



MINUTES OF THE 42nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOUTH DEVON RAMBLERS

Held at the Livermead House Hotel, Torquay on
Wednesday 13th November, 2024

Attendance – 52 members
Apologies - 9 members

Minutes signed as read:

.....
Mike Wilkin / Chairman

Date.....

1. Welcome, Apologies and Housekeeping.

Eric E, Chairman, welcomed all to the 42nd AGM and read the 9 apologies (appendix i). Details of fire exits were given, and copies of the Summary of Accounts and Agenda were distributed in the room.

He thanked Bob W for compiling the slideshow, and Karen H for organising the paperwork and room booking. Also, Linda L for the accounts and George C for auditing them. George C has relinquished this role in future, a new auditor has been appointed, details later from Linda L. He asked members if they had received the 2023 Minutes and were there any questions.

2. Matters Arising

Karen H confirmed the minutes had been duly distributed and there were no queries, or matters arising. The minutes were, therefore, signed as 'read' by Eric and duly filed.

3. Officer Reports



Chairman – Eric Evans

Eric thanked the Committee for their efforts over the past year, supporting him and working for the Club to ensure a full walks programme and an exciting social programme. The Club had retained a steady membership number since last year.

Eric stated that each Officer would provide an individual update, but in summary; the financial and membership position remained stable thanks to Linda L, whose transition into the role had been seamless, and Dorothy W for her recordkeeping. Karen H had kept us all on track with admin and paperwork, Nicky W had once again created a full winter walks programme, a particularly astounding feat in the face of so few walk leaders. Bob W continued his hard work on the John Musgrave Trail and footpath issues, as well as the Don't Lose Your Way project. He had also organised two very successful Club Holidays which would be showcased later. Bob's input could not be overstated, particularly in view of his own difficulties. Val R, Paddy J, Kate McC and Hilary B were thanked for planning an interesting and well-attended programme of social events, particularly the Rosemoor trip, an early start for a tour of Brixham Fish Market and a very pleasant sunny evening history walk of Paignton, followed by food at Molly's, led by Karen H.

Eric then made mention of the South West Coast Path walks, separate from Rambler's activities, but a huge achievement for more of our members this year. Certificates were presented to Mike Wilkin, Lesley Wilkin and Gordon Wight. The project continues into 2025, as more members are now undertaking the challenge.

Reference was made to Devon Area and a wish to support them in future. Sadly, the Teignmouth and Dawlish Group have ceased and it is expected their members will drift to Exeter Ramblers, or our Group, depending on postcode.

Finally, Eric handed over to the current Committee Officers for their summaries, accompanied by a slideshow.

Treasurer – Linda Lister

Linda L took to the floor, having been appointed at the last AGM, so had been in post a full year. She felt she had got to grips with the figures and was able to explain the position very clearly. Summary copies of 2023/4 Year End Accounts had been distributed. (appendix ii) George C was thanked for auditing over past



years and Linda L was pleased to announce Richard Batchelor had offered to take on the role of Auditor in future.

Linda explained the income and expenditure lines, she advised that the Portugal Trip had generated a payment from Ramblers Worldwide Holidays and urged anyone booking a Ramblers Worldwide Holiday to claim for the SDR.

Club expenses are covered by Ramblers, it is calculated at £95 + 1.06 per member. This is not sufficient to meet the Club expenses, so an annual Budget had been applied for of £1200, which has been approved.

In the Self-financing account, i.e. payments for events and the income from Ramble Worldwide, there was a surplus and some had been used to provide First Aid Training. The Club will continue to try and find a use for this money, that benefits members.

John Musgrave Heritage Trail account- showing £22,926 currently, some expenses incurred in trail maintenance. Booklet sales provided a small income. Linda secured agreement to open a savings account with Hampshire Bank and £20,000 has been transferred there, earning 4.5% interest.

Linda invited questions on the accounts, none were forthcoming.

Membership Secretary – Dorothy Webley

Dorothy W provided some interesting statistics and advised that as at September 2024, membership stands at 238, 1 fewer than September 2023. 'Oh So Easy' Walks see the most. 207 individuals walked at some point during the year, 115 were members of SDR and 48% of our membership walked at least once over the year.

A record 10 walks were cancelled due to heavy rain.

14,107 miles were walked over the year, half way around the world at the equator! Over the 15 years Dorothy has been recording, we have walked over nine and a half times around the world, at the equator.

