per year wages for 50 years would be £2.5 million.

Fortunately, we have Sports Club insurance for claims up to £5 million for death or injury, which in our case, as there is no Club entity, identifies the following as covered:

The insured	"The Committee for the time being of Torbay Rambling Club"
Our employees	"a voluntary worker engaged with your permission" – a walk leader
Our members	All of us, including past members who were members at the time of the incident

It's important to stress this is public liability insurance not personal liability. It is covering situations where member negligence has caused injury to someone else.

I need to get to the point, which is a very important one. Our insurance is very good, but it won't apply if we don't -

- take reasonable steps to prevent accident or injury
- make every reasonable effort to minimise any loss, damage or liability.
- tell the insurers within seven days of any incident which may give rise to a claim

Those reasonable steps are the reason we have written and strengthened our Safe Rambling Code and introduced Walk Leader guidance with its risk assessment and pre-walk talk amongst other

things. It is vital that all of these are followed by all members and walk leaders, which is why we are proposing a name change to Rules and a full review, to include our disclaimer (as it is inapplicable for death or personal injury) and a better incident reporting protocol.

You are most likely to be sued by a fellow member. As was the case recently when an ex-member instituted a formal claim protocol against our Chair and Secretary. It was a lot of work to compile a successful written response, and he still has 3 years from the accident to try again.

Many have said how fortunate we were that Maureen was the Walk Leader, because she did things properly with a risk assessment, pre-written pre-walk talk and reminder warnings during the walk, although, no fault of hers, the published walk information was incomplete.

We need to be confident that **every** walk the Club offers meets our standards in order to protect all of us. Remember, we will all be protected if we all follow the rules.

8. Walk Co-ordinators' Reports

Wednesdays

Peter Hancock gave his report:

I'm pleased to say that all our Wednesday walks were successfully completed. Sometimes we have had to amend the walk to accommodate our forever-changing climate. In the last few months we have enjoyed an excellent summer and then a mild autumn which has started to change only in the last couple of weeks.

Our numbers have increased, with some new members joining us. On some walks we have had around 18 walkers. We have encouraged car share on those walks that are further afield, so making some Dartmoor walks available to those who do not drive or do not have the luxury of a bus pass.

A big thank you please for the walk leaders; without them these walks would not be possible. They put in a lot of their precious time planning and doing their recces to enable us to walk safely. However, I must emphasise that walkers must follow the guidelines of our Safe Rambling code. These includes appropriate footwear, use of poles and especially walking in single file on roads and paying attention to traffic. Only cross the road when it is safe to do so.

Some of our walk leaders are having to stand down due to health concerns and I thank them for their support to the Club over many years.

We are always looking to recruit new walk leaders. If you are interested, I plan to offer a Club Walk Leaders Training Course in the Spring. This takes a couple of hours over coffee during which I can explain the relevant skills to give you confidence to take up the mantle. After this we will do a walk where, again, I will point out details to help make your walks safe and enjoyable. The course will take only around 4 hours - the time of an average walk. Without introducing new walk leaders, the Club will not function properly.

Also, I am happy to continue in this post for the next year. However, I would like someone to take over from me at the next AGM. So, if you are interested, I'm willing to mentor you over this year. Paul Hover has been helping me and will be available to help you in the future.

Sundays

Adam Smith reported as follows:

To start with both Denise and I would like to acknowledge all the hard work and effort which people have put in and not forgetting the walk leaders over the past twelve months.

The walks programme inevitably had to be altered in view of the unusually hot and dry conditions of the second three months of 2025.

Thank you to Heather and Martin for putting on the East Prawle to Portlemouth walk on Sunday 28th September 2025, a 9 to 10 mile walk with dramatic scenery near Gammon Head and walking alongside the Salcombe Estuary.

The linear walk from South Brent to Ivybridge via Ugborough Beacon and the River Erme, which had been introduced to our set of walks, did prove to be a success. The return by the Sunday service of the number 80 bus to South Brent worked out well.

