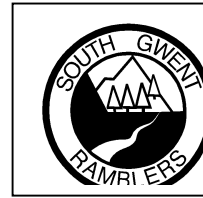




## South Gwent Ramblers

Minutes of the committee meeting held on  
27 February 2002



Members present - Ken Phillips (KP), Brian Williams (BW), Adrian Sheehan (AS), Fred Fee (FF), Val Clark (VC), Kath Sadler (KS), Keith Cooper (KC), Ian Reese (IR), Howard Harvey (HH), Andrew Wilmott (AW).

1. *Apologies for absence* none

2. *Minutes of last meeting* KC changed to KP throughout *para 5* - sorry Ken

3. *Matters arising from the minutes*

a. *Ruperra Trust Memorial Bench*

KP wrote to Hayden Wood and Sue Price. KP will obtain the bench. Sue will arrange transport. A walk in April will include a dedication ceremony. Nothing was available from the lottery to fund a site manager according to the Ruperra newsletter.

b. KP asked *how the Group can communicate better to all the members*. For example, many items from the RA are out of date before they first surface at a meeting - how could they be viewed by members earlier? No-one had an answer to this and **we agreed to ask for ideas from the members in the next newsletter**.

4. *Officers' reports*

a. *Secretary* KP - see list of correspondence attached

b. *Treasurer* BW

SGR has £1387.35 in hand. *Unified banking of accounts* has been discussed in the last year by the RA with over 50% acceptance in the Groups. There have been lots of comments against the move, generally arising from lack of confidence in Central Office and/or the small selected bank. The idea is that Groups should transfer accounts to Unity Trust Bank which specialises in handling the accounts of charities. Each Group would retain total control over its account and would deal via the Web or by post. We are asked by Central Office to consider this and make a decision as soon as possible. Currently, the RA get about £17,000 *pa* interest and this would rise to £40,000 with Unity Trust, but only if all Groups agree to transfer funds. This corresponds to £40 and £90 respectively per Group. The amount of interest is obviously lower if fewer Groups use Unity Trust. BW proposed that we transfer our account to Unity Trust and KP seconded. We all agreed.

c. *Footpaths Officer* RC

In the absence of Ray Cantwell, various points were made. KC noted from Judy Cox a diversion at Ironbridge Cottage that may turn into another Pentre Farm case. Ruperra intend to open routes and designate them footpaths. IR wants to relinquish his current responsibilities for diversion orders and will tell Ray. BW needs two maps for a proposed walk in Wiltshire. IR noted that the RA lend maps and BW will pursue this.

d. *Rambles Officer* AS discussed the next walks program. The London trip for 13 July is definitely on. the Steepholm trip is definitely off because we would have to spend ten hours on the island. Instead, KP proposes a trip to Caldy Island including a guided tour as a short walk, possibly on 15 June. A leisurely and long walk are to be arranged for the inauguration of a bench at Ruperra. BW has spoken to the South Wiltshire Group about his proposed walk, and has postponed the walk because of the number of trips already being arranged. **BW will discuss this at the next meeting. KP will discuss the possibility of a trip to Portland Bill at the next meeting.** While looking at KP, AS asked for a volunteer to ring round the short walkers for walks. A suggestion by KP that the Sirhowy Valley could be used as a theme for future walks was well received. SGR, Lower Wye and Gelli-Gaer have shown interest in the *rent-a-leader* scheme, but there has not been much interest elsewhere.

e. *Membership Secretary* VC - see attached sheet

f. *Publicity Secretary* KS has given walks leaflets to Millets and the Library. The Central Library passes copies to branch libraries. she will copy RA posters.

g. *IT Officer* KC has much improved the look and feel of the site which has now received 2,500 hits. KC has helped Pontypool with their site. KC returned £11 to BW having obtained site-building software more cheaply than expected.

5. *Any other business.*

a. AS was looking for a volunteer for an Area Executive meeting tomorrow, since the meeting is on our patch and neither AS or KC could go - no volunteers.

b. BW wants items for display in the library for the SGR display. KP will place request in the newsletter.

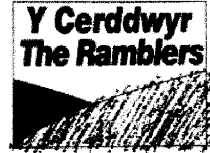
c. KC noted that there is a photo gallery on the Web site. Any contributions to FF who can digitise most things to produce the relevant computer files.

