



South Gwent Ramblers



Minutes of the committee meeting held on
6 May 2005

Members present - Ken Phillips, Brian Williams, Adrian Sheehan, Fred Fee, Howard Harvey, Keith Cooper, Ted Clevely, Kath Sadler, Kath Carter.

1. *Apologies for absence* from Val Clark and Ian Reese
2. *Minutes of last meeting* were adopted.

Matters arising from the minutes are listed below under *Walks*.

3. *Walks*

- 3.1. The Severn Bore trip went so well that the Group ended up at Gloucester Docks!
- 3.2. The visit to the Hidden Gardens and Grottoes at Dewstow was very well attended and a real eye-opener despite the dull, drizzly weather which made the spookier parts of the gardens all the more spooky.
- 3.3. Ken has bought the Tewkesbury walks book: just ring him if you want to borrow it.
- 3.4. Ken sent a deposit of £100 for the hotel at Paignton.
- 3.5. Adrian has booked Risca Leisure Centre as the venue for the Area Walk on 18 September and has booked the car park for the whole day. The Leisure Centre will provide a tea urn and we provide other refreshments. Derek Humble is doing one walk and Adrian is looking for one more plus a reserve walk. All other Groups have been informed.
- 3.6. Fred was to try a walk on Blorenges as a CRoW walk.
- 3.7. The slide show was well attended.
- 3.8. The Walking for the Blind event had a good turn-out with Ken, Gill, Val, Brian and Howard present.
- 3.9. Adrian has located a possible barbeque site in the Brecon Beacons but we thought that it was a bit too far away. Ken and Ted will investigate a closer site. Adrian, Ken and Ted will help on the day.
- 3.10. Fred noted that details of the Dales walk are almost finalised and Fred will include details in a flier to be circulated with the next program.
- 3.11. Ken pencilled in a trip to Falmouth for October 2006.
- 3.12. Ken will look into a possible trip to the Derby Dales.
- 3.13. We agreed that we should donate something to the fund to help keep a part of Wentwood from being sold into private hands. Fred will scan a leaflet so that it can be included in the flier.

4. *New program format* caused some confusion because the photocopying process has deleted separating lines. Fred brought along two formats that addressed the issue and one found favour. We also agreed that the location column of the program should be expanded to allow a little more detail to be given, at the expense of the start point grid reference for which we saw little use. Fred will redo the program format as agreed at the meeting.
5. *Officers' reports*
 - 5.1. *Secretary Ken*
 - 5.1.1. Ken presented a mountain of correspondence which he had received from the RA – see attached sheet.
 - 5.1.2. Ken gave a warning to check *motor insurance*: we should check that we are covered when carrying out official duties for the RA since such duties are covered by some insurance firms and not by others. An example of such a duty would be travelling to help with footpaths work. Giving lifts to and from walks is not regarded as official RA business and is covered by almost all insurance policies.
 - 5.1.3. Ken also reported that an ex-secretary John Davies recently died at the age of 93. We agreed to make a donation to Dr Barnardo's *in memoriam*.
 - 5.1.4. Finally, we should note that the Ruperra Trust are holding a Woodland Festival on 9/10 July near the Hollybush, Draethen.
 - 5.2. *Treasurer Brian* reports that we have £1043 in hand and are expecting ~£500 from Area from subscriptions calculated on a new, much-simplified basis per group (£300 plus £1 per member): the amount is an increase of ~50% over last year. We are also owed £258 by Area from last year and Brian will write to Area about it. Last year we volunteered not to receive from Area some funds to which we were entitled. Brian has written with agreement of Committee members to ask Area to review whether this is necessary in future.
 - 5.3. *Footpaths Officer Fred* had nothing of import to report. Planning applications continue to arrive regularly and none need comment.
 - 5.4. *Rambles Officer Adrian* gave us sheets with dates free of walks and noted that he would like walks to be submitted before the end of July – earlier if possible. The Area footpaths officer would like to revive the idea of a South Gwent Way – an East-West path joining the foot of the many North-South Paths in the area. The idea was originally mooted some years ago by the late John Ridley then a member of South Gwent Ramblers. Ken asked about how it would be financed and suggested that the last quarter forfeit could go towards it.
 - 5.5. *Membership Secretary* was not present but our last known membership total was 199. Ken will write to known members reminding them to register with South Gwent.
 - 5.6. *Publicity Secretary* asked for a print run of 400 programs for distribution outside the group. Fred will check that all the committee's phone numbers are correct and amend the web site address on the programs.
 - 5.7. *IT Officer's report* – see attached sheet for the current state of play. The Committee agree to pay Keith £6 per month for the costs of running the web site and Keith will send a request for these costs to Brian.

