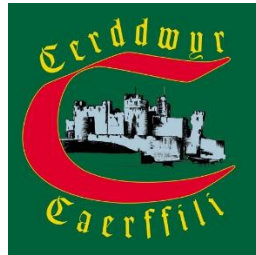


CAERFFILI AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS



Twenty Ninth Annual General Meeting - 12th October 2023

Minutes - Draft

Note: Same format as last 2 years used: i.e. with a couple of walks preceding the meeting, followed by a buffet at 1 pm at Caerphilly Golf Club, meeting commencing at 2 pm.

Apologies: John Arblaster, Jonathan Davies, Susan Jarvis, Karen Jennick, Hayley New, Tony Napier, Clive Pleasants, Glenys Robinson, Mark Parry.

Fifty-one members attended the meeting - 34% (51/148).

Minutes 2022 AGM: It was agreed that the minutes were a true record.

Matters arising: None

Officers' Reports:

a. Chair - Bob Macey

- The Club has continued to function effectively with both walking and social activities becoming normalised following lockdown impacts. Some long-term changes as a consequence, in common with many other walking groups. In particular, the introduction of WhatsApp for car sharing following ASDA's change of policy on the use of its car park.
- The Committee has continued to meet regularly and, as required, has reviewed the constitution. No changes have been proposed.
- Holidays: Isle of Wight (IoW) last Autumn and two organised for the future (See below).
- Social events: New style Christmas lunch proved popular (Sian, Val, Judith) and will be replicated this year. Also cheaper and cheerful New Year meal/party (Pam, Olwen, plus various performances e.g. Lawrence)
- Coach trip: Bosherton, successfully organised by Margaret.
- Caerphilly Challenge: Ron not only led Caerphilly Ramblers engagement, but also organised the Challenge route and recces. Thanks to Ron and to all who helped him deliver on the day.
- Thanks also go to Wilf for his work on the website.

b. Treasurer - Judith Jones

- 148 members last year.
- At the start of the financial year (1st Sept 2022) we had a healthy balance of £1,767.72.
- During this year, we received income from Membership Fees of £900, £188 for the AGM buffet, £960 for the IoW coach (plus £15 IoW surplus), £1324.05 for the Xmas lunch and coach, £579.50 in deposits for the 30th Birthday celebrations, £940 for bookings for the Bosherton trip, £22,601 for the upcoming Dolgellau holiday (plus deposits of £2,200), a £60 donation from Ramblers

Walking Holidays, £570 in deposits for the 2023 Xmas lunch, resulting in a total income of £30,337.55.

- Our expenditure comprised annual Insurance of £280.73, Ramblers Association affiliation of £65.50, £960 on loW transport, Committee/AGM room hire costs of £48 and £50 respectively for the Twyn and Caerphilly Golf Club venues, £18 for the kissing gate plaque, £360 for the AGM buffet, £1067.85 for our Xmas lunch, plus coach costs of £268.50, 30th Anniversary expenses totalling £579.50, £955 for the Bosherton Trip, Dolgellau holiday expenses of £24,796, £625 for Xmas 2023 lunch (incl. coach), and some miscellaneous amounts for stationery and website costs totalling £210.09. This equated to a total expenditure of £30,284.17.
- We finished the year (31st August 2023) with a healthy balance of £1742.26 plus petty cash of £93.15.
- We also have a £325.72 investment in HF Holidays which gave us £4.83 interest.
- Thanked Margaret for auditing our accounts this year, and our two cheque signatories (Ron and Pam).
- The treasurer also managed to obtain online access to our bank account this year, so that she can now see bank transfers made to it.
- The committee recommended no change to the membership subscription of £6, which was agreed. Note. There was a suggestion of increasing it to £10, which was not taken up.

Any comments/questions?

- One new member asked if there was a minimum balance for our finances. Judith stated that no there is no set minimum balance. We are a not-for-profit organisation. We are spending less on printing due to the use of email, which is a saving. Whatever we spend our surplus on must be for the benefit of most of our club members.
- Any suggestions for spending our surplus? Open to constructive suggestions. N.b. We do have shares in HF holidays which means we benefit for our holidays with them.
- Wilf suggested providing another kissing gate. Bob stated that this is subject to the local authority being willing to be involved.

