

LDWA East Lancs Group

Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting

8pm on Tuesday 2nd November 2021

At the Doffcocker Inn, Chorley Old Road, Bolton. BL1 5QD

Present:

Hilary Scott (HS)	Chair / IT Secretary
Paul Allen (PA)	Treasurer
Nick Halford (NH)	Walks Secretary
Caroline Tennant (CT)	Events Secretary
Viv Lee (VL)	Social Secretary
Dave Walsh (DW)	Ordinary Committee Member
Alma Walsh (AW)	Ordinary Committee Member
Gordon Stone (GS)	Ordinary Committee Member
Pauline Melia (PM)	Ordinary Committee Member
Chris Greene (CG)	Edwina Hill (EH)
Paul Banks (PB)	Jeanette Banks (JB)
Barbara Shelton (BS)	Paul Raine (PR)
Sue Raine (SR)	Jane Hill (JH)
Sue Boardman (SB)	Steve Clark (SC)
Peter Balshaw (PB)	

Apologies

Roger Jackson (RJ)	Secretary
Paul Wadsworth (PW)	Ordinary Committee Member
Andy Griffin (AG)	Ian Hamilton (IH)

The Group was quorate and the AGM was opened at 8.05 pm and closed at 09.03 pm.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting:

The Minutes were accepted as a true record of the 2020 Annual General Meeting

2. Chair and Secretary's Report:

2.1 Introduction

Thanks to everyone for attending and please ensure you have signed the list to confirm your attendance.

2.2 Annual Report:

Well it has been by no means a normal year. Although some members have done some walking from the start of the year, it was late April, before organised walks could resume and these were still subject to some restrictions. Risk Assessments were needed for walks with over six people plus social distancing and hand hygiene had to be observed. The need to know who was attending (plus a risk assessment if needed) led to extra work for our walk leaders and we thank them for their support, for the club, through these difficult times. There is a degree of normality at present but we know that could easily change so thanks to all those who have supported the club by walking and leading in this difficult year.

The Two Crosses walking event was not held in 2021 so we have had no income at all this year. We did however have good reserves so this has carried us through the expenditure we have needed. We hope that the Two Crosses will be held as normal in March 2022.

Committee meetings have been held by Zoom and one in person here at the Doffcocker so we are still compliant with the constitution. Members of the committee have also attended Zoom meetings regarding the proposed new website, the resumption of the walking programme and the Groups Weekend. These were cascaded as necessary to the members of the committee and wider membership.

There was a good entry from East Lancs for the Virtual 100 in May with some members being mentioned in the August Strider.

East Lancs has supported some good causes this year, Squarea at Rivington Bolton Mountain Rescue and Guide Dogs. We also sent a donation to the Alzheimer's society in memory of Steve Baker who sadly died this year.

There will be reports from the officers of the committee in this meeting and although we may not have walked as normal there has been considerable activity behind the scenes. The social program is up and running again now, pastoral care has continued throughout this time, the Two Crosses is set to return next year etc etc. Thank you to all members of the committee who have continued to support the club this year in various ways. Thank you also to Michel Bushby who served for part of the year.

Despite this difficult year East Lancs Numbers have increased, we now have 272 Primary members and 272 Associate members ! We do however need to reach out to more of our members and are planning a new initiative, to start in the New Year to encourage more people to come out walking with us.

3 Treasurer's Update:

The Treasurer presented the annual accounts.

Yorkshire Bank has now been taken over by Virgin Money.

Following the AGM we will only have two cheque signatories on the account , this will be addressed in the Group meeting after the AGM has closed

The Red Rose account was moved into the savings account which, even when taking into account pending outgoings, still maintains 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

Nick gave the following report

Club social walks recommenced in May, Nick asked for leaders on the same basis as before, every other Wednesday, and every other Sunday. All dates were filled bar one or two.

Statistics:

14 Sunday walks, average attendance 9.

14 Wednesday walks, including Plodders , average attendance 10

1 Saturday walk, attendance 8

14 different leaders (counting as teams).

