

The Ramblers Association, Surrey Area
Annual General Meeting
2.00 pm, Saturday 6 February 2016
St Andrew's Church, Northey Avenue, Cheam SM2 7HF
(Hosted by Sutton & Wandle Group)

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Opening Remarks – Barry Holland, Acting Chairman
3. Items which members wish to raise under item 11. AOB
4. Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on the 7 February 2015.
5. Matters arising from those Minutes
6. Approval of the Annual Accounts
7. Approval of the Annual Report
8. Elections of Area Officers and representatives to Area Council
 - (a) Area Chairman
 - (b) Area Vice Chairman
 - (c) Area Secretary
 - (d) Area Treasurer
 - (e) Area Membership Secretary
 - (f) Area Footpath & Access Secretary
 - (g) Area Publicity Officer
 - (h) Area Webmaster
 - (i) Area Assistant Secretary
 - (j) Up to 5 members representing Affiliated Clubs
 - (k) Up to 5 individual members
 - (l) Independent Examiner
9. Appointment of Area representatives to the Ramblers General Council
10. Discussion of Motions
11. Any Other Business
12. Guest Speakers:

Shaun Claridge – “Walking the World with a 7kg backpack”

Moira Fraser -- Board of Trustee member - on national Ramblers matters

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Ramblers, Surrey Area
2.00pm on Saturday, 7 February 2015
All Saints' Parish Church Hall, Onslow Gardens, Sanderstead, Croydon

Present: Lynette Long (Surrey Area Chairman), approximately 90 members and the Guest Speaker, Des Garrahan, Board of Trustee Lead Member for Development.

1. Apologies for absence were received from:

David & Margaret Sharp, Gavin Dulley, Philip Watson, Johnny & Nicky Mouldsdales, Muriel Fell, Natasha Claridge and Roy Endersby.

2. Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the AGM, and also Des Garrahan, a Board of Trustee member. She mentioned that the Surrey under 30s group had changed its name to Surrey Young Walkers in the hope of attracting a wider audience.

She thanked David Leedham who as our Webmaster and done a lot of work to improve the Area's website. David Sharp had retired as co-editor of South East Walker and had been sent a cheque as a token of appreciation.

SABRE had won the recruitment cup and Lynette presented their Officers with the Cup.

She thanked all the Officers for their efforts and Peter Roud and his team of volunteers who had organised the morning walks and the catering.

3. Any other Business - items:

- Haslemere Walking Festival – Richard Evans
- Guildford Walkfest - Keith Chesterton

4. Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on 8 February 2014

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting, Proposed by Roy Battison, seconded by John Hauxwell.

5. Matters arising on the Minutes:

There were none.

6. Approval of the Annual Accounts

The Annual Accounts, were presented by the Area Treasurer, who thanked Christine Geary for acting as co-signature to the bank account and thanked all group treasurers for sending their reports on time. Acceptance by the meeting was proposed by Bob Hayward and seconded by Sally Wallace. The Annual Accounts were confirmed and approved as a true record.

7. Approval of the Annual Report:

Lynette Long in presenting the report asked Area Officers if they wish to add additional comments to their own sections:

Bob Hayward said that this forthcoming year would be his last as Area Publicity Officer and was keen to see more publicity done by groups, and suggested that having Facebook and Twitter sites were an easy way of encouraging more potential members. Denis Holmes from the floor suggested that at future AGMs there ought to be the Area books on sale. Bob Hayward said he agreed and would ensure that this happened next year.

David Leedham, Area Webmaster said that site which hosted the web-site was going through an upgrade and would mean easier operation. He appealed to groups to regularly send new material so that the Area Site was refreshed and up to date.

Anne Jamieson, Area Membership Secretary reported a modest growth in total numbers and that Surrey's percentage increase was in line with the national trend. She said that although Surrey had seen 708 new members, the Area had lost 658 (gain 50) and that retention of members was still an issue. Anne said that she and group membership secretaries had met with Central Office staff to talk through various concerns, Central Office would be reviewing the concessionary rate scheme which has never been made clear to members. Keith Bagot asked about Group 96 and Anne explained to the meeting what Group 96 was and how members got allocated to that group. This was one of the on-going discussion points with Central Office.

Rodney Whittaker, Area Footpaths & Access Secretary, gave a quick review of what Surrey Local Footpaths Secretaries had been doing for Surrey County Council on BVPI survey work for which SCC were extremely grateful for and the group working parties and the amount of work they had achieved

during the year and that SCC were again very grateful. He reported on Local footpath secretary changes and appealed for a replacement to George Seaborn who covers the Banstead part of Reigate & Banstead Borough. He ended by thanking all those who helped to keep paths open in Surrey.

