

LDWA East Lancs Group

Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting

8pm on Tuesday 8th November 2022

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

Present:

Hilary Scott (HS)	Chair / IT Secretary
Roger Jackson (RJ)	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
Jeanette Banks (JB)	Ordinary Committee Member
Paul Banks (PB)	Ordinary Committee Member
Barbara Shelton (BS)	Paul Raine (PR)
Sue Raine (SR)	Tony Clark (TC)
Sue Boardman (SB)	Steve Clark (SC)
Phil Chapman (PC)	

Apologies

Chris Greene	Edwina Hill (EH)
Stewart Brady	Janet Brady

The Group was quorate and the AGM was opened at 8.00 pm and closed at 09.15 pm.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting:

The Minutes were accepted as a true record of the 2022 Annual General Meeting

2. Chair and Secretary's Report:

It is gratifying to report that we are in a very different position to last November. Although Covid is still around, the lifting of all restrictions has meant that we have had a relatively normal year with our Social walking, Two Crosses Event and Social activities. It was apparent that some members did not return to walking with us post Covid. There did not seem to be any one reason for this though house moves and advancing age was certainly responsible for some of this. We have tried to address the situation by using MeetUp for advertising walks, having "Boots and Brews" shorter walks on Sundays, contacting new members when they join and having joint walks with West Lancs. There have been varying degrees of success with these initiatives' but most social walks have had reasonable to good numbers attending. Thanks to Nick the walks Secretary for all his efforts with this and to all our leaders who put themselves out to give us all a good walk and day out.

Our Event, the Two Crosses was very successful. It was full well in advance of the day, we were blessed with good weather for once and the entrants were very appreciative of our efforts. Thanks to Caroline, Viv and Roger for all their work and to all the members who marshaled.

Social activities have been well supported. The usual trips to Ghyll head, Ambleside, Keswick, Llanwrtyd Wells and Eastbourne all went ahead. We also supported the Trans Pennine 100 event by manning the breakfast stop at Hathersage. The Two Crosses/100/50th Birthday party was a smashing evening with good food, drink and company.

We also had two extra trips, a summer trip to Ghyll Head to walk the Spring in Lakeland 50 and the most recent few days in Llandudno. Thanks to Viv plus Roger, Karen and Ian Wardle for all their hard work in organizing these events.

The 50th Anniversary of the LDWA was marked by 3 walks over 3 days with a total of 50 miles walked. The highlight of the weekend was the opening of Peel Tower for the sale of cakes, jams and drinks. The walkers on the Ramsbottom Round visited the Tower as part of the walk that day. A magnificent total of £1700 was raised. (includes donations and Tower ticket sales) The money was split between the MS Society and Motor Neurone Disease Association. Thanks to Viv for her sterling efforts in coordinating this. The Llandudno trip was also part of the 50th Anniversary celebrations.

We have spent some money this year as well. We supported the IT fund for the new LDWA website with £920 which was the difference that non LDWA members pay to enter the Two Crosses. We have also paid