



# South Gwent Ramblers



## Minutes of the committee meeting held on 8 September 2005

*Members present* - Ken Phillips, Adrian Sheehan, Fred Fee, Val Clark, Howard Harvey, Christine Platteeuw, Rae Bird, Ian Reese, Kath Carter.

1. *Apologies for absence* from Ted, Keith and Brian
2. *Minutes of last meeting*
  - 2.1. *Matters arising from the minutes*
    - 2.1.1. *Para 3.9* The project was abandoned because of conflicting holidays and other matters.
    - 2.1.2. *Para 3.10* The Dales trip was cancelled due to lack of interest.
    - 2.1.3. *Para 3.11* The Falmouth trip may have been superseded by a trip to Guernsey proposed by Sandra Cocksedge (*see* AOB below). Ken is going to go to Newquay to check out a nice hotel for a backup/extra trip.
    - 2.1.4. *Para 4* The new programme format, as amended, was well-received. A plaintive request by Howard for coloured paper to make the programme more recognisable when lost was noted with some agreement by the committee. Ian suggested that we could put in more information about the walk location in addition to precise details of the name of the walk. Fred will get the next programme printed on coloured paper and noted that the new format allows space for the extra data if it is submitted. Adrian said that he could add the extra data to the RA spreadsheet. Fred noted that only a small amount of editing of the spreadsheet was needed to generate the additional programme data automatically.
3. *AGM date and format*
  - 3.1. Thursday 24 November at 7pm in the Civic centre AV room with refreshments provided. There will be a slide show – Ian, Fred and David Fereday to liaise.
  - 3.2. As an aside, Ian suggested further slide show(s) and one was booked *in situ* for 26 January at 7:30pm in the Civic centre AV room. Ian and others will provide slides and Christine may provide a digital slide-show *via* the digital projector in the AV room.
4. *Newsletter* Ken discussed the format and Adrian will provide a feature on the Festival of Winter Walks.
5. *Officers' reports*
  - 5.1. *Secretary* Ken presented the usual list of correspondence – *see* below
  - 5.2. *Treasurer* Brian was not present, so Ken presented a report

- 5.2.1. We have £1668.64 in hand after receiving £503 for subscriptions (up from £336 last year) and £258.50 from Area in payment for hosting the Area AGM last year.
- 5.2.2. The RA Director of Finance wants annual accounts by 31 October. Group accounts are to be audited soon after, so all expenses have to be submitted to Brian before 20 September. any expenses submitted after that date will be carried over to October.
- 5.2.3. As an aside, the library publicity display came down yesterday. Next year, only 12 monthly display slots will be available and Brian has booked us for the whole of April for the staircase display area.

### 5.3. *Footpaths Officer* Fred

- 5.3.1. The usual junk continues to trickle in – for example, a new industrial unit on an industrial estate happens to be on a standard roadside pathway in an industrial development.
- 5.3.2. One diversion appears to go round a farm in a pleasant manner. The time limit includes my upcoming holidays. I like to give these a look, but this one will have to go through on the nod.
- 5.3.3. Ian McCabe’s successor has been approached, but for some reason has not yet been appointed and will not be for a couple of months or maybe more. Meanwhile, Michael Fowler is temporarily taking on the duties of Newport CC RoW Officer. He approached me, having received a ‘phone call from Newport Golf Club about the paths running through their course. I have sent an email to the Newport GC representative. Together with Ken, we have provisionally set a date of 11 October to meet and discuss proposals for footpaths diversions. Michael indicates that they are keen to have our views and are amicably disposed. Ken says that he talked to them some time ago about similar issues.
- 5.3.4. Michael also discussed a small diversion that moved a path a few yards so that it went through a pleasant field instead of going straight through a property. Michael noted that I had not responded to the planning application for the proposed diversion. I confirmed had I no objections and that is why I had not responded.

### 5.4. *Rambles Officer* Adrian

- 5.4.1. The programme is progressing well.
- 5.4.2. Anwen Hughes, the new Office Manager for RA Cardiff notes that the Western Mail is including RA subscription forms on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> to coincide with a Welcome to Walking Week feature.
- 5.4.3. The Area AGM at Risca Leisure Centre has a catering snagette – they are providing us with one urn and nothing else due to pressure of bookings elsewhere. Adrian and Kath Carter, ever keen on a challenge, have a workround and will organise its implementation.

- 5.5. *Membership Secretary* Val reports membership still at 201. Adrian said that the latest figures, hot off the press, shows that we are maintaining the figure. Fred gave Val a

print-out of emails that Keith had received from people asking for information on how to join.

5.6. *Publicity Secretary* Ken noted that the exhibition in the library had gone well and thanked Fred for his content provision.

5.7. *IT Officer* Fred presented the report in Keith's absence.

