

A COVENTRY WAY ASSOCIATION - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 4th December 2007

Present:

John Aylmer, Iris Bean, Bob Brandon, Dave Burrin, Bob Carey, Bill Eve, John Green, John Morley, Peter Page, Ken Nicholas, Bob Rainsley, Bernard Roebuck, Doug Shelton, Stan (Kim) Veasey, Anne Wade, Ron Weston.

Apologies

Miranda Aston, Cyril Bean, Frank Tonkinson, Bill Day, Bill Hartnett, and Ulli Ull

1. Ivy Dowell Tribute

John Green opened the meeting with the following Tribute to Ivy Dowell:

"I would like at the start of this meeting to pay Tribute to Ivy Dowell, who passed away earlier this year. Ivy was the widow of Fred Dowell who from the start fully supported and encouraged Cyril and Iris Bean in their endeavour to create a (Recreational) Long Distance Path around Coventry.

When Fred was severely disabled following a road accident she devoted her whole life to ensuring his final years were full of love and happiness. Following Fred's death she continued to support and show great interest in A Coventry Way. We who are carrying on from those founding days will miss Ivy immensely and extend to her family our condolences in their loss of such a great lady."

2. Minutes of the 2006 AGM - Agreed.

3. Matters Arising - No matters arising.

4. Chairman's Annual Report

John Green presented the Chairman's annual report.

When reviewing the aims of A Coventry Way Association, while not surprised, John was delighted that again this year those aims have been satisfied to the best of our abilities. John highlighted in particular:

- The revised 21 Circular Walks book came to fruition and approximately half of the 2,000 printed have been sold.
- An improved version of A Coventry Way 40-mile walk book is nearing completion and pleasingly the old version is still being requested.
- The Warwickshire Walking Festival is proving to be very popular and this year our presentation of six walks was well received.
- The Godiva Festival revealed hidden talents within our association – with the ability to sell refrigerators to Eskimos our book sales were excellent.
- Our September Challenge again ensured a high profile for A Coventry Way Association and was well received by all entrants. While mentioning individuals by name, John gave thanks and appreciation to all for the sterling work which made this years challenge such a fantastic event.
- Working Parties have been held virtually every month and with the exception of one occasion have been blessed with reasonable weather, coupled to this has been much fun and laughter and the final result has brought the satisfaction of a job well done to all concerned.

John closed his report with the words "Once again my position as Chairman has been made very, very easy by all the wonderful people for which their dedication and enthusiasm has made this association so well respected in the footpath world. Many thanks to all"

5. Statement of Accounts

John Aylmer presented the accounts for the year.

Whilst there have been significant outgoings this year due mainly to printing of the revised 21 Circular Walks book, these have been balanced by positive net returns from the Godiva Festival and Challenge events and from selling remaining stock of the old edition books and a healthy start to sales of the new edition. Another useful source of incoming funds has come from the interest gained by moving the bulk of our positive balance to an account that pays a reasonable rate of interest.

Copies of the accounts and a report from John Aylmer were available for inspection, and copies were offered via email or paper to those who requested them.

6. Membership Fee for 2008 - remains at £3 per household.

Although the fee remains unchanged, a change is proposed to the number of honorary members as follows:

Honorary membership will be given to all members who have actively contributed to ACWA:

- as Overseers,
- on Working Parties,
- as Officers of ACWA, or other volunteer Task Leaders
- as Helpers on ACW Challenge event
- as any other similar contributor as from time to time agreed by the ACWA committee.

These will be in addition to the Honorary Member categories already in place.

The meeting agreed to this proposal, which will therefore take effect immediately.

Another proposal under consideration is to offer the option to receive Paper or Electronic Newsletters. We will work towards introducing the option to receive the traditional paper newsletter in electronic format, and thereafter regularly invite members to opt to receive only the electronic format, or to continue to receive it in paper format, or both. If significant numbers of people opt to receive only electronic copies, not only will we save on postage costs but will reduce the effort needed to print, address and post so many copies. A firm proposal will emerge during 2008, including defining format of electronic version

7. Committee, Officers, Overseers and other Volunteers for Specific Duties for 2008

ACWA Committee and Officers for 2008 were proposed and seconded. There being no further proposals from the meeting, they were declared elected.

One significant change is to appoint a Vice Chairman. This has been triggered by John Green being not very well at the moment, and is likely to be in hospital and recovering for a significant period in the near future. John had approached Bob Carey, who has agreed to take on the task. John & Bob will work closely together, each leading on tasks as the situation dictates. The meeting agreed to this proposal.

As shown on the current list of ACWA Officers, Committee Members, Other Volunteers and Overseers there are three posts where volunteers are needed to take over from previous incumbents. Those present were invited to volunteer or suggest possible candidates. [Editors note: After the meeting Ken Nicholas came forward to take on two of the tasks. The changes are therefore recorded here.]

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| Auditor | Ken Nicholas (2007 auditor Iris Bean will ensure seamless handover) |
| Newsletter | Ken Nicholas (2007 editor Bob Brandon will ensure seamless handover) |
| Press Officer | (Vacancy – was Bill Hartnett till Oct-2007) |

Any readers of these notes, who would like to volunteer as Press Officer &/or Publicity Officer, please contact us.