The Annual Report was approved, proposed by Damian Wheeler, and seconded by Lorna Ball.

8. Elections

The following Officers were elected unopposed:

(a) President, David Sharp. Proposed by Brian Reader, seconded by Jackie Leedham

(b) Vice President, Arthur Upward. Proposed by Brian Reader, seconded by David Newman .

(c) Chairman, Lynette Long, proposed by Rodney Whittaker, seconded by Peter Roud.

(d) Vice Chairman, Roy Endersby, proposed by Jill Whiting, seconded by Gordon Porter.

(e) Area Secretary, VACANCY. Area Council to decide at next Area Council Meeting.

(f) Area Treasurer, Jackie Leedham proposed by Brian Reader, seconded by Jo Marmoy.

(g) Area Membership Secretary, Ann Jamison, proposed by Jackie Leedham, seconded by Damian Wheeler.

(h) Area Footpath & Access Secretary, (separate roles now combined): Rodney Whittaker, proposed by John Hauxwell, seconded by David Ross.

(i) Area Publicity Officer, Bob Hayward, proposed by Martha Barwood, seconded by Jo Marmoy.

(j) Area Webmaster (as a formal Officer position): David Leedham, Proposed by Brian Reader, seconded by Nigel Woodhead

(k) Area Assistant Secretary, VACANCY

(l) Up to 5 members representing Affiliated Clubs; there were no nominations.

(m) Up to 5 individual members:

Graham Butler was proposed by Roy Battison, seconded by John Hauxwell.

(n)Independent Examiner, Arthur Upward, proposed by Brian Reader and seconded by Damian Wheeler,

9. Appointment of Representatives to General Council

Denis Holmes, Graham Butler and Basil Minor were approved by the AGM.

10. Discussion of Motions

There were no motions to discuss..

11. Any other Business

(a) Richard Evans mentioned that Haslemere had become a "Welcome to Walking" Town and there was going to be a walking event from Friday 25 to Sunday 27 September 2015. Godalming & Haslemere Group were involved

(b) Keith Chesterton advised that the Guildford Walkfest would be held 11 to 26 July 2014. It is expected that there will be two walks each day, with three on Saturdays and Sundays. A local firm of physiotherapists is sponsoring the walks.

12. Guest Speaker – Des Garrahan, Board of Trustee Member:

Des began by expressing his thanks to Croydon Group for the walks that had been laid on and to the catering staff for their providing the lunch. He said that he enjoyed coming to AGMs and had during his time as Trustee attended 81 around the country. He was pleased to see a good turnout as many Area AGMs had fewer than 30 attendees.

He noted the number of men and women at the AGM and in the number of women in Officer Posts. He said that the Board was keen on addressing the gender balance as less than 20 % of Area and group posts were held by women. Des was pleased to see in the audience, two ex-Chairmen of the Association, Brian Reader and Rodney Whittaker. He passed on Kate Ashbrook's regards. His own area, Inner London, was holding their AGM today and that Benedict Southworth was their guest speaker.

He had noted earlier references to the use of Facebook and Twitter accounts and said that many groups were now finding that they were receiving more enquiries through social media than by other more traditional methods.

The Board of Trustees (BOT) had been looking at two important issues, one –the governance of the Association and what the Association should aim for in the forthcoming next 10 years (Vision). The Association was formed from a federation of rambling groups and many members still believe that was what we are still today. Surrey Area had clearly believed that governance needed to be reviewed as it brought forward a motion to General Council in 2013. In October 2014, the BOT had produced two consultation documents which Areas and Group were asked to comment on.

The Vision document, he had personally been greatly involved with for the last 2 years, and 700 responses had been received. The BOT had also consulted some outside bodies for their opinions. There was a lively debate when Des was challenged on the contents by members from the audience; “pie in the sky”, not achieve-able and “should have been more selective”.

He moved on the governance document and again there was a lively exchange of comments from members in the audience. He indicated that there had been 779 submissions with a number of individuals, Areas and Groups responding. He indicated that the BOT had decided to bring forward a motion on the One Member, One vote for election to Rambler General Council in 2015. There were some further questions and comments on this issue from the audience.

He concluded his speech by thanking the audience for their participation and comments made.

Lynette Long thanked all those involved in the organisation of the day. She thanked everyone for coming and apologised for some confusion in dealing with the order of the Agenda.
The meeting closed at 15.33.