



# South Gwent Ramblers



## Minutes of the committee meeting held on 27 January 2005

*Members present* - Ken Phillips, Adrian Sheehan, Fred Fee, Val Clark, Howard Harvey, Keith Cooper, Ian Reese, Ted Clevely, Kath Sadler, Kath Carter, Christine Plateeuw, Rae Bird.

Ken welcomed all the new committee members

1. *Apologies for absence* Brian Williams

2. *Minutes of last meeting* were adopted

2.1. *Matters arising from the minutes*

2.1.1. *Item 2.1.1* Ian provided an entertaining practical day as the culmination of his Map and Compass evenings and was congratulated by the committee.

2.1.2. *Item 2.1.2* Ken reports “interesting” weather at Paignton this year

2.1.3. *Item 2.1.4 Area AGM* was well attended thanks to Gelligaer, but there were very few from SGR. The Area now has almost a full committee!

2.1.4. *Item 2.1.4 SGR AGM* was better attended than usual and we now almost have a full committee.

3. *Christmas celebrations* The walk was well attended and thanks to Derek Humble for organising it. Despite his best efforts, Ken still made a profit on the dinner.

4. *Officers' reports*

4.1. *Secretary* Ken went through the correspondence that he has received:

1 R.A. Greater Gwent Annual Report 2004	File
2 RA. Update on Ramblers Wales News	Nov 04 File
3 R.A. Countryside Update	Nov 04 Fred
4 R.A. Footpath Campaigns	Nov 04 Fred
5 G.G. Notification of Committee & meeting dates	Nov 04 File
6 R.A. Access Bulletin	Nov 04 Fred
7 R.A. Access Bulletin	Dec 04 Fred
8 R.A. Footpath Campaigner	Dec 04 Fred
9 RA. Letter from Lucy Jones re Car Insurance	Dec 04 Discuss/File
10 National Botanic Garden of Wales	Dec 04 Discuss/File
11 SGR Letter to Neil Munson (NGC) re Xmas Dinner	Dec 04 Discuss/File
12 R.A. Countryside Update	Dec 04 Fred
13 R.A. C.R.O.W. Launch in May 05	Discuss/Adrian
14 RA. W.C.E.C Minutes	Dec 04 File
15 R.A. Stepping Stones Walks	Dec 04 Discuss/Adrian
16 R.A. Access Bulletin	Jan 05 Fred
17 G.G. Area Meeting Dates	Discuss/File
18 G.G. Request for copies of our minutes & meeting dates	Discuss/File
19 R.A. Notification of Welsh Council Venue & Date	File
20 SGR Letter to R.A. Wales re SGR Committee	Jan05 File
21 SGR Letter to Area Re SGR Committee	Jan05 File
22 SGR Letter to Dave McCabe NCC re SGR Footpath Officer	Jan05 File
23 NGC Letter confirming 2005 Xmas dinner date	File
24 GAP Letter from Walking with the Blind Office	Discuss/File
25 FC Letter from Dee Ashurst	File
26 NCC Letter re Office Development	Fred
27 R.A. Stepping Stones Project Training Day	Discuss/File
28 CCoW Countryside Access Maps	Fred
29 RA. Welsh Council Update	File
30 TBC Walking Info for Tewkesbury Area	Discuss/File

Arising from the correspondence Ken reported:

4.1.1. £75 is available from RA to help with the cost of organising and advertising “Freedom to Roam” walks from 28 May.

4.1.2. Area wants the minutes of the Group meetings to be sent to a central repository. Kath Carter asked why, voicing the thoughts of the rest of the committee. The request gives no reason.

4.2. *Treasurer* In Brian’s absence, Ken reported that we have £896 in the bank. £258 is due from Area from the AGM and the Newsletter, which would give us £1154 in the bank.

4.3. *Footpaths Officer* Fred has received a ‘phone call from Henry Marks, the Deputy Director of RA Wales and has agreed to meet Dave McCabe the footpaths Officer of Newport CC. He also received several notifications of planning applications affecting footpaths, but none needed comment. A couple of footpaths diversion requests were minor and needed no comment.

4.4. *Rambles Officer* Adrian

4.4.1. The walks program is progressing OK: some illness has requires substitute leaders with volunteers readily found.

4.4.2. We have been asked to forward our walks to the RA for inclusion in the RA database.

4.4.3. *Proposals for walks events in 2005*

⇒ Ken noted that he had provisionally booked 28 October at Paignton merely to hold the date. He also suggested an alternative: a group coach trip to Falmouth for a weekend in January/February 2006 with the use of the coach during the weekend. This would allow for linear walks along the coastal path for example. The idea was well received

⇒ Ted noted that good Severn Bores are forecast for Saturdays and Sundays in March and will liaise with Ken to organise a trip to view one of them.

⇒ Ken reported that Derek Humble suggested, as an evening walk, a guided tour of the Hidden Garden in June @ £6.

⇒ Ian suggested a coastal path coach trip to replace the lost London trip. Ken could provide a walk in Rhosilli and Ian could lead a walk further afield. Ian will look further into this with a view to a date in September.

⇒ Fred will contact Linda Southworth about organising a trip to the North West for a fell walking weekend with individuals organising transport and B&B, Linda organising walks on the Saturday and Sunday, and Fred coordinating.

⇒ Ken is getting a brochure of Waverley boat trips, but the committee were not too enthusiastic.

⇒ Saturday 28 May marks the “Freedom to Roam” walk to celebrate the CRoW Act gaining assent and we may put on a walk.

⇒ The Area walk is ours this year, some time in September. Ken reported that Brian will look into using the church hall in Basseleg as a base.

⇒ Ted and Ken will look into a walk at the Botanical Gardens and Aberglasny.

4.4.4. *Walking for the blind* – John Ridley and Howard used to lead walks for the blind. We will continue to do so and Ken will organise a walk at Cosmeston Lakes. the committee agreed to lend its support on tis and future occasions.

4.4.5. *Walk and Talk* We will incorporate these walks into our evening walks.

4.5. *Membership Secretary* Val reported membership up to 202 (+2 for the month) with Area figures 926 (+1). Nine subscriptions are overdue and will receive reminders. Adrian will provide a current members list.

4.6. *Publicity Secretary* Kath Sadler reported that she was distributing our literature to the libraries and informing the Argus of our walks. Ken said that we are due to place an exhibition in June – Fred will make a couple of topical walk adverts to add to the usual exhibits. Kath Carter suggested the library exhibition should be more prominent than the staircase and there was some discussion as to the relative merits of the staircase and the 1<sup>st</sup> floor foyer locations.

4.7. *IT Officer's report* Keith had updated the web site to show the current walks program, but was disappointed that a forum that he set up had to be scrapped because of poor response.

5. *AOB* Ted noted that a new Welsh national walk route, the Cistercian Way, has opened and Maddy Gray will give a talk about the route at the King's Head in Newport on 2 March at 7:30pm.

*Next Committee Meeting* is on Wednesday 23 February to organise the walks calendar.