

South Gwent Ramblers

Minutes of the committee meeting held on 13 July 2000

Members present - Ken Phillips (KP), Brian Williams (BW), Ray Cantwell (RC), Fred Fee (FF), Val Clark (VC), Keith Cooper (KC), Ian Reese (IR), Andrew Wilmott (AM).

Apologies for absence from Kath Sadler and Adrian Sheehan

Adopt-a-Path Scheme. KP introduced Matthew Hamer, the Countryside Officer of Newport CC. Matthew explained that he had been fully occupied bringing statutory requirements up to scratch to date, but now had some time to introduce and oversee the Adopt-a-Path Scheme. Under the scheme, volunteers agree to look after an allotted length of pathway by inspecting the path and reporting any faults to Matthew. Inspection would be at the volunteers' discretion, but would likely involve walking the path on three or so occasions per year. If a volunteer was minded, a certain amount of pruning to prevent stiles &c becoming overgrown would be appreciated. More seriously overgrown paths would be cleared by the Council. We agreed to provide volunteers to accompany Matthew on an evening walk locally so that Matthew could give us a feel of what was involved and what to report, and so that the volunteers would be in a position to give any further volunteers the benefit of what they learned from Matthew. A date of 30 August was set for the walk. Matthew was enthusiastic about the scheme and his job in general. He would accept reports on a form (sample form is attached) or simply by telephone. It was clear that he favoured a minimum of bureaucracy. We thanked Matthew who had to go before the end of the meeting.

Minutes of last meeting were adopted.

Matters arising from the minutes

para 4ci KP spoke to Kieron O'Hagen and a letter was sent to John Ridley.

para 4d KP and KC sent lists to Adrian.

para 7 KP has investigated and found that the Whitehead club is too big.

Officers' reports

Secretary KP

The Festival of Winter walks has been a success and **Adrian could arrange one.**

Jill has volunteered a Christmas walk round Tintern with a meal at the Huntsman.

Walk and Talk. **KC will investigate and answer to the RA.**

Walks leaders checklist IR noted an RA training course in May. **IR said that he**

could do a training walk and is to liaise with Adrian. RC noted that Adrian attended a non-RA course in Cardiff that he said was excellent.

Several RA and related newsletters and bulletins were received. Subscription charges are pegged and Scottish Access is going well. **Adrian is to reply to a request to sent the Welsh Office a list of walks.**

See also attached correspondence sheet.

Treasurer BW

£2002 is in the current account after donations to Oxfam (£20), Pentre farm appeal (£100) and Tenovus (£20). BW showed letters of thanks from the recipients of the donations. The London coach trip made a slight deficit (£30 reduced by a raffle held by KP). A box of chocolates was presented to the tour leader. BW also showed the calculations from Area for the Group allocation of funds from RA (attached).

A donation to the Coed Craig Ruperra appeal has been agreed, but BW does not have an address for the appeal - **RC to advise.**

BW notes that the current account receives no interest. 1% is available from Monmouthshire BS and 3% gross without a cheque book, but with cash and BS cheque facilities. BW to start Monmouth BS account as well as the current account.

Jill can no longer arrange for the walks programmes to be printed and has been billed for those printed in the last year. **Adrian can reproduce the programme at work for a cost.**

FF agreed to type the accounts.

Footpaths Officer RC underlined that Matthew Hamer wants to keep administration to a minimum; please report Adopt-a-Path problems as simply as possible.

Rambles Officer AS was not present. KP reported.

Lower Wye suggested that the Area is the way to go. **Adrian to tell Area that we are or are not doing.**

There is still a problem on walks with the odd individual unable to walk and unwilling to accept the fact.

RC noted that Jean and Arthur are sadly not walking at the moment, Arthur's knees having given up. (since the meeting, I seem to remember hearing that Arthur was recovering well from having operations on both knees - FF.)

The Arundel weekend trip was enjoyed by all ten who went and Beryl Beer is heartily congratulated for organising it. (KP said that the trip would feature in the next newsletter).

Membership Secretary VC reports that there is still no chart and that we have 167 members, 4 lapsed and 2 new.

Publicity Secretary Kath Sadler was not present. FF has made posters and distributed a few to some of those present.

AGMs

Group AGM is set for 19 October 2000 has been booked.

Area AGM is set for Saturday, 25 November 2000. Cwmcarn visitors' Centre is booked and

can supply tea and coffee. KP's wife and VC will provide sandwiches. Kieron O'Hagen will meet us at 10.30 am at the start of a walk lead by Adrian. On returning at about 1:30, a snack will be laid on before the meeting starts at 2:15. **KP will confirm the arrangements with Area.** The £20 cost of the room and other expenses, for example for food, will be billed to the Area.

Adrian is going to the Area meeting on 11 August and is looking for someone to accompany him. the meeting is discussing money held by Area part of which may be given to us.

London and Rhossili coach rambles. KP reports that five non-ramblers travelled and four went to the Planetarium with Brenda. Next year, from all accounts a full coach could easily be achieved. **KP to write to thank Irene who lead the tour in London.** KP will do the walk in Rhossili.

Any other business. IR showed us his arch file containing photocopies of the maps of all his walks. the maps are photocopies of OS maps that IR has annotated with the routes he has taken. He showed the maps as an encouragement to others to copy his method and eventually, perhaps to compile a library of walks lead by South Gwent Ramblers members.

Next Committee Meeting 26 September.

