



South Gwent Ramblers



Minutes of the committee meeting held on 26 February 2003

Members present - Ken Phillips, Brian Williams, Adrian Sheehan, Fred Fee, Kath Sadler, Keith Cooper.

1. *Apologies for absence* were received from Howard Harvey and Val Clarke.
2. *Minutes of last meeting* were adopted, as were those of the AGM held on 11 November 2002.
3. *Matters arising from the minutes* are largely covered elsewhere below except:
 - 3.1. Of the twenty-four anniversary sweatshirts ordered, only eight remain @ £10.
 - 3.2. Ian Reese has not yet told us whether a rambling group that he patronises will affiliate to the Ramblers Association.
 - 3.3. Tessa Perry has volunteered an article for the newsletter.
 - 3.4. Adrian reports that his pub walks meeting went well.
 - 3.5. Twenty-eight ramblers attended a ceilidh on Sunday 6 November at Graig Community Hall organised by a bowls club of which Ken is a committee member.
4. *AGM*
 - 4.1. The AGM was poorly attended, reports Ken. Few Officers were present and few reports were presented. Only two members turned up.
 - 4.2. 2003 is the 20th anniversary of the South Gwent Ramblers Group: the inaugural meeting was held on 21 September 1983 following some months of organised walks. The meeting suggested that we have a barbecue to mark the occasion – *see below*.
5. *Footpath Officer post* Ray Cantwell can't devote anywhere near enough time to the post. He is willing to keep it ticking over by dealing with the bureaucracy, but cannot continue with the field-work. Members of the committee agreed to look out for candidates for the post. Ken will include an appeal in the newsletter.
6. *Walks calendar*
 - 6.1. Ken enquired about the Leader Exchange scheme. Adrian replied that it was up and running and produced a list of prospective leaders and walks.
 - 6.2. Ken also noted that Irene was proposing to repeat the first walk in London with some new attractions on Saturday the 12th of July.
 - 6.3. Brian has yet to visit the place where the barbecue used to be held: He still doesn't have a name or a telephone number, but will still try to get in touch with the owners. The meeting agreed with the suggestion that the barbecue should be held on Sunday, 21st of September – the anniversary of the first meeting of the South Gwent Ramblers.

- 6.4. Mary Raymond offered a trip to Exmouth, and Brian a trip to Dorset. We decided that both of these trips should take place next year, because of the number of trips this year.
- 6.5. Ken suggested that the trip to see the Severn bore should take place in October, to general agreement.
- 6.6. Adrian noted that a suggestion had been made at the AGM that evening walks should take place on a day other than Wednesday. Adrian will ask for offers of such walks. The members present also called for evening walks finishing before dark and more joint walks.
- 6.7. Ken suggested an evening walk to the bench at Ruperra. Adrian will contact the Ruperra Trust to see if they can lead an evening walk.
- 6.8. Brian suggested evening walks on the Adopt-a-Path routes. Brian had noticed that his themed Snowdrop walk had been advertised in the Argus as such. Kath said that the incumbent in the Argus had changed and seemed to print titles in a way that the previous one would not allow.
- 6.9. Adrian suggested a picnic at Cerig Glassiau, and Brian offered to carry a stove for the picnic :-).

7. *Officers' reports*

7.1. *Secretary Ken*

Ken briefly summarised the correspondence (attached). Ken noted that the Ramblers Association is now Limited Company with a new charity number and suggested that we should update our headed note-paper. Fred offered to do the update.

7.2. *Treasurer Brian*

7.2.1. Brian reported that we have £1477 in hand, a slight drop from the £1548 at the AGM. The £240 outlay for sweatshirts has been defrayed by £160 from sales, leaving stock worth £80.

7.2.2. The Christmas dinner broke even, and the prizes accounted for a £15.90 loss.

7.2.3. Tessa Perry spent £14 on sherry a mince pies for the "Festival of Walks" walk after Christmas.

7.2.4. Income came the RA for the "Walk and Talk" – £50; a Ramblers Holidays advert in the newsletter – £40; and a grant from the Ramblers Association for the newsletter – £42.47.

7.3. *Footpaths Officer* Ray Cantwell was not present.

7.4. *Rambles Officer* Adrian reported a discussion at area and national level about combined and Internet walks programmes, but nothing had been decided yet. This could affect the way that we present our walks and the walk programme periods.

- 7.5. *Membership Secretary* Val was not present and Adrian noted that membership is up on last year (the same as for other groups).
- 7.6. *Publicity Secretary* Kath had nothing to report. Ken asked if we could organize another display in the library and Brian said we could have one at any time. Keith suggested that we could set out walks in pictures at the display.
- 7.7. *IT Officer's report* Keith said that we had had five online enquiries, and 2369 hits for this year. He now has a digital camera and puts pictures from walks onto the Web site on the same day as the walks. He asked members to send pictures as attachments to emails.

