

**The Ramblers' Association – Isle of Wight Group 1  
(Registered Charity No. 1093577)**

**Minutes**

**of the 44<sup>th</sup> Isle of Wight Ramblers Group Annual General Meeting  
held at Arreton Community Centre  
on Saturday, 04 February 2012  
commencing at approximately 11.15 am**

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**Officers Present:** Derek Corke, Chairman  
Rio Bellgore-Gullit, Secretary

Pam Dana, Vice Chairman  
Ann Wellings, Treasurer

**Committee Members Present:** Brenda Benson, Bryan Chatting, Iris Fay, Carol Hamilton

**Group Members Present:** As recorded in the Area Council attendance book.

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Derek welcomed everybody to the meeting. He then introduced the Secretary, the Treasurer and himself.

There was one minute's silence to remember former members who had passed away during the previous year.

**1 Apologies for Absence -**

**1 from Group Committee Members:** Ann Parker & Linda Sheasby

**2 from Group Members:** Mac Sheasby, David & Wendy Skelsey, Eric & Anne Gilbert, Mike & Marie Slater, Brian Ould, Carol Crawford, Toni Goodley, Margaret Black, Adrian & Shirley Burns, Peter Everett & Julia Rudd.

**2 Minutes of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Group AGM held on 29 January 2011**

The minutes had been displayed on the Isle of Wight Ramblers website. In addition, the Secretary distributed five hard copies before the meeting started for those without internet access, as requested by Derek Corke. The minutes were accepted without question.

Proposed by John Hague. Seconded by David Howarth

**3 Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

1a) Again, there was a walk clashing with the AGM. Carol Hamilton had distributed the walk leaders' newsletter with the date of the AGM on. When the walk was submitted, Carol was reluctant to take issue with the culprit in fear that he would not submit any future walks. The walk would have gone ahead if it were not in the programme. Derek remarked that those on the walk would probably not attend the AGM anyway.

b) Robert Izzard then put forward a motion that only the annual pre-AGM walk should be publicised in the walks programme.

Proposed by Robert Izzard. Seconded by John Gurney-Champion. A clear majority voted in favour of this proposal with only one member voting against. The motion was duly carried forward.

2 Leda Miller suggested asking non-members who come on our walks for a donation, as a lot more non-members walk and do not join. Non-members are allowed to participate in up to three walks before being required to join. This should be noted when publicising our walks. Derek felt it would be difficult to police.

**4 Group Annual Report**

Derek praised Pam for her work with the summer shows, especially improving our stall. Derek informed members that Brenda Benson is standing down from Group Committee after many years, including all the years that Brenda served as Social Secretary. Bryan Chatting is also standing down and he too was praised for the years that he has served on the committee.

Proposed by Carol Hamilton. Seconded by Brenda Benson.

## **5 Treasurer's Annual Report**

The accounts had been distributed to members within the current issue of WalkTalk. Costs have increased somewhat this year due to the improvements made for our stall at the summer shows.

Proposed by Colin Black. Seconded by Pam Dana.

## **6 Appointment of Group Auditor**

Derek thanked John Turner for being our Auditor for the past year and said that he is willing to continue. Nobody else volunteered for the role so John was duly re-elected.

Proposed by John Gurney-Champion. Seconded by Mike Marchant.

## **7 Election of Group Committee Officers**

### **1 Chairman**

Derek informed members that he is standing down as Chairman. David Howarth praised and thanked Derek for the service he has given since becoming Group Chairman. Applause followed. Nobody volunteered to fill this vacancy.

### **2 Vice Chairman**

Pam Dana is willing to continue as Vice Chairman. There were no other volunteers so Pam was duly re-elected.

### **3 Secretary**

The Secretary is willing to continue and there were no other volunteers, so the Secretary was duly re-elected.

### **4 Treasurer**

Ann Wellings is willing to continue as Treasurer and there were no other volunteers, so Ann was duly re-elected.

## **8 Election of Group Committee Members**

1 Carol Hamilton, Ann Parker, Linda Sheasby and Derek Corke are willing to continue to serve as committee members. There were no other volunteers. Carol, Ann, Linda and Derek were duly re-elected.

2 Derek is willing to continue as the Area Representative, but this will be discussed more at the next Group Committee meeting in March, along with the allocation of other committee roles.

## **9 Any Other Business**

1 Robert Izzard raised concerns regarding membership costs, comparing the cost of joint membership to that of an individual and concluding that the latter is much more expensive. Rodney Whittaker replied that many join as a couple and this saves central office money and resources. Robert Izzard and Leda Miller felt that single people are penalised for being single far too often and that it is high time that single people took issue with this. Mike Marchant said that it is the same in B&Bs with single occupancy of a double room being much more expensive. The Secretary added that in grocery shopping, smaller packets, tins etc always work out dearer than the large sizes and that it was nothing new. Jill Green suggested that if individual members of the Ramblers felt that strongly about the cost of their membership, they should ask the representatives attending General Council to raise the matter there.

2 Jackie Hough raised concerns about WalkTalk being publicly available and may get into the wrong hands as a result. If this were to happen, the security of walk leaders' personal details would be seriously jeopardised. As a result, Jackie is now reluctant to lead walks, having been burgled in the past whilst on a Ramblers holiday. Walks are easy to access, people can just come along and so what is the point of paying for membership?

3 Carol Hamilton said that the walks programme in WalkTalk has leaders' full details but, with the publicity material that is distributed to libraries, health centres, pubs, etc, it is up to the leader to opt out of having details publicised when completing the walks request form. Robert Izzard felt that WalkTalk should be for members only and suggested that monthly A4 posters be used as recruitment tools in pubs, GP surgeries, libraries, etc.

4 Derek responded that a lot of time and effort goes into producing the newsletter. As Area Council produce the newsletter, it was decided to shelve these concerns to the Area AGM that was to follow.

5 Leda Miller was concerned about photos of members being publicised on the website without their permission.

- 6 Bryan Chatting commented that walk leaders' personal details, along with photographs taken on walks, are publicised by the organisers of the IW Walking Festival.
- 7 John Hague reminded leaders that they have the option of having their phone number and email address removed from the public eye when completing the walks request form.
- 8 David Howarth then brought up the security of members' cars as the starting location is advertised. Jackie Hough replied that on the mainland, some groups transfer to another car park once having met at the advertised car park.
- 9 The Secretary, who is also a leader of walks, made a personal appeal for recce buddies as she is phobic of cattle, especially when walking alone, and this often results in a chunk of her route not being checked as she make a diversion to avoid cattle. As the Secretary is okay at navigating, recce buddies need not have to worry about this side of it. Pam Leigh, Jackie Hough and Jenny Mitchell have already given their names and the Secretary is compiling a list. The more names on the list, the better. Leda Miller volunteered to be added to the list.
- 10 Pam Dana announced the dates for the summer shows in 2012 and they are:

Chale Show	04-05 August
Garlic Festival	18-19 August
Wolverton Manor Garden Fair	01-02 September

- 11 Carol Hamilton announced that there are four spare places available on the coach for the Group Outing on Thursday, 14 June to Mottisfont Abbey. There is an optional led walk of about 5 miles along the side of the river. Bryan Chatting mentioned that there is also a short walk of 1½ miles near the abbey.

There being no other business, the meeting closed around 12 pm.

Agreed this is a true record of the meeting.

Proposed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman