



South Gwent Ramblers

Minutes of the committee meeting held on
27 April 2002



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

1. *Apologies for absence* from Howard Harvey and Val Clarke
2. A new bureaucracy, *Forest Enterprise*, was represented at the meeting by Dee Ashurst and Esther Laurence. Forest Enterprise aims to make the public forest areas of Gwent more attractive to visitors. Dee and Esther asked for our views on local forest areas and how we use them. We exchanged views and information of mutual interest and they asked to be borne in mind when matters arise in future. One matter of concern was the increasing prevalence of motorbikes on footpaths and the damage they cause by churning up paths. Dee said that they were in discussion with the Police about the problem. We thanked them for their time and they were happy to have been able to introduce themselves to us.
3. *Minutes of last meeting* The date of the London trip in para 4.d. amended to read 13 July.
4. *Matters arising from the minutes*
 - a. BW indicated that he received no items for the proposed notice board for display in the Library. FF said that he would be happy to receive any ideas and try to put them into practice; meanwhile he would work on a few of his own ideas.
 - b. KP thanked FF for laying out the Newsletter and said that he received a cheque for £40 for the RA advert in the newsletter.
 - c. Following requests, AS has sent walks programmes to Newport CC tourist section and Monmouthshire CC. Kath will send them in future. KC proposed that leisure centres receive programmes and AS will ask Kath to send them there as well.
 - d. re communicating better, Dinah's email address is now on the group list and KC would like to hear of any other email address.
 - e. KC is on a list to receive RA holiday offers.
 - f. KP will postpone the proposed trip to Portland Bill until next year since we already have enough in the way of trips proposed and organised for this year. Likewise AS will postpone a proposed trip to walk the South Coast path near Lyme Regis.
5. *The SGR bench at Ruperra* was inaugurated last week during a very well attended (34) joint long and short walk, guided part of the way by a Ruperra Trust marshal. KP gave BW an invoice for £158 for the bench. AS suggested that the SGR make one Saturday a work day for Ruperra. KP will consult Ruperra re a date in September or October.
6. *Officers' reports*
 - a. *Secretary* KP went through items from a list of correspondence (attached) and noted the existence of Young People's Groups and their increase in the RA.
 - b. *Treasurer* BW indicated that the group balance is now £1404.64 all at Barclays Bank. It will be transferred to Unity Trust Bank as soon as they deign to respond. BW sent the application to them on 4 March, wrote on 4 April and faxed them on 18 April and received no response despite soliciting help from RA who said that this was a universal problem that was being addressed. KP will give BW money from trips a soon as possible.
 - c. *Footpaths Officer* RC has 18 going on his trip to Germany. Nothing much is happening on the footpaths front. Ray has been away a lot recently and now he has more time is trying to set up a meeting with Dave McCabe, Newport's footpaths officer.
 - d. *Rambles Officer*
 - i. AS reports that the current programme is up and running with only a couple of gaps. Stuart's very long walks may be shortened and we may have a guest leader from Gelli Gaer.

ii. AS and FF each have a computer program which allows walks, together with descriptive text, to be set out on an OS-derived map; the program displays the total length and total elevation of the walk. The map is currently the 50,000 series and is only useful for cataloguing. As soon as OS 25000 series maps are available digitally, the programme will be upgraded and will be useful to generate maps for use in walks. FF will ask about a Group licence for the program.

iii. AS will publicise evening walks as Walk and Talk events.

iv.38 are going on the London trip and 32 to Caldy Island, including some non-members.

e. *Membership Secretary* VC was absent. AS reports that membership is now 177 and is strong since the end of the Foot and Mouth outbreak.

f. *Publicity Secretary* KS was not present

g. *IT Officer's report* is attached. KC wants to know if members would be interested in seeing the web site and, if so, where, when and how? [is that all? FF] AS suggested that after the AGM would be a suitable time but KC thought it best to keep the two separate.

h. *Area delegates* report attached - thanks to KC.

7. *Any other business.* KP had brought along maps and books that were up for offers. Most of the maps were too old to be of current use.

Next Committee Meeting 18 July.

