

SOUTH WALES GROUP OF THE LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 26th NOVEMBER 2005

PRESENT:- Andrew Alford, John Cunnane, Carl Edwards, Carol Elcock, Gerry Jackson, Rosemary Jackson, Robert Smith, Peter Stevenson, David Williams, Malcolm Winney, Wendy Winney.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:- Mike Boulton, Dan Hadfield, Jean Hadfield, Claire Murray, Hugh Woodford.

MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM (on 6 Nov 2004):- These were agreed and adopted.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (by John):-

(a) Thanks were given to Mike Boulton for his work as Walks Secretary, CSC Entries Secretary, and Website Manager for the last two years. He has resigned because he expects to take a new job in America early in the new year. We wish him well.

(b) The Caerphilly Summits Challenge held in July was successful despite the mixed weather. There were 139 entries compared with 100 for 2004, 121 for 2003, 64 for 2002 and 185 plus 205 bikers for 1998. Thanks were given to all those who helped.

It was agreed that we would hold the event again in 2006 but because of the holiday arrangements of some of the organisers, the date would be moved from the first Saturday in July to the first Saturday in August, i.e. 5 August 2006. Malcolm agreed to contact the Head teacher at Tongwynlais Primary School to make sure that we can have the premises then – if not, we will consider moving the event to June.

An advert is already on our website and will soon appear on the LDWA site and in Strider. John has also arranged for adverts on The Runners World and the Trail Magazine websites – he has volunteered to be the Events Secretary next year and will obtain all the records, computer programmes and equipment from Mike.

(c) The weekend away at Sudeley Castle last month proved to be very popular and thanks were given to Wendy and Malcolm for organising it.

(d) Thanks were given to those who had led walks over the last twelve months. Attendance on group walks has however, been generally disappointing and it was agreed that this was partly due to a perception amongst existing members and potential newcomers that the pace will be too fast – people can do the distance but their enjoyment is spoiled by struggling to keep up. It was agreed that we should continue to offer a wide range of 14 to 30 mile walks twice a month, and to shift the emphasis to walking at a reasonable but sociable and accommodating pace to keep the group together. There will always be a place for the quicker 25/30 mile walks and these could be advertised as being of a lively pace.

(e) A copy of the next walks programme to April 2006 was circulated and it was agreed that it would be helpful to get this into the hands of non-LDWA members in our area. Part of the problem in attracting newcomers is the likelihood that many have never heard of the LDWA and the activities it provides. We could put copies out at Tourist Information Centres, libraries, etc and give them to individuals on Ramblers and Brecon Beacons Park Society walks – Peter said it would be prudent to speak to the secretaries of those other groups first. Gerry suggested we might also send the programme by e-mail to those in our area who had previously entered the Caerphilly Summits and had given an e-mail address, but not an LDWA number.

SECRETARY'S REPORT (by Malcolm):-

The Sudeley Castle weekend away was the first we have had for several years and in view of its success, the possibility of a repeat next year was raised. Wendy suggested a weekend in October 2006 at Purbeck, Dorset, and said she would be happy to organise it. This offer was accepted with enthusiasm.

TREASURER'S REPORT (by Dave):-

(a) Copies of the group accounts for the year to 30 September 2005 were given out. There was a profit of £208-36 from the Caerphilly Summits. The cost of food per head had increased but the

provision of a wider range, including cheese and savoury biscuits, had been welcomed by participants.

(b) Other Income of £628-76 includes £520-00 contributions from members for the weekend away – the actual cost was £842-25 so the contribution from group funds was £322-25 (i.e. £24-78 per head). We have sufficient funds at present to continue to give a one third subsidy towards the cost of next year's weekend away.

(c) Overall, there was a loss of (£68-96).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS :-

(a) Chairperson – John's offer to continue in this post was unanimously accepted.

(b) Walks Secretary – in view of Mike's resignation, it was agreed that this post would once again be merged with that of Group Secretary.

(c) Treasurer – it was unanimously agreed that Malcolm would swap his role as Group Secretary for that of Treasurer.

(d) Group Secretary/Walks Secretary – it was unanimously agreed that Dave would swap his post as Treasurer for that of the merged post of Group Secretary/Walks Secretary.

(e) Website Manager – Gerry agreed to take over this task and to obtain the data from Mike; and to come along to relevant committee meetings.

(f) Committee Members – Andrew agreed to continue and Wendy offered to join. Peter said he was prepared to come along to committee meetings on an ad-hoc basis when needed.

WYE FOREST 50 In April 2006

MID WALES 100 in May 2007:-

No requests for help have yet been received from our neighbours but we thought that we could help to marshal the marshals' walks.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:-

(a) Next Walks Programme – Dave's walk is shown as Sunday, 14 January 2006. But the 14th of January is a Saturday and that is the correct date.

(b) St Peter's Mountain Challenge – shortly after the last AGM on 6 November 2004, Dave wrote to Ian Jones, the entries secretary, to say that the event could be brought within the LDWA's insurance scheme; but that most of the marshalling work would have to continue to be undertaken by his people. Three months later, Dave received a reply from Jane Peacegood, Secretary of the Friends of Llanbedr School, in which she thanked us for our kind offer but explained that in addition to rising insurance costs, there were other reasons why they had decided to cancel the event e.g. shortage of volunteers, concern about putting marshals onto the hills in the winter, etc. Jane went on to say that if the LDWA wished to organise their own challenge walk in the area, the school building could be used.

There is still insufficient support within the group for us to run the event ourselves so the subject is now closed. Dave did however say that he intends to lead a group walk to follow the route on the anniversary of the event in October 2006.

(c) Gerry has in his garden shed, two large and partially full Calor Gas cylinders which were used to make tea for the Caerphilly Summits walkers and bikers up to 1998 – Gerry would like to get rid of them because the shed is falling down. The cylinders have not been used since the event was restarted in 2002 and are unlikely to be needed in the future, so it was agreed that Gerry should dispose of them responsibly.

Dave Williams

27 Nov 2005

