



## South Gwent Ramblers

Minutes of the committee meeting held on  
12 June 2001



Members present - Ken Phillips (KP), Brian Williams (BW), Ray Cantwell (RC), Adrian Sheehan (AS), Fred Fee (FF), Keith Cooper (KC), Ian Reese (IR), Howard Harvey (HH), Andrew Wilmott (AW).

1. *Apologies for absence* Val and Kath are each on holiday.

2. *Minutes of last meeting* replace “will donate” with “is considering donating” in para 6b.

3. *Newport CC's newly appointed Rights of Way Officer*, Dave McCabe, attended the meeting as a guest at RC's behest. KP introduced him. RC gave him information about our putative Adopt-a-Path scheme as well as other ways in which our group interacts with Newport CC. Dave said that he would support us and would organise cards, forms, emails and anything else necessary, and let RC have stock. Dave noted that all of Newport CC's Rights of Way were open except for the exclusion zone in the Wentlooge area, but caution was necessary. RC and KC indicated that we were happy to go along with Newport CC's plans. Dave indicated that he would continue Newport CC's guided walks and perhaps start some cycle rides. KC noted that Oxford House Industrial Society lead a couple of walks for us: Dave will follow us in this. Dave was happy to remain as a guest to catch a flavour of the normal business of our meetings.

4. *SGR policy on the Foot and Mouth epidemic*. We have confirmed that paths locally are opening, but would not actively lobby: instead we would help in any way if asked. The program to the end of July will remain in force.

5. *Ruperra Trust* funding has been discussed at an Area meeting: to be compatible with our Charitable Trust status, any donations to the Trust must be on condition that the money should be spent on footpaths - further discussion below in the Treasurer's report.

6. a. *Flatholme trip* BW reports that the trip was oversubscribed by four. KP indicated that there was room on the bus for the extra four, but that they would have to wait at Barry for our return since the boat could only take 40.

b. *London trip* KP indicated that the 53 seat coach was fully booked and that two guides would be provided because of the numbers.

### 7. Officers' reports

a. *Secretary* KP reported the following correspondence:

- |    |                                    |        |
|----|------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. | R.A. Countryside Update - May 2001 | Ray    |
| 2. | R.A. Access Bulletin - May 2001    | Ray    |
| 3. | R.A. - Events in 2001              | Adrian |
| 4. | R.A. Access Bulletin - Jun 2001    | Ray    |
| 5. | R.A. Rights of way Book            | File   |
| 6. | R.A. Constitution                  | Fred   |
| 7. | G.G. - Minutes of meeting — 9/5/01 | File   |

b. *Area reps* KC and AS reported on the amount promised for the RA by groups returning funds to head office - see attached sheet from KC.

c. *Treasurer* BW

Excluding the Flatholme and London trips we have £1802 in hand (Current a/c £430 and Building society a/c £1372). The Group allocation of £305 for 162 members is about the same as last year, and we should get roughly the same next year based on current Area projections.

The allocation covers all expenses leaving a £1500 excess. Area recommend reducing the excess to 40% of the budget (i.e. 40% of £305 = ~£120) and donating the extra to the RA central funds. KP noted that £120 would not be enough security against a shortfall on organised events: KC indicated that the RA are flexible in their attitude.

AS said that we should reflect on what we needed to fund. KP suggested retaining £1000 and KC agreed. KP asked if benches had been priced, indicating that Ruperra could be a useful site for them and asked if we would be giving Ruperra more money. KC said that money should be given as it was Area-friendly to do so. FF noted that we should do so quickly as they were in urgent need of funds. AW suggested notifying the Argus when the bench was dedicated. **AS asked how much we gave Ruperra previously. BW said £100 and AS suggested that we give them the same again.. This was agreed *nem con*.** FF suggested that the funds could be used for plaques and waymarks noting SGR involvement in Adopt-a-Path. BW suggested “Surveyed by South Gwent Ramblers” as the logo.

d. *Footpaths Officer* RC reported little activity. A new development at Celtic Manor included improvements favourable to walkers and cyclists. In Caerleon, a second golf course and a public bridge over the Usk again looked good for us, bearing in mind the great improvements to the condition of footpaths brought about when the first course was built.

