

CAERFFILI AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Twenty Eighth Annual General Meeting - 6th October 2022

Minutes - Draft

Note: Last year's format was repeated, 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.

Apologies: Olwen Ford, Sandy Halliday, Clive Pleasants, Pam Strange, and Michael Maguire.

Forty-eight members attended the meeting - 30% (48/160).

Minutes 2021 AGM: It was agreed that the minutes were a true record.

Matters arising: Bob stated that the club's 3 Bothy Bags reside with Sian Van Gemeren, John Newton and Clive Elsbury and the Warren Drive kissing gate now has the club plaque in place.

Officers' Reports:

Chair - Bob Macey

- Challenging year again with Covid restrictions. Nevertheless, a pretty full walking programme with some resumption of social events; Xmas lunch (Olwen, Sian, Judith), coach trip (Margaret with Ron/Clive). New Year bash cancelled, and no holiday within the year.
- Thanked all volunteers - Leaders, walkers, and committee members and Wilf.
- Caerphilly Challenge (CC) reverted to May.
- Thanked and congratulated Ron who led our involvement and is leading the CC route development in 2023 (13th May). Also thanked other volunteers, many new this year.
- Some training courses provided free on the back of our challenge support.
- Introduction of written risk assessment. Insurance requirement
- Note next May (5th) is our 30th anniversary.

Treasurer - Judith Jones

- 2nd year in role. 160 members last year. Thanked Margaret for auditing the accounts this year.
- At the start of the financial year (1st Sept 2020) we had a healthy balance of £1,630.99.
- During this year, we received income from Membership Fees of £948, a £24 donation, £1,200 for the Xmas lunch, £600 for bookings for the Gower trip, £4,560 for the upcoming IOW holiday, a £10 donation from Ramblers Walking Holidays (as nominated by a member who holidayed with them), £656.95 in deposits for the 2022 Xmas lunch, resulting in a total income of £7,998.95.
- Our expenditure comprised annual Insurance of £250.42, £65.50 for our Ramblers Association affiliation, Committee/AGM room hire costs of £56 and £100 respectively for the Twyn and Caerphilly Golf Club venues, £950 for our Xmas lunch (note a £250 deposit was paid pre-covid) plus prizes of £19.31, £600 for the Gower Trip, £640 for Xmas 2022 lunch, IOW coach hire deposit of £375 and some small amounts for stationery and website costs. A number of hi-vis vests were also purchased for walks leaders which were offered out. This equated to a total expenditure of £3662.91, resulting in a balance at 31st August 2022 of £5967.03. With the deduction of monies owing on IOW holiday of £4185.00 (now paid), this now results in a healthy balance of £1782.03.
- We also have a £320.89 investment in HF Holidays which gave us £6.65 interest.
- The committee recommended no change to the membership subscription of £6, which was agreed.

Walks Secretary - Val Steel

- A Monthly Walks Programme is sent to all Members.
- The Walks Programme is advertised on our website which is kept up-to-date by Wilf.
- The Facebook page is administered by Clive.
- We've had a successful year, with 122 walks offered, covering approx. 1,000 miles (956 miles) and attended by 1,676 (amalgamated) walkers.
- There were 27 different walk leaders.
- A few new walk leaders offered walks.
- Walk attendance averaged 14 participants per walk over the year.
- Support was provided to the Caerphilly Challenge by 8 volunteers offering to lead groups 12 miles around Twmbarlwm.
- In addition to the Walks Programme, there were 2 walking trips organised.
- There is already a healthy walks programme for the Autumn and in addition, a further trip has been scheduled.
- The past year has been busy!
- Finally sincere thanks to our voluntary leaders, organisers, and walkers for making all this possible and we look forward to what 2023 will offer.

Any comments?

- Wilf requested, with regard to Sunday walks, that members should not leave booking to the last minute i.e., Saturday afternoon/evening/Sunday morning, as it presents the risk that the leader will have decided to cancel their proposed walk due to lack of interest.

Health & Safety – Margaret Wallis

- No accidents have been reported this year.
- 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:

The only change to the Committee during the year has been the Committee appointee of Sandy.

Bob also gave a tribute to Clive Elsbury who is standing down after many years on the Committee (8+ years), highlighting he has been an important 'go-to' person and was also responsible for attaching the Kissing Gate plaque.

Bob confirmed that this year is definitely his final year as Chair, if voted in. There were no nominees for Chair, so Bob was proposed by John Arblaster and seconded by Sian Van Gemenen.

All current officers and committee members who were willing to stand were re-elected en block.
Proposed: John A, Seconded: Anna.

Bob highlighted that the club has the flexibility to add 2 more Committee members and is particularly keen to have representation from the shorter walks group.

The Committee is now as follows:

Chair: Bob Macey, **Treasurer:** Judith Jones, **Secretary:** Carol Franks, **Walks Sec:** Val Steel, **Health & Safety:** Margaret Wallis, **Membership Officer:** Judith Jones
Ordinary Members: Ron Freeman, Pam Lyons, Sian Van Gemenen, Sandy Halliday

Walking Holidays & Coach Trips:

- Our next holiday will be to the Isle of Wight in October (this coming Saturday).
- Bob made a call for proposals from members for the 2022/23 programmes.
- Pam Lyons advertised a proposed HF **holiday** to Dolgellau in Snowdonia for w/c 13th October 2023. Email to go out later today.
- Margaret Wallis stated that she is looking into organising a **coach trip** to Bosherton in Pembrokeshire for next year.
- Members were reminded that they are invited to organise Club events and should contact the Chair to discuss their proposals.

Socials:

- Sian and Val are organising **Christmas Lunch** this year. It will be Diana Ross tribute act at Bryn Meadows on Thursday 15th December. 64 members have booked and the balance of £16.95 is now due. Val asked if members would be interested in an organised bus from Caerphilly to the event. She will email members for interest and a subsequent deposit.
- Pam and Olwen are organising the **New Year event** which will be on 3rd January at the Cedar Tree Toby Carvery (55 places). There will be a Hat competition with a theme of 'Royalty'.

AoB:

Walk Meeting Points discussion: A wide ranging discussion took place with many participants. The main points captured for and against the return to our ASDA start point are as follows:

PROs	CONs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Better for environment!• Better community spirit!• Proven to work!• Better for those who struggle with digital tech. to find walk start.• Let's be benevolent, too easy to get comfortable with our own circle. Give something to the town of Caerphilly!• Accessible to all (non-drivers, those with health issues, etc.)• Encourage local walks to enable start close to the designated 9.30 and 10 am.• Petrol charge of 15 p a mile should be an incentive for drivers.• For the Walks Sec, keep to 9.30 /10 am start times makes programme easier.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not practical to come to ASDA first, then to come back my way.• I am part of a car share arrangement now with other members taking their turn to drive.• Risk the walk leader may have to turn people away if not enough cars available.• 10 am start time risks walk not starting until 11 am! Better to have walk 'start' at 10 am.• Some Walk leaders prefer to be able to decide on the start time of their walk.• Not all car drivers are happy to give lifts for whatever reason (health risk, lack of confidence in unfamiliar areas, etc.)• Not all walk leaders, want to be organising lifts for others (on top of their efforts in planning and recceing the walk). They may be happy to forward details of those who are willing to offer a lift though.

All of the discussion points will be reviewed at our next Committee Meeting.

The meeting closed at 3.20 pm. Thanks were expressed to Sian for organising a very successful buffet and venue.

C. Franks 08/10/2022