

**LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION
DORSET GROUP
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
Durweston Village hall
Sunday 19 November 2023 2.30PM



Minutes

Members present:

Alex Appleton, Sue Bolland, Ian Brown, Richard Brown, Anne Brown, John Butler, Martin Callow, Mike Childs, Pat Clifton, Peter Cowlyn, Patricia Dashwood, Steve Davis, Maria Drummond, Deirdre Flegg, Roger Frost, Paul Gibbs, Heather Giles, Angela Gray, Stephen Hunt, Richard Lang, Tracey Lang, George Legg, Kim Legg, Paddy Morton, Robert Powell, Al Rodger, Pete Stockley, Colin Utting, Kathy Vickery, Geraldine White, John Widdowson, Sue Widdowson.

1. Chair's welcome

Heather welcomed everybody to Dorset Group's 2023 AGM. Heather thanked Anne Brown for her illustrated talk given before the meeting on 'The DreamWay'. Thanks to all for making the effort to attend the AGM 2023. Heather said that from her point of view as Chair, the group is in a good position. The LDWA nationally faces challenges in the years ahead, such as inclusivity and diversity. Heather called on all to think of ways to increase inclusion and diversity at a local level. Heather thanked the committee for working hard and well together to enable the group to achieve so much. Heather thanked all involved in running the two very successful challenge walks arranged this year. Thank you to all volunteers. Thank you Tracey Lang for ensuring a varied program of social walks was available to members over the past year.

2. Apologies for absence

Hilary England, Debbie Murphy, Ted Tupling, Sandra Brown, Brian Taylor

3. Approval of the minutes of the AGM 11 December 2022

Motion: To approve the minutes for the AGM 2022
Proposed: Pete Cowlyn Seconded: John Widdowson
Agreed unanimously.

4. Matters arising from the AGM 28 Nov 2021

- 4.1. Item 4.2 Matters arising – Heather notified NEC that the South West Triple Challenge (of which The Dorset Giant was one of the three challenge events) no longer exists since the Bristol & West group have cancelled the Wye Forest 50 challenge event.
- 4.2. Item 5.2 Deirdre requested that the committee review the decision not to publish walks in Strider. Discussed by the committee, decision upheld.
- 4.3. Item 5.3 committee to discuss motion at next AGM to rescind motion to approve new events at the AGM in the year prior to the running of a new event. Motion upheld.
- 4.4. Item 18.3 Members who have the code have access to drop box of archived documents. Chris Pitt is still the administrator. Richard Lang and Heather Giles will review to ensure there are no GDPR issues. If members would like access to past planning documents, please email a member of the committee to request access.

5. Officers' reports

5.1. Group Secretary (Maria Drummond)

Membership Figures for 2022 – 2023.

	Joined	Left	Total	Increase since previous AGM
Primary	75	45	282	30
Associate	120	110	532	10
Total			814	40

Committee Meetings

Since the last AGM, there have been a total of 6 committee meetings held online in Jan, Feb, Apr, June, Aug, Nov 2023

5.2. Walks Secretary (Tracey Lang).

5.2.1. This year we offered 41 social walks (two walks cancelled due to ill health or extreme weather), totalling 818 miles (35 miles more than the previous year) and including Pilgrim routes, summer solstice walk, Saturday history walk, an evening walk to find night jars, a weekend trip to Wells, and the 30th anniversary walk and celebration. The residential strip to Church Stretton, organised by Anne Brown, was enjoyed by many group members. Dorset members participated in and supported the Elephant Bear and Bull 100 marshals and main event in May this year.

5.2.2. 2024 – more regular Sunday walks are planned. Walks on other days will be available if people are willing to lead them. There is a further "Pilgrims" walk planned, and by request a likely re-run of the St Edwards Way over two days. Several linear walk options are being considered. Liz Murray is organising a tour of the RNLI Life boat station in Poole, booking essential if you wish to come. See the Dorset LDWA future events page for details.

5.2.3. Eighteen people led walks this year – thank you one and all. The title "Walk leader of the year" belongs this year to Anne Brown & John Widdowson, with Heather and Robert Powell close contenders. Thank you all for all.

5.2.4. On behalf of the committee, Heather thanked Tracey for coordinating the walks program this year.

5.3. Events Secretary (Richard Lang)

5.3.1. We hosted two challenge events, weather was good for both. Lots of positive feedback received.

	Cerne Giant Challenge. 19 March	The Dorset Duddle. 20 Aug
Entrants	178 Mainly LDWA members Event virtually full – only 2 spaces left	251 Roughly 50% LDWA members Event full, with places offered to everybody on the waiting list. 146 male, 105 female
Starters	142 (20% no show)	201 (20% no show)
Retirees	2	35
Profit	£555	£2310
Marshals	40	42

5.3.2. Plans for 2024. Cerne Giant on 24 March, starting at Cerne Abbas and offering 20 mile or 30 mile routes. Marshals event for people who will be helping on the main event is on 10 March. Entry for Cerne Giant opened on 1 November and is 25% full already, quicker uptake than last year. Dorset Duddle on 18 Aug. Marshals event approximately four weeks before. We will need volunteers to help run both events, please keep the dates free.

