

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION  
DORSET GROUP  
COMMITTEE MEETING

**Committee Meeting, online, Monday 25 July 2022 7.00 pm**

Committee members present:

Heather N Giles (HG) (Chair)  
Pat Clifton (PC) (Group Secretary)  
Ian Brown (IB) (Treasurer)  
Tracey Lang (TL) (Walks secretary)  
Richard Lang (RL) (Events secretary)  
Chris Pitt (CP)  
Sue Phillips (SP)  
Pete Stockley (PS)

**1. Chairman's welcome**

HG welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated those members who had completed the Doddle Marshals' Walk. She then thanked TL for all her hard work organising the social walks program.

**2. Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies, all committee members were present.

**3. Matters arising from the online meeting 30 May 2022**

There were no matters arising, other than those already included on the agenda for this meeting.

**4. Approval of the minutes of the meeting 30 May 2022**

Proposed by CP. Seconded by IB.

The minutes were approved unanimously.

**5. Treasurer's report**

The Group Treasurer (IB) had emailed his report to the committee prior to the meeting.

It contained the following information:

- i. The Group bank account statement for the period ending 26 May 2022, as presented to the previous meeting, showed a balance of £10,012.98.

The actual balance shown on the most recent statement, dated to 21 July 2022, shows as £11,034.98 an increase of £1,022.00.

This was made up by income from SI Entries Limited in respect of entrant fees for the 2022 Dorset Doddle.

The group currently has £1,620.26 retention held by SiEntries Limited, after taking into account service charge fees.

- ii. Known expenditure which is not yet transacted with the bank includes:
  - £39.80 for Summer Solstice breakfasts.
  - £10.00 donation to All Saints Church, Swanage for Doddle Marshals' event.
  - £130.00 to Atlas Private Hire minibus for Doddle Marshals' event.
- iii. Currently expected future spend items (other than Challenge Events)

There are several items of future expenditure, which are known about to date, for which applications are likely to be made, based on 'past practice'. For events due to take place in the current financial year, those shown below were noted in the previous report:

- Group residential trip to the Lake District.

It has been practice to make a contribution from Group funds (amount TBD) for trips of this kind. This trip has been booked with all primary group members informed and is in the walks future events diary. See item 11 below.

- Group 'Sail' banners.

This has been discussed several times and purchase was approved by a previous AGM but not actioned to date, due to lack of activity during the peak Covid period. This item was re-addressed by the Dorset Doddle sub-committee with a view to obtaining the item(s) in time for the 2022 Dorset Doddle (amount TBD).

- iv. Dorset Doddle expenditure.

This will start to make an impact on the bank account over the coming weeks. For example, the payment for the entrant coach transfers (expected to be £1,400) and the hire of minibus plus driver for the day, as retiree transport (£510), are both now due for payment.
- v. IB went on to say that he was requesting an additional authorised signatory to the Group bank account. He explained that this is for practical purposes because, to comply with 'good practice' for society accounts, the group requires two signatures for bank payments by cheque and there are a number of organisations we deal with that are no longer accepting payments this way. This means that IB is having to make these payments himself and claim back the funds, as a legitimate expenses, along with processing the expense claims of other members by cheque. To do this IB has to rely on meeting up with one of the other two signatories to obtain a signature and this is not always easy to do. IB was requesting, therefore, that either the Events Secretary (RL) or, preferably, the Walks Secretary (TL) be made an authorised signatory.

TL agreed to be an authorised signatory on the Group bank account and to set this up with IB.

Action: IB and TL

## **6. Social walks programme**

The Walks Secretary (TL) had emailed her report to the committee prior to the meeting. It contained the following information:

The walks program for June and July has gone well. There have been 12 walks during these two months, totalling 210.4 miles. The standard of walks was very high, all well led and enjoyable, with good attendance and very positive feedback. One walk was cancelled and re-arranged due to the extreme heat warning and request not to travel. At least 8 other LDWA walks, planned by other groups, were cancelled for this reason. There have been 2 evening walks for those with an interest in nature, one as part of the LDWA 50-year celebrations, both benefitting from the summer evenings.

TL said that she would like to propose a special thank you, to be noted in the minutes, for Anne Brown, who both organised and ran the extremely successful LDWA 50-year anniversary series of walks, which culminated in the 'weekend 50' walks on 24 - 26 June (see item 10 on the agenda). TL continued that this tremendous event would not have happened without Anne's impetus, organisation and very hard work. The Group has received thanks from Karen Pickersgill of the LDWA, who thought the event was well supported and very well organised. Permission has been requested and given to feature Dorset's celebrations in December's Strider. There is also a short piece about the 50 fun facts in August's Strider.

TL's report then continued as follows, with information on the program going forward:

The August program is active, but both August and September favour those who prefer longer walks. This is partly due to the long summer days and also because of the Dorset Duddle Marshals' and Challenge events and the Group holiday at the end of September. TL said that she is herself away quite a bit for the next couple of months, and is trying to fill in spaces in the calendar. She stated that there are no further new walk leaders and that it is hard to encourage walk leaders without putting off tentative new members.

