



SOUTH DEVON RAMBLERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 9th OCTOBER 2024
THE PAIGNTON CLUB, ESPLANADE, PAIGNTON TQ4 6ED

Present

Eric Evans
Karen Howes
Val Rose
Nicky Ward
Bob Ward
Dorothy Webley
Linda Lister
Kate McCormack
Paddy Jewry

Signed as a true and accurate record:

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On behalf of Chairman

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Date

Apologies: Hilary Bick

1. Committee were welcomed by EE and thanks conveyed for Officers Reports.

2. Matters Arising from April Meeting

KH read the follow up issues. Greenway log had been dealt with as far as possible. Nathan Holmes, who queried cycle traffic on the America Way had been responded to.

No further matters to follow up. The Minutes were, therefore, considered read and approved and signed off by EE.

3. Reports - Officers were asked if they had any queries or issues to raise at this point from the reports, to share with the Committee.

LL – Advised that our Auditor, GC, wishes to resign after year end 2024. Since then, we have approached Richard Batchelor who has readily agreed to take on this task in future. LL will find a token of appreciation for GC and EE will thank him at the AGM for his services.

EE – Wanted to say how much he valued his time, firstly as walks co-ordinator and latterly as Chairman on this Committee and thanked all for their hard work and talent. It was with mixed emotions he was standing down but he felt the time was right. He advised that MW and LW had expressed interest in joining the Committee as Chair and Vice Chair and discussion ensued on how we manage this. It must be democratic but it was agreed that both would be great appointments and take the Club forward with fresh ideas and professionalism. MW has put in writing his interest in the role. KH to draft email to the membership advising of EE's intentions, his comments and that two expressions of interest have been received. This should be a month before the AGM, but can be at Chair's discretion.

VR/PJ – Further discussion followed around J & J being on Committee but it was agreed they were busy with a house move currently and could be co-opted on before VR and PJ leave, in order to allow lead-in time. HB had stated she would stay on the Social Committee, or as a Committee Member if required. It was too late for her to organise a Mini-Break for 2025, possibly in 2026. VR, KM & PJ will meet shortly to finalise some plans for the coming 12 months.



4. **Programme Update**

Once again EE marvelled at NWs completion of the winter programme, in the face of her own challenges and so few walk leaders. NW advised that several leaders are doing more walks than would be normal, KH & SH 6, likewise MW & LW.

New paper programmes were given to Committee and all agreed it looked great. KH to organise invoices to Harris Dry Boots and Ramblers Worldwide in November, for the coming 6 months and will ask if updated ads are needed for the next programme, ie. Harris Boots price. We will no longer approach the Berry Head Hotel for sponsorship.

5. **Dales Review**

All agreed this was a marvellous holiday, expertly organised with three walks each day of varying levels and a convenient Hotel in Skipton, that offered great service and excellent food. Our coach driver Clayton was also very capable and EE mentioned Dave Cole as being a great help ferrying him to and fro. EE had thought the task of so many walks over 4 days, unrecied, too arduous, but BW had managed it expertly, as always. Huge appreciation was conveyed from Committee for his efforts; feedback from members had been first rate too.

6. **Holiday Plans – 2025**

BW ran through the options for the Ramblers Worldwide holiday in September, 2025. Some were dismissed as too expensive, or not offering what we want/need. It was narrowed down to North West Italy and Austria with Austria gaining the Committee vote.

The estimated cost is £1650 but flights are not yet available, via Easyjet, from Bristol, so this cannot be confirmed. BW will investigate further and advise but the hope is that he will be in a position to raise this with the Membership at the AGM and assess potential take up. VR queried if it was possible to drive there, BW said yes very likely, he would cost this option for her and CT. BW stated temperatures would be low 20's for Austria, much higher for Italy. Walks were grades 4 and 6. KH queried if this was mainly long/strenuous. BW said we would be transported up the mountainside and walk along rather than climb. Alternatives could be arranged for walkers who wanted to cut it short, or have a free day to explore, there would be transport. The resort is Maria Alm, 73 km from Salzburg, 1hr 15 by road.

With regard to the Spring Mini-Break, BW was looking at Cornwall. Newquay seemed a good option with more plentiful accommodation at reasonable prices, i.e. Holiday Parks. This would be early May, again after further investigation BW hoped to present at the AGM. Committee were grateful for his work and offering to once again organise Club holidays for another year.

7. **Forthcoming Events – Social Programme**

- Friday 13th Dec Xmas lunch at the Livermead House Hotel, cost about £33.50. JM working on a flyer and placenames. No deposit requested. No parking charge yet, but likely in 2025.
- Visit to the Tea Plantation Tour, near Pridhamsleigh. Could be planned around a walk. KM to assess interest. June was suggested by VR thought better in September as the canoe trip always better in warmer weather and longer day.



- Canoeing, provisionally 18th June. £35 for 4 hours. A popular event but price had increased. VR to mention at AGM, last year was quite tiring returning upstream, so might be modified slightly. *Since agreed a tea-break en route.*

- Sea Shanty and meal at Rockfish, Missin' Tackle. Last time the venue received a few objections to the noise. It may have to be changed slightly next time, a song sheet of 4-5 perhaps. 22 people max. £20-£25 including the supper.

- Talk from Robert Hesketh. This could be next year, as November and December already quite busy. A venue would be needed. He charges £60 plus mileage from Bovey Tracey, offers a wide range of topics. It was possible it could be at the Paignton Club and food delivered but it was felt they might want to cater at a reasonable price. Parking may not be sufficient. Would the Dolphin be suitable? *VR to explore and discuss at the next SC meeting.*

8. **AGM Planning**

KH confirmed the room booking, seating and facilities. EE & BW to visit nearer the time to ensure slideshows work and everything is in place. NB Cost has risen due to biscuits and there are concerns about parking charge. One negative had been the queue at breaktime and people finding it a long evening.

EE confirmed his intention to stand down and all discussed how that would be managed and what a great contribution EE had made in his 6 years as Chairman, taking the Club forward and steering the Committee, particularly through COVID and those unusual times.

KH to draft an Agenda and send to Committee for approval. BW agreed to do two presentations. TS has agreed to offer a 'Ramblers Trivia – Don't-call-it-a-quiz quiz'.

KH to manage the proposers and seconders of standing members, DW to help by recording too. Once EE has stood down, the appointed Chair effectively runs the rest of the meeting.

KH to write to membership as soon as possible and post a reminder on website and FB. (done).

9. AOB

- a) BW wanted all to know he was making arrangements for his Club files and information to be on a shared drive, just in case he was suddenly unavailable at any point.
- b) EE asked if anyone wanted to be involved with the Devon Area Zoom meeting. He and KH had been invited and attended last year. There is also the AGM in February, we don't have to attend but can if so wish. LL did not feel she wished to attend this time.
- c) Tracey's Walk – a request to help Tracey Howe, who is raising money for the Marie Curie Braintrust, by walking the coast of Britain. It received a lukewarm response as it seemed too much and most of it could be researched in preparation for such an undertaking, ie accommodation, sponsorship etc.
- d) KH – *Babbacombe and St Marychurch History Walk*. It was felt not suitable for an OSE so KH to suggest as a social event in Summer Programme. Contact advised; F/Up in March.
- e) GC is involved in the accessible route at BHead and wants the trail named 'Janet's Trail' in memory of his wife. It was uncertain whether we are expected to support with funding but he will ask if so.
- f) BW said there was a shortage of JMHT Monitors, he may raise at AGM.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm, next one scheduled for 22nd January 2025.