e. *Rambles Officer* AS has had offers of walks and is still concerned about what is allowed when trying to organise a full range of walks from August. FF said that walks in the Black Mountains and Brecon Beacons would be unlikely to be allowed. AS noted that South Glamorgan Ramblers had a full program with the overriding proviso that a nominated leader did something on the day even if the intended walk was not possible. We could do something similar. HH wanted to know how it was possible to find out which areas were open to walkers. AS said the Internet which was no good for HH. KC, as IT Officer, will help HH. AS will ask all leaders for walks for the August program. KP said we should try to revive a barbecue walk.

f. *Membership Secretary* VC was absent. AS noted that a letter from the RA showed no new members for two months. KP has sent information to three prospective members. He noted that there are no new programs left in Newport and that Kath has none. **AS will supply both.**

g. *Publicity Secretary* KS no present

h. *IT Officer's report* KC

i. *Membership Enquiries* I had two e-mails last week, to which I responded, inviting them to join Alun's walk on Sunday. Unfortunately neither turned up.

ii. *Website* We have now had 1285 hits, 153 since the last meeting.

iii. The *Festival of The Countryside* have e-mailed all Ramblers groups and asked for them to supply walks information for their 'Events' section. This could be helpful in publicising our walks. I suggest that we start with the Evening and Leisure walks as these are suitable for all. I have done a rough draft of an entry and sent it to AS.

iv. *Open Footpaths in Wales* Detailed information has been collated by CCW regarding which footpaths are open and which are not. I can access this information for any group member.

v. *Database of walks* I have so far entered all walks back to December 1999. I have two more programs to enter from my own copies of walks. It takes a lot of time to enter the information and I do not think that we could scan in data because of the layout of our programs. I will probably have to draw a line at 1997 and then only enter new programs. Can I have copies of relevant programs please.

I can print all the information stored as a list or I can search the database for specific details. I have entered all the obvious data and have included an extra field for the geographic area i.e. Wye Valley or Mid Glamorgan etc.

vi. *RA Finance* I have been having an open discussion on Ramblers-Net with Peter Skipp, who is a member of the R.A Finance & Audit Committee.

vii. *Cutting the Volume of Paper.* The above discussion on finance produced a second thread, which I can print if anyone is interested.

viii. The *Area Newsletter* can only be put together if it has group news to report, can we please put together some articles Flatholm, London? They are to go to Ray Wensley, but I am happy to act as postman.

8. *Any other business.* KC will write to council re CROW money. KP will ring Dave McCabe. HH said that some people on Sunday indicated that they had forgotten some events. The consensus was that we already give enough information about events.

9. *Next Committee Meeting* 15 August.