6. *Next Committee Meeting* 17 April 2002.

## Correspondence for SGR Meeting on 27th Feb 2002

1.	Plynlimon Festival - Feb.2002		Discuss
2.	R.A. E.C. Minutes - July 2001		File
3.	R.A. Accepting Advertising - Oct 2001		File
4.	R.A. E.C. Bulletin - Oct. 2001		File
5.	R.A. Accident Reporting - Nov 2001		Adrian
6.	R.A. Ramblers Holidays - Nov. 2001		File
7.	R.A. Walk Planning/Leading/Navigation Courses		Adrian
8.	R.A. First Aid Courses		File
9.	R.A. New Events for 2002		Adrian
10.	R.A. Countryside Update - Nov 2001	Ray	
11.	R.A. Civil Liability Insurance		File
12.	R.A. Overhead Projector Slides		Ian
13.	R.A. Progress Report on G.C. Motions	File	
14.	R.A. Raffle Results		File
15.	R.A. Footpath Campaigner - Dec. 2001	Ray	
16.	R.A. Access Bulletin - Dec 2001	Ray	
17.	R.A. Countryside Update - Dec 2001	Ray	
18.	R.A. Constitution Update / KGP Letter		Discuss/File
19.	R.A. Access Bulletin - Jan. 2002	Ray	
20.	R.A. Footpath Campaigner - Jan 2002	Ray	
21.	R.A. Getting Wales Walking - Jan 2002	File	
22.	R.A. Welsh Council 2002 Invitations	File	
23.	R.A. W.C.E.C. Bulletin - Dec 2001	File	
24.	R.A. W.C.E.C. Minutes - Dec 2001	File	
25.	R.A. Recruitment Posters		Kath
26.	R.A. Information on National Assembly	File	
27.	R.A. C.C.W. Access Forums in Wales	Ray	
28.	Ramblers Holiday Offers - Jan 2002	File	
29.	R.A. Computer Software - Jan 2002	Keith	
30.	R.A. Distribution of Papers - Oct 2001	File	
31.	R.A. E.C. Bulletin - Jan. 2002		File
32.	R.A. Countryside Update - Jan 2002	Ray	
33.	R.A. Financial Update from C.E. - Jan 2002	Brian	
34.	R.A. Walk & Talk 2001 - Jan 2002	Adrian	
35.	R.A. New Recruitment Posters - Jan 2002	Kath	
36.	R.A. Access Bulletin - Feb.2002	Ray	

**Cymdeithas y Cerddwyr**  
**Gweithio ar ran cerddwyr**  
**The Ramblers' Association**  
 Working for walkers



**Rhanbarth Gwent /**  
**Greater Gwent Area**

**Adrian Sheehan. Membership Secretary**  
**6 Wood Crescent, Rogerstone, Newport. NP10 0AL**  
**Tel: 01633 896275. e-mail: adrian.sheehan@btinternet.com**

Dear Val

**Printout Distribution - End of January 2002 GG 1 South Gwent.**

Please find enclosed membership printouts for your group for January 2002. Membership for the Area is now back at the level it was twelve months ago and there has been a welcome increase in membership in the last few months. There have been 75 new members in the past year, 18 in the past month. Well done to those groups that have managed to attract members. I hope that the effects of foot and mouth are behind us now, that we can capitalise on the high profile and the goodwill that the Ramblers have achieved during this period and that through getting walking going again we can sustain the growth of the past few months.

Area figures are:

	Membership January 2002	Change since January 2001	Change since July 2002	Renewal Rate	Membership per 100,000 pop <sup>n</sup>
South Gwent	171	3.5	7.6		
Pontypool	227	-3.5	-2.6		
North Gwent	76	1.3	1.3		
Lower Wye	183	-1.1	3.8		
Gelligaer	82	0.0	1.2		
Islwyn	32	12.5	0.0		
Greater Gwent	771	0.1	2.1	90.3	174
Wales	66050	-0.4	1.4	88.5	213

Please bring these figures to the attention of your next committee meeting.

Ms ValClark  
 42 Lodge Avenue  
 Caerleon  
 Newport  
 NP18 3EJ