



LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION SOUTH WALES GROUP



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2007

(Venue: Malcolm & Wendy Winney`s house in Rhiwbina, Cardiff.)

1. Present:- Andrew Alford, John Cunnane, Carol Elcock, Dan Hadfield, Gerry & Rosemary Jackson, Carolyn Llewellyn, Angela Neal, Sue Neal, Maurice Prendergast (Guest), Robert Smith, David Williams, Malcolm & Wendy Winney,

2. Apologies For Absence:- George Baugh, Donna Bowhay, Phil Bristow, Mike James, David Morgan, Claire Murray, Bob Smith, Peter & Ann Stevenson, Hugh Woodford, Graeme Yeandle.

3. Minutes Of Last Year`s AGM (John):-

The minutes of the 2006 AGM were adopted without any alteration.

4. Chairman`s Report (John):-

4.1 Thanks were given to Wendy & Malcolm for hosting this AGM and to everyone who had supported the group over the last year.

4.2 The July 2007 Caerphilly Summits Challenge had been a success with 155 entrants spread more or less evenly over the three routes. (In 2006 there had been 142 entrants).

4.3 The July 2008 event had been discussed at committee level and it was agreed today that we would keep the three routes and the start venue unchanged. However, because of problems at Craig Llysfaen the first checkpoint on the 21 & 31 mile routes is being moved a few miles along to Rudry Parish Hall which has been hired. Also, the checkpoint at Machen will be held in the Village Hall instead of the car park.

5. Secretary`s Report (Dave):-

5.1 Thanks were given to those who have led walks over the last year. Some leaders have decided for very good reasons that they don't wish to lead in the future so encouragement will be given to members who haven't led walks before to come forward.

5.2 There are 26 social walks in the programme for 2007 and so far, the average attendance has been 8, a slight increase over 2006. Fewer people are offering walks of 20 miles or more nowadays and whilst in general the shorter walks attract higher attendance, leaders should be prepared to offer a variety of walk distances with a minimum of 15 miles. It isn't the distance which worried some of our members a few years ago but the pace, and that concern has largely been overcome.

5.3 The results of the "Attendance On Social Walks Survey" produced in March is on the website and shows that a large majority of our members have no interest in our social walks. The findings set out in the report do not highlight any particular areas where we could make improvements which might significantly increase attendance on social walks. What the survey does reflect is the diverse interests of LDWA members: some like challenge walks, some like long distance paths, some prefer running, some like to walk alone, some like walking with family or friends, and some like social walks but time and other constraints prevent them from joining us at present.

Every month the LDWA database is checked and welcoming letters are sent to new members to encourage them to join us on our social walks . There have been 27 new members in the last 12 months (including Sue, Angela and Carolyn) and some of them have come on one or more walks.

5.4 Following a suggestion made at the last AGM, welcoming letters with copies of Strider and our walks leaflets were sent to the secretaries of the Rambling and Mountaineering Clubs at Cardiff and Glamorgan Universities. But there had been no response.

5.5 Thanks were given to Gerry for maintaining the LDWA South Wales website – there have been over 4400 hits since January 2006.

5.6 A reminder was given to walk leaders for any accident to be reported to Dave so that a record can be made in the Accident Book – fortunately, there have been no incidents so far this year.

5.7 Third Party Insurance cover is provided for LDWA members, and for non-members for their first three trial walks with the Group. Non-members are not covered for subsequent walks and it was agreed that by that stage they should make a decision to either join or cease walking with us.

5.7 National LDWA meetings of representatives from local groups are held annually but our Group has not been represented in the past. There was little enthusiasm to send a representative and there were no volunteers.

5.8 Dave suggested that we should make a contribution to the Central Brecon Beacons Mountain Rescue Team and it was agreed that we would give £100.

5.9 The South Wales Group will be 25 years old next year – the inaugural 23 mile walk was held on Sunday, 25 September 1883, was called “Heights Of The Lower Rhymney Valley”, and was led by Nick Kaye. The tenth anniversary was celebrated with a 26 mile walk led by Gerry with a “Walking Leekman” cake and wine being consumed on top of the Sugar Loaf. Wendy offered to be the “25th Anniversary Secretary” and invited people to send their celebratory ideas to her.

6. Treasurer's Report (Malcolm):-

6.1 The 2007 Caerphilly Summits Challenge accounts show a minimal profit this year because of the expenditure on badges, chairs and tables. That expense is unlikely to recur for another 4 or 5 years so future years profits are expected to return to their earlier levels. There is however, the fact that the cost of hiring Tongwynlais Primary School will almost double next year and because of this the entry fee has had to be raised.

6.2 The Group accounts for the year ended 30 September 2007 show a loss due to the exceptional CSC expenditure but the Bank balance is still comfortable, albeit slightly reduced compared with 2006. There are also, the Halifax shares held in Dan`s & Gerry`s names.

6.3 Both sets of accounts were adopted.

7. Weekend Away Report (Wendy):-

7.1 The weekend away in Pembrokeshire in March had been enjoyed by everyone who had attended, despite the variable weather.

7.2 A week away in Ambleside from 10 to 17 May 2008 was proposed and agreed with part of the cost being subsidised from Group funds. Wendy said she will make the arrangements.

7.3 The 2001 Edale weekend away was the first for which a subsidy had been given out of Group funds. A few of the people who had enjoyed the subsidy were not LDWA members so the question of who should be entitled to a subsidy was discussed at the following AGM on 23 September 2001. It was decided that only LDWA members belonging to the South Wales Group should be subsidised.

7.4 At the AGM on 4 November 2006 the subsidised weekend away in Pembrokeshire was agreed and shortly afterwards, some people joined the LDWA partly with a view to benefiting from the subsidy. There had been some misunder-

standing about whether those people should be subsidised so the question was discussed today to clarify the position for the future.

John's view was that membership of the LDWA at the time of the weekend away was sufficient, but there was no support for that. The matter was put to a vote when it was decided that to qualify for a subsidy, the person must have been a member of the LDWA South Wales Group at the time of the immediately preceding AGM, and that he/she must have demonstrated a clear commitment to supporting the Group's activities by leading walks, helping with the Caerphilly Summits Challenge, etc – the committee's decision on individual cases to be final.

Because of John's misunderstanding he was £80 out of pocket; a partial reimbursement of £40 was offered and was accepted.

8. Election Of Officers (John):-

There were no nominations so the following people agreed to put their names forward again and were duly re-elected for another year:-

Chairman –	John Cunnane
Secretary –	David Williams
Treasurer –	Malcolm Winney
Committee Members –	Wendy Winney
	George Baugh
	Andrew Alford

Dave expressed his personal view that the South Wales Group is no different from other LDWA groups or Ramblers groups, where the same willing people come forward year after year to undertake committee work. Without these valued people Groups would cease to exist and it is important for other members with fresh ideas to come forward to volunteer their help with committee work. For his part, Dave does not want to do the Secretary's job forever and he might not want to put his name forward for re-election at next year's AGM. He hoped therefore, that someone would come forward to express an interest in the post; either a longer serving member who hasn't yet done any committee work, or one of our newer members.

9. Any Other Business:-

The format and venue for the 2008 AGM was considered. We thought a similar format as today's i.e. a shorter walk with the AGM immediately afterwards with refreshments laid on. The venue should be varied and Carol agreed to check the availability and cost of Cwmcarn Forest Drive Visitor Centre, Wendy agreed to check out the Afan Argoed Visitor Centre, and John agreed to check out the Dare Valley Country Park Visitor Centre. Findings to be considered at a later committee meeting.