#### 5.7.1. *Website*

5.7.1.1. Visits to our website continues to tick over with visits, I can't give specific figures as I haven't collated them, but I do get weekly reports and they all look about par. I will prepare a full report for the AGM.

5.7.1.2. Technical problems working on the new website have meant that I've not got much to show for my efforts. I can however confirm that I have incorporated the signpost into the opening page and will also include the rest of the pages but updated for content and with pictures added as well as interactive content and member and committee only areas.

5.7.1.3. Kath Carter said that new walkers were very complimentary about the web site, and the site is attracting quite a few new members

#### 5.7.2. *IT Matters*

5.7.2.1. I haven't got around to requesting expenses yet, I'll do that when I have the south-gwent-ramblers.co.uk domain certificate from Nominet, so that Brian has something of substance.

5.7.2.2. With the south-gwent-ramblers.co.uk domain I can create e-mail addresses for different functions i.e. Membership, Walks etc and set them to redirect to existing personal e-mail addresses, if required.

### 6. *AOB*

6.1. Ken said that 35 are going to Paignton.

6.2. Ken has a brochure about the Guernsey and the committee agreed to pencil in a date in early October next year, since flights from Southampton (£75 return) are much cheaper than earlier. A good hotel is available at £36 for dinner, bed and breakfast and we are looking at a four or five night stay.

6.3. We thought that two coach rambles should be organised for next year, possibly for May and September, that is outside the school holidays. Ian offered to co-ordinate them.

6.4. Howard said that several walkers had asked him whether it was possible for them to drive to a walk, but for some other walker to drive their car back for them. We

thought that the insurance implications would prevent that from being done safely because most policies only allow third-party cover in those circumstances.

7. *Next Committee Meeting* is to be confirmed, and will probably be a walks meeting at a hostelry of our choice.
8. *Date of AGM* Thursday 24 November in the AV room at the civic Centre, Newport.

## SGR Correspondence for Meeting on 8th September 2005

1. RA.	-	W.C.E.C. Committee Minutes - May 05 .....	File
2. RA.	-	Minutes of Annual Meeting of W.C. - April 05 .....	File
3. RA.	-	Minutes of E.C. meeting of 12/03/05 .....	File
4. RA.	-	Area & Group Publications - Jun 05 .....	File
5. R.A.	-	Sale of Explorer Maps Jun 05 .....	File
6. RA.	-	Reserves Policy Consultation paper - Jun 05 .....	File
7. R.A.	-	Board of Trustees Meeting May 05 .....	File
8. R.A.	-	Activity Support Grants - Jun 05 .....	Discuss/file
9. RA.	-	Access Bulletin Jul 05 .....	Fred
10. RA.	-	Footpath Campaigner - Jul 05 .....	Fred
11. R.H.	-	Holiday offers Jul 05 .....	File
12. R.A.	-	Memo from Laura Mitchell - Jul 05 .....	File
13. R.A.	-	RAW! Renewable Energy Policy - May 05 .....	File
14. R.A.	-	W.C.E.C. Annual Accounts 2003/04.....	Brian
15. R.A.	-	Distribution of papers Jun 05 .....	File
16. R.A.	-	Festival of Winter walks Jul 05 .....	Adrian
17. RA.	-	Footpath News - Jul 05 .....	Fred
18. R.A.	-	R.A. Chief Executive Resignation - Jul 05 .....	File
19. RA.	-	Countryside Update Jul 05 .....	Fred
20. R.A.	-	Footpath Worker - Jul 05 .....	Fred
21. C.C.W.	-	Save Wentwood Forest - Jul 05 .....	File
22. F.C.	-	Tree Survey - Jul 05 .....	File
23. R.A.	-	Walk Britain 2006 - Jul 05 .....	Discuss/file
24. R.C.T.	-	Valley Walking Weekend -Aug 05 .....	Discuss/file
25. SGR	-	Letter to Area Sec inclosing annual report .....	File
26. G.G.	-	Letter from Area Sec advising dates - .....	Discuss/file
27. RA.	-	Preparations for Annual A/Cs - Aug 05 .....	Brian
28. R.A.	-	Footpath Campaigner - Aug 05 .....	Fred
29. R.A.	-	Discretionary Discounts - Aug 05 .....	File
30. R.A.	-	Footpath Campaigner - Sep 05 .....	Fred
31. R.A.	-	Advertisement for Trustees - Sep 05 .....	Discuss/file
32. R.A.	-	Access Bulletin - Sep 05 .....	Fred
33. RH.	-	Brochure on walks - Sep 05 .....	Discuss/file
34. F.C.	-	Woodlands Review Aug 05 .....	Fred
35. F.C.	-	Coed Mawr Woodland Aug 05 .....	Fred