

LDWA East Lancs Group

Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting

8pm on Tuesday 3 rd November 2020

Zoom Meeting Hosted by Gordon Stone.

Present:

Hilary Scott (HS)	Chair / IT Secretary
Roger Jackson (RJ)	Secretary
Paul Allen (PA)	Treasurer
Caroline Tennant (CT))	Events Secretary
David Walsh (DW)	Walks Secretary
Gordon Stone (GS)	Ordinary Committee Member
Alma Walsh	Ordinary Committee Member
Paul Wadsworth (PW)	Ordinary Committee Member
Pauline Melia (PM)	Ordinary Committee Member
Nick Halford (NH)	Ordinary Committee Member
Mike Bushby (MB)	Bob Kelly (BK)
Don Watson (DW)	Jane Hill (JH)
Steve Clark (SC)	

Apologies

Viv Lee (VL)	Social Secretary
Peter Steckles (PS))	Helen Buskey (HB)

The Group was quorate and the AGM was opened at 8.00 pm and closed at 08.41 pm.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting:

The Minutes were accepted as a true record of the 2019 Annual General Meeting

2. Chair and Secretary's Report:

2.1 Introduction

The Chair and Secretary thanked Gordon for hosting this Zoom Meeting and also everyone who attended. This AGM confirms our Constitution is up to date and we can continue to function as a group within the LDWA. We have no doubt a recurring theme tonight will be the effects of the pandemic but thanks to all those who have worked hard to keep the group going both before and during it.

Normally everyone would sign a piece of paper to say that they have attended the meeting but , in the circumstances, Roger will have to just take your names tonight, as a record of attendance, and give any apologies received.

2.2 Annual Report:

It has been a year of two halves, all was going very well until March when we just scraped in with the Two Crosses event, before lockdown. During initial lockdown and following on , over 30 members have kept in touch with each other via the East Lancs Natterers WhatsApp group which proved to be very random at times! Facebook was updated with pictures from past walks and this had an average of over 100 views per day. The committee kept in touch via email and have also held two Zoom group meetings. There have also been three Zoom meetings with the NEC which had a representative from East Lancs present at each one.

Since lockdown there has been little walking activity with the ad hoc programme we started becoming another casualty of the latest Covid guidelines. Not surprisingly member numbers are down with 247 Primary Members and a further 238 Associate Members.

On a more positive note this year, East Lancs have helped fund the steps in Redisher Woods, which were completed just in time for the Two Crosses. We have also donated to the LDWA website fund, British Heart Foundation and a Fire Service Charity. One of our members, Viv Lee, received the Eager Beaver volunteer award from the National Executive.

3 Treasurer's Update:

The Treasurer had made the annual accounts available to the group, prior to the meeting where he presented them, confirming they continue to hold a healthy balance.

The Group's Auditor, Julie Spencer, has confirmed that she was happy with the Accounts as a true record. She was thanked for her work on behalf of the Group.

The Group accepted the Accounts .

The Secretary will forward a copy of the Group's accounts along with minutes of the AGM to the NEC

4 Officers Annual Reports

4.1 Walks Secretary

Report below for the period 1/11/19 to 31/10/20

It promised to be a good year on the Social walks front with a full programme booked. Two walks had to be cancelled, one because of illness and one because of Storm Dennis. However, Coronavirus came along, and the programme had to be stopped during March.

The last Sunday walk was on 1/3/20 and the last Wednesday walk was on 4/3/20. A series of ad hoc walks were led between 1/7/20 and 26/8/20 then local restrictions kicked in.

Some facts and figures:-

- 9 Wednesday walks with 8 different leaders 120 miles walked with an average of 13.3 miles per walk 148 walkers with an average of 16 per walk
- 8 Sunday walks with 8 different leaders 160 miles walked with an average of 20 miles per walk 175 walkers with an average of 22 per walk bolstered by the Xmas Cracker with 45 attendees
- 4 Plodder walks with 3 different leaders 41.5 miles walked with an average of 10.4 miles 57 walkers with an average of 14 per walk
- 11 ad hoc walks with 8 different leaders 160 miles walked with an average of 14.5 miles 51 walkers with an average of 4.6 per walk subject to a maximum of 6

Total mileage of all the walks 481.5 with 431 walkers

Average mileage 15 miles and average walkers per walk 13.5

Dave thanked all walk leaders.

4.2 Events Secretary

Caroline gave the following report.

Two Crosses 2020

This year's event will be remembered for two things in particular , it was held on the day before full lockdown announced and it was the first use of Greenmount Old School as our event HQ.

Stats

Advance entries 300 . On the Day 16

Starters 231 (25% no show)

Profit **£1660.38**

Only 40% LDWA members. Publicity push at the finish desk.

Donation to IT fund **£1000.**

General

The Redisher woods steps work was completed just in time, for the event, which was much appreciated by the competitors

RJ collected feedback from all the marshals, and it was used, at a meeting with CT , HS and VL , to formulate plans, alterations, and improvements , for next year's event.

The 2021 event is provisionally booked for 7th March 2021. SI 44 pre-entries. no money taken.

NEC drafted a document on how events can be run with Covid. If we go ahead it will be a drastically different event. No food or hot drinks, only 150 entrants, staggered starts, registration/finish outside. We also have to adhere to Government guidelines and consider the best interests of landowners, local communities and, most importantly, our marshals.

