



South Gwent Ramblers



Minutes of the committee meeting held on
26 April 2007

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

1. *Apologies for absence* Brian Williams and Derek Humble
2. *Minutes of last meeting* were adopted

2.1. *Matters arising from the minutes*

- 2.1.1. Fred brought along Newport CC walks leaflets that he had received from Andrew Briscoe, Newport CC's Footpaths Officer. The following received leaflets and volunteered to do the walks and report problems:

Kath Carter – Goldcliffe

Diana Osman – Caerleon and Penhow

Adrian Sheehan – Graig

Ken Phillips – Redwick

Fred Fee – Bishton and "Four More Walks" (near Caldicot)

Fred will set up a meeting with Andrew and the walkers, possibly going along part of one of the walks.

- 2.1.2. Adrian will obtain RA stationery.

2.1.3. *Civil Liability Insurance*

To comply with the RA insurance, we should make sure that leaders outline what is involved in a walk before setting off and should pre-walk according to the RA guidelines.

Fred will email a copy of the RA checklist for leaders to members.

2.1.4. *Events*

Skittles – went well and was well attended – thanks to Kath Carter.

France – Adrian reports that ten are going and will meet beforehand to get the route &c: all accommodation is booked. Kath was worried that the continental driving put people off, but the meeting felt that the trip added to the SGR gamut and was worthwhile.

Westonbirt – Ken reported that a 21-seat mini-bus was booked. The increasing cost of coaches probably contributed to the low numbers booking: a guide would take participants round in the morning.

Exmouth – Mary is doing a walk which will include the Botanical Gardens: the coach is booked and the Otter pub is booked for dinner.

Barbecue – Adrian reports that you cannot book the barbecue facilities and Cwmarn. Despite that, the meeting agreed to proceed.

Tewkesbury – Ken, Brian and Fred reconnoitred a six-mile walk. Fred will try a 10-miler and we could also walk in Tewkesbury. Dumbleton Hall looks excellent for a meal. The date of the walk is now 2 September.

Newquay – Ken has booked four days from 4 October with 28 do far interested. A coastal linear walk on Friday and a local Ramblers Group walk for Sunday will accompany an event, as yet undecided, on Saturday.

Map-reading course in Cardiff – Adrian will see if it is still on [Ken suggested that we should ask Ian to organise another Map-and-Compass evening to general agreement. Diana said that there was a navigation course in Brecon and Adrian said that the Area may look into provision of a first aid course by St John’s Ambulance.]

3. *Officers’ reports*

3.1. *Secretary* Ken commented on a list of correspondence:

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| RA | Minutes of Trustees Meeting | Oct 06 | File |
| RA | Minutes of Trustees Meeting | Dec 06 | File |
| RA | Distribution of Papers | Dec 06 | File |
| RA | Thought for the month | Jan 07 | File |
| RA | Paths Week | Jan 07 | Christine |
| RA | Countryside Update | Jan 07 | Derek |
| RA | New Display Posters | Jan 07 | Fred |
| RA | Interim Chief Executive | Jan 07 | File |
| RA | SGR Sec's resignation | Jan 07 | File |
| LWR | GAB post | Jan 07 | File |
| RA. | Trustees Meeting Minutes | Jan 07 | File |
| RA. | Stepping Stones Project | Feb 07 | Discuss/File |
| SGR | Letter to Ramblers Holidays | Feb 07 | File |
| RA | Thought for the Month | Feb 07 | File |
| RA | Access Bulletin | Feb 07 | Derek |
| RA | Footpath Matters | Feb 07 | File |
| RA | Thought for the Month | Mar 07 | File |
| RH | Holiday Offers | Mar 07 | File |
| RA | Trustees Meeting Minutes | Mar 07 | File |
| RA | Recruitment & Publicity Form | Mar 07 | Ken |
| RA | Practical Path Work Insurance | Mar 07 | Derek |
| RA | Group Secretary Newsletter | Spring 07 | Ken |
| RA | Footpath Worker | Mar 07 | Derek |
| RA | Footpath Matters | Mar 07 | Derek |
| RA | Access Bulletin | Mar 07 | Derek |
| RA | Footpath Matters | Apr 07 | Derek |

3.2. *Treasurer* In Brian’s absence, Ken reported that the bank balance is £999.57. We have received £723.00 allocation from Area and £16.01 interest from the bank. Only four members have claimed travel expenses and £370 has been paid in advanced booking fees for SGR events.

3.3. *Footpaths Officer* was not present, but Derek has told Ken that there was nothing of import to report.

3.4. *Rambles Officer* Christine was not present. Ken was worried about the gaps in the short walks.

3.5. *Membership Secretary* is awaiting a report from Area

Publicity Secretary Fred reported

Printed and sent out Summer programmes. Sent electronic copies to an ever-growing list of local bureaucrats and left a poster and copies of the programmes at the Abergavenny, Caerphilly and Newport TIOs.

Attended meeting of the Going for Gold (G4G) subgroup:

Newport CC is to launch a Short Urban Walks initiative on June. The paths in the parks of Newport have been upgraded and markers placed in the parks to encourage exploratory walking.

Yet another government initiative called "Walking for Wales" is probably going to run under the aegis of the existing G4G and "Communities First" initiatives.

G4G is to be launched at the Gwent Dragons rugby match on Friday 13 June.

When leaders are accepting G4G validation card numbers, they should be aware that numbers from existing Newport CC Leisure Centre cards and Newport CC Sports Club cards are also valid and can be accepted as well as G4G card numbers.

A group called W.A.L.K. provide over 40 different very easy walks with leaders in the Newport Area.

Fred showed the meeting the RA guidelines for walks leaders and a book entitled Hill Walking which is the official handbook of the Mountain Leader and Walking Group Leader schemes.

3.6. IT Officer's report

3.6.1. Keith has updated the walks grades information on the web site.

3.6.2. Adrian reports that SGR walks are not on the Walkfinder part of the RA's site. He submitted them in the correct format and will try to discover where the problem lies.

4. *Gwent Association for the Blind* Ken is leading a walk on 21 June and reminded the committee that he is always happy to accept offers of help.
5. *Howard Harvey* offered to resign from the committee after many years' service, since he can no longer do the walks and felt that a more lively member could replace him. His resignation was accepted, but his company at the meetings will be missed. We thanked him for his work on the committee.
6. *Next Committee Meeting* is on Thursday 12 July 2007