

A COVENTRY WAY ASSOCIATION - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 2nd December 2004

Present:

Cyril Bean, Iris Bean, Bob Brandon, David Butler, Bill Day, Ivy Dowell, Adrian Dyke, Bill Eve, John Green, Keith Greenall, Bill Hartnett, Dave and Mrs Lingen, Peter Page, Bernard Roebuck, Alan Townsend, Ron Weston.

1. Apologies

Miranda Aston, John Aylmer, Duncan Bean, Bob Carey, Nicola and Paul Drury, Greta Greenall, Doug Shelton. Frank Tonkinson and Ulli Ull

2. Minutes of the 2003 AGM

(2nd December 2003) – no minutes were produced.

3. Matters Arising - No matters arising

4. Chairman's Annual Report

Bob Brandon thanked Stuart Ikeringill and his colleagues at Warwickshire CC for the continued support throughout 2004. There have been noticeable improvements to the footpaths along the 21 walks and A Coventry Way. We have also received support from Chris Marsh at Solihull and Mike Murray at Coventry.

Bob made no apology for the lack of minutes for last year's AGM. Referring to a copy of the agenda, there was nil response to the need for a Chairman or for a Secretary. Albeit there was sufficient cover to form the body of the committee, only Greta Shields was to continue on the top table as Treasurer. Cyril Bean acted as membership secretary.

However, John Green has held regular Overseers meetings throughout the year to keep the ball rolling and as you can see there is a full compliment of officers for 2005. There is a strong body of people available to support them. John Green has been auditor, a post that needs to be replaced to audit the accounts in 2005.

The challenge was a great success, we got 44 through the 40 miles including Bob's 17-year-old daughter Amy with 16-year-old Nadine Wright. Tom Swift was youngest to complete full 40 miles at age 13 in 2003, and his father Mark, and grandfather Ken completed the 40 miles in 2004. The weather was hot, which did cause problems for some. Thanks are due In particular to Bob Carey, Hazel & Adrian; Iris & Cyril, Bill Waine, Kim Veasey; Bob Haywood (Barnacle Bob); Maureen & Jim; David Burrin, family & friends.

Bob is investigating first aid cover for 2005 and has provisionally booked the nearby village hall to provide an indoor base; there is also a need to provide some kind of memento for the finishers such as a badge or coaster.

Cyril has made progress with the ACW Information Boards, the first being installed at the Park & Ride in the Memorial Park - other installations have followed. (See update under Item 12).

Bill Hartnett has provided a significant breakthrough for our Association by getting a particular letter published in the Coventry Evening Telegraph. It is by far the best thing that CET have published about the 21 walks book.

Sadly we lost another of our honorary members in 2004 – Bob Carey Senior, a great supporter of the Association.

Thanks to Greta and Keith Greenall for their work – Keith in particular for his work on the web-site, Greta for work with the figures – both for running the 'book shop'! Thank you all for your help, not only in 2004, but also prior to that and in the years to come.

5. Statement of Accounts

Copies of the accounts were distributed. John Green – auditor thanked Greta for her good work. The improvement in our financial position over the year owes thanks to Greta, and successful sales of the 21 walks book. John had no hesitation in signing the statement of accounts.

6. ACWA President

It has been decided to appoint Cyril Bean as ACWA President. Bob presented Cyril with a framed "Illuminated address", which reflects the effort and the thought put into the gesture and work by Bob B and John G and all the others who agreed to their suggestion.

