



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Long Distance Walkers Association Cumbria Group held at 4pm on Sunday 27th October 2024 at the Mill Inn, Mungrisdale

Present

Jim Crockett (Chair), Andy Armstrong (Walks Secretary), Tony Deall (Treasurer), Paul Glynn (Secretary), Pat Evans, Dave Evans, Clare Edgar, Barbara Young, Allan Ousby, Nicola Merrett

Welcome and Apologies

Jim welcomed everyone to what is the 36th annual general meeting of the Cumbria group. Apologies for absence were received from Martyn Smith and Trish Dunant.

Minutes of the last AGM (2023) and Matters Arising

The minutes of the 2023 AGM were accepted as a true record.

The secretary is yet to contact other local groups regarding loan or transfer (for a donation) of Cumbria LDWA equipment. This was discussed later in the Quartermaster's report.

Chairman's report

This was Jim's fourth report as chairman, having been elected at the 2019 meeting. Numbers on walks remains low despite the group having 149 primary members. Jim pointed out that the group is currently unable to run challenge events due to the small number of active members, and suggested that the best way forward is in partnership with the Lakeland group.

Jim would also like to see the reintroduction of weekends away, having organised five of these between 2012 and 2016.

Group Secretary's report

Membership remains low as mentioned in the chairman's report. The number of primary members is 22 more than last year.

Communications received by the secretary during the year were summarized. It was noted that the 2025 National AGM weekend will be held relatively close to our area and the secretary encouraged members to look out for the booking form in the next issue of Strider.

The Cumbria LDWA Facebook page continues to grow slowly, now having 13 members, updates are infrequent. Click on the link on the banner image at the top of any Cumbria LDWA web page to access. Please consider joining and posting something! The feeling among the members present was that it is worth keeping the Facebook page going.

Attention was drawn to an article recently seen in a 1983 copy of Strider where the genesis of the Cumbria group can be seen in a proposal for a "Cumberland and North Pennines" local group with an initial meeting planned for December that year.

Walks Secretary's report

Andy reported on the various social walks that have taken place since the last AGM. The group normally has one walk per month and there have been 11 such walks, with one cancelled due to poor weather. Total distance walked on group walks in the year was 162 miles with average attendance **6.3**

No badges were issued this year for Helm-Wind anytime challenge completions.

Treasurer's report

Paper copies of the report were made available.

Tony reported that the only activity on the account this year was the donations to Mountain Rescue and Air Ambulance agreed at last year's AGM.

Although ongoing expenditure is likely to be small, with no income from Challenge events or other funding, the amount in the account is expected to reduce further.

Charitable Donations

The members present decided to donate £50 to the Great North Air Ambulance and a further £50 to Kirkby Stephen Mountain Rescue. The secretary will make contact with KSMRT and pass details to Tony.

Quartermaster's report

A paper report showing equipment held by the group was made available. The equipment officer reminded the group that consideration should be given to long-term storage of these items. It was suggested by those present that items be offered (for a donation) to other LDWA groups who hold challenge events.

Action: Secretary to contact a local group (as per matters arising, above)

Election of Officers

The committee members each confirmed that they would be willing to serve in their current capacity for another year. The following officers were therefore elected: Jim Crockett (Chairman and Quartermaster), Andy Armstrong (Walks Secretary), Tony Deall (Treasurer), Paul Glynn (Secretary)

Future of the Group

Attendance on group walks remains low (average is about 6 people) with 5 walk leaders. There was significant feeling among members present that some kind of merger with another group would be the best way forward.

The secretary reported that other groups have had similar issues and described the set-up of some other groups e.g. Wessex & Isle of Wight which although now a single entity maintain separate finances and walks programs under one organising committee, and Cornwall & Devon group which have three walks secretaries to cover the large area involved.

The secretary will make initial approaches to a local group and inform the National Executive Committee.

Anytime Challenges

As mentioned above, there were no claims for a Helm-Wind walk completion.

The Secretary is working on a challenge event for the group, to take place no earlier than September 2025. The event would be called The Keswick Kanter consisting of 4 loops around a central base in Braithwaite. and would offer several distances (depending on how many loops were attempted) of up to 28 miles. To keep costs and manpower requirements down, there would be the one manned checkpoint/base with unmanned checkpoints at the furthest point of each loop. A social walk to test the idea will take place on 13th April 2025 (see website/Strider)

Action: Secretary to draft a plan and circulate.

Any Other Business

Nicola Merret spoke about an old walking event that she has resurrected – the Patterdale Parish Boundary walk, and this prompted conversation about taking part as an entrant or as a helper. The event is listed on SIEntries and raises money for Patterdale School and Church.

Date of next meeting

The 2025 AGM will be held on **Sunday 12th October 2025**, venue and time of day to be decided.

With no further business the meeting was closed at 16:58