c. Walks Secretary - Val Steel

- A Monthly Walks Programme is sent to all Members
- Walks Programme is advertised on the website which is being kept up-to-date by Wilf
- The Facebook page continues to be administered by Clive
- We've had what I think was another successful year, with 100 walks offered, covering nearly 800 miles and attended by around 1500 walkers (amalgamated)
- Walk attendance averaged 29 participants per week over the year
- Support was provided to the Caerphilly Challenge with 7 volunteers offering to lead groups 11 miles around Caerphilly Mountain
- We celebrated the Club's 30th Anniversary
- In addition to the Walks Programme there was the annual walking trip organised with an imminent walking holiday scheduled

The past year has been busy yet again! Finally sincere thanks to our voluntary leaders, organisers, and walkers for making all this possible and we look forward to what 2024 will offer.

d. Health & Safety – Margaret Wallis

- Re: Health. No accidents have been reported this year. Leaders, please be aware there is a form available from Bob if an accident should occur on your walk.

- Re: Safety. Emphasised Risk Assessments are very important for Insurance. They are quick and easy to complete and should not put off any new leaders.

Election of Officers:

a. Chair

- Bob stated that as indicated last year he is standing down. Before coming to his replacement, he thanked all who have helped the last 6 years pass without serious mishap.
- He went on to state that the Committee does have a nomination but the constitution sets out a process. So before giving our members the Committee's nomination he asked if there was any nomination from the floor, which there was not.
- The Committee's unanimous nomination is Val Steel. Val was duly elected (nominated by Ron and seconded by Pam).

b. Walks Secretary

- In light of Val becoming the new Chairperson, Bob stated that Ron had volunteered to take on the role of Walks Secretary. Proposed: Pam, seconded: Judith.

c. Other Officers/Committee Members

- All current officers and committee members who were willing to stand were then re-elected en block. Proposed: Mike Thomas, seconded: Peter Brice.
- The club now has the flexibility to add at least one more Committee member and was keen to have representation from the shorter walks group. Peter Brice volunteered to join in this capacity.

The Committee is now as follows:

Chair: Val Steel, **Treasurer:** Judith Jones, **Secretary:** Carol Franks, **Walks Sec:** Ron Freeman, **Health & Safety:** Margaret Wallis, **Membership Officer:** Judith Jones

Ordinary Members: Pam Lyons, Sian Van Gemenen, Sandy Halliday, Peter Brice

Review Proposed Amendments to the Club Constitution

As stated above, no changes were proposed.

Walking Holidays & Coach Trips:

- Our next holiday will be to Dolgellau tomorrow. There is also a trip to Spain in May 2024, organised by Pam as well.
- Bob stated there is scope for one in Autumn 2024, if anyone would like to volunteer to organise it.
- Coach Trips: Margaret has indicated she is looking to retire from organising coach trips. Members expressed their appreciation to Margaret for the many coach trips organised. Bob asked if there are any volunteers willing to step forward. If so, please check available dates with the Walks Secretary.

Socials:

- Christmas Lunch will be on 7th December at Bryn Meadows.
- New Year event will be on 25th January at the Cedar Tree Toby Carvery.

- Members were reminded that they are invited to organise Club events and should contact the Chair to discuss their proposals.

Any other Business:

- John Newton publicised an Eco Festival event at Bedwas Workman's Club from 28th October for 9 days. In particular 2 short walks on the Wednesday and Friday. The latter by Ramblers Cymru with a talk on top of Bedwas Mountain by Leanne Wood.
- Lawrence highlighted that on a recent walk at Pentyrch he had incurred a £60 parking fine and requested that walks leaders should check out parking arrangements at walk starts. A similar situation occurred recently at Llancaich Fawr as a walk using their car park coincided with two functions at their venue, requiring the group to move all their cars.

Lastly, a few speeches/presentations wrapped up the meeting:

- Val, as incoming Chair, said she was truly humbled to be taking on the role. She thanked Ron for volunteering to take on the Walks Secretary role and thanked our members for their support whilst she was in the role. She then gave a special thank you to Bob for being Chair over these last 6 years stating what a fab job he had done and presented him with a bottle of wine as a token of appreciation for the work he has done on behalf of the club.
- Peter Brice also stood up to thank Bob, highlighting that Bob had had to deal with the difficult Covid time during his tenure and how the club had since expanded, giving the recent example of 33 people being on Ron's walk.
- Judith then gave a few words of thanks to Val for her hard work as Walks Secretary and presented her with a bottle of wine as a token of appreciation for the work she has done on behalf of the club.
- Bob had the last word, thanking everyone who had made the last 6 years go well with very few issues!

The meeting closed at 2.40 pm.

C. Franks 13/10/2023