## Pledges of Area Entitlement surrender (estimated values)

| AE Year                            |                  | 00/01<br>Quarter           | Estd. £ | 01/02<br>Quarter | Estd. £ | Total £ | Reserves** at 30/9/00 |  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|---------|------------------|---------|---------|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Areas</b>                       | <b>Area Code</b> |                            |         |                  |         |         |                       |  |
| Avon                               | AV               |                            |         |                  |         |         | 9266                  |  |
| Bedfordshire                       | BF               | 0.75                       | 2200    |                  |         | 2200    | 7691                  |  |
| Berkshire                          | BK               | 3                          | 2350    |                  |         | 2350    | 54276                 |  |
| Buckinghamshire & W Middlesex      | BU               |                            |         |                  |         |         | 21261                 |  |
| Cambridgeshire                     | CB               |                            |         |                  |         |         | 14003                 |  |
| "Central, Fife & Tayside"          | CF               | pending review of finances |         |                  |         |         |                       |  |
| Cornwall                           | CL               |                            |         |                  |         |         | 13781                 |  |
| Derbyshire                         | DE               | 4                          | 1050    |                  |         | 1050    | 12319                 |  |
| Devon                              | DN               |                            |         |                  |         |         | 14351                 |  |
| Dorset                             | DT               |                            |         |                  |         |         | 14039                 |  |
| Dyfed                              | DY               | 4                          | 2350    | 1                | 2350    | 4700    | 18036                 |  |
| East Yorkshire & Derwent           | ER               |                            |         |                  |         |         | 10027                 |  |
| Essex                              | ES               | 4                          | 4000    |                  |         | 4000    | 53323                 |  |
| Glamorgan                          | SW               | 4                          | 1950    |                  |         | 1950    | 25401                 |  |
| Gloucestershire                    | GR               | 4                          | 1650    |                  |         | 1650    | 22336                 |  |
| Grampian                           | GP               |                            |         |                  |         |         | 7194                  |  |
| Greater Gwent                      | GG               |                            |         |                  |         |         | 14853                 |  |
| Hampshire                          | WX               | 4                          | 3900    |                  |         | 3900    | 33639                 |  |
| Hereford & Worcester               | HW               |                            |         |                  |         |         | 15191                 |  |
| Hertfordshire & North Middlesex    | HF               |                            |         |                  |         |         | 35740                 |  |
| Highlands & Islands                | SC               | 4                          | 550     |                  |         | 550     | 3082                  |  |
| Inner London                       | IL               | 4                          | 3600    | 1                | 3600    | 7200    | 22565                 |  |
| Isle of Wight                      | IW               | 4                          | 500     | 1/4              | 2000    | 2500    | 13240                 |  |
| Kent                               | KT               | 4                          | 3875    | 1/2              | 7750    | 11625   | 34400                 |  |
| Lake District                      | LD               | 4                          | 1700    | 1                | 1700    | 3400    | 153593                |  |
| Leicestershire & Rutland           | LE               | 4                          | 800     |                  |         | 800     | 5246                  |  |
| Lincolnshire                       | LI               |                            |         |                  |         |         | 34626                 |  |
| Lothian & Borders                  | LB               | 4                          | 1950    | 1/4              | 7800    | 9750    | 23926                 |  |
| Manchester                         | MR               |                            |         |                  |         |         | 95653                 |  |
| Merseyside & West Cheshire         | LL               |                            |         |                  |         |         | 35231                 |  |
| Mid Lancashire                     | ML               |                            |         |                  |         |         | 10256                 |  |
| North Yorks & South Durham         | NY               | 4                          | 1275    | 1                | 1275    | 2550    | 9524                  |  |
| Norfolk                            | NR               | 4                          | 1950    | 1                | 1950    | 3900    | 30000                 |  |
| North East Lancashire              | LN               |                            |         |                  |         |         | 16593                 |  |
| North Wales                        | LW               |                            |         |                  |         |         | 17651                 |  |
| Northamptonshire                   | NP               |                            |         |                  |         |         | 6192                  |  |
| Northern                           | NN               |                            |         |                  |         |         | 34324                 |  |
| Nottinghamshire                    | NE               |                            |         |                  |         |         | 13250                 |  |
| North & Mid Cheshire               | MC               | 4                          | 1300    |                  |         | 1300    | 12452                 |  |
| Oxfordshire                        | OX               |                            |         |                  |         |         | 9800                  |  |
| Powys                              | MW               |                            |         |                  |         |         | 9231                  |  |
| South & East Cheshire              | CH               |                            |         |                  |         |         | 8139                  |  |
| Congleton group                    |                  | Q4                         | *       |                  |         |         |                       |  |
| South Yorks & NE Derbyshire        | SD               | 4                          | 1875    |                  |         | 1875    | 48623                 |  |
| Shropshire                         | SS               | 4                          | 1250    |                  |         | 1250    | 8788                  |  |
| Somerset                           | SO               | 4                          | 1750    |                  |         | 1750    | 15236                 |  |
| Staffordshire                      | NS               |                            |         |                  |         |         | 18689                 |  |
| "Strathclyde, Dumfries & Galloway" | ST               |                            |         |                  |         |         | 22186                 |  |
| Suffolk                            | SK               | 4                          | 1700    |                  |         | 1700    | 11738                 |  |
| Surrey                             | SR               |                            |         |                  |         |         | 34854                 |  |
| Sussex                             | SX               | pending review of finances |         |                  |         |         |                       |  |
| Warwickshire                       | WK               |                            |         |                  |         |         | 38617                 |  |
| West Riding                        | WR               | 4                          | 3250    |                  |         | 3250    | 55464                 |  |
| Wiltshire & Swindon                | WE               | pending review of finances |         |                  |         |         |                       |  |
|                                    | No.              | 23                         | 46775   | 8                | 28425   | 75200   | 1310320               |  |

\* Subject to recommended treatment of finances for S+EC Area.

\*\* Excludes Scottish and Welsh Councils