

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Sheffield 20s and 30s Walking Group- Monday
October 27th 2003**

Apologies: None

- **Previous minutes:** The minutes from last year's AGM were accepted as correct.

- **Committee Reports:**

1. **Chairman's report:**

James B reported that, with over 100 members at present, the Sheffield 20s and 30s group is the fastest growing group in South Yorkshire.

He reviewed the role of the Ramblers Association, and their contribution to our group.

The current focus of the group is on increasing the interest in walking amongst young people in the Sheffield area, rather than involvement in the national RA campaigns. The group currently organises walks almost every weekend, which are extremely well attended (37 people turned up on the previous day's walk!). A variety of walks are offered to try to meet members' needs.

The group has also organised nine Weekends Away to date.

In addition to walking there have been numerous social events over the last year. James offered his thanks to Laura H (Social Secretary, who is standing down after tonight) for organising such a variety of excellent socials throughout the year.

Over the coming year the group intends to keep walking as its major activity. We aim to try to visit areas that the group has not done so to date, such as South Yorkshire, Clumber Park and others. It is also hoped that we may begin to offer two walks on Sundays, and also some Saturday walks. However, both of these aims require the recruitment of enough enthusiastic and competent leaders. Weekends Away are also planned to visit new areas if possible. Due to the popularity of these trips it is possible that an additional weekend will be included in upcoming walk programmes, so long as this does not lead to the group losing money on weekends.

In terms of socials, the Committee has decided to create an additional Social Secretary post, as an acknowledgement of the amount of work involved in this role.

The Chairman extended his thanks to: Walk Leaders; the Committee; contributors to the walks programmes; the Ramblers Association; and to Andrew R for the group's website.

2. **Treasurer's report:**

Ed P summarised the group's finances at the Ramblers year end (30th September 2003). Total income for the year was £5 528.31, with total expenditure £4 078.76. Known liabilities at year end were £446.98, leaving an available balance of £1 123.11.

Plans for spending group funds include navigation training for walk leaders and purchasing maps and equipment.

It is intended to ensure that a balance of £500 is maintained if possible, to act as an emergency fund.

3. **Website report:**

Andrew R thanked those who had contributed to the website over the past year, and special thanks to Mike, Eva and Andy.

He commented that the Website is continuing to grow.

Andrew invited all members to contribute any photos they have to the Gallery.

Future developments include a new group mailing list to replace Hotmail. This will be coming very soon.

4. **Secretary's report:**

A separate report was not done, due to Cathy S having arrived back from holiday that morning.

- **Election of Committee:**

James B announced the Committee's decision to expand from six members to seven, through the appointment of an additional Social Secretary. An additional role of 'Weekend Away Coordinator' was discussed, but it was felt that this would be a difficult role for one individual. Responsibility for weekend away organisation will therefore remain with existing Committee members.

Last year's Committee members gave a brief synopsis of their roles, following which Candidates for each post were proposed and seconded.

The Candidates for the seven Committee posts were as follows:

Chairman- James B

Vice Chairman- Simon L

Secretary- Cathy S

Treasurer- Ed P

Web Site Manager- Andrew R

Social Secretaries- James C

- Chris C

- Philippa G

- Michala S

Following speeches by the four candidates for Social Secretary, the vote was carried out and counted. The successful candidates are shown below:

Chairman- James B

Vice Chairman- Simon L

Secretary- Cathy S

Treasurer- Ed P

Web Site Manager- Andrew R

Social Secretaries- James C and Philippa G

All standing previous Committee members were therefore returned to their posts for a further year. Philippa G and James C were welcomed to the Committee as the new Social Secretaries.

- **Group Constitution Amendments:** None

- **Motions:** none received

- **Any other business:**

- (i) Andy L queried whether it may be possible to start some walks slightly later. James B explained the reasons for generally sticking to a standard start time but said that some variations may be considered, particularly for short summer walks.

- (ii) Charles W commented that he would prefer less walks to use public transport. The reasons for the group's attempts to use public transport wherever possible were outlined.
- (iii) Tony commented that weekends away were difficult to get places on, and his observation that, on the recent Yorkshire Dales weekend, several people had dropped out at the last minute. Several other members agreed that obtaining places on weekends away was a difficulty. Karl E made the suggestion of staggering weekend away sign-up dates as a way of aiding new members to obtain places on trips. Following discussion it was agreed that the Committee will discuss this idea, and the issue in general, at their next meeting.
- (iv) Tony enquired whether it may be possible in future to organise local walks on weekends away. James B commented that this was an aim of the Committee, to be discussed further at upcoming meetings.