5.3.3. In 2025, we plan to run the Cerne Giant again in Spring and the Doddle West in August. Doddle West is a 26 mile linear walk from Charmouth to Poundbury that we last ran in 2018.

5.3.4. If anybody is willing to be on the sub-committee to run specific challenge events, please email Richard Lang.

5.4. Treasurer's report (Ian Brown) (see Appendix 1 Summary of accounts.)

5.4.1. Closing balance £10 192.45. Some cheques not cleared until mid October.

5.4.2. Our income is from three sources – two challenge events and donations from Ramblers holidays.

5.4.3. Food left over after the Cerne Giant, that could not be kept for the Doddle event, was donated to Poole hospital, Wiltshire for their event two weeks later, Food Banks. Catering costs for Doddle were lower, due to having leftovers from Cerne Giant. Surplus of funds made on the Doddle.

5.4.4. Reduced linear walks resulted in reduced travel costs this year however, coach fees are increasing significantly. It is expected that costs incurred for minibus hire will go up due to increasing costs and additional linear walks planned for the coming year.

5.4.5. Ian informed the meeting that he is intending to change bank from Santander to NatWest to enable us to make payments by bank transfer instead of being limited to the use of cheques.

5.4.6. Vote of thanks to Wayne Bartlett for examining and approving the accounts. Thank you Wayne.

6. Adoption of Accounts

Motion: To adopt the accounts for the year ended 30 September 2023.

Proposed: Colin Utting; Seconded: Pat Clifton

The motion was carried unanimously.

7. Appointment of the examiner of the accounts

Motion: Wayne Bartlett be appointed Examiner of the Accounts for the year ending 30 Sept 2024.

Proposed: Ian Brown; Seconded: Deirdre Flegg

The motion was carried unanimously.

8. Election of Committee

Chair – Heather N Giles (Proposed: Geraldine White; Seconded: John Widowson)

Group Secretary – Maria Drummond (Proposed: Robert Powell; Seconded: Keith Nicholson)

Treasurer – Ian Brown (Proposed: Heather Giles; Seconded: Pete Stockley)

Walks Secretary – Tracey Lang (Proposed: Robert Powell; Seconded: Steve Hunt)

Events Secretary – Richard Lang (Proposed: Kathy Vickery; Seconded: Martin Callow)

Other Committee Members: Paul Gibbs (Proposed: Maria Drummond; Seconded: Heather Giles)

Heather proposed that the AGM vote en bloc for the nominations listed above.

Carried unanimously.

Pete Stockley is standing down from the committee. Heather thanked him for his contributions to the group through his service on the committee over the past two years.

9. Motions

9.1. At the AGM every year, funds in excess of £10000 in closing balance at the end of the financial year should be considered for donation to charity/charities, to be voted on by members at the AGM.

Proposed by Maria Drummond. Seconded by Ian Brown. Unanimously carried.

Notes: In the past, the amount of funds to be held in reserve was pegged at £6000 to ensure a year's

running costs were available should a challenge event have to be cancelled. £10000 reflects current post COVID cost of living crisis and expected sharp increase in travel costs to the group in the year ahead. This amount will be kept under review.

9.2. Proposal: That the Committee be empowered to organise a Summer event. The amount to be at the discretion of the Committee. Proposed by Ian Brown. Seconded by Tracey Lang. Unanimously carried. This motion supersedes the motion about a summer BBQ agreed at a previous AGM.

9.3. Following on from the discussion regarding the motion minuted above, Colin proposed that all previously agreed limits on costs be removed, leaving it to the discretion of the committee to decide what is reasonable use of group funds. Proposed by Colin Utting. Seconded: Sue Widdowson. Carried unanimously.

10. Forthcoming Dorset Group challenge events

10.1. See item 5.3 above

11. Social Walks program

11.1. Covered under 5.2 above

12. Group trip to Dartmoor March 2024

John Widdowson is leading some walks in Dartmoor. Arrange own accommodation, a range of walks will be available. Tracey will send another email early in January about this weekend in March. We may possibly join with members from Devon and Cornwall LDWA for some of the walks.

13. Group support for events run by other groups in 2023 and beyond:

13.1. Dorset LDWA have offered to provide marshals for the Purbeck Plod on 23 June, run by the Ramblers.

13.2. 2024 Speyside hosted by North of Scotland – a number of Dorset members have volunteered to support.

13.3. 2025 The East Point 100 hosted by Norfolk & Suffolk in 2025 – we agreed at 2022 AGM to run a checkpoint after breakfast at this event.

13.4. 2026 Hunnypot 100 hosted by Kent – no commitment made yet.

13.5. 2027 Jurassic Coast 100 hosted by Cornwall and Devon (Dorset LDWA have offered to run the checkpoint that is in Dorset!)

14. Feedback from local group representatives' weekend 2023

14.1. Hosted this year by Dorset LDWA. Ian Brown was our official representative. Heather attended as the event organiser and in her new role as Local Groups Event Coordinator, Anne Brown attended as representative, giving a talk and leading a walk. The purpose of the weekend is an opportunity to get together with members of the NEC and from other local groups to share ideas and work through some issues facing the organisation both locally and nationally. There were 35 delegates from 29 local groups.