Another option to consider - run a virtual event were entrants do the event on a day of their choosing and submit timings in a given period of time

A decision will be made in the New Year. All to be discussed and decided at a group at a future group meeting.

Thank you to all the marshals for all their help and support this year, the Two Crosses would not be the success it is without all your hard work.

4.3 IT Secretary

Hilary gave the following report

Thank you to all the walk leaders who provided walk reports and pictures up until March. We did receive some reports from the Ad Hoc walks but there has been very little to update in the last few months.

During lockdown I did update FaceBook with pictures of past walks but ran out of these eventually. Once there is a return to some sort of normality then I will update both the website and FaceBook.

4.4 Social Secretary

Viv sent her apologies for not being able to attend the meeting and forwarded the following report.

The only thing we can say about this year's social calendar is thank goodness we had so many early trips prior to Covid19. We had our annual trip to the Neuadd Arms at Llanwrtyd Wells for the Real Ale Ramble , the trip to Ghyll Head in early December to mark the start of the Festive Season and then again at the Neuadd Arms for New Year celebrations. Then in January 2020 we had The Old Vicarage at Ambleside followed in February with an excellent weeks walking based at Hazelwood House in Keswick. Then that was it 2020 cancelled. Where possible bookings for cancelled events have be carried forward for next year.

So, we will just have to wait and see what occurs in 2021.

On a final note she encouraged members to try to do what they can when they can to support the establishments we use for our social trips , even just going away for a long weekend gives these establishments some much needed income.

And please do not forget to support charities , many are really struggling at the moment.

So, stay well and safe do whatever walking you can and look forward to the time we can group walk again.

4.5 Publicity

Pauline reported on the year's publicity drive.

January - Met with Rob Richards (Community Engagement Officer of Lancashire Police) to promote East Lancs via the Our Lancashire website. The site promotes local community groups. A web page was created, and initial walks schedule added. CT redesigned the East Lancs poster to be bolder with less detail, copies provided to members to display at suitable venues. We purchased 500 business cards at a cost of £31 and gave to members to distribute. Also contacted Pendle Walkers to exchange contact details should any walkers want to do shorter / longer distances.

February - Met with Amanda Haynes of Lancashire Life to discuss options to promote the club within the magazine. A section in their walks page and an advertising banner were suggested, but both options proved to be far too expensive. Contacted Amy Thompson of Veterans in Communities (Blackburn) to see if any of their members want to walk longer distances.

March - Pauline, CT, RJ, and VL visited Radio Lancashire to promote the club.

Unfortunately, all activity was then put on hold due to the impending pandemic restrictions.

4.6 Pastoral

Alma gave the following report

This was the first year we created an official committee pastoral position although we had dealt it previously via the Secretary role.

We have had five people with long term injuries during the year and they have been given a small gift from the club which was much appreciated.

During the Covid crisis have tried to keep in touch with active members who live on their own to check they were alright. This was done by telephone, Email and text.

5 Election of Officers

The following Officers confirmed that they would like to stand for re-election.

Hilary Scott - Chair and IT Secretary , Roger Jackson - Secretary

Paul Allen - Treasurer , Caroline Tennant - Events Secretary

Viv Lee - Social Secretary , Pauline Melia - Ordinary Committee Member

Gordon Stone - Ordinary Committee Member , Alma Walsh - Ordinary Committee Member

Paul Wadsworth - Ordinary Committee Member , Nick Halford - Ordinary Committee Member

Dave Walsh is standing down as Walks Secretary but is putting himself forward as an Ordinary Committee Member. Nick Halford , currently an Ordinary Committee Member , has put himself forward to take on the role of Walks Secretary , he was nominated at the October meeting by Roger Jackson and seconded by Caroline Tennant. Mike Bushby has put himself forward for the one vacant Ordinary Committee role. He was proposed by Dave Walsh and seconded by Alma Walsh .

All these proposals were accepted by the members present.

The Committee for 2020/21 is as follows:

Chair	Hilary Scott
Secretary	Roger Jackson
Treasurer	Paul Allen
Walks Secretary	Nick Halford
Events Secretary	Caroline Tennant
Social Secretary	Viv Lee
IT Secretary	Hilary Scott
Ordinary Member	Dave Walsh
Ordinary Member	Alma Walsh (Responsible for Pastoral Affairs)
Ordinary Member	Gordon Stone
Ordinary Member	Paul Wadsworth
Ordinary Member	Pauline Melia (Responsible for Publicity)
Ordinary Member	Mike Bushby

6 Chair's Statement

Chair thanked everyone who have agreed to stand again as committee members, welcomed new member Michael and thanked Nick for stepping forward to become Walks Secretary. She also thanked Dave for all his efforts over the last few years , saying he would be a hard act to follow. and we would like to present him with a small token of our appreciation, which was then presented by Alma. She also looks forward to working with everyone again, as we face an uncertain future, and is confident that East Lancs will rise to whatever challenges we may face.

7 Any Other AGM Business:

None

8 The AGM closed at 8.41 pm.

9 Normal Group Business

8.1 Date of Next Group Meeting

Tuesday January 5th 2021

8.2 AOB

None

The meeting was closed 8.50 pm