

**LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION
DORSET GROUP
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
Durweston Village hall
Sunday 11 December 2022 2.30PM



Minutes

Members present:

Kathy Bingham, Susanna Bolland, Ian Brown, Richard Brown, Sandra Brown, Anne Brown, Martin Callow, Mike Childs, Pat Clifton, Peter Cowlyn, Patricia Dashwood, Steve Davies, Maria Drummond, Hilary England, Deirdre Flegg, Joan Fox, Roger Frost, Heather Giles, Angela Gray, Richard Lang, Tracey Lang, Sue Phillips, Robert Powell, Diane Ruffle, Peter Stockley, Colin Utting, Georgina White, John Widdowson, Sue Widdowson.

1. Chair's welcome

Heather welcomed everybody to Dorset Group's 2022 AGM. Heather thanked Tracey Lang for leading the walk in the morning, over three of Dorset's biggest hills in 8 miles! Heather thanked Deirdre Flegg and her team, Angela Gray, Kathy Bingham and Sue Phillips, for preparing and serving fantastic food and providing a great service at lunchtime. On behalf of the committee and everybody present, Heather thanked Deirdre and Mike Childs for all they put into the LDWA generally and Dorset group in particular.

This has been the first full year post covid, the reduced worry about risk assessments and face masks has been a source of joy. Heather thanked all who have lead walks and especially newer walk leaders. Heather gave assurance that leading walks does become easier. There is a need for more walk leaders please.

Heather thanked the committee, who have worked well together this year - the success of the Dorset Duddle is testimony to this.

Heather thanked Chris Pitt, outgoing Chair, for staying on the committee and assisting Heather in her first year as Chair.

Heather thanked outgoing Group Secretary - Pat Clifton, as she stands down from the committee, for her service to the group in her role as secretary for the past four years.

There are 4 LDWA cookery books left- please buy one.

2. Apologies for absence

Dave Bell, Robin Britton, Rosemary Britton, Paul Gibbs, Alan Mattison, Debbie Murphy, Chris Pitt, Brian Taylor, Ted Tupling, Jan Williams

3. Approval of the minutes of the AGM 28 Nov 2021

Deirdre requested an amendment to the minutes. It was subsequently decided that the minutes accurately reflect what was discussed at the time at the AGM of 2021.

Motion: To approve the minutes for the AGM 2021

Proposed: Martin Callow Seconded: Peter Stockley

The point made by Deirdre having been noted (see matters arising below), the minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Matters arising from the AGM 28 Nov 2021

4.1. Item 13. In addition to the checkpoint run by Deirdre and Mike on the Marshal's event (as recorded in the minutes of the 2021 AGM), a number of Dorset members (Colin Utting, Mike Childs, Deirdre Flegg, Anne Brown) also supported on the main Trans-Pennine 100 event.

4.2. Item 11. Forthcoming Dorset Group Challenge Events.

Clarification – 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.

Action: Heather to notify NEC.

5. Officers' reports

5.1. Group Secretary (Pat Clifton)

Membership Figures for 2021 – 2022.

	Joined	Left	Total	Increase
Primary	42	37	252	5
Associate	136	73	522	63
Total			774	

There are 154 members on the Dorset Group Email List, an increase of 7 over the year.

Committee Meetings

Since the last AGM, there have been a total of 6 committee meetings held online in Dec 2021 Jan, Mar, May, July and Sept 2022.

After four years in post Pat is standing down from the committee. Pat thanked all committee members, past and present, for their help and support during her tenure. Pat thanked Maria for coming forward to take up the Group Secretary post.

5.2. Walks Secretary (Tracey Lang)

There have been a total of 47 social walks over the year, totalling 783 miles, all over Dorset including Saturday history, breakfast brunch, Dorset churches and 2 evening walks. Tracey thanked the walk leaders - seven members lead one walk, thirteen members lead more than one walk. Twenty four members and guests went to the Lake District for four days of walks of varying lengths. Thank you Colin for leading this. Dorset group members participated in challenge events, including the Trans-Pennine 100 challenge. The Dorset Duddle was a success, with very positive feedback from participants. Tracey thanked all who supported and enabled the event to take place, and Anne for organising the Marshal's event. Tracey thanked Anne for planning and organising the 50/50/50 challenge to mark the 50th anniversary of the LDWA. Twenty-two members and two dogs met the challenge and were awarded certificates. Tracey thanked all members for welcoming visitors who walk with us.