Bill Hartnett has also stepped down as an Overseer, but Bill Eve has agreed to continue with their three walks on his own.

John thanked Iris and Bill for all their work over many years.

The full current list is attached as Annex A.

8. ACWA Working Parties

8.1 Achievements 2007

Work in areas on Walk 17A and on the 40-mile route has resulted in 16 metal kissing gates plus 5 metal and 2 wooden pedestrian gates, being installed this year to replace stiles. We also re-installed one metal k/g and installed 4 wooden seats (made from old stile steps) near the sites of some of above.

Three of above were used on two new Permitted Paths running behind the hedge to avoid use of busy stretches of road on the 40-mile route.

8.2 Plans for 2008

This year the working party will continue to meet on the 3rd Wednesday each month from January to November. There is also the possibility of an occasional working party on a Sunday for those less fortunate people who work during the week. Work plans are currently being negotiated.

Another possibility is to run some Sunday working parties in conjunction with the ATC. Initial discussion has been held, and we will be exploring possibilities over the next few months.

8.3 Volunteers for Working Party participation

YES WE NEED YOU and would appreciate extra bodies to have fun and much satisfaction.

9. Date of ACW Challenge 2008 - Sunday 7th September 2008

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

We are exploring the possibility of linking our Challenge Event into one or two "Ultra Events". These are run by organisations whose members take part in a series of long distance running events throughout the year. They offer a prize for each individual event (open to any participants in that event), as well as prizes for overall winners of the series. Linking to these events will help us in publicity, and in increasing the number of runners at our events.

For 2008 the most likely Ultra Event to link with is that organised by the Trail Running Association (TRA) – the date suits their plans, and discussions are progressing. A good possibility for future years in Montrail, but our date does not suits their 2008 plans – for 2009 we may consider holding the ACW Challenge earlier in the year (for this and other reasons), but discussions are at a very early stage.

Bernard Roebuck proposed that we should give certificates to all participants, even if they only completed part of the route. The organisers agreed to consider this proposal at their next meeting, as well as the logistics of implementing it, as part of the review of other improvements that have been suggested at the Overseers meeting and elsewhere.

10. Any Other Business

10.1 Xmas Walk

This years Boxing Day walk will be from 'the book'. Walk 2 "Two Greens, A Common and a Well". Meet at Berkeswell Station Car Park [SP 245 775] at 11:00 am. The walk is 5.5 miles.

10.2 Next Working Party

This will be held on Wednesday 16th January 2008. See the Internet news or ring John Green for time and place to meet and more details.

10.3 Next Overseers Meeting

This will be held on Sunday 18th February 2008 at 7pm at 46 Benedictine Rd.

10.4 Donations to Charity

A discussion took place about if it would be appropriate for ACWA to make any donations to local charities, as we had some years ago. John Green said this has been discussed by the ACWA committee, and would be raised again soon.

10.5 School Events

Anne Wade is organising events on ACW for her school. This year these will be:

- A series of 4 "Sunday Walks" each being a circular walk of about 10 miles based on a selection of the ACW Circular Walks.
- A "Spring Challenge" on Friday 4th April covering the full 40-miles with similar timing to the public September event. Anne will be recruiting a few volunteers to support this event – details will be sent soon.

End of Minutes – Annex A follows

Editors note: Issue 2 was created to improve wording and more accurately summarise historic facts re early days of ACW.

The full current list of ACWA Officers, Committee Members, Other Volunteers and Overseers is:

Officers

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Chairman | John Green |
| Vice Chairman | Bob Carey |
| Secretary | Peter Page |
| Treasurer | John Aylmer |
| Auditor | Ken Nicholas (2007 auditor Iris Bean will ensure seamless handover) |

President

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| President | Cyril Bean |
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Committee

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| Chairman | John Green |
| Vice Chairman | Bob Carey |
| Secretary | Peter Page |
| Treasurer | John Aylmer |
| Committee Member | Bob Brandon |

Other Volunteers for specific duties

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|-------------------------|--|
| Membership Secretary | Peter Page |
| Webmaster | Peter Page |
| Newsletter | Ken Nicholas (2007 editor Bob Brandon will ensure seamless handover) |
| ACWA Challenge | Bob Brandon & Bob Carey |
| Press Officer | (Vacancy – was Bill Hartnett till Oct-2007) |
| Volunteer co-ordinators | John Green & Bob Carey |
| Geocaching | Keith Greenall & Cyril Bean |
| Book Sales | John Green |

Footpath Overseers

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|--------------------|---|
| 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 Eve |
| Walks 10,11 & 12 | Frank Tonkinson & Doug Shelton |
| Walks 13, 14 & 15 | Bob Carey & Alan Townsend |
| Walk 16 | Ken Nicholas & Bob Brandon |
| Walks 17, 18 | Dave Burrin & Bob Brandon |
| Walks 19, 20 & 21 | Bob Watson & Stan Veasey |
| Roving Overseer | Peter Page (i.e. any walk as requested by chairmen or any other overseer) |
| A Coventry Way | Bob Brandon |