

Volkssporting Association of British Columbia  
Annual General Meeting  
7:00 pm, Saturday May 7, 2005  
Peachland Community Centre, 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Peachland

Attendance:

Board members: Joan Sanderson, Sheila Dawe, Ethel Hansen, Kaye Farmer, Manfred Koestlmaier

Voting members:

Bastion City Wanderers: Catherine Campbell

Comox Glacier Wanderers: Shirley Wallis

Garden City Wanderers: Brenda Waksel

Mid Island: Paul Churchill

Mount Cheam: Lesley Slot

Northern Lights Pacers: Brenda Dudfield

Peachland: Tom Nickerson

Richmond Trailblazers: Maria Koestlmaier

Surrey Trekkers: Len Colebert

Vancouver 'Venturers: Verni Brown

Vic "Y": Rodger Lefevre

Wine Country: Arne Roosen

Observing attendees: Sheerah Lefevre, Frank Dudfield, Peg MacMillan, Rod MacMillan, Gilberte Bourk-Jones, John Slot, Murray Farmer, Louise Davis, Dave Gardiner, Colin Miles, Gord Keeble

1. Call to Order:
  - a. A moment of silence was observed for walkers that have passed away in the last year, including Eva Folk, Hans Treffers, John Duncan, Magne Svangtun
  - b. Verification of the attendance was confirmed. Twelve clubs are represented.
2. Agenda:
  - a. Additions to agenda. Under New Business – Other
    - i. "collection of information for clubs in 2006".
    - ii. Volkssporting brochure
    - iii. Presentation of past president pins.
  - b. Adoption of agenda. Len Colebert motioned the adoption of the agenda, Shirley Wallis 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, and it was passed by unanimous vote.
3. AGM, 2004:
  - a. Approval of minutes. Brenda Waksel motioned the minutes to be accepted, Verni Brown 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, and it was passed by unanimous vote.
  - b. Business arriving from the Minutes – there was none.

#### 4. Reports:

##### c. President:

Last year the bylaws were rewritten. They were sent in to the Government in June after the AGM. The government didn't accept them. They asked that "borrowing" be put back in the bylaws. Within the bylaws when referring to the Society as VABC had to be changed back to "the society". They suggested that the new bylaws be sent out by e-mail vote. The government approved the e-mail message. 15 clubs voted by e-mail and 14 accepted the changes. The new bylaws were registered as of Jan 4, 2005.

Ethel presented some of the motions that will be presented at the CVF AGM. There is a motion to change the rules around round and long distance walks. Ethel discussed that she has been involved in the awards committee that the CVF presents to volunteers. She is also involved in the new Lighthouse Walks which will begin in 2006. Ethel asked the floor if there were any other suggestions for specialty walks. CVF have reworked the club guidelines and hopefully they will be sent out in the future.

From CVF the new business that was presented to club presidents was that the waiver sheets will have to be kept a minimum of 3 years. Ethel reminded the presidents that the sheets should have some kind of identification on them such as the date and/or the name of the walk.

Ethel was able to get to some of the clubs AGM's last year. She was also invited to attend a meeting with the Vancouver Island Recreation Corridor Group. They are presenting 4 different trails with ecocenters and charges for using the route and/or facilities. They wanted VABC support financially. The VABC board of directors decided to decline supporting them financially.

Ethel thanked the Vancouver Venturers Volkssporting Club, Richmond Trailblazers, Mount Cheam Volkssporting Club and Garden City Wanderers Volkssporting Club for donations to the VABC.

To recap all that was done in the past years by the VABC. The 1<sup>st</sup> year of Ethel's term VABC introduced the Walk BC program. The 2<sup>nd</sup> year the bylaws were rewritten, and during this 3<sup>rd</sup> year she looks forward to changing the way that walk information is collected from the club presidents. Ethel would like to thank the executive for their support in the last two years. Ethel asked if there were any questions or comments.

Dave Gardiner of Surrey Trekkers Volkssporting Club wanted to state that he didn't object to the bylaws but objected to the method of voting. He would like to see no adoption of mail in votes, no adoption of e-mail votes as no signature is involved. An open discussion was held at the 2004 AGM but after they weren't accepted due to changes the e-mail vote was the only alternative. Dave Gardiner then stated that a club member can be any member of a club. He also stated that a person cannot hold more than 3 proxys. He also stated that every change should have been itemized.