Average Number on Walks

	OCT 23 TO SEP 24	OCT 22 TO SEP 23
SUNDAY	14.0	14.9
THURSDAY	17.0	20.0
OSE	19.9	19.4
TSW	15.6	13.5
TOTAL	15.9	17.3

Walks Co-ordinator - Nicky Ward

Nicky was pleased to say another full programme had been produced for November to April, covering 452 miles; 14 coastal, 21 moorland and 27 countryside; 62 walks in total. However, she stressed the problem finding new leaders and the pressure on regular leaders to take on more walks than was advisable, some doing 6-7. It was suggested to her a programme might have to contain 'blanks', but she was loath to start this, so urged people to come forward to lead in the Spring/Summer edition. SDR offer a 'buddy-system' and no-one need feel worried about trying without support.

Risk Assessments are a necessity, support is available but they are easy to complete and should be stored by leaders, or sent to Nicky. The Ramblers also offer online support to leaders with lots of helpful ideas. New leaders are asked to complete a short online course, but it is straightforward and should not put anyone off.

Programme	Leaders
Winter 2019-2020	27
Summer 2020	Covid
Winter 2020-21	27
Summer 2021	24
Winter 2021-22	26
Summer 2022	26
Winter 2022-23	25
Summer 2023	25
Winter 2023-24	24
Summer 2024	25
Winter 2024-25	20

Secretary – Karen Howes

Karen confirmed her role as providing admin to the Committee, distributing information via email, managing incoming queries, invoicing sponsors and also managing our public profile via Facebook page, SDR website, and linking as necessary with Ramblers Association over policy and future strategy, publicity and the National Website.

Karen advised that our Club only use the distribution facility for important Club business, i.e. walks or holidays/events. We do not get involved in fund raising however worthy some projects might be, unless they are endorsed by The Ramblers.



She invited ideas and comments – positive or otherwise – and feedback on the Club or Committee, via the email address;
secretary@southdevonramblers.com, which is checked daily.

JMHT Officer, Footpath Officer & DLYW – Bob Ward

Bob gave an update on his various responsibilities:

1. Parish Paths Partnership (P3)

- DCC partners with parishes to maintain trails
- £30 per mile is given to councils for maintenance
- Parishes must complete an annual inspection survey
- Parishes use the grant as they see fit
- Use contractors, volunteers
- Repairing stiles and gates
- Clearing vegetation

2. Don't Lose Your Way – DLYW

- Paths in SDR bailiwick have been identified and prioritized
- SDR bailiwick increased by 7 parishes
- 2026 deadline moving to 2031 in theory
- DMMOs need to be registered
- Zoom meeting

3. John Musgrave Heritage Trail

- One walker successfully completed using GPX only
- Reinstated information board at Brixham
- Summer sweep 11 of 14 sections completed
- Looking for two more volunteer monitors
 - Berry Pomeroy to Totnes 3.5m (taken on by Linda & David L)
 - Bottom of Great Hill to Long Lane, Milber 3.3m (" Mike & Lesley W)

4. Dales Summary – Review to follow

- 35 participants, 34 of which were walkers



- Covered approximately 930 miles, 100 miles more than Land's End to John o' Groats by road
- Ascended 101,000 ft, 3½ times height of Everest

Social Committee - Val Rose, Paddy Jewry, Kate McCormack, Hilary Bick

Val R gave a presentation on behalf of the social committee, accompanied by a slideshow of events.

Last years' Christmas Meal had been an evening event at the Livermead House.

A Rockfish Supper with music from 'Missin' Tackle' started the year off and a summer canoeing trip was also enjoyed. A coach trip to Rosemoor was on a lovely day and the Early Bird Breakfast at Brixham Fish Market was another highlight.

Plans are in place for more events, starting with the Christmas Lunch at the Livermead Cliff on 13th December this year, another meal at Rockfish (without music this time) and a canoe trip again in June.

A Dartmoor Estate Tea Tasting, including a walk, is scheduled for September and possibly a November evening walk with supper.

Val advised that this would be the last year she and Paddy would stand. Kate and Hilary will continue on the social committee, but new additions are welcomed, with fresh ideas and enthusiasm.

Val felt one of her achievements on Committee had been the creation of ICE (in Case of Emergency) Cards, which had been adopted by Ramblers and are available to members on the table at the AGM.

4. 'All Ramblers Great and Small' – Bob Ward

Bob presented an interesting slideshow of our trips in 2024, which all agreed were huge successes.

Dorset saw a large take-up at the Parkdean, Sandford, and conditions were good, apart from one coast walk after heavy overnight rain.

