



South Gwent Ramblers



Minutes of the committee meeting held on 5 September 2006

Members present - Keith Cooper, Adrian Sheehan, Ken Phillips, Val Clark, Christine Plateeuw, Fred Fee.

1. *Apologies for absence* from Brian Williams, Derek Humble and Howard Harvey
2. *Minutes of last meeting* were adopted
 - 2.1. *Matters arising from the minutes*
 - 2.1.1. Good weather, walks and hotel blessed the Pembroke trip.
 - 2.1.2. After a damp start, the Weston-super-Mare walk turned into a hot one that all enjoyed.
 - 2.1.3. The barbecue at Cosmeston provided a good walk with a good turn-out. The chef, Fred provided excellent meat, Kath Carter excelled at organisation and Ken's trolley was a godsend.
 - 2.1.4. The meeting noted the upcoming Skittles evening on Thursday 2 November at County Hall, Cwmbrân and the Festival of Winter Walks which Adrian will coordinate if any are offered.
 - 2.1.5. Suggestions for other events were made:
 - Ken suggested walks along the lines of those provided during the Foot-and-Mouth outbreak.
 - Adrian noted that Local Authorities are now getting interested in walking events citing the "Walking for Gold" initiative.
 - Adrian often travels to France and suggested a trip to St Lucien near Rouen (two hour's drive from Dover).
 - Brian and Ken suggested a trip to Newquay and a walk from Treannon Bay to Padstow.
 - Fred may incorporate a visit to a vineyard and orchid viewing into a walk in June/July 2007.
 - Ken noted that the Christmas dinner will be £11 including tip and that the Christmas walk will be from the Huntsman.

3. *Officers' reports*

3.1. *Secretary Ken*

3.1.1. Ken commented on a list of correspondence:

1.	RA	Trustees Meeting Bulletin	May 06	File
2.	RA	Footpath News	May 06	Derek
3.	RA	Summer Recruitment Drive	May 06	Fred
4.	RA	Minutes of Trustees meeting	May 06	File
5.	RA	Footpath Campaigner	June 06	Derek
6.	RA	Right of Way in England		Derek
7.	RA	Access Bulletin	Jun 06	Derek
8.	RA	Volunteer Award Scheme	Jun 06	Discuss/File
9.	RA	Group Achievements	Jun 06	Discuss/File
10.	RA	Maps for sale	Jun 06	File
11.	RA	Adrian Ritchie Tribute Book	Jun 06	File
12.	RA	Legal Cases Appeal	Jun 06	Discuss/File
13.	RA	Distribution of Papers	Jun 06	File
14.	RA	Footpath Campaigner	Summer 06	Derek
15.	RA	Trustees Meeting Bulletin	Jul 06	File
16.	RA	Access Bulletin	Jul 06	Derek
17.	RA	Footpath Campaigner	Jul 06	Derek
18.	RA	Countryside Update	Jul 06	Derek
19.	RA	Access Bulletin	Jul 06	Derek
20.	RA	Preparation of Accounts	Aug 06	Brian
21.	RA	Access Bulletin	Aug 06	Derek
22.	NCC	Unitary Development Plan	May 06	Derek
23.	FC	Design Plan Review	Jun 06	Derek
24.	Rup	Ruperra Castle Development	Aug 06	Discuss/File
25.	RA	Festival of Winter Walks	Aug 06	Adrian
26.	RA	Access Bulletin	Sep 06	Derek
27.	RA	Footpath Campaigner	Sep 06	Derek

3.1.2. Ken pp Christine noted that some drivers are reluctant to accept a contribution towards fuel &c expenses after rambles. N Devon Ramblers encourage the practice and it has now become the norm. We agreed that this should be the SGR norm. Ken will add a piece to this effect in the newsletter.

3.1.3. A suggestion from the RA might wish to put forward names of candidates for an award system was discussed. we concluded that we did not want to support such a scheme.

3.2. *Treasurer* Ken and Brian noted a forthcoming meeting of Group Treasurers in Cardiff on Saturday 30 September to discuss new RA accounting system. Under the system, a Group budget submitted to Area is passed up to RA headquarters as a funding submissions and funding allocation to the Groups is to be based on the bid. at the same time all Areas will use accountancy software provided by RA headquarters. Ken, Brian and Fred are to attend the meeting.

3.3. *Footpaths Officer* Derek

3.3.1. Not much to report at the moment, we have been informed of small residential developments, which don't affect rights of way to any great extent and one big housing estate planned for the high ground north of Llanwern village. But even this doesn't detract from the few footpaths in the area.

3.3.2. There is an ongoing change of route, involving several alterations to the path from the Old Post Office on the A48 at Penhow to Parc Seymour, and when it is finally resolved it will improve access between these places.

3.4. *Rambles Officer* Adrian

3.4.1. The programme was delayed by technical problems with the printer – *see* Fred’s report.

3.4.2. The Area Ramble was organised at the last minute and, even with the printing delays, did not make it into the programme.

3.4.3. The “Stepping Stones” project provides walks for new walkers of low fitness levels and funds courses that give a qualification that is necessary for leading a walk under the Stepping Stones ægis.

3.5. *Membership Secretary* Val reports that we now have 195 members, one up from the last meeting.

3.6. *Publicity Secretary* Fred

3.6.1. New use for the printer – copying the minutes and reports for meetings.

3.6.2. Expenses:

- new toner cartridge for the printer - I assume that the printer had a “starter” cartridge to begin with.
- Coloured card, 250 of each of four different colours – enough for four programme cycles. Used one colour for the current programme.

3.6.3. This programme was late due to the printer’s laser packing in. A new laser was fitted free and the toner immediately ran out.

3.6.4. I produced an A4 poster for Information Centres and left one at each of Newport, Abergavenny and Caerphilly Information Centres. The Information centres now give customers a copy of the program on request. This has lowered the number of programmes distributed. I will keep an eye on whether the number of new recruits drops as a result.

3.6.5. The programme has been electronically distributed to Monmouthshire CC, Newport CC Physical Activity directory and to Keith for the web site.

3.6.6. Libraries no longer handle local information sheets! As Adrian noted, trouble with the printer plagued the printing of the last programme. Apart from that, I have had to replace the poster in the library twice after it went “walkies”.

3.7. *IT Officer’s report* Keith reports that the site continues to get its regular trickle of hits and that he has introduced a new form on the site to provide more information about the sender of a request for information.

Next Committee Meeting is in January, the date to be decided after the AGM.

