

South Wales Long Distance Walkers Association

Minutes

Deri Community Hall – 09.09.12

Present:

David Morgan, John Cunnane, Gwyn Matthews, George Baugh, Rod Hollands, Rob Wilkinson, Cheryl Llewellyn, Joanne Johnstone, Andrew Campbell, Claire Murray, Alun Jones, Liz Jones, Bob Smith, John Tinelli, Trevor White, Eddie Ball.

Apologies:

Rob Richardson, Gerry Jackson, Andrew Clabon, Angela Williams, Phil Mitchell, Grae Yeandle, Ted Quantock, Norma Williams.

2011 minutes reviewed and agreed.

Chairman's Report:

John outlined that it had been an excellent year with lots of nice walks laid on by the group members. He reported that new members had been seen to join the group and that a lot of work was taking place on the forthcoming Valleys 100.

Treasurer's Report:

Gwyn produced the group's accounts. Despite spending £2397.60, the groups' accounts were still very healthy due to the income from the challenge walks. The Where Ravens Dare challenge walk made a £274.16 profit and the Rhondda Rollercoaster walk made £685.50. The balance at the year end was £3284.83 and this will increase when the group receives an additional £160 that is owed to the group from deposits spent on hall bookings for the Valleys 100.

Walks Secretary Report:

Claire Murray outlined that the previous year had been successful with many varied walks available. Claire identified that the period of Jan – April 2013 that was forthcoming had few walks but that she had spoken to group members and hopefully this would be resolved soon.

David Morgan asked how did anyone think that people could be persuaded to be more enthusiastic about volunteering to lead walks.

A short debate ensued. Rob Wilkinson identified that perhaps shorter walks of 14-19 miles should be included on the walk programme.

Alun Jones stated that perhaps the group should just have one walk a month and that if others became available then they could be advertised at shorter notice.

David Morgan added that he liked to have choice and that one walk per month would be detrimental to him personally due to shift work commitments.

Gwyn Matthews added that some people wanted to lead and some wanted to be led.

Ultimately, the discussion ended with the conclusion that various walks secretaries had contended with the age old issue of getting volunteers to lead walks and this year was no different.

Election of Officers:

Chairman – John Cunnane

Proposer – David Morgan

Seconder – Andrew Campbell

Secretary – David Morgan

Proposer – Claire Murray

Seconder – Alun Jones

Treasurer – Rob Wilkinson

Proposer – Gwyn Matthews

Seconder – George Baugh

Walks Secretary – Claire Murray

Proposer – David Morgan

Seconder – John Tinelli

Events Secretary – Gwyn Matthews

Proposer – Claire Murray

Seconder – Rob Wilkinson

Group Challenge Events:

David Morgan outlined that the two challenge walks were now highly successful. He outlined that WRD had grown from last year's event, and that as of today, there were 83 entries on the 26.5 mile route and 40 on the 15.5 mile route. This is a significant increase on last year's numbers.

David outlined that both the Rhondda Rollercoaster (RR) and Where Ravens Dare (WRD) were providing the group with an income that enabled the members to participate in walks that were previously not undertaken, IE More linear walks through the use of mini buses.

David stated that he wanted to step down as Entries Sec for the WRD as he was committed to the RR and also the Valleys 100.

Trevor White agreed to take over as Entries Sec for the WRD.

Valleys 100 Update:

David Morgan updated the group on the work of the Valleys 100 committee to date. He outlined that all checkpoints were booked and in many cases, deposits paid.

He advised the group that the V100 committee would be seeking assistance from group members in advance of the event that would free up the committee to concentrate on other issues. He gave examples of path

clearance and stile maintenance. There was considerable support in the room and volunteers will now be asked to undertake small jobs on behalf of the V100 committee.

David then showed the group the merchandise that Phil Mitchell had created. He showed the members the hoodies, sweatshirts, polo shirts and round neck T shirts. The members present at the AGM were impressed with the quality and design of the clothing.

Cornwall & Devon 100:

David Morgan outlined that despite thinking we were early with regards to volunteering to run a CP at the 2013 '100', in fact there had been only CP left when enquiries were made, and this was CP1. The South Wales group was committed to running this CP. Jo Johnstone has agreed to act as SPOC for contact with C&D. Ten members present at the meeting agreed to volunteer, and knowing that others not present would also help, it was felt that South Wales would have sufficient assistance to run such a busy CP.

Social Trip:

Claire Murray outlined that there are currently 15 people coming to Snowdonia for the group social trip.

This year, a £20 subsidy per person per night will be paid for Snowdonia. To have qualified for the subsidy, the member must have been a member of the LDWA South Wales Group at the previous AGM.

Each year the subsidy would be decided on how many people attended, and so would be decided on sliding scale. IE, the more that go, the less the subsidy would be.

Claire suggested going to Pembs in 2013 staying in Trevine nr St. Davids and would utilise David's long walk that he led in June this year as the main walk and to have a shorter one on the Sunday.

AOB:

David Morgan outlined that Gerry had contacted him regarding the website. David summarised Gerry's email that is documented below.

'As you already know I won't be at the AGM on Saturday so I thought I would do a short report on our web-site.

Before the 2011 AGM I had done quite a lot of work towards re-working the South Wales web-site, to make it easier to manage and more consistent and had intended to complete that soon after the AGM. That was never completed and I don't intend to do so now.

When I took over the web-site from Mike Boulton in 2005, tools for building web-sites were expensive and so I did it the hard way which requires quite a lot of expertise and makes it difficult to hand over to someone else. It also takes more work than it should to maintain it as it has grown a lot since 2005. Nowadays there are inexpensive or free applications that anyone can use to build and maintain a web-site and it

would be better if I rebuilt it using one of those, both to ease the burden of web-site management and to make it possible to hand it over to someone else in due course. As a benefit it will almost certainly look more professional.

There is the possibility of using the LDWA local group template but, following my experience with the Valleys 100 web-site which is based on that, it has some limitations. Also I am not sure whether it could be used on a third party web-server such as we use. It is better to stick with the server we use as Alun Jones' walks database uses that as well.

So I am currently looking at some tools for re-building the web-site and intend select one of those and carry on with that.'

David Morgan pointed out that the Facebook page was a good shop window for the South Wales group. We now have 62 followers, of whom very few are actually in the South Wales group.

Claire thanked Gwyn Matthews for all of his hard work as a treasurer for the South Wales group.

Rob Wilkinson asked about how Dan Hadfield was. David was able to tell the group that Dan had been found a place with his wife in Surrey where both were being cared for.