7. Officers for 2005

ACWA Officers for 2005 were proposed and seconded. There being no further proposals from the meeting, they were declared elected. A request for further volunteers to become Overseers resulted in Bill Hartland and Bill Ewes agreeing to take over walks 7, 8 and 9. During Item 10, Bill Hartland agreed to lead "Press Officer" activities. After the meeting, Iris Bean volunteered to fill the post of Auditor

The full list of Officers and Other Volunteers for 2005 is therefore:

Officers

Chairman	John Green
Secretary	Peter Page
Treasurer	John Aylmer
Auditor	Iris Bean

President

President Cyril Bean

Other Volunteers for specific duties

Membership Secretary	Peter Page
Webmaster	Peter Page
Newsletter	Bob Brandon
ACWA Challenge	Bob Brandon & Bob Carey
Press Officer	Bill Hartnett
Volunteer co-ordinators	Bill Day & Bernard Roebuck
Geocaching	Keith Greenall & Cyril Bean
Book Sales	Keith & Greta Greenall, Cyril & Iris Bean and t.b.a.

Footpath Overseers

Overseers Chairman	John Green (including lead interface with Local Authorities)
Walks 1, 2 & 3	John Aylmer
Walks 4, 5 & 6	Miranda Aston & Ulli Ull
Walks 7, 8 & 9	Bill Hartnett & Bill Ewes
Walks 10,11 & 12	Frank Tonkinson & Doug Shelton
Walks 13, 14 & 15	Bill Day & Bernard Roebuck
Walks 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 & 21	Bob Carey & Alan Townsend
Roving Overseer	Peter Page (i.e. any walk as requested by chairmen or any other overseer)
A Coventry Way	Bob Brandon

At this point John Green took over chairing the meeting. John thanked Bob for all he has done for ACWA as chairman, and welcomed his continuing support for the future. John then explained how the Overseers meetings had run successfully in the past 12 months, and expected to develop these meetings as the main forum for developing ACWA in the future. The first meeting for 2005 is fixed for Sunday 30th January 2005 at 46 Benedictine Rd, Coventry.

8. Membership Fee for 2005 - remains at £3 per household.

9. Book sales Strategy

Cyril Bean explained that when asked about book sale strategy, he had to answer there was no strategy clearly defined. Keith & Greta Greenall and Cyril had invoice books, and tried to keep outlets supplied. More transparent covers need ordering, and each book needs careful checking to eliminate those with errors. Further outlets (e.g. cafes on the route) have been identified, but a plan is needed to ensure they get supplies. Cyril called for more volunteers to help. Ivy Dowell volunteered to help check some books. Book sales strategy should be discussed at the next committee meeting.

10. Bill Hartnett

Bill had his letter published by CET, but not in full. He has a rapport with a junior editor, and is hopeful to get an article published soon, concentrating on the good work of ACWA contributors. John Green asked if Bill would take on "Press Officer" duties on behalf of ACWA – Bill agreed.

11. Old Mineral Line (Bedworth)

Ron Weston has been helping promote the development of the route of the mineral line from Newdigate colliery to the Coventry Canal as a "Greenway". The route exists, is mostly owned by the Newdigate family who are sympathetic, but is severely overgrown. Recently Groundwork have been taking a lead, and are about to announce "Stage 1" of the project, the creation of a path along "the Nook" (a causeway originally used by the miners, and now going through an area with lakes).

ACWA are keen to encourage these developments, which in time could lead to a much better route through Bedworth.

12. Information Boards

Cyril Bean introduced Dave Lingen who has been helping with the Information Boards project from the start. Four boards are installed - Memorial Park, Brownhill Green (opposite White Lion), Kenilworth Greenway and Brinklow. The next boards to be erected will be at Coombe Country Park, Hawkesbury Junction and Meriden (this one wall mounted). Two further boards are available, with suitable sites being sought.

13. Geocaching

Geocaching may be described as a "treasure hunt using (GPS) technology". The object is to locate a cache containing a log book and "goodies". It is planned to site caches on ACWA routes, then advertise them on the Internet. The object is to gain interest in ACW from a further audience.

14. Date of ACW Challenge 2005 - Sunday 4th September

The date has been confirmed and published, and applications to participate are invited.

15. Any Other Business

John Green highlighted the success of publicity via "Chatterbox" (a local free bi-monthly magazine). Many good reports have been received from readers.

Thanks were given to Iris Bean for organising the refreshments.