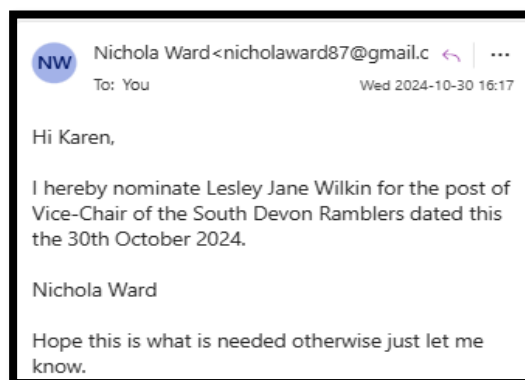
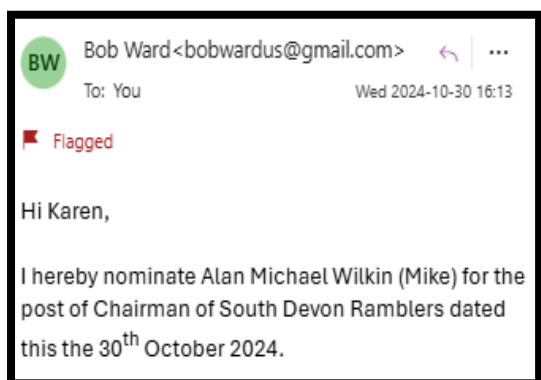
The Dales was well supported and the Herriot Hotel at Skipton provided excellent food and service. The coach worked well and Dave had been most helpful in ferrying the driver to facilitate pick-ups. Three walks of varying distance were offered each day. This was ambitious and only possible with the support of the leaders, but also very much appreciated and it all worked out very well.

A break was enjoyed at this point to ensure drinks were hot and the election of officers postponed until afterwards.

5. Election of Officers

To begin the process, Karen confirmed that Eric is standing down as Chairman this year. It had been decided to appoint a Chair and Vice Chair for 2025.

Two expressions of interest had been received, namely Mike Wilkin and Lesley Wilkin. These were nominated, as shown, by Bob Ward and Nicky Ward.



The voting took place as follows:

<u>Officer and Role</u>	<u>Standing</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Seconders</u>
Mike Wilkin - Chair	New	Tessa Smith	Dave Lister
Lesley Wilkin – Vice Chair	New	Trish Walker	Val Rose
Linda L - Treasurer	Y	Chris Wood	Tessa Smith

Dorothy W - Membership Secretary	Y	Lesley W	Vicky Gidley
Karen H - Secretary	Y	Chris Tasker	Hilary Bick
Paddy J - Social Committee	Y	Eric Evans	Linda Lister
Kate McC – Social Committee	Y	Dorothy Webley	Susan Holding
Hilary B – Social Committee	Y	Vicky Gidley	Gail Johnson
Val R - Social Committee	Y	Nicky Ward	Bernard Parker
Nicky W - Walks Coordinator	Y	Eric Evans	Bob Ward
Bob W - Footpath & JMHT Officer	Y	Dorothy Webley	Janet Evans
<u>Outcome:</u> – Two New Officers appointed and all others standing proposed, seconded and elected for a 12 month term.			

Mike W did a brief introduction at this point and took over chairing the rest of the meeting.

6. Rambler Trivia

After the hasty distribution of pencils and paper, Tessa S presented an amusing and interesting trivia quiz. The final question related to ‘outstanding Chairmen’ in the past, and now Eric would be added to that number. She went on to say what an ‘outstanding’ rambler, friend and Chair he had been.

Val took the floor to speak of Eric too and he was presented with two framed pictures as a small token of the Club’s appreciation for his 9 years on the Committee, 6 of which had been at the helm.



Eric accepted and opened the gifts and gave a short speech of appreciation conveying what a privilege it had been working with the membership and all those on the Committee of South Devon Ramblers. A resounding applause was given by all.

7. Holidays – Future plans – Bob Ward

Bob gave a presentation of future holiday plans, advising that a flyer is available for the main holiday and one would be produced for the mini-break shortly

Mini-Break – 12th – 16th May. The Parkdean Holiday Camp was recommended, offers coming soon. He hoped to offer 3 walks most days. Early booking of accommodation advised but it was a self-book, self-drive arrangement as previously.

Spain, Andalucia – Main Holiday 11th – 18th September. Flyers available now, deposits of £250 would secure a place. It was in the Sierra Nevada National Park, 7 nights. Flight times were good, 90 minute transfer from Malaga. Luggage limit with Ryanair is 20 kg and strict.

The cost is £1360 twin/double shared and £1550 single. There are 10 twins, 10 singles.

