

South Gwent Ramblers

Minutes of the committee meeting held on

19 January 2001

Members present - Brian Williams (BW), Ray Cantwell (RC), Fred Fee (FF), Keith Cooper (KC), Harvey Howard (HH), Andrew Wilmott (AW).

In the absence of Ken, FF chaired the meeting

Apologies for absence from Ian Reese, Ken Philips and Adrian Sheehan

Minutes of last meeting In item 4d Alan Booth's walk is on 18 February not 18 December and in item 4g fight should read rights in the third line of KC's report. In item 8 Rhiyadr should be spelt Rhayader. The minutes were adopted as amended.

Matters arising from the minutes

4a £200 donated.

4b £105 donated.

4d Lower Wye walks incorporated.

5 *Area AGM* KC noted that the showing from the Group was disappointingly sparse: otherwise the event went well.

6 *Group AGM* FF noted that the attendance was a selection of the committee plus one member- a very disappointing turnout.

8 KC has been in touch with the Four Wells Group and has to get back with numbers interested in going to Rhayader for the weekend beginning Friday 25 May and returning on Monday 28 May.

9 Adrian now cannot make the date of the walks meeting, so we changed it to Thursday 22 February.

Officers' reports

Secretary KP - see attached list of correspondence

Treasurer BW

BW reports that he has received letters from RA and the Friends of Ruperra thanking us for donations. Assets currently stand at £1484, down from £1889 at the start of the year because of donations, Christmas dos, administration costs and £52 costs of the Area AGM: a bill for the latter is on its way the Area.

BW and KC attended an Area Treasurers' meeting at which it was decided, after discussion, to stick to the current formula for allocating funds to Groups. Also, the RA are concerned that a lot of money is currently lying about in Group funds, albeit in small amounts per Group. The Charity Commissioners take a dim view of charitable funds being held without being used and the RA is under pressure from them to account for and use these funds rather

than let them lie. The RA envisage that each Group make a budget and return to the RA excess funds held, say the excess over 140% of budget, within three or four years. John Ridley gave an excellent account of problem points that arise from trying to do this. KC noted that all groups sent two representatives! He also thought that the system would increase bureaucracy and put off prospective committee members as a result. BW will continue without a budget as usual for the time being. John Ridley will take his ideas to an Area secretaries' meeting and report back to the Groups. Ken, having heard of the proposed claw-back, sent a note suggesting the following ways of spending our excess funds to the benefit of the group: (a) map library, (b) get prices for benches *in memoriam* of our members, (c) further Ruperra Trust donation and (d) wider publicity.

BW noted that Lower Wye get advertising revenue from their newsletter - see discussion under *Any Other Business* below.

Footpaths Officer RC - see attached sheet of footpaths activity.

July 8 is National Footpaths Day. **RC will contact Newport Council about a walk celebrating the achievements of Newport CC in this respect and contact the Argus about a possible story**

RC will adopt two footpaths in the Caerleon area as part of the Adopt-a-Path scheme. FF, BW and HH agreed join the scheme and AS has previously volunteered. **Leaders should seek volunteers among walkers** .

RC will keep JR informed out of courtesy.

Rambles Officer Adrian Sheehan was absent, but KP sent a few notes as follows:

Penhow The 12 members who attended enjoyed a pleasant evening, especially the hot mince pies and punch.

The *Christmas Dinner* was well supported, the meal and company were excellent, but the guest singing was awful.

Christmas Walk Snow curtailed numbers, but the 12 who made it had an excellent walk and meal. Again thanks to Gill for organising the walk.

Committee should think about the programme for the coming year so that we have lots to discuss at the meeting in February.

At the meeting KC noted that:

Adrian is now Area Membership Secretary. He has been one of our representatives on the Area Committee.

The Area has a putative scheme for Groups to share walks and is seeking views on a database of walks leaders and their walks.

Membership Secretary VC was absent

Publicity Secretary KS was absent, but BW had seen tatty photocopies of our walks programme in the library and thought that we should print more copies of the programme. BW also reminded the committee that we were to have an advertising board at the library and that we should discuss this at the next meeting.

IT Officer's report KC

Up to to 18 January, the Group site had received 502 hits (384 since the last meeting).

Darrel Cox, the Sports and Information Officer of Newport CC, wants to link to our site and thought we had a good, well done site. In return, he asked us to link to Newport CC's site. No problem.

A new footpaths area on the site took wording from the RA site and modified it with the agreement of the RA Information Officer Des Moor.

RA IT group have a Staff Work Plan (2001/2) including "web-related objectives": this seemed unnecessarily bureaucratic.

Area AGM

The committee was re-elected and there is a vacancy for an Area delegate - volunteers?

It was decided to keep Area as an organisational unit, and in future to be more visible to the Groups. Area Officers would do more to visit Groups. A more active Area was necessary to encourage interest in National events.

Any other business

Flatholme Trip BW needs to know numbers to proceed with the trip on Sunday 17 June. After a walk in Cosmeston, the boat leaves Barry at 12:45pm. A three hour guided tour of the island may be taken before returning to Barry at 5pm. A boatload is 40 and the price is £10 (£5 for children). BW proposed to book for 40. If we could not fill the boat, we have to give three weeks notice to the boat owners. The committee agreed that the trip should go ahead on that basis. BW asked if a 40-seater coach should be booked as well and the committee agreed that it was a good idea. A circular informing members of the trip will be sent round to get the numbers needed. The circular should include some items that

Adrian would like to highlight and also the dates of Ken's London trip and Keith's trip to Rhayader.

HH mentioned that the use of busses to get to rambles should be encouraged.

Sponsorship

KC will seek sponsorship of the newsletter from Ramblers Holidays and the Argus.

KC suggested that the walks programme should be sponsored and that the sponsors name should appear on the programme.

KC wondered if the local radio stations, Real Radio and Red Dragon, had spots for mentioning walks and whether they would sponsor us.

BW noted that the Group has 150 members and circulates the walks programme to many libraries and shops - sponsors could be assured circulation.

Next Meeting Walks Programme meeting on Thursday 22 February.