## **7. The Dorset Duddle and the marshals' event 2022**

Anne Brown, who had organised and run the Duddle Marshals' Event on 24 Jul, had provided feedback to the committee. She said the event was a success, with good weather and a very dedicated and supportive team. All 9 participants completed the walk in under 12 hrs and details of the times at each checkpoint were

provided. She requested certificates to be printed and made available at the main event.

More specific feedback, from the checkpoint marshals and those on the event, regarding the route description and other matters, was discussed at the Doddle sub-committee meeting on 2 Aug.

Regarding the Doddle main event, IB said there were 230 entries to date, 160 of whom had booked seats on the coach. The closing date for the event is 7 Aug. There followed some discussion on the number of entries and how many coaches will be required. A decision was made to keep the booking for 4 coaches, as the cost of having them had already been covered by the fees for booked seats. A donation to be made to the church at Lulworth, which is allowing the group to use their grounds for a checkpoint and field for parking, was agreed, with the amount to be decided after the event. Some discussion regarding equipment for the checkpoints followed and it was decided that this should be continued at the sub-committee meeting.

### **8. Possible Dorset challenge event spring 2023**

RL said that it was normal for the group to run an event in the spring and, if we are to do so, we need to decide which event to run. The possibility of running the Cerne Giant was considered, with particular regard to the problem of finding enough parking spaces. The Doddle West was suggested as an alternative. A date of 19 Mar 2023 was agreed as the most suitable, despite it being Mothers' Day. The committee decided to make a final decision at the next meeting on 12 Sep.

### **9. The EBB 100, The Speyside 100 (2024) and The East Point 100 (2025)**

TL reported that her email to group members, with regard to running a checkpoint on the EBB 100, had produced a minimal response. This backed up the committee's decision not to get involved with this event, as there is not enough support from members for doing so.

The committee agreed that the Speyside 100 was too far away for the Dorset Group to help run this event.

A decision was made to raise possible involvement in the East Point 100 (2025) at our AGM in December. PC agreed to let the organiser know this.

Action: PC

### **10. LDWA 50 Year Anniversary events in Dorset**

Anne Brown had provided feedback on the anniversary events as follows:

- 10 social walks were offered over a 50 day period in May and June, totalling 188 miles. 55 people took part in at least one of these walks.

- Members were challenged to try to walk at least 50 miles on Dorset social walks over the 50 day period and 22 members and 2 dogs met the challenge. The highest mileage by one person was 136 miles. All received a certificate.
- 8 people completed the 50 miles over one weekend (3 walks 24-26 Jun), despite the walks involving the use of public transport when there was a train strike!

Walks were varied in length, time of day and terrain. They included an evening walk to watch Nightjars, a dawn walk to see the Solstice sunrise, a visit to bluebell woods, a walk sharing facts about Dorset, a circumnavigation of Poole Harbour and many more. Some photos are available if requested.

Anne Brown expressed thanks to the NEC for their initiative and to our wonderful walk leaders for their enthusiasm.

Certificates are to be issued to those meeting the challenge.

#### **11. Possible contribution to the group trip to Cumbria**

Following some feedback from a few members of the group, who were not in support of a contribution being made, the committee discussed whether to continue with this practice. After considering the arguments, both for and against doing so, the committee agreed to make a contribution of £400 towards the group accommodation. IB agreed to send a cheque to Colin Utting.

Action: IB

#### **12. Local Groups Weekend 20 Nov 2022**

HG said that there had been no response to the email asking if any member wished to represent the Group at this weekend. She therefore volunteered to do so herself.

#### **13. Change of date for the AGM to 11 Dec 2022 and review of possible committee meeting date, 24 Oct.**

Following the change of date for the AGM from 20 Nov to 11 Dec, it was necessary to review the date of the possible extra committee meeting, which had been set for 24 Oct. A date and time of 15 Nov at 7.30pm was agreed.

#### **14. Catering for the AGM**

SP said that she had discussed with Deirdre Flegg the possibility of organising the catering for the AGM again this year and Deirdre had agreed to do so. There was general agreement that this was very good news, as the catering was excellent last year. HG agreed to confirm this with Deirdre.

Action: HG

### 15. Date of the next committee meeting (12 Sep 2022) and whether to meet in person

The date for this meeting was confirmed and it was agreed to continue meeting online. HG suggested we try a new platform for this and agreed to set up 'Google Meet' before the next meeting.

Action: HG

### 16. AOB

- CP asked about the mileage allowance for members travelling on group business. It was agreed this should be increased from 20p/mile to 25p/mile, with immediate effect.
- IB enquired about the Group acquiring the new sail banner, as previously agreed, and CP said he is still working on it.
- It was agreed to ask Robert Powell to send the Duddle Planner to all the marshals on the event.

Action: PC

### Diary of Events

21 Aug 2022	Dorset Duddle
12 Sep 2022	Committee meeting
26 - 30 Sep 2022	Group trip to the Lake District
15 Nov 2022`	Possible Committee meeting, if needed prior to the AGM
11 Dec 2022	Dorset Group AGM
19 Mar 2023	Possible Group Challenge Event