IT report

Mail received

Enquires - From Peter Evans, Richard E J Evans, Jane McKenzie, Linda Morgan and Rosemary Cochrane all replied to.

Maindee Festival - would we like a stall at this years festival or participate in their sponsored walk?

Various other ones for exhibitions, books, 'wonderful walking' opportunities and sponsored events.

Website

Hits - 2369 since 01.01.2000

I have now got a digital camera. I joined Brian and Anne's walk on 16th February and had the pictures on the website that evening. I have added a "Recent walks" link to the home page which will be linked to the last set of photographs that I have. If anyone wants to e-mail digital pictures of the last walk I will put them on our website.

I have had a couple of comments saying that we do not give start times or meeting places on the website: not strictly true, but they were not all together. I have now added the information, including a map link, to the start of each months walks on the program page.

Area Delegates Report

Area Constitution - Copy of Area Constitution passed to KP.

Publicity - During discussion at Area EC, it was clearly shown that Local Publicity is the most effective at increasing group membership, reports about the previous weeks walk appears to be particularly effective if you can get them into local newspapers. Could SGR utilise this information? If people are prepared to prepare it and e-mail it to me I will send copies to as many local newspapers as I can, otherwise could we write up and send hard copy?

Countryside Issues - Area no longer has a Countryside Officer so are not now made aware of important countryside issues. Could group countryside officers or officers with countryside interests please keep the area council informed via their area delegate. AC would particularly like to know what is happening with the Newport Growth Strategy and how we are opposing it.

"Waymarking the Future" - The proposed meeting to discuss the RA strategy document will not now take place as it was felt by delegates that few outside the Area Council would be likely to attend. The next Area Council meeting on 7th May will be largely dedicated to discussing that topic.

Correspondence

1. R.A. Minutes of General Council- Apr 2002	File
2. R.A. Memo - change of charity no. - Sep 2002	File
3. R.A. Circular re Personal Injury - Sep 2002	File
4. R.A. Circular re Incorporation - Sep 2002	File
5. R.A. Circular re Walk Leading - Sep 2002	Adrian
6. R.A. Countryside Update - Sep 2002	Ray?
7. R.A. Access Bulletin - Oct 2002	Ray?
8. R.A. Circular re First Aid - Sep 2002	File
9. R.A. W.C.E.C. Minutes - Dec 2002	File
10. R.A. W.C.E.C. bulletin - Jan 2003	File
11. R.A. Welsh Council Booking form - Jan 2003	Discuss
12. R.A. E.C. Minutes - Jul 2002	File
13. R.A. E.C. Minutes - Sep 2002	File
14. R.A. W.C.E.C. Minutes - Sep 2002	File
15. R.A. Distribution of Papers - Sep 2002	File
16. R.A. W.C.E.C. Notice of Welsh Council - Oct 2003	File
17. R.A. Yearbook Changes 2003	File
18. R.A. Walking Week update - ?	Adrian
19. R.A. E.C. minutes - Oct 2002	File
20. R.A. W.C.E.C. Bulletin - Oct 2002	File
21. R.A. Tackling path problems - Nov 2002	Ray?
22. R.A. Fund Raising Non R.A. - Nov 2002	File
23. R.A. Countryside Update - Nov 2002	Ray?
24. R.A. Group Ticket Offer - Nov 2002	File
25. R.A. First Aid Courses - Nov 2002	File
26. R.A. Training Conference - Dec 2002	File
27. R.A. Footpath Campaigner - Dec 2002	Ray?
28. R.A. Access Bulletin - Dec 2002	Ray?
29. R.A. Countryside Update - Dec 2002	Ray?
30. R.A. Personal Injury Update - Dec 2002	File
31. R.A. Footpath Campaigner - Jan 2003	Ray?
32. R.A. Access Bulletin - Jan 2003	Ray?
33. C.CF.W. Draft maps - Nov 2002	Ray?
34. Ruperra Programme - ?	File
35. SGR letter to Ramblers Hols. - Oct 2002	File
36. R.A. Distribution of papers - Dec 2002	File
37. R.A. 2002 Raffle Winners - Jan 2003	File
38. R.A. E.C. Bulletin - Jan 2003	File
39. R.A. Countryside Update - Jan 2003	Ray?
40. R.A. Festival of Winter walks - Jan 2003	Adrian
41. R.A. Walks Database Project - Jan 2003	Keith
42. R.A. Website Detail - Jan 2003	Keith
43. R.A. Group Headed Stationery - Jan 2003	Keith
44. R.A. Access Bulletin - Feb 2003	Ray?
45. G.G. Devolution - Audrey Williams - Jan 2003	Discuss
46. Lower Wye Newsletter & Programme - Feb 2003	File
47. G.G. Leader Exchange - Jan 2003	Discuss
48. Ramblers Hols - Feb 2003	File