



Members present - Roger Binding, Fred Fee, Dave Fereday, Joan Lang, Colin Wallace, Ivor Barclay, Sheila Holmes, Charles Goodreid.

Roger took the chair.

1. *Apologies for absence* Julie Davies, Adrian Sheehan, Derek Humble
2. *Minutes of last meeting* were adopted
3. *Matters arising from the minutes*
 - 3.4. **South Gwent Ramblers host the Area Ramble on 17 September.** The location, format and staffing of the event was discussed. Machen and Usk were mentioned by Roger and Ponthir by Dave. Eventually Machen was selected. Roger said the we needed 2 leaders and two helpers on the long walk. Colin volunteered to book the venue with Colin and Sue providing the refreshment.
4. *Officers' reports*
 - 4.1. *Secretary* Colin Wallace had nothing to report.
 - 4.2. *Treasurer* Roger Binding
 - 4.2.1. We received the full £392.50 second half allocation of funds from the Ramblers Association and currently have £138830.30 in hand. The Ramblers Association are worried about their charitable status and have asked Groups to diminish their cash-in-hand to more appropriate levels. Roger considers to current balance too high in the circumstances. The Ramblers Association aim to reduce Group funds to 40% of their turnover. Originally some Groups had very large holdings and we are now suffering because of the higher amounts held elsewhere. Eventually, it should pan out OK for us.
 - 4.2.2. in short, we could manage with a balance of £500 or maybe less. Roger will find a consensus at the Area meeting.
 - 4.2.3. Joan asked if photocopying walks details from the programme of walks or photocopying maps and other information needed for a walk came under aegis walks expenses. The meeting decided that they could.
 - 4.3. *Footpaths Officer* Derek Humble was not present
 - 4.4. *Rambles Officer* Dave Fereday
 - 4.4.1. All long walks are filled except for the Bank Holiday on 27 September and the Sunday after the Newquay trip on 8 October. Few Medium walks have been submitted and hardly any short ones: in fact, all except the walk on 29 October are vacant.
 - 4.5. *Membership Secretary* Joan Lang reported that membership was down to 129 which includes lapsed members
 - 4.6. *Publicity Secretary* [vacant]
 - 4.7. *IT Officer's report* Fred Fee reported that he had published to programmes and newsletters, kept the web sites up-to-date and circulated information of interest to the group as usual.

5. *Events calendar*

- 5.1. Joan reported that her **Stourhead trip** provided a great day out and the event went well.
- 5.2. Discussion of future events
 - 5.2.1. Derek has booked the **Barbecue for 6 August at Tintern** and he will lead yet another unique walk through the hinterlands. Colin will provide the food, with Kerry and Steve helping. Colin will check the arrangements soon. The cost is only £5 on the day.
 - 5.2.2. Joan reported that the **midweek trip to Newquay on 2-6 October** looked promising with 39 booked to go. She has circulated emails and text with the arrangements and payment details.
 - 5.2.3. Lower Wye Group host the **Area Ramble is down for 19 November**.
 - 5.2.4. **SGR AGM will be booked for 19 November at Usk**. Roger may lead a walk.
 - 5.2.5. **Skittles** Ivor could let NOGs know and ask Charles to try the St Julians pub. The total cost is the merely cost of the food and the use of the skittle alley is then free. Roger noted that Jan was thinking of the usual venue at Whiteheads Club. Ivor replied that the atmosphere is better at St Julian's. He also suggested a future NOGs v SGR night.
 - 5.2.6. It was agreed that the **Christmas Dinner** should be organised between 12-17 December.
 - 5.2.7. The **Christmas Walk and Lunch** between Christmas and New Year will be organised by Fred.

6. *AOB*

- 6.1. **Ivor** mentioned the **Rescue Emergency Care training courses** needed to lead Walk-the-Port[†] walks. He commented that they went too far to be suitable for SGR purposes. Nonetheless, he felt that some lighter **first aid training was necessary for SGR leaders**. The committee agreed.
†Newport CC's annual walking event providing paid-for and challenge walks
- 6.2. **Dangerous situation occurred during a recent walks**. Colin told of a diabetic member who went hypo during a walk and wasn't noticed for a while until a fellow diabetic member recognised the symptoms. The leader had allowed the Group to string out too much to notice. On a few other occasions, members lost their way when they lost sight of the leading group. **Two lessons can be learned from such events:**
 1. Leaders should keep an eye on the group's footing and should maintain visible contact with the group at all times; and
 2. Leaders should walk at the pace of the group and not at their own pace.

7. *Next committee meeting* on 24 October 2017