It's a pity that the various walks at the beginning of October to mark the 75th Anniversary did not happen. We shall of course look forward to the rescheduled date sometime after New Year (at Berry Head, Brixham).

It would be good to mention Paul H, particularly his ideas for walks both on Dartmoor and the South Hams. Once again Richard W has been invaluable to the Sunday Walkers. Earlier this year he took a group of walkers on the Jurassic Coast, which required arranging an overnight stay. Furthermore, Richard has now virtually completed the Dartmoor 365 Challenge which effectively means that since January 2025 he has visited almost every one of the 365 square mile squares into which Dartmoor 365 divides Dartmoor National Park.

Saturdays

Teresa Allden gave her report:

Firstly, I would like to thank all walk leaders who have made Hazel's and my job as Saturday Walk Coordinators a lot easier and would be grateful for their continued support in the future. The time and effort they give is much appreciated. Also, I would thank everyone who came on the walks and the appreciation they show. I am pleased to see that the Club has new members this year - much needed to keep the Club going. If they are interested, I would encourage those members and, of course, existing members, to participate in Peter's walk leader training. I found it most useful and it gave me the confidence I needed to become a walk leader and contribute to the club we love. Hazel and I would support them initially on their walks, as I know Peter does. As Peter has said, I would like to re-iterate the importance of the Safe Rambling Code and the importance of following it.

9. Election of Officers

Rod said that the following members of the current Committee were standing for re-election:

Chair – Rod Wilson

Secretary – Maureen Chivers

Treasurer – Chris Brennan

Social Secretary – Anne-Marie Cochrane and Kevin Cochrane (job share)

Sunday Walks Co-ordinator – Adam Smith

Wednesday Walks Co-ordinator – Peter Hancock and Paul Hover (job share)

Saturday Walks Co-ordinator – Teresa Allden and Hazel Langford (job share)

No other nominations had been received for any of the above offices. Rod suggested that, in accordance with previous practice, we vote for those offices en bloc. The meeting was content to proceed in this manner.

Proposal: That the above-named members be elected to the offices stated against each name

Proposed: Mandy Lindsay

Seconded: Maggie Wilson

The proposal was carried.

Membership Secretary

One nomination had been received for this position, namely Sam Cook.

Proposal: That Sam Cook be elected Membership Secretary of Torbay Rambling Club

Proposed: Susie Cormac

Seconded: Barrie Chivers

The proposal was carried

Safety Officer

One nomination had been received for this position, namely Barbara Mitchell.

Proposal: That Barbara Mitchell be elected Safety Officer of Torbay Rambling Club

Proposed: Chris Hawes

Seconded: Angela Poulton

The proposal was carried

Webmaster

One nomination had been received for this position, namely Nigel Jamieson.

Proposal: That Nigel Jamieson be elected Webmaster for Torbay Rambling Club

Proposed: Denise Moore

Seconded: Lucy Wilding

The proposal was carried

10. Appointment of Auditor

George Coles had volunteered to act as Auditor for Torbay Rambling Club.

Proposal: That George Coles be appointed Auditor for Torbay Rambling Club

Proposed: Claire Savaryn

Seconded: Tony Moloney

The proposal was carried

11. Proposals to amend the Constitution

Chris Brennan explained that the Committee was proposing three amendments to the Constitution:

1. Clarifying that annual subscription renewal payments are due by 31st October.
2. Renaming the Club's "Policies" as "Rules"
3. Reducing the Data Protection section of the Constitution and moving the detail to a new section of the Rules.

1. Clause 3a. Membership

Chris said that the Club's year ends on 31st October, therefore that should be clearly stated as the final date for subscription renewals

PROPOSAL

In Clause 3a delete 'on 1st November' and replace it with 'by 31st October'. The Clause will then read

'Any adult with an interest in rambling may join the Club on payment in advance of the annual subscription, renewable by 31st October every year.'

2. Clause 10. Policies

Chris explained that for many years the Club had only its Constitution as a guiding document, but in 2022, 'Policies' were introduced. To be frank they are rules. They need to be abided with, for example, breaches of the Safe Rambling Code and Walk Leaders guidance recognised as breaking the rules of the Club.

PROPOSAL

Change the word 'policies' to 'rules' everywhere it appears in Clause 10, Clause 8 (Finances) and Clause 3 (Membership)

3. Clause 9. Data Protection

Chris told the meeting that data protection legislation changed in the Summer with the passing of the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025 and new guidance from the Information Commissioner was awaited this winter.

Most of the existing clause 9 was our official Privacy Notice (though we do not call it that) and being in the Constitution means it could be amended only at an AGM.

The proposal was therefore to include here in the Constitution a general commitment to members' data protection and create a separate new data protection section in our Rules.

PROPOSAL

Delete current Clause 9 and insert new Clause 9:

9. Data Protection

We respect members' privacy and are committed to maintaining the security of personal information and ensuring it is used fairly, lawfully and transparently for specified explicit purposes.

Torbay Rambling Club's Data Protection Privacy Notice and Privacy Policy can be found in the Club's Rules

Proposal: This meeting adopts the proposed revisions to the Constitution

Proposed: Torbay Rambling Club Committee

As the Constitution states that any amendment to the Constitution requires a majority of at least two-thirds of the members voting thereon, a show of hands was asked for, so that votes could be counted. **The proposal was passed unanimously.**

12. Pace of Walks

Peter Hancock stated that there had been concern that some members were walking at a slow pace, spoiling the walk for other members. The back marker needed to keep walkers ahead in view in accordance with the Club's Safe Rambling Code. It was the responsibility of all members, before attending any walk, to make sure that they were fit enough to complete it. It was pointed out that the Safe Rambling Code required walkers to 'walk at a reasonable pace'. The question was raised as to whether it was Club policy to walk at the pace of the slowest walker. It was clarified that this was not Club policy. However, as walk leaders would stop to allow the slower walkers to catch up, the slower walkers did determine the overall pace of the walk and some potential members trying out our walks could be put off by a slow pace. A suggestion had been raised at a Committee meeting that, rather than allowing potential members to join three walks before applying to join the Club, we should insist on them joining three walks before making a membership application and, if they consistently walked slowly we could signpost them to other walking groups more suited to their pace. This would involve walk leaders giving feedback to the Safety Officer.

The question was raised as to whether there were any circumstances in which it was acceptable to walk in front of the walk leader. While our Safe Rambling Code says 'Walk behind the leader and in front of the back marker', in pre-walk talks we say 'Abide by the Safe Rambling Code, normally walking behind the leader'. This is because there may be occasions when the leader will need to hang back for a particular purpose. On such occasions he or she will give walkers permission to go on ahead and stop at a specified point. Any walker walking ahead of the leader without such permission will be deemed to have left the walk.

13. Open Questions to Committee

Angela Jones asked whether anyone was walking the South Hams Way. Maureen replied that she had circulated to members information about this new 100 mile walking route around the South Hams. The launch ceremony and mass walk of Section 1 of the route (Totnes – Buckfastleigh) had clashed with one of our own walks, but several of our number had attended and had a good day. Section 1 was 7.5 miles long with good transport links to each end and would certainly make a suitable walk for our walks programme, although Maureen would not advise including it in the winter programme because of one very steep downhill stretch through a field. She was unsure as to how feasible it was to include the other sections in our programme. She mentioned that another route, the John Musgrave Heritage Trail, would be celebrating its 20th anniversary the following year and we hoped to walk the whole of that trail in sections during the year.

