LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

DORSET GROUP

COMMITTEE MEETING

**Committee Meeting, online, Monday 31 Jan 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)

**1. Chairman’s welcome**

HG welcomed everyone to the meeting and commented that the group has had a good start to the year, with an increased number of members coming on social walks.

**2. Apologies for absence**

Pete Stockley (PS)

**3. Matters arising from the online meetings 14 Oct 2021 and 6 Dec 2021**

There were no matters arising from either meeting.

**4. Approval of the minutes of the meetings 14 Oct 2021 and 6 Dec 2021**

Motion: Approval of the minutes of 14 Oct 2021

Proposed: Chris Pitt; Seconded: Richard Lang

Motion: Approval of the minutes of 6 Dec 2021

Proposed: Heather Giles; Seconded: Chris Pitt

The minutes were approved unanimously for both meetings.

**5. Treasurer’s report**

IB presented the report as follows:

* The Group bank account statement for the period ending 30 September 2021, as presented to the previous AGM, showed a balance of £9,595.44.

 The actual balance, shown on the most recent statement dated to 21 January 2022, shows as £9,208.59, a reduction of £386.85.

 This was made up from:

* £10.98 for 'Walk Leader of the Year' mug.
* £235.31 for catering for the Group AGM.
* £98.00 for hire of the hall for the Group AGM.
* £29.43 for the refreshments provided for the traditional pre-Xmas walk.
* £13.13 for general postage.

 Having regard to cheques uncashed at this date (a cheque has been written for £48.56 for the contribution to breakfasts provided on the traditional Winter Solstice Walk) the overall financial position is a balance of £9,160.03.

 The group currently has no retention held by SiEntries Limited for refunds to entrants on any Dorset LDWA challenge event.

* From the committee meeting 6 Dec 2021 the forms and signed meeting minutes were sent to Santander to allow for changes to the signing mandates for the Group bank account (removal of Robert Powell, Bill Peach; addition of Ian Brown, Heather Giles). Unfortunately a communication was sent back to the former Group Treasurer stating that an incorrect form for a ‘Business Account’ was used, instead of one for a ‘Treasurer’s Account’ The new forms, with signatures, were completed and sent off on 16 January.

 Further problems then arose due to the identity of the Group Secretary not having been updated with the bank when PC took over the role 3 years ago. This required an additional ‘New Committee Member’ form to be completed and this was duly returned on 27 January.

 IB recommended that we should make a note that the Treasurer should be tasked to ensure that the bank is kept up to date with committee changes in the future. It was agreed that this should be done annually following the Group AGM.

* There are several items of expected future spending (other than challenge events) for which applications are likely to be made, based on past practice. These are:
* The Group residential trip to the Lake District in Sep 2022 - it has been practice to make a financial contribution form Group funds (amount to be decided).
* The Summer Solstice Walk – it has been practice to make a contribution to subsidise breakfasts on this walk (amount to be decided).
* Expenses for attendance for 'official' representation to LDWA Annual AGM.

Following IB’s report HG asked if she could claim expenses to cover both accommodation and travel to the national AGM, as she is attending on behalf of the Group. There was some discussion regarding expenses for attendance at both the AGM and the Local Groups Weekend.

A motion was raised as follows:

To pay expenses for accommodation and travel for one member of the group, preferably a committee member, to attend the national AGM as the official group representative. Also, to do the same for the Local Groups Weekend.

Proposed: Chris Pitt; Seconded: Pat Clifton

The motion was approved unanimously.

**6. Social walks programme**

TL reported that there had been a good start to the year, with walks very well attended. She said there has been 20 plus walkers on each walk, from a varied group of members, showing the vibrancy of our group.

TL went on to comment that she would like to see the number of leaders expand, as those putting walks on the program come from a narrow base, with IB currently the best contributor. She invited the committee to comment on why they thought members may be reluctant to come forward to lead. One suggestion discussed was that potential leaders felt those joining their walk might be critical of the route etc. HG commented that this could be the misinterpretation of light hearted banter, which is part of the Group dynamic. TL agreed to contact members again via email.

 Action: TL

**7. The Dorset Doddle 2022.**

RL suggested the Group should run the Doddle this year on Sunday 21 Aug, as it is traditionally on the Sunday before the August bank holiday weekend. He said a lead was needed for organising the event, as he doesn’t feel he has enough experience to lead it by himself. CP agreed to share the lead for this event with RL and SP.

IB agreed to obtain a quote for the coaches needed on the day. CP said that All Saints Church Hall in Swanage was already booked and paid for.

 Action: IB

There followed some discussion regarding other arrangements, the number of entrants and the entry fees. HG suggested a subcommittee meeting to focus on planning and this was agreed for 27 Feb 2022 at 7.00pm. HG and PC said they would join CP, RL and SP on this.

RL agreed to confirm the details to go in Strider and TL to add the date to the events list.

 Action: RL and TL

The date of the marshals’ event was agreed as 24 Jul 2022. CP said he will book Lulworth village hall if possible.

 Action: CP

**8. The EBB (Elephant, Bear and Bull) 100 2023**

CP said that the Dorset Group had provisionally agreed to run a checkpoint on the EBB 100 before the Covid pandemic.

There followed a discussion of the number of our members needed to do this. It was agreed that more details were needed with regard to the nature of the checkpoint, and its location on the route, before asking the Dorset group members to volunteer. HG agreed to contact the checkpoint organiser to find out more.

 Action: HG

CP commented that our group would usually use our own kit, volunteers are able to claim travel expenses and those qualifying to do so can normally enter the marshals’ event for half the price of the main event.

**9. LDWA Meet Up trial**

HG and CP had attended the online meeting regarding the possibility of LDWA groups using the Meet Up platform to publicise group activities, with a view to expanding the membership. The intention of the NEC is for 2 or 3 groups to take part in a trail, funded by them. HG suggested we should wait and see how this goes and said she would contact the organiser (Julian White) to check on progress since the meeting.

 Action: HG

A discussion arose as to whether we want to expand the number of members in the Dorset Group and the possibility of an increased amount of administration this might engender.

**10. Amendment to The Group’s entry in the Group News section of Strider**

HG said she had written a short piece of text for this and would send it to the other committee members for their approval/suggestions. She also agreed to change the Walks Secretary’s details.

 Action: HG

**11. LDWA National AGM – 4-6 Mar 2022**

HG is planning to attend the AGM on behalf of the group.

**12. LDWA 50-Year Anniversary**

Anne Brown had emailed the committee prior to the meeting to ask two questions with regard to her administration of the Dorset 50:50:50 Social Walk Challenge.

She requested the committee’s agreement for her to:

1. Have access to the register for all social walks between 8May and 26 June (inclusive) in order to administer the 50 miles in 50 days tally of mileages.
2. Do a press release to the Echo and local papers prior to the end of the event and possibly supply a picture (with the permission of those shown) of the 50 miles in a weekend event.

Both items were agreed for this purpose.

**13. Condolences on the death of ‘Boots’ Colman**

Following the receipt of an email from Deirdre Flegg letting us know that Boots (Alan) Colman had died, the committee wish to record their condolences to his family.

**14. Date of the next committee meeting – 21 Mar 2022**

This date was confirmed

**15. AOB**

No other business was raised.

**Diary of Events**

 21 Mar 2022 online committee meeting

 30 May 2022 online committee meeting

 18 – 19 June 2022 LDWA ‘Mass Event’ celebration of 50 year anniversary

 24 Jul 2022 Marshals’ event for Dorset Doddle

 25 Jul 2022 committee meeting

 21 Aug 2022 Dorset Doddle

 26 – 30 Sep 2022 Group trip to the Lake District