



South Gwent Ramblers



Minutes of the committee meeting held on 12 March 2004

Members present - Ken Phillips, Brian Williams, Adrian Sheehan, Fred Fee, Val Clark, Howard Harvey, Keith Cooper, Kath Carter.

1. *Apologies for absence* from Ian Reese and Kath Sadler
2. *Minutes of last meeting* were accepted
 - 2.1. *Matters arising from the minutes*
 - 2.1.1. *Item 2.1.1* Fred amended the expenses form.
 - 2.1.2. *Item 2.2.1* The meeting thanked Fred for the slide and photo show. Fred suggested hiring a pub room for the next one. Ken suggested a “picture” evening since we all agreed that the photo part of the show raised a lot of interest.
 - 2.1.3. *Item 3.3.4* The Severn Bore trip is cancelled because there are no suitable bores this year!
 - 2.1.4. *Item 5.1* The Christmas lunch and dinner were both well supported and a good walk was enjoyed.
3. *Budleigh Salterton* is the destination of Mary Raymond’s bus trip on 23 May. Ken will book the bus.
4. *A Map and Compass Evening* has been organised by Ian Reese for 7:30 on 1 April at the Civic Centre.
5. *Paignton* was a popular destination last year. Following numerous requests, Ken is organising a return visit for 29 October to 1 November @ £93 per person.
6. *Officers’ reports*
 - 6.1. *Secretary* Ken encourages members to write to their MPs about the problems of trail bikes using mountain paths illegally and seriously damaging footpaths. He noted the following correspondence:

1.	R.A. G.C. A.G.M. Minutes	11/13 Apr 2000	File
2.	R.A. E.C. Minutes	26/27 July 2003	File
3.	R.A. E.C. Minute	18/19 Oct 2003	File
4.	R.A. Countryside Update	Nov 03	File
5.	R.A. Walking with Neighbours	Nov 03	File
6.	R.A. Volunteer Structure Review Project	Nov 03	File
7.	R.A. Areas/Groups on the World Wide Web	Nov 03	Keith
8.	R.A. Forward Planning Diary 2004	Nov 03	Adrian
9.	R.A. Assoc. Memorandum revised	Nov 03	File
10.	R.A. Distribution of Papers	Dec 03	File
11.	R.A. Access Bulletin	Dec 03	File
12.	R.A. Footpath Campaigner	Dec 03	File
13.	R.A. Countryside Update	Dec 03	File

14.	R.A. Access Bulletin	Jan 04	File
15.	R.A. Footpath Campaigner	Jan 04	File
16.	R.A. E.C. Meeting	17/18 Jan 04	File
17.	R.A. How to organise Walk Training	Jan 04	Adrian
18.	R.A. O/S Outdoors Show	2/4 April 04	File
19.	R.A. Level Crossing Video	Jan 04	Circulate
20.	R.A. Countryside Update	Jan 04	File
21.	R.A. Access Bulletin	Feb 04	File
22.	R.A. Holiday Offers	Feb 04	File
23.	R.A. R.A. Welsh Office relocation	Jan 04	File
24.	R.A. Walking & Cycling Strategy	Jan 04	Discuss
25.	R.A. Motorised Recreation	Jan 04	Discuss
26.	R.A. Walks Grading Definitions	Feb 04	Discuss
27.	R.A. Countryside Update	Feb 04	File
28.	R.A. Access Bulletin	Mar 04	File
29.	R.A. Footpath Campaigner	Mar 04	File
30.	R.A. R.A. Welsh Office New Address	Feb 04	File
31.	R.A. C.C.W. meeting Notification	Feb 04	File
32.	R.A. Devolution Update	Feb 04	File
33.	R.A. Welsh Language Scheme	Feb 04	File
34.	P.A.N. Pesticides	Feb 04	File
35.	W.J.E.C. Minutes	8th Dec 2003	File

6.2. *Treasurer* Brian reported that we have £1086.07 in hand. We have received money from Gwent Area for expenses incurred during the move of our bank account. We paid the first application for walks' expenses of £25.96, and expenses incurred last year for the programmes and the barbecue.

6.3. *Footpaths Officer* vacant. Ken noted that Dairy Crest are proposing a housing estate with no apparent impact on footpaths.

6.4. *Rambles Officer* Much ancillary discussion occurred at this point

6.4.1. Adrian reported from Area that John Ridley was missed, but they have regrouped. North Gwent have been touted as hosts for the Area AGM, perhaps on 7 November. Adrian will check that North Gwent can proceed and we will consider hosting the event if no other offers are received. (Last time we booked the Cwmcarn Centre and Val and Mrs Philips made a spread.)

6.4.2. Ken said that George West has arranged for a plaque to be placed on a post at Llanfrechfa Church and will lead a commemorative evening walk to view the plaque. Ken will ring Mrs Ridley to invite her to see the plaque either at the time of the walk or privately at another time. Adrian will ring George.

6.4.3. Ken noted the coach trip to Exmouth on 23 May and will reconnoitre the trip to Margam which will take place on 27 June.

6.4.4. Ken proposed a joint short/long coach ramble from Rhossili to Barry Hohnes Island. Adrian noted that Ray has a walk on that day and it would be difficult for him to change the date. Ken will try to find another date.

6.4.5. Ken heard from Bill Price (Area) encouraging Groups to use the leader exchange scheme.

6.4.6. Adrian will contact Ruperra about an evening walk.

Regarding the walks programme, Adrian noted:

- 6.4.7. He had lots of vacant slots but half of the usual offers yet to arrive.
- 6.4.8. Alun Booth has offered four very leisurely walks for the Walk and Talk scheme. Each will take place on a Sunday largely in tandem with a short walk. Alun has also offered two other walks.
- 6.4.9. On 4 July, Madge is 90! Dinah Wallis will organise a trip to the Gower to celebrate and Ken will note in the newsletter.
- 6.4.10. The main problem with the program is a gap in the long walks which may have to be filled by using the Leader Exchange scheme.
- 6.4.11. Adrian's walks night in the Olde Oak was attended by Dinah, Alun and Paul Coleman, active again after a long bout of sciatica.

6.5. *Membership Secretary* Ken spoke via Adrian for Val! Membership is back over 200, but we remain third in the Greater Gwent Area behind Pontypool and Lower Wye.

6.6. *Publicity Secretary* was absent.

6.7. *IT Officer's report* Keith noted that the web site receives twenty-odd hits a month and he has had a few enquiries although they are slow at this time of year.

7. *A.O.B.*

7.1. Walking wounded:

7.1.1. Ann Williams has finished a course of chemotherapy successfully and still retains enthusiasm enough to play tennis. She will now undergo a course of radiotherapy and is looking forward to resuming walking in May or June.

7.1.2. Doug Cocksedge has had a successful quadruple heart bypass operation and is recovering well.

7.2. Brian and Ken are organising another display in the library to publicise the Group.

Next Committee Meeting is on 22 July 2004