Plans for 2023

"The Path to Avalon – Well, Well, Well" 17 Feb – Mon 20 Feb, will be a relaxed program of social walks, with plenty of time to visit both Wells, Glastonbury and Cheddar Gorge. John will be sending an email soon. This walk is already fully subscribed.

Dorset Pilgrim's challenge total 89 miles. Details to be advised, 4 separate walks throughout 2023 commencing post February. Ways to Whitchurch Canonicorum; Dorset Old Stones Way; Cernunnos and Catherine Way; St Edward's Way (details of the individual routes can be found on Pilgrimage UK website). A certificate will be awarded for those who complete all 4 walks.

Transport will be provided for linear walks. <https://britishpilgrimage.org/routes/>

Action: committee gather feedback – do as separate walks or over a weekend? Longer routes or spend more time, break up over a weekend?

Walk Leader of the year was awarded to Anne for leading seven walks, the 50/50/50 events, arranging the Doddle Marshal event and for supporting Tracey as she took over the Walks Secretary role. Thank you Anne.

There are 8 dates up to Easter that need walk leader.

Deirdre requested that the committee review the decision not to publish walks in Strider

Action: discuss in committee meeting

5.3. Events Secretary (Richard Lang)

Dorset Duddle 21 Aug 2022. First challenge event for 3 years. 251 entrants. 186 starters, 166 completed – surprising number of 'no-shows' – 53 people. Roughly half from BH postcode. Ratio of LDWA/non LDWA members not known. Thank you Anne for arranging Duddle Marshal event.

Future challenge events

Two challenge events a year. 19 March 2023 Cerne Giant 20/30 mile routes. Marshals event will be 5 March. Entries have opened. 17 entrants so far. An effort will be made in January to publicise the Cerne Giant Challenge Event.

20 Aug 2023 Dorset Duddle. Marshals event date to be confirmed. Will need lots of volunteers, please keep dates free.

2024 Duddle and Duddle West or any other ideas (for 2025 or beyond to allow time for new event to be approved at AGM).

Action: 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.

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

Income this year was only from the Duddle. Small loss over the year of £210.46. Not a problem, the committee have been aiming to reduce funds to no more than annual running costs (approx. £6000.)

As agreed previously, surplus from Duddle Event was used to make a donation of £5 for every non LDWA member to the National IT Fund.

Big expense is hire of mini buses and coaches. Next year - consider alternative supplier. HQ and checkpoints expense lower than previous years because fees paid for halls in 2020 was deferred when the events were cancelled due to Covid.

No linear walks this year, hence reduction in the expenses.

Sail banners will reflect in next years accounts.

AGM costs are higher this year than previously because hire of the village hall for AGM 2021 and AGM 2022 have both come out of this year's budget.

Vote of thanks was given to Wayne Bartlett for examining and approving the account.

6. Adoption of Accounts

Motion: To adopt the accounts for the year ended 30 September 2022.

Proposed: Hilary England; Seconded: Peter Cowlyn

The motion was carried unanimously.

7. Election of Committee

Nominations have been received as follows:

Officers:

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

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

Treasurer – Ian Brown (Proposed: Robert Powell; Seconded: Hilary England)

Walks Secretary – Tracey Lang (Proposed: Anne Brown; Seconded: Ian Brown)

Events Secretary – Richard Lang (Proposed: Pat Clifton; Seconded: Ian Brown)

Other Committee Members:

Pete Stockley (Proposed: Deirdre Flegg; Seconded: Mike Childs)

Roger Frost (Proposed: Anne Brown; Seconded: Robert Powell)

Paul Gibbs (Proposed: Pat Clifton; Seconded: Pete Stockley)

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

Carried unanimously.

8. Appointment of the examiner of the accounts

Motion: Wayne Bartlett be appointed Examiner of the Accounts for the year ending 30 Sept 2023.

Proposed: Richard Brown; Seconded: Angela Gray

The motion was carried unanimously.

9. Motions

No motions were received by the group secretary before 13 Nov 2022, the deadline for inclusion in this AGM.