Mike W gave a short speech, thanking all for supporting him and stating that he was aware many may not know him well, if at all, as he is mainly a Sunday walker. He hoped to change that and meet more walkers, perhaps on shorter Tuesday walks in 2025.

8. Any Other Business

Mike invited comment or feedback from the membership. There were no queries or issues of concern. He duly thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting concluded at 9.10 pm

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Appendix (i)

AGM APOLOGIES 2024

Alasdair Anderson

Margaret English

John Williams

Hilary Thomsett

Michael Thomsett

Carol Woolcott

Jennifer Saxelby

Dave Latham

Marilyn O'Donnell

Appendix (ii)

YEAR END ACCOUNTS

THE SOUTH DEVON GROUP OF THE RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION						
FINANCIAL REPORT						
for the year ended 30th September 2024						
	2024			2023		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
	Income	Expenditure	Net	Income	Expenditure	Net
MAIN ACCOUNT						
Balance brought forward			631.41			368.24
From Area	1,140.00			1,265.00		
Website link -The Dry Boot Company	50.00			25.00		
Website Link - The Berry Head Hotel	25.00			25.00		
Ramblers Holidays - Programmes & Website	100.00			100.00		
Printing walks programmes		160.00			158.00	
Committee meetings		97.50			180.00	
Cost AGM		303.60			82.99	
Deposit Room hire for AGM Nov 2024		100.00			50.00	
Web site renewal		396.64			489.68	
Officers Expenses - Chairman		48.99			43.98	
Officers Expenses - Secretary		23.01			75.88	
Officers Expenses -Membership Secretary		40.90			28.32	
Officers Expenses - Social Secretary		9.84			42.98	
	1,315.00	1,180.48		1,415.00	1,151.83	
Balance at Unity Bank			765.43			631.41
SELF FINANCING						
	2024			2023		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
	Income	Expenditure	Net	Income	Expenditure	Net
Balance b/fwd			1,191.53			1,684.60
Christmas lunch	961.00	961.00		1,019.50	1,020.00	- 0.50
Talk Berry Head Hotel	640.00	688.40	-48.40	783.10	800.10	- 17.00
Rosemoor	1,229.35	1,210.81	18.54			
First Aid Course		102.43	-102.43			
Plastic wallets for emergency contact details					19.95	-19.95
Yorkshire Dales Holiday	23,595.00	23,894.20	-299.20			
Fish Suppers – Rockfish	375.00	375.00		438.90	480.00	- 41.10
Thank you and retirement gifts		193.88	-193.88		43.44	- 43.44
Bank charges		8.40	-8.40		8.10	- 8.10
RWH Reward	170.00		170.00	60.00		60.00
Portugal Sept 2023 RWW Reward	300.00		300.00	39,610.00	39,884.50	- 274.50
Gin experience 12th October 2022				54.00	202.50	- 148.50
Cider with pasty 14th April 2023				280.00	279.98	0.02
Templer Way 21st May 2023				100.00	100.00	-
SWCP Challenge 11th June 2023				240.00	240.00	
	27,270.35	27,434.12		42,585.50	43,078.57	
Balance at Unity Bank			1027.76			1191.53



John Musgrave Legacy	2024			2023		
	£ Income	£ Expenditure	£ Net	£ Income	£ Expenditure	£ Net
Balance b/fwd t Unity Bank			2,926.25			22,846.17
Balance b/fwd at Hampshire Trust Bank			20,000.00			
Sale of books - JMHT	39.00			16.00		
Interest	400.05			216.85		
Initial transfer to 95 day notice a/c		1.00				
Initial transfer into 95 day notice a/c	1.00					
Interest on 120 day notice a/c	199.54					
Secretarys Expenses		12.00			21.25	
Maintenance of trail		406.30			131.52	
	639.59	419.30				
Transfer to Hampshire Trust Bank						- 20,000.00
Balance at Unity Bank			2,946.00			2,926.25
Balance at Hampshire Trust Bank			20,200.54			20,000.00
TOTAL			23,146.54			22,926.25
Combined Balances						
Unity Trust – Main a/c	765.43					631.41
Unity Trust – Self funded a/c	1027.76					1191.53
Unity Trust – JMHT	2,946.00					2926.25
Hampshire Trust	20200.54					20000.00
Total funds held	24939.73					24749.19

Independent Examiners Report

Having carried out procedures in accordance with the Area and Group independent examination guidelines, I consider the accounts to give a fair representation of the Group's financial activities for the year to 30 September 2024

George Coles

W G Coles

Independent Examiner

18th October 2024