Verni Brown of Vancouver Venturers Volkssporting Club enquired as to how many walks/clubs are participating in the Lighthouse program. Ethel answered that there are 6 clubs: Juan de Fuca Pathfinders Volkssporting Club; Garden City Wanderers Volkssporting Club; Victoria Y Volkssporting Club;

Bastion City Wanderers Volkssporting Club; Vancouver Venturers Volkssporting Club; and Richmond Trailblazers Volkssporting Club.

d. Treasurer:

Albena Howie was unable to attend. A 14 page document of the financial report was handed out to the attendees. Albena stated that if anyone had any questions then they could e-mail her. The highlights are that less money from the CVF for 2004 due to fewer walks sanctioned. April 10<sup>th</sup> the bank balance was \$6368. Mailing costs were high from sending out magazines.

e. Material Manager: \$414 of VABC inventory. CVF items on consignment such as pins, books, etc. are marked up a bit and there is \$2744 on hand. We will be increasing supply of CVF items such as clothing. Extra VABC inventory of arrows on sale for 10 cents each.

f. Sanction Coordinator: Kaye Farmer presented 10 pages of statistics. Things are going smoothly, thanks to the clubs. There were some delays this year originating with CVF. In 2005 the event walks are down. Event participation is on the decline. Our goal must be to increase participation. For Footnotes it is important that information comes in early. There will always be changes.

g. Web Site Coordinator: Bruce Hawkes was unable to attend. Ethel presented his report on his behalf. He has an older version of Excel which makes it difficult to make changes to the spreadsheet. Because of the older version excess information was cut off. He feels that he can't do the job adequately until his computer is updated. Any changes will be sent to Ethel Hansen.

4. New Business:

a. Discussion of motions submitted to CVF.

i. Motion from Juan de Fuca Pathfinders about mid-seasonal events. They want a 4-6 month at \$75 plus \$8 for insurance. The downfall is if clubs only offer seasonals. It was suggested that the clubs discuss the issue among their own clubs.

ii. Motion re: National Walking Day. A VABC motion on behalf of Victoria Y Volkssporting Club that the National Walking Day become a weekend instead of a day. Separate stamps for each day.

iii. Motion that round and long distance walks follow the IVV guidelines which gives 1 credit stamp per 40 km.

b. Discussion of Ways to Improve Club Activities:

Brenda Waksel presented a report on why The Garden City Wanderers Volkssporting Club seems to have success in participation.

She asks 2 questions: "Why do some walks get more members?" and "Why we lose members?" How do get people to stay? Get people involved. Well organized walks. Themed such as winery walks, brewery walks, pumpkins and Swiftsure. Introduced shorter distances. Advertise in every free publication. South Island summary. YRE booklet. 2 brochures, one geared for new member and one just for the YREs. Calender. New walkers are welcomed and veteran walkers walk with them. Usually have

food involved. Evening walks twice per week. This year they got involved in the Times Colonist 10K. Encourage collecting credit, they give 1<sup>st</sup> green book free when they buy their first blue book.

- c. Other:
  - i. Collection of information: Less paperwork and be able to edit what goes to CVF. E-mail spreadsheet. We are working on methods after we talk with CVF.
  - ii. Brochure: We would like feedback. Potential use and whether we should go ahead with producing the brochures. Should VABC pay?
  - iii. Pins would be presented after the election.
5. Club reports were presented.
6. Elections:
  - a. President. Nomination for Ethel Hansen. A call for any other nomination from the floor. 2<sup>nd</sup> call. 3<sup>rd</sup> call. Ethel is elected.
  - b. Vice President. A call for any nomination from the floor. 2<sup>nd</sup> call. 3<sup>rd</sup> call. The position will remain vacant.
  - c. Secretary. Nomination for Brenda Dudfield. A call for any other nomination from the floor. 2<sup>nd</sup> call. 3<sup>rd</sup> call. Brenda is elected.
  - d. Director – Editor of Volkssporting BC Magazine. Nomination for Sheila Dawe. A call for any other nomination from the floor. 2<sup>nd</sup> call. 3<sup>rd</sup> call. Sheila is elected.
  - e. Director – Publicity and Marketing. A call for any nomination from the floor. 2<sup>nd</sup> call. 3<sup>rd</sup> call. The position will remain vacant.
7. Next meeting: None volunteered from the floor. Tentatively the date will be proposed to be April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006.
8. Adjournment: Shirley Wallis motioned to adjourn, Len Colebert 2<sup>nd</sup> it, and it was passed by unanimous vote.

Minutes respectively submitted by

Sheila Dawe  
Secretary of the VABC.