10. Forthcoming Dorset Group challenge events

Covered by Richard in the Events Secretary report. See 5.3

11. Social Walks program

Covered by Tracey in the Walks Secretary report. See 5.2

12. Group trip to Wells Feb 2023

Covered by John as part of the Walks Secretary report. See 5.2

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

13.1. Organiser's of the East Point 100 in 2025 (Norfolk) have emailed a request to the group for help, they await the outcome of this AGM. It was agreed to offer to run a checkpoint on condition that it is a later checkpoint – approx. 16 people present indicated they would (provisionally) be prepared to help.

Action: secretary to reply to East Point 100

13.2. EBB 100 2023 - Dorset group are running a checkpoint on Marshals walk. Anne and Colin volunteering on main event.

14. Feedback from local group representatives' weekend 2022

Heather attended a long and intense, but worthwhile, local group representatives' weekend in Buxton. Twenty-five groups were represented (of 42), only three from South West - Devon & Cornwall, Dorset, Wiltshire. So far six of the seven group representatives' weekends have been north of Birmingham.

There were workshops after registration and dinner on Friday and over the weekend on topics such as "Challenge event catering post covid", "Expenses for volunteers", "Local group cooperation", "Electronic tracking and event management". Participants were given a question to discuss during the 'walk & talk' on Saturday and asked to feed back in a presentation to the wider group later. Heather's topic was "How can the LDWA ensure core activities are able to be enjoyed by all in the current economic climate" (for example by car sharing). The formal meeting was held on Sunday and Gordon, the new Strider editor, gave a presentation on Strider. New comms officer, Matt Barker, gave his ideas on appealing to a younger audience.

Other feedback from the local group representatives' weekend included; anybody involved in producing challenge event food should do online courses on food preparation and food allergens (paid for by LDWA). Insurance cover for LDWA also includes doing a walk recce, provided the walk is uploaded on the website with 'recce' in the title. In recognition of the enormity of the task for the membership secretary, membership will be done through SI Entries (they have been contracted for 2 years). It is recognised that a lot of national roles are big and daunting. There are common problems experienced by many local groups, for example – nobody wants to volunteer, most members just want to do the walking.

Heather has a copy of the Membership and data analysis insight document, if anybody would like a copy – please let Heather know, it is also likely to be on the NEC website. Heather also has a copy of the Results of Strider Consultation Survey – if anybody would like to look at it. In discussions about sponsorship, it was apparent that there is no appetite from the people present for a title sponsor.

Anne Brown asked about discussions regarding ways to increase diversity – Heather was not aware of any discussions on this topic taking place.

Heather said that the weekend overall was hard work but interesting. It was useful to meet and put faces to names of people on the NEC. Heather recommends people go if they have an opportunity.

Sandra Brown expressed thanks, on behalf of everybody in the meeting, to Heather for going and representing the Dorset Group at the event and for her interesting and informative feedback presented at the AGM.

15. Purchase of sail banners

Sail banners were outside the village hall during the AGM. Positive feedback from members – the banners look good. Ian will keep the sail banners in storage when they are not in use.

16. Recognition of contributions and achievements

Covered by walks secretary see 5.2 above

17. Dates of 2023 committee meetings and AGM

17.1. Provisional date of first committee meeting 16 Jan 2023

17.2. AGM - provisionally 19 Nov.

Action: Heather contact Karen, get groups weekend date so that it does not clash with our AGM.

Action: committee discuss venue for next AGM

18. AOB

18.1. Deidre referred to the 2017 AGM, and Robert's plan to reduce high bank balance at the time. The purchase of sail banners was part of the strategy. It was recommended that the plan be reviewed in 2020. The review has not happened. Deidre asked if the group should be more outward looking and use surplus funds to contribute to path clearing, stiles, donations to the Air Ambulance, or some other support in the community.

Action: committee to review use of surplus funds

18.2. Anne would like to lead a walk in May/June next year to KNEPP wild lands, Sussex. Long day trip. Details will be sent. For more information about KNEPP, Anne suggested reading *Wilding* by Isabella Tree

18.3. Drop Box link for all members, a repository of documents, set up by Chris. Do new members have access?

Action: send a link to all members

18.4. Heather presented a gift card to Pat – outgoing secretary – as a thank you for Pat's service to the group as group secretary for the past four years.

18.5. Heather made a presentation to Deirdre, thanking her for all her hard work in the LDWA generally, within Dorset Group and for lunch today.

18.6. Heather gave a vote of thanks to the outgoing vice chair – Chris, who was unable to attend the AGM. Card will be passed on.

18.7. Tracey asked if, when starting a walk at a car park with an honesty box, the committee can make a contribution of £10 for car park fees. Tracey proposed, Deirdre seconded. Agreed.

18.8. Colin asked if members are happy for walks to start at National Trust Car Parks, where non NT members will have to pay. Agreed.

18.9. Ian asked about equipment needed for future challenge events. Tracey has emailed an inventory to everybody.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed.

Action points:

Heather – notify NEC that the South West Triple Challenge no longer exists.

Committee – gather feedback regarding Dorset Pilgrim's challenge.

Committee - review the decision not to publish walks in Strider

Committee - motion at next AGM to rescind past motion to approve new events at the AGM in the year prior to the running of a new event

Group secretary - reply to East Point 100 organisers re request to run a checkpoint

Heather - contact Karen, NEC, for groups weekend date so that it does not clash with our AGM.

Committee - discuss venue for next AGM

Committee - review use of surplus funds

Chris? – send drop box link to all members

APPENDIX 1

LDWA Dorset Group Accounts: 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022**Summary of the year :** There was a deficit for the year of £210.46.**Account breakdown :**

	Income	Expenditure
AGM		£465.31
Committee		£290.55
General		£32.77
Ramblers Holiday		
Equipment		£37.65
Solstice, BBQ & Xmas Events		£117.79
Contribution to Lake District trip		£400.00
Dorset Duddle 2022	£5,038.24	£3,904.63
Annual Totals	£5,038.24	£5,248.70
Opening Balance	£9,595.44	
Closing Balance	£9,422.04	
Account Movement during the year		-£173.40
Uncleared Cheque liability		-£37.06
Surplus/Deficit for the year		-£210.46
Dorset Duddle 2022	Income	Expenditure
Net Entry & Coach fees	£4,991.24	
Donations	£40.00	
Badge Sales	£7.00	
Certificates		£87.00
Printing/SIM/Equipment		£60.98
Coach hire Main Event		£1,400.00
Minibus Hire Main & Marshals Events		£665.00
HQ & Checkpoints		£126.00

Catering		£631.03
Mileage/Parking		£311.75
Miscellaneous		£12.87
Sub-Totals	£5,038.24	£3,294.63
Actual Event surplus	£1,743.61	
Donation to National IT Fund		£610.00
Final Surplus	£1,133.61	
Final Expenditure Total		£3,904.63

NOTES for the Group about items of the accounts:

1. The cost of the HQ for the Dorset Duddle on the Main Event was £0 due to holding over the booking accounted for in 2020, due to not being able to hold the event due to Covid restrictions.
2. The AGM costs includes the hire of Durweston Village Hall for both the 2021 AGM and 2022 AGM. Holding the 2021 AGM 'in person' was a late decision meaning payment was accepted after the event, whereas the booking and payment for the 2022 AGM was made prior to the event and before the end of this reporting period.
3. Donation to the National IT Fund.
This is in line with the decision made by the 2020 AGM :

Motion 7: To grant approval to remove the current levy charged to non-LDWA members who enter Dorset Group challenge events (equivalent to half of the annual membership fee) and replace it with a flat £10 charge on top of the members' entry fee. After each event and subject to the approval of the committee, £5 of each non-member's entry fee would then be donated to the National IT Development Fund.

The motion was passed unanimously

The discussion around this motion was for the Dorset Group to be seen to be contributing to the National group effort, providing that the Dorset Group challenge events did not make a loss.

As the 2022 Dorset Duddle was a financial success, the Committee approved the donation as shown.

4. Whilst the Group made a deficit for the year, this should not be seen as a 'problem', in fact it may be argued that the group did not make a big enough deficit. As a reminder to the group a decision was made at the 2017 AGM to reduce substantially the funds held in the group account to the benefit of members. The guidance from the group and National Committee was to hold in reserve the equivalent of 12 months running costs or enough to cover the running of the major challenge event, in case of its severe financial failure.
As can be seen the group has a long way to go to meet that lower target.