



RAMBLERS

South Cheshire

SCR Committee Meeting, 29th January 2024

Minutes of Meeting

Attendees:

Trevor Park, Phil Guest, Chris Ashton, Hazel Wallis, Jim Eckersley, Nigel Hallam, Kevin Bush

Apologies:

Alan Edwards

Matters Arising from Previous Meetings:

All items arising from the October 2023 Committee meeting and November AGM are covered elsewhere in the meeting, with one exception.

Phil raised the question of the replacing of the Secretary, and which led to discussions as well of overall management and roles within the committee. It was clear there were roles that needed to be better defined, including communications, storage and backing up of SCR information, analysis of walks etc. There was a further issue needing attention – the need for back-ups being available in key roles, such as SCR Group Communications (ie MailChimp).

Trevor commented that he was looking at the Committee and its working “in the round” and would soon be in a position both to replace the secretary and to clarify key roles for individuals as well.

Walk Programme:

Phil commented that he was happy with the level and quality of walks offered, which remained at a high level. The quarterly Walk Leaders meetings were functioning well, and the next meeting was planned for February 20th, again at the Swan Inn, Wybunbury. He felt that one area where we might need more walks was at the 7-mile or so level, there seemed to be quite a demand for these.

Kevin presented the recent analysis of our 2023 walks – a copy is attached. In summary, SCR hosted 116 walks, with 1232 walkers, an average of 10.6 walkers per walk. SCR is now offering walks at a historic high level (similar to 2019) though levels of participation are down some 20% or so, again relative to 2019 levels where we had about 1600 participants walking in the year.

The review also looked at the Walk Leaders' involvement in 2023. Some 29 Leaders had hosted walks in 2023, though the Top 10 walkers had led some 72% of all the walks.

Phil commented that there are 27 members who will be on the HF trip to Alnmouth in early June. He is also talking to HF about a trip in 2025.

There had been good feedback from members for a trip to the Gower Peninsula in October, and Kevin said that he would now proceed formally to booking such a trip.

Reports from Officers / Activities:

Trevor (Chair) was very happy with the walk programme, and the diversity of walks being offered. He was pleased also to see new members participating on our walks.

Trevor was strongly in favour of SCR having a clear, documented system to store files and other relevant SCR information (such as risk assessment). Kevin was asked to continue work on this topic.

Trevor was working on a replacement of Kevin as secretary, at the same time to clarify the various roles of those involved in supporting SCR, and the need for a small and focussed Committee – all of which he is addressing.

Chris (Treasurer) provided the usual report on the finances of the group, and the current surplus we hold – a copy is attached. Kevin asked whether there were any funds available to improve the systems we have – in particular, MailChimp, where a paid package would provide us with a much more flexible and improved system for Communications. Chris replied that this would not be an issue, and Kevin will progress this.

Hazel (Membership Secretary) reported that we were about 208 members strong, with 3 affiliated members. Since the last AGM, 7 members have elapsed and 1 resigned. She further commented that people often disappeared within 2 years of joining.

Hazel requested Walk Leaders talk directly and specifically to any new members on any walk they lead; they should gauge the reactions to the walk, to SRC and any preferences the new member has for future walks or experiences. The reactions of our new members should then be fed back to SRC and to Hazel.

Kevin commented that since 12th October 2023 all new joiners have received a Welcome to SCR MailChimp email.

Jim (Website editor) said he was still looking at deploying Joomla 4 for our website. He noted that RA would prefer everyone to adopt their website design, not Joomla 4. While possibly not as clean or flexible as J4, the RA version would be much easier to use and support, especially when Jim eventually steps down. Jim said he would look more closely into this issue and bring it back to the Committee for discussion at our next meeting.

Social (we have no specific person in this area).

Eileen Dorman's coach trip in Spring 2024 has been cancelled, as there were not enough single rooms on offer.

Phil and Chris B are now planning a mid-summer walk, probably to Edale.

Hazel raised the topic of the Annual Dinner, and questioned whether we should have the Dinner before or after Xmas 2024. After some discussion, the Committee suggested we test Member preference while out on some forthcoming walks.

There was also discussion about whether we should have some summer social event, such as a hog roast or bbq. There was a question as to whether we could use Shavington Village Hall, if we still had some credit with them after last year's cancellation; there was also a question as to whether such an event should be linked to the mid-Summer walk. It was agreed that we speak to members on upcoming walks on their preferences, and that we further discuss this at the next Walk Leaders meeting as well.

Nigel (Paths). Nigel commented that Cheshire East, which previously was short of 2 managers had now recruited, were going through their backlog of paths maintenance and upkeep and were going to recruit another person.

He also commented that the deadline for Lost Paths, previously set for 2026 has now been pushed out to 2030.

The Cheshire East group have their next meeting on 13th March.

Other Items

RA (through Mariusz) is reporting that the Government is seemingly backtracking on funding for its Environmental Land Management scheme, meant to improve access to land while rewarding farmers.

Kevin stated that Mid-Berks RA had contacted us to ask for advice / assistance in their forthcoming visit to Cheshire (Alvaston Hall (18th-22nd March). He was working with them, and there would be some opportunities to engage with them while they're here.

Date of Next Meetings

Our Committee Meetings for this year are confirmed as **Monday 13th May** and **Monday 2nd September**. The next AGM is scheduled for **Tuesday 29th October**.



RAMBLERS

**South
Cheshire**

Analysis of SCR Walks 2023

29 January 2024



Analysis of SCR Walks 2023

Walks Hosted
116 walks
1232 Walkers
10.6 walkers per walk

Weekend 8+
45 walks
10.6

Weekend Short
14 walks
9.7

Midweek 8+
30 walks
8.2

Midweek Short
3 walks
13.3

Pub Lunch
7 walks
11.6

Pub Walks
17 walks
15.2

SCR Walks 2023 – By Walk Leader

Name	Number of Walks in 2023
Andy Webb	12
Chris Bishop	11
Helen Lea	11
Eileen Dorman	9
Kevin Bush	8
Phil Guest	8
Trevor Park	8
Sarah Heald	6
Hazel Wallis	5
Judith Spowage	5
Alan Edwards	4
Alison Belcher	3
Nigel Hallam	3
Sheila Shaw	3
Anne Holroyd	2
Chris Ashton	2
Douglas Hill	2
John O'Keeffe	2
Lorna Astle	2
Lynn Dudley	2
Paul Boniface	2
Bill Minshall	1
Bill Newton	1
David Fine	1
John Roberts	1
Maggie Thomason	1
Mike Tarry	1

27 Walk Leaders
116 walks

Annual Income

Central Office	£1,100.00 (main income)
Ramblers Holidays	£10.00 (self-funded income)
Total	£1,110.00

Main Expenditure 1.10.23 – 29.01.24

Walk related	£94.95
Meetings related (general incl. AGM)	£110.73
Walks programme meeting	
Newsletter	
Total	£205.68

Self-funded expenditure	Annual Dinner	Alnmouth	Total
Income	£638.00		
Expenditure	-£650.25		
Bank charges for cheque payments			
Balance	-£12.25	£0.00	-£12.25

	Main	Self-funded	Total
Initial Balance	£479.47	£258.76	£738.23
Central office income	£275.00		
Ramblers Holidays		£10.00	
Expenditure	-£205.68	-£12.25	
Final balances	£548.79	£256.51	£805.30

	Current balance	Pending payments	Actual Balance
Assets			
Bank	£1,300.36	-£638.00	£662.36
Cash	£40.64		£40.64
HF membership share holding	£102.30		£102.30
Total			£805.30