Next Committee Meeting is on 8 September 2005

SGR Correspondence

1.	R.A. Walking for you and Take 30	Discuss and File
2.	R.A. Volunteer Structure Review	Discuss and File
3.	R.A. E.C. Meeting – March 05 Bulletin	File
4.	R.A. Motor Insurance for Volunteers	Discuss and File
5.	R.A. Welcome to Walking Week 17/25 Sept	Discuss and File
6.	RA. National Parks Week (22/29 July)	File
7.	R.A. Footpath News - March 05	Fred
8.	R.A. Distribution of papers	File
9.	R.A. Admin Review	Discuss and File
10.	R.A. Countryside Update - April 2005	Fred
11.	R.A. Changes to Walking Information Enquiry Service	File
12.	R.A. Welcome To Walking Week Reminder	Adrian
13.	R.A. Countryside Update - April 2005	Fred
14.	R.A. Rambler's Summer Photography Competition	Fred
15.	R.A. Board Of Trustees - Membership?	Discuss and File
16.	R.A. Review of R.A. led walks	Discuss and File
17.	R.A. Annual Report	Brian
18.	R.A. Membership Growth	Discuss and File
19.	R.A. Use your Path Leaflets	Discuss and Distribute
20.	R.A. Access Bulletin - May 05	Fred
21.	R.A. Policy on Renewable Energy	Fred
22.	R.A. Countryside Secretary questionnaire	Fred
23.	R.A. Footpath Campaigner - June 05	Fred
24.	R.A. Access Bulletin - June 05	Fred
25.	R.A. General Council Motions 05	File
26.	R.A. Possible Changes to Memorandum and Articles of Association	File
27.	R.A. Special Resolutions	File
28.	R.A.W. New Address Details	File
29.	R.A.W. E.C. Minutes 7/2/05	File
30.	R.A.W. E.C. Minutes 2/4/05	File
31.	R.A.W. E.C. Minutes 3/4/05	File
32.	S.G.R. Letter to Mike Williams Area Sec.	File
33.	S.G.R. Letter to Sarah Hopkins - Policy Manager Newport C.C.	File
34.	S.G.R. Letter to Caroline Thorley - Tewkesbury B.C.	File
35.	S.G.R. Letter to Mike Williams Area Sec.	File
36.	S.G.R. Letters to Overdue Members	File
37.	S.G.R. Letter to Ramblers Holidays	File
38.	S.G.R. Letter to Croydon Coaches	File
39.	S.G.R. Letter to Funeral Directors T J Davies re John Davies	File
40.	Coed Cadw Trust re public meeting on Save Wentwood Forest	File
41.	St David's Foundation - Letter of thanks	File
42.	Palace Hotel Paignton - Confirmation of Rooms	File
43.	Newport Ramblers - support for "Granny Trek"	File
44.	Ramblers Holidays - Holiday Offers	File
45.	Forestry Commission - Feedback Report Forest Fawr	File
46.	Forestry Commission - Feedback Report Llanbradock	File

IT Officers Report – 30/06/05

Website

We continue to enjoy a reasonably good interest in our website (see graph attached). Balanced against this, e-mail enquiries are down, I get very few now.

The last program was online as soon as I could get it there and has been updated as required since then.

Quite a few changes to report.

I found that the south-gwent-ramblers.co.uk domain was available again, so I have registered it under my name, on behalf of SGR.

Because of my general web base activities, I now have available a substantial amount of web space (800mb) on a scripted server allowing an interactive website and not just a static one.

Because of these two things I moved our website, 31-03-05, to a new and faster server (the old address still works, but via a redirect) and informed the RA of our new domain name. This enables me to update the website without having to close my broadband connection and dial up into Tiscali, (which cost me money I never claimed back).

I have been trying out ideas to utilise the extra facilities available. The essential differences of this over a previous experiment are that I can create pages with all the information we currently have, but as part of an integrated website with a bulletin board for discussion and the like. At some time in the future I will be able to add a picture gallery as well. Here members will be able to upload their own pictures.

I feel that our website is in danger of going 'stale' and needs to be updated. The extra facilities now available, I believe, will be of use to Adrian particularly, as well of other committee members if they wish to participate, *i.e.* all committee members can have e-mail addresses in the south-gwent-ramblers.co.uk domain. These can be diverted to existing e-mail addresses so that mail can go direct.

All the software for these developments is open source *i.e.* free to use, but I have estimated that about 15% of my web activity is on behalf of SGR, so I therefore request the following

- 1) Discussion on the future development of the SGR website.
- 2) Consideration by the group for the re-reimbursing of 15% of my internet costs which is about £6 per month.

Keith Cooper

30-06-05

[The next page shows a chart of the number of hits our site receives. Last year's hits are shown by the dark bars. Hits so far this year have increased in number and are shown by the light bars. The chart has suffered in translation from an excel spread-sheet to a graphic which suitable for reproduction – Fred]

South Gwent Ramblers Website Statistics 2004 & 2005