Correspondence

1.	R.A. Young Peoples Group Co-Ordinator	Feb 2002	Ian	
2.	R.A. Welcome to Walking Week	Feb 2002	Adrian	
3.	R.A. Shopping Village	Feb 2002	Keith	
4.	R.A. Countryside Update	Feb 2002	Ray	
5.	R.A. Area Functions & Group Activities	Feb 2002	Discuss	
6.	R.A. Rights of Way Summary	Feb 2002	Ray	
7.	R.A. E.C. Bulletin		March 2002	File
8.	R.A. Countryside Update	March 2002	Ray	
9.	R.A. Access Training		March 2002	File
10.	R.A. Footpath Campaigner		March 2002	Ray
11.	R.A. Access Bulletin		March 2002	Ray
12.	R.A. Footpath Campaigner		April 2002	Ray
13.	R.A. Access Bulletin		April 2002	Ray
14.	R.A. Recruitment, Publicity Conference	April 2002	File	
15.	R.A. Holidays Advert		April 2002	File
16.	Bridgend Challenge Walk	April 2002	Adrian	
17.	North Gwent Programme	Spring & Summer 2002	Adrian	
18.	Ruperra Trust Newsletter	April 2002	File	
19.	R.A. General Council Motions	2002	Discuss	
20.	R.A. Annual Report		2000/2001	Discuss

IT Officers Report

Mail received

Contacted by The Red Cross, re a sponsored walk. Route is Wye Valley Walk on the April 21st 2002. (Clashes with our bench dedication) acknowledged & forwarded to Adrian.

E-mail from George Baugh, RA member from Cardiff, requesting a program, acknowledged & request forwarded to Adrian.

Request for support from G M Harding of Great Oaks Park regarding problems with disabled access on canal towpath, forwarded to Ray and copied to Judy Cox.

Request for start time information from Anthony Gill, who came out with us on 21st April. (See website)

Mail Sent

Contacted Ramblers Holidays, requesting e-mail notification of special offers and graphic for website (with a hint regarding sponsorship). Have been added to e-mail list, graphic received, unfortunately no sponsorship forthcoming.

Contacted Newport CBC, requesting a link from their website. Megan Pinnell, Community Information Manager will add a link to the Leisure>Sports and Fitness (currently only lists Leisure Centres).

Megan Pinnell also suggested contacting "Newspost". This website provides fairly wide coverage of sports clubs and organisations within Newport, which I have done requesting a listing/link for the group. No reply as yet.

E-mailed the Western Mail and ICWALES website requesting a link to our website from the Community zone or Local information and asking if the Western Mail is considering publishing outdoor activities information and if so would they publish ours. No reply as yet.

Contacted South Wales Argus/This is Gwent (run by the SWA) enquiring/requesting listing/link in the Leisure section of their website. No reply as yet.

Contacted Wales Index, requested listing under Sport and activity>Hiking, rambling and walking; request granted

Ramblers-Net

Several posts forwarded to various interested (or not?) people. Welcome to Walking Week, running from 16th - 23rd September. To AS. Safe Road Crossings to RC.

Website

Website to be updated with new programme, graphics for **RA and Ramblers Holidays** added to links; link to Pontypool Ramblers website added. Following a comment by Anthony Gill, I have included extra links to the information about when and where we meet. Hits now number 2682.

Keith Cooper 24.04.02

Area Delegates Report

The Area Council is considering ways to make itself more effective. One action is to reduce the amount of time used up on routine matters by dealing with these other than at a full council meeting. Area has resurrected the Executive Committee to review administrative issues. The Area Chair/acting Secretary Kieran O'Hagan is in agreement with this but is not expected to attend any meetings.

The Area EC is Derek Hynam (EC chair), John Ridley (Area Treasurer and Area EC Secretary), Adrian Sheehan (Area Membership Secretary) and Keith Cooper (Area Council member).

It is planned to have two other committees to organise and co-ordinate other area Council functions. One for Countryside, Footpaths and Access, the other for promoting walking which will encompass the activities of walk organisation, leader exchange, publicity including the area website and training. These have yet to be approved at an Area Council meeting.

I have been concerned by the lack of progress on the area website and as Ray Wensley is no longer an Area Council member I have suggested that I have a go at it, which will be discussed at the next meeting.

Judy Cox had requested that groups regularly walk the footpath past Ironbridge Cottage, Machen, which has now been done by South Gwent, led by Adrian.

Area Walk is to be on 1st September venue to be advised.

Area AGM is on Sunday 17th November, probably at Victoria Hall (TBC), hosted by Pontypool Ramblers. There will be a walk beforehand starting at 10:30a.m.

Keith Cooper 24.04.02