Champion Leader Roger with 5 walks.

The biggest change this year is that walks are no longer advertised in Strider, which gives us flexibility but does mean everyone must check the website , for the walks to go on and for dates needing leaders. Please help to spread this message. Nick advertises three months at a time, by season and is happy to advertise anything any distance any day anywhere..

Regarding the website please check the new Walks Database tab which lists past walks to 2008, note the newer ones have a plus symbol, indicating more information, which will be the GPX track that he has put on, with permission from the leader. We are beginning to build up quite a library of tracks that we have walked.

4.2 Events Secretary

Caroline gave the following report.

Two Crosses 2021

No event held. Option to do an Anytime Event not taken due to United Utilities doing forestry work around Entwistle.

Two Crosses 2022

Event booked in for 20th March 2022 . Prices are rounded up and non-LDWA price increased to cover IT fund donation. Checkpoint seven is either being moved or removed. The 25 mile cut off time is brought forward to 10.15 am. Equipment stored to be cleared out and replaced as needed. Actual events have begun over summer, stripped back to meet Covid regulations, but seem to be very popular as people are keen to get out.

So far 68 entries on Si-entries. This is a number most often seen in February , 40 is the most we have had in December. People seem keen to enter and get back involved in events.

Thanks to Viv and Roger for making the event possible.

The question was asked about how do our prices compare with other group as. Ours are average for the LDWA and prices have not decreased with the decrease in facilities.

4.3 IT Secretary

Hilary gave the following report.

The website has been updated with all the walks that have taken place. We know that a lot of members do keep in touch with the group even if they cannot now walk with us. Thank you to all the walk leaders who have helped us with this. Moves are now underway to update / replace the existing website. Members are invited to input their thoughts on the form this should take.

I am still posting on Facebook and increasing the number of likes we have. The East Lancs WhatsApp group is still being used though less than at the height of the pandemic. Its a good way for people to stay in touch.

4.4 Social Secretary

Viv gave the following report

East Lancs Social Report

In the past years I have estimated how much money our group trips put money back into local economies , obviously this has not occurred over the last two years so I am coming at this point from a different angle. So I ask you all to envisage a headline in the national press.

Headline report in the National Strider 2021

'Is the PM Boris Johnston a secret LDWA member'

East Lancs LDWA invented the concept of the Staycation ! Have you ever pondered where the present government came up with the term and concept, to the economy, of the staycation. A concept that has swept the country this year and has triggered a huge boost to the economy. The National Strider can now report that a humble Lancashire walking group have constantly given us an interesting breakdown of just how much money is spent by this walking group alone. The walking group is a small proportion of a national walking association , add to that all other sports who organize similar events and the financial input to the economy is huge and benefits small independent businesses throughout the country. This is the concept that the government finally considered worthwhile, to the national economy. Perhaps the present and future governments should consult with all sports organizations as how to maintain this financial input into our rural areas and seaside towns, as we should remember some of the best ideas don't always originate from a government committee. The common man has a lot of common sense to add.

4.5 Publicity

Pauline gave the following report.

It has been a challenging year for all publicity matters. Timing any kind of activity was tricky. Recently I have undertaken tasks to try to encourage people into the group.

Regarding the websites we currently have a presence (Our Lancashire, GM Walking) I have asked the hosts for stats to understand how many people have visited our pages. To date I have not received a response. It will be interesting to see what GM Walking have to say, as they do seem to be active on social media and try and attract all grades of walkers / experience.

Cards have been circulated again to outdoor shops and I have asked neighbours, who are in the Ramblers to share LDWA details to any of their friends who may want to walk further.

I have also contacted the Civil Service Sports and & Leisure Group again to see if the LDWA can be advertised (nationwide) on their website and regular events updates. As walking is a less represented activity in the group, I'm hoping that they may be open to this. To date (post pandemic) their events have been very limited but I am expecting these to increase in number now.