Jacqui Beevers asked how beneficial it had been to be affiliated to the national organisation The Ramblers while dealing with the claim against two officers of the Club. Chris Brennan replied that it had been of no benefit at that stage, as The Ramblers do not see us as part of their organisation. Individual members of local Ramblers groups join the national organisation (£45 a year for individual members) whereas we have our own membership and pay an affiliation fee of £77, which affords us a discount of about £150 on the Club's insurance.

Barrie Chivers asked whether walk leaders are covered by the Club's insurance when conducting a recce. Chris Brennan replied that they were.

14. Any Other Business

Walks Database

Richard Wilson said that within the Club we had walk leaders with a lot of knowledge and experience. Some had come to the point where health issues were leading them to step down from leading walks and it would be good if the walks they had brought to the Club could be preserved, enabling other walk leaders to expand their repertoire of walks. He therefore suggested that we look into the creation of a walks database. Members were asked for ideas as to tools which we could use to create such a database. Nigel Jamieson, the Club's newly-elected Webmaster favoured using Plotaroute. Another suggestion was OS Maps. When choosing how to proceed, a consideration would be how easily those needing to access the walks would be able to do so. The idea of a walks database was well-received by the meeting so would be discussed at the next meeting of the Committee.

Use of a Disclaimer

In his report as Acting Safety Officer, Chris had mentioned that the Committee was proposing a full review of the rules to include our disclaimer. The Sunday walkers had been discussing the use of a disclaimer, not simply as a sentence in the Club Rules, but as a document that all walkers would sign and which would be particularly useful in the case of potential members, unfamiliar with the Club, coming along for a trial walk. Richard Wilson had produced such a document and shared it with those walking on Sundays. Following a positive response from them, he had submitted it to the Committee for consideration. He said that many of his Dartmoor walks were similar to those put on by highly qualified Dartmoor guides who would charge £25 per person for a walk. Our walk leaders could not be judged on the same level as such guides. It would therefore be good to have a document explaining what walkers could and could not expect from the walk leader and also outlining the walker's own responsibility to be properly equipped and undertake only those walks for which they were sufficiently fit. If a potential member contacts the walk leader in advance, it can be possible to explore their walking experience and level of fitness and perhaps discourage them from joining a particular walk. However, sometimes people just turn up and in such cases it would be particularly helpful to have a simple disclaimer/acceptance of risk form for them to sign. Peter Hancock said that when he was an accredited walk leader for the English Riviera Walking Festival, all those joining the Festival walks had been required to sign a form. Newly-elected Club Safety Officer Barbara Mitchell was happy to take this idea forward, seeking advice from our insurance company as to its use. It was suggested that Barbara could work with a small working party, including Richard, to devise a suitable document.

It was mentioned that we do not take a register of walkers, as some groups do. We should consider doing so.

These matters would be placed on the agenda of the next Committee meeting.

Christmas Party

Peter Hancock said that someone who had booked for this Christmas party would no longer be attending. If anyone was interested in taking over this place, they should speak with him or contact Christine Hague.

Brixham Railway Heritage Trail

George Coles spoke about the Brixham Railway Heritage Trail Project in which he is involved <https://brixhamrailwaytrail.org.uk/> . The plan was to create a footpath linking Churston and the American Lane using the Brixham Branch Line closed in 1963. The volunteers had started clearing the old railway track. George had leaflets about the Project available.

Walk Grades

Chris Brennan referred to the Club's system of grading walks as Easy, Moderate and Harder. The majority of walks were graded 'Moderate' and these ranged widely in level of difficulty. He asked whether there was an appetite for more choices of grade, including one which would effectively be 'Moderate Plus'. This suggestion was welcomed. Nigel Jamieson said that the online walks programme could be adapted to include more choices of walk grade.

Maggie Wilson expressed thanks to the Committee for all the time and effort they put into their work for the Club, especially during the last year which had been a difficult time for Committee members and, indeed, for their partners. Members responded with applause.

Signed: (Club Chairman)

Date: