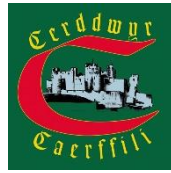


CAERFFILI AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS



Annual General Meeting - 16th October 2025

Minutes - Draft

Note: Same format as last 4 years used, i.e. with a couple of walks preceding the meeting, followed by a buffet at 1 pm at Caerphilly Golf Club and the meeting commencing at 2 pm.

Val as Chair, opened the meeting with a moment to honour our valued members who have recently passed.

1. **Apologies:** John and Tracy Arlblaster, Marilyn Griffiths, Linda Woods.

Sixty-two members attended the meeting - 43% (62/144).

2. **Minutes 2024 AGM:** It was agreed that the minutes were a true record.
3. **Matters arising:** None
4. **Officers' Reports:**
 - a. Chair – Val Steel

Val covered the following topics in her report:

- Walks – Thanked everyone for keeping our Club active. Particularly our walk leaders for offering up their time/efforts to ensure we have a programme of good walks on offer and to Ron for doing a good job at collating/producing our monthly walks program.
- Social Events and Holidays – Thanks go to those responsible for organising our 2024-2025 activities: Bryn Meadows Xmas do (Val and Judith), Cedar Tree New Year do (Pam), Skittles evening (Sian), Coach trip to National Botanical Gardens (Sian), Alpaca walk (Sian), St Davids holiday (Jane Willock) and Spain holiday (Pam). Future events 2025-2026 events: Bryn Meadows Xmas lunch (Val), New Year do (Pam), Afternoon Tea at Scholar's Restaurant, Ystrad Mynach College (Jen Richards) and another walking holiday to Spain (Pam).
- Thank you to –
 - Committee members for working behind the scenes, giving time and support to help ensure our club runs smoothly
 - Walk Leaders – vital part of group
 - Clive and Wilf – maintaining our Facebook and website
 - Photographers – taking fabulous photos and sharing on Facebook page
 - Judith as Treasurer – managing finances efficiently, produces clear end of year reports. We are now using our Rambler Bank Account to make/collect online payments for social events and holidays which greatly assists us and relieves individuals of needing to spend time visiting the bank and of handling other people's money.
 - Margaret Wallis – auditing the group's finances last year
 - All our members – supporting the group in lots of ways including walking in all weathers and of course coming to the AGM.
- Committee –

- Lawrence stepped down during the year
- Following Margaret stepping down as Health and Safety officer, Val has been the name of contact for Insurance purposes. Delighted to announce that Wendy Parfitt has volunteered to take on this role.
- All other current members are willing to stay in place for another year.
- There are 3 long-serving Committee Members who wish to step away from their roles, so it is important to encourage members to step up.
- Committee Meetings – 3 per year at the Twyn. Thanks go to Carol for organising the meetings, recording, and documenting the minutes.

b. Treasurer & Membership Secretary - Judith Jones

Judith issued a copy of the Financial Report – 1st September 2024 to 31st August 2025.

- 144 members last year (up from prior year) – almost 50% here today.
- Thanks to Margaret for auditing.
- Main source of income is from membership fees, which covers running costs.
- Most significant change is our move to online banking. Since Lloyds introduced bank charges, we have looked at other banks, however Lloyds came out cheaper as they have a Community Group offering, so we've stayed. We pay £4.25 per month administration fee. Cheques cost 42 pence, and deposits/withdrawals are charged. Judith makes payments and Val authorises.
- We have a healthy balance (end of 2025 (31st Aug) - £2,244.20 in funds (quite large).
- In order to reduce our surplus, the Committee decided to subsidise the buffet and reduce this year's membership to £3. A retrospective vote for this Committee decision was agreed by a show of hands in this AGM meeting.
- Judith asked for any ideas to make use of our current surplus. Lawrence suggested that we select a Charity for use of the surplus next year. Another thought was to offer some funds to support the Caerphilly Challenge event.

c. Walks Secretary – Ron Freeman

- Thanks to walk leaders – we have 22 out of our 144 membership.
- Last year, 20 walks were cancelled (Oct-Sep), only 8 this year!
- On short walks we had 690 people, averaging 14 per week.
- On long walks, we had 666 people, also averaging 14 per week (less walks).
- January was the best month for attendance, 73 on the short and 94 on the long, i.e. 167 in total. September was the worst with a total of only 52.
- Accolades: Pam's Xmas walk was best attended with 34, and John Newton's 12 miler had the least attendees, just himself and Colin!
- Thanks go to Wilf for updating the website programme.
- Caerphilly Challenge – doubt over start point (should be St Martins, but they have put the cost up). Alternative under consideration is in Ystrad Mynach, but new routes would be required. It will be on Saturday 9th May.

d. Health & Safety – Wendy Parfitt

- No accidents have been reported this year.
- Note to walk leaders – If there is an accident, complete an Accident Report form for Insurance and send to the Health and Safety Officer ASAP, as they must notify Insurance Company if someone is making a claim against us.

A copy of the full Officer Report, the Financial Report, and/or Walking programme stats can be requested from the Secretary, or respective Officer.

5. Election of Officers:

Role	Nominee	Proposer	Second
Chair	Val Steel	Lawrence Andrews	John Newton
Treasurer	Judith Jones	Edward Davies	Colin Hicks
Walks Secretary	Ron Freeman	Lloyd Rees	Bob Macey
Secretary	Carol Franks	Lawrence Andrews	Ray Oliver
Health & Safety Officer	Wendy Parfitt	Margaret Wallis	Mike Thomas
General Members	Sian Van Gemenen Pam Lyons Sandy Halliday Vacancy (Lloyd Rees)	Jean Chard Angela Neal John Newton Jan Rees	Jen Richards Marilyn Powell Terry Ap Hywel Pam Lyons

6. Review of Constitution:

- Takes place every 2 years (last time 2023).
- Due to the move to digital and mobile banking, the Committee have updated Sections 8 and 10 to reflect these changes.
- All agreed to accept these changes. **Action:** Carol to amend and Wilf to publish on our website.

7. Walking Holidays & Coach Trips:

- Spain Holiday - Pam shared what a good holiday was had this year in Spain. So good, she has arranged another for next year. All single rooms are taken, some double/twin rooms available. 28 have already signed up. The website is available to pay deposits.
- Coach Trip – Sian/Ron have suggested going to Rhossili to see the sunflower fields and do both a long and short walk.

8. Festive Lunch and Cabaret:

- Booked and sorted for 11th December. Balances are required by end October.

9. New Year Dinner:

- Pam asked for any new ideas for location/entertainment - previous years we've been to Cedar Tree, Toby Carvery for their late January deal, Lawrence has entertained with his ukelele, and quizzes done. Speak to Pam or Lawrence.

10. Any other Business (AoB):

- Carol Elcock asked where the maps previously held by Peter Brice were – Ron confirmed they are in his possession.
- Lawrence Andrews highlighted that there is a 40% discount on Osprey products for HF members and wondered whether it was applicable to our Group membership?

The meeting closed at 2.35 pm.

C. Franks 19/10/2025