14.2. Updates from NEC members - Communications Officer, Matt Parker; Local Groups Officer, Pearl Barnes and Data Analyst, Poppy Whiteside; IT – Richard May; 100 Co-ordinator, Sara Dyer; Long Distance Paths Officer, Iain Connell; Strider Editor, Gordon Stone; Treasurer, John Elrick. Some key points – rate of new members is declining nationally, number of challenge events declining. New website will be developed in-house and will be live by 2025. Future 100 concerns – access, hire of minibuses and age and training requirements for drivers. Strider (one of the biggest outgoings for the LDWA) £66k a year, members can opt out by going into SI Entries. Martin Greaves legacy, £10000 spent on local group projects. Another £200k in the bank account. Recommendation – use it to fund the development of an app.

- 14.3. Workshop topics on Sunday morning were; Making social walks attractive to new members and encouraging current members out and to lead walks; Discussion on how best to use the money left by the Martyn Greaves bequest; Website wonderings - about the new website; Mission Statement - what are the goals of the LDWA and do we need to update, as it is still felt by many that 'people' do not know about the LDWA and what we are for.
- 14.4. The details that Ian presented at the AGM will be made available in his comprehensive report on the Dorset LDWA website.

15. Recognition of contributions and achievements

- 15.1. Heather congratulated Peter Cowlyn on being awarded the diamond award and being added to the register of people who have walked all nineteen National Trails, totalling 3029 miles.

16. Dates of 2023 committee meetings and AGM

- 16.1. Provisional date of first committee meeting – 10 Jan 2024 7.15pm
- 16.2. AGM – provisionally Sunday 17 Nov 2024

17. AOB

- 17.1. Tracey proposed that Dorset LDWA donate a total of £500 to charities nominated by members. All were in favour. Carried unanimously.
- 17.2. Tracey proposed that £250 be donated to the John Thornton Young Achievers Foundation. All were in favour. Carried unanimously.
- 17.3. Tracey proposed that £250 be donated to The National Coastwatch Institute (NCI) station at St Albans Head. Carried by the majority.
- 17.4. In the interests of being more inclusive, to people who are not able to walk the longer distances any more or who are recovering from injury or building up confidence to do longer distances, it was suggested that we might consider offering shorter walks (12-14 miles) with longer breaks. Tracey said just such a walk is planned for January 2024.
- 17.5. Thanks. Heather thanked Deirdre and her team for preparing and serving another excellent lunch. Deirdre introduced Paddy Morton, a new member to Dorset, and thanked him for joining the band of volunteers in the kitchen today. Anne Brown thanked the committee for their work this year.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 16:45.

APPENDIX 1

LDWA Dorset Group Accounts: 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023

Summary of the year :

Account breakdown :

Actual Opening Balance	£9,422.04	
Uncleared Cheque liability (2021-22)		£37.06
FY Opening Balance	£9,384.98	
Closing Balance	£10,192.45	
Actual Account difference	£807.47	
Uncleared Cheque liability		£53.20
2022-23	Income	Expenditure
Ramblers Holiday	£60.00	
Cerne Giant 2023	£2,506.65	£1,951.36
Dorset Duddle 2023	£5,557.62	£3,246.97
Group AGM		£298.48
Committee		£411.17
General		£60.00
Social Walk Costs		£270.00
Equipment		£567.55
Solstice & Xmas Events		£119.42
30 th Celebration event		£370.05
Cerne Giant 2024		£75.00
Annual Totals	£8,124.27	£7,370.00
Surplus/Deficit for the year	£754.27	

Cerne Giant 2023	Income	Expenditure
Net Entry & Coach fees	£2,506.65	
HQ & Checkpoints		£608.00
Printing Certificates		£27.11
Equipment for event		£107.59
Catering		£907.84
Mileage/Parking		£117.50
Miscellaneous		£2.72
<i>Sub-Totals</i>	<i>£2,506.65</i>	<i>£1,766.36</i>
<i>Donation to National IT Fund</i>		<i>£185.00</i>
Final Event Surplus		£555.29
Dorset Duddle 2023	Income	Expenditure
Net Entry & Coach fees	£5,557.62	
HQ & Checkpoints		£210.00
Coach hire Main Event		£1,495.00
Minibus Hire Main & Marshals Events		£575.00
Printing Certificates		£31.95

Minutes of the Dorset LDWA AGM 19 November 2023

Inkjet paper for tallies		£42.25
SIM cards		£9.98
Catering		£516.00
Mileage/Parking		£356.10
Miscellaneous		£10.69
Totals	£5,557.62	£3,246.97
Actual Event surplus		£2,310.65

NOTES for the Group about items of the accounts:

1. Equipment itemised for Cerne Giant 2023 comprised multiple consumables Sanitisers, Kitchen Rolls, Refuse sacks, Tape, Floor protection film.
2. General Equipment purchases includes: 2 x Group Sail banners (£372.72); Replacement Airpot 3L water dispenser (£31.99); Wireless Bar Code scanner (£41.98); Replenishment of First-Aid kits (£53.13).