



**LONG DISTANCE WALKERS
ASSOCIATION
SOUTH WALES GROUP**



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2008**

(Venue: Afan Argoed Country Park Visitor Centre)

1. Present:-

George Baugh, John Cunnane, Carl Edwards, Carol Elcock, Dan Hadfield, Alun Jones & Elizabeth Higgins, Ron & Eileen Shackell, Bob Smith, Robert Smith, Dave Williams, Malcolm & Wendy Winney, Gwyn Matthews

2. Apologies For Absence:-

Sharon Bodman, Phil Bristow, Tim Gronow, Gerry & Rosemary Jackson, Cheryl Llewellyn, Claire Murray & Graeme Yeandle.

3. Minutes Of Last Year's AGM :-

No comments have been received so the minutes of the 2007 AGM were adopted without any alteration.

4. Chairman's Report :-

4.1 Caerphilly Summits Challenge 2008.

(a) The July 2008 Caerphilly Summits Challenge had been a success despite the very bad weather before and on the day. Advance entries were down (65) but entries on the day were up (70) to give a total of 135 entries, compared with 155 for 2007.

(b) There was a complaint from a farmer because 5 or 6 entrants who had gone astray climbed fences and trespassed. Dave had apologised. (Because of changes being made to the routes, we will not be using this particular path next year). At next year's event we will brief entrants that if they go astray they should retrace their steps and try again, they must not climb walls or fences or trespass.

(c) There were sufficient helpers at the start of the day but several had to leave in the afternoon and that caused difficulties with catering and timekeeping. A plea was made for helpers to make themselves available for the whole day if at all possible – it's only one day each year that we ask members to support their Group in this way.

4.2 Caerphilly Summits Challenge 2008.

(a) Because of the 180% increase in the cost of hiring Tongwynlais Primary School, the 2009 venue will be Machen Village Hall which was used as a checkpoint this year.

(b) The change of venue requires completely new routes which have been agreed by the committee. Dave has walked the routes and has written the first drafts of the route descriptions. John and Malcolm have agreed to walk the routes themselves to check the accuracy and clarity of the draft descriptions.

(c) Early in 2009, Dave will telephone potential helpers to seek promises to help on Saturday, 4 July 2009 – for the full day wherever possible please.

5. Secretary's Report:-

(a) Many thanks to those who have led walks, and to those who have supported the social walks programme. There are 26 walks in the 2008 programme and so far, attendance has varied from 2 (Dave's walk) to 22 (John's walk) with an average of 10 which is a welcome improvement from the 8 for 2007 and the 6 for 2006.

(b) In the year to November 2007 we had 29 new members plus 2 lapsed members who had rejoined. 16 of those 31 renewed their membership for 2008.

In the last 12 months we have had 14 new members and it has been good to see 4 of them coming out on social walks; Cheryl, Sharon, David & Kay.

It has also been good to see longer serving members coming out on our walks again; Ron, Gwyn, Alun & Elizabeth, Rob Wilkinson.

At present we have 135 members in the Group.

Dave continues to send welcoming letters to new members and thought he might offer those who come out on social walks one of our prized Walking Leek badges free.

(c) The average distance of social walks was at its height in 1991 at 28.1 miles. The average has been gradually reducing to 17.7 miles for 2008 with 18 walks under 20 miles and 8 longer walks. It was agreed that we should try to maintain this variety to distinguish ourselves from other walking groups in the area.

6. Treasurer's Report:-

(a) Malcolm distributed copies of the July 2008 Caerphilly Summits Challenge accounts and the Group accounts for the year ended 30 September 2008.

(b) There was a profit on the Caerphilly Summits of £75 (last year £16), after non-recurring expenditure of £114 and after the £280 hire charge for Tongwynlais Primary School. Next year the change of venue to Machen Village Hall will reduce the hire charge to around £100 so the entry fee for 2009 will be left at £6 for LDWA members, and £7 for non-members with an addition of £1 for all entries on the day.

(c) The overall Group profit for the year is £80 (last year a loss of £397).

(d) Last year we made a donation of £100 to the Central Brecon Beacons Mountain Rescue Team. It was agreed that this year we would make a donation of £100 to the County Air Ambulance Trust.

7. South Wales Group Web Site:-

(a) Many thanks to Gerry for managing and developing our web site. The number of "hits" yesterday was 7316; an increase of nearly 3000 (57 a week) in the last 12 months which indicates how effective this means of communication has become.

(b) More web site space has been purchased and some photographs have been added. If anyone has more photos please send them to Gerry.

(c) The old LDWA Newsletters are also being put onto our web site and may find their way onto the national LDWA site following Tony Willey's interest in making them available to a wider audience.

(d) Alun has created his own web site at <http://welshwalks.googlepages.com> which contains interesting details and photographs of the last 3 social walks. If Alun isn't on a walk, he can still put details and photos onto his site if the leader will send them to him. It is intended to link Alun's site with the South Wales web site soon.

8. Insurance/Accident Book:-

(a) All members are covered by the LDWA's third party insurance policy. Newcomers are welcomed on our walks but they are only covered for their first 3 walks at which point Dave has to inform them, make a note of the person's name, and encourage them to join.

(b) All accidents have to be recorded in the Accident Book and the doubtful honour of the first and so far only entry, rests with Ron who has now fully recovered. If an accident occurs

on a walk when Dave is not present, will the leader please give details to him as soon as possible so that he can record them in the book.

9. Weekends Away:-

Wendy's offer at the last AGM to organise a Group holiday in the Lake District failed to attract sufficient support so it didn't materialise. Nobody at the meeting expressed a wish to organise a holiday at present - If anyone wishes to organise one in the future, please let Dave know. To ensure that the holiday is covered by the LDWA's insurance the funding should go through the Group's bank account.

10. Election Of Officers:-

There were no nominations to stand for any of the committee posts, but:-

John Cunnane agreed to be re-elected Chairman.

Malcolm Winney agreed to be re-elected Treasurer.

Dave Williams agreed to be re-elected Group Secretary.

Wendy Winney agreed to be re-elected as a Committee Member.

George Baugh agreed to be re-elected as a Committee Member.

Gwyn Matthews agreed to become a Committee Member.

Robert Smith offered to help out as and when required and to assist with the checking of the route descriptions.

11. Any Other Business:-

(a) Dan has written a "Focus On South Wales" article for Strider and it is to appear in either the December 2008 or the April 2009 edition.

(b) Reservoir Roundabout "2" is being restarted by Carl and full details of this grand event are on the LDWA web site and will be in next month's Strider. The date is Saturday, 3 January 2009 with the same 22 mile route as before, but starting at 8:30am from Nantgwilt Chapel; there is also a shorter 18 mile route. Please pass this information on.

(c) The venue for next year's national LDWA Annual General Meeting is Llandrindod Wells over the weekend of 6 – 8 March 2009. If anyone wishes to go to the AGM on the Sunday morning, contact Dave to arrange car sharing.

(d) Ron produced a bag full of old walking books and pamphlets which he no longer has any use for, and kindly invited us to take our pick – which we did.

(e) Today's venue and format for the AGM was thought to be good, and it was agreed that next year's AGM would be held in Cwmcarn Forest Drive Visitor Centre. Wendy offered to make the arrangements.

Prepared by Dave Williams on 2 November 2008.