It is a challenging task to generate interest in the group as there are so many organisations offering various walking opportunities. In the coming months I am hoping to concentrate on groups who are involved in endurance sports rather than taking a broad brush approach.

4.6 Pastoral

Alma gave the following report

This is the second year into the creation of the specific Pastoral Care position.

Again Covid prevented the Social walks programme going ahead until the Spring. Prior to this I had been in regular contact with certain members & when lockdown eased this contact was curtailed as the club was operating normally again.

We have had two members who have had long term medical problems during the year 1/11/20 to 31/10/21. Each have had regular contact from the club & have received small gifts.

On a sadder note one member, Steve Baker unfortunately passed away after being unwell for a number of years. Four of us represented the club at his funeral. His wife was most appreciative of this.

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 , Nick Halford - Walks Secretary

Pauline Melia - Ordinary Committee Member, Alma Walsh - Ordinary Committee Member, Gordon Stone - Ordinary Committee Member, Dave Walsh - Ordinary Committee Member.

Paul Wadsworth - is standing down as an Ordinary Committee Member.

Paul and Jeanette Banks have put themselves forward for the two remaining Ordinary Committee roles. They were nominated by Roger Jackson and seconded by Hilary Scott..

There were no new nominations on the day and 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	Gordon Stone
Ordinary Member	Pauline Melia (Resp for Publicity)
Ordinary Member	Alma Walsh (Resp for Pastoral Affairs)
Ordinary Member	Jeanette Banks
Ordinary Member	Paul Banks

6 Chairs Statement

I would like to thank everyone on the committee who is continuing to stay in post and welcome to Paul and Jeanette as Ordinary Committee Members. Thanks also to Paul Wadsworth who is leaving the committee after many years of service for East Lancs. The next year will no doubt bring many challenges for the group. We need to be aware and respond but I am sure we will take the East Lancs forward into the hopefully post pandemic world. The LDWA is 50 next year, we have already made some plans for this and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at walks and social events.

7 Any Other AGM Business:

None

8 The AGM closed at 9.03 pm.

9 Normal Group Business

9.1 Banking Issues

Cheque signatories - Bank mandate needs to be changed as only two remain on the committee. Paul will investigate changing the mandate and Caroline Tennent will become the third cheque signatory (with Paul Allen and Dave Walsh) , once the procedure has been established with the bank.

Use of cheques - following the comment that they could be difficult to bank, the issue was discussed , but it was agreed that, as it is easier for the Treasurer doing his accounts, we would continue as is.

Complaint - Paul Allen had received a letter from the bank in relation to a complaint submitted by Paul Wadsworth. This letter will be forwarded to Paul Wadsworth to pursue.

9.2 Meet up Trial

Julian White has confirmed that East Lancs will be one of the three groups involved in trialing Meet Up. The NEC are funding the initial trial.

Meet up was again discussed, but we are waiting for further information once the trial begins.

Julian White has put a document in the Toolkit on the website.

9.3 Rivington Gardens

The group discussed the suggestion to donate £150 to Rivington towards printing printing maps of the garden and the group being listed on the map. It was decided it would be a charity donation rather than publicity for the group. We voted not to make the donation on this occasion. This could be reviewed when the group has received income from the Two Crosses.

9.4 East Lancs 40th Anniversary in Feb 2023

Paul Allen received a phone asking about whether we had any celebratory plans for East Lancs 40th Anniversary. As we are currently planning for the LDWA 50th anniversary, it was decided that plans for our 40th would begin once we had done the 50th, in order to give those that may travel plenty of time to make arrangements.

9.5 25th Christmas Cracker

The Christmas Cracker is on 19th December 2021 - £2.50 per person for pie and peas, to pay on the day. Please book with Nick Halford. Walk will only be the morning, before going to Normans for refreshments.

10 Date of Next Group Meeting

Tuesday January 4th 2022 (agreed Post AGM)

11 AOB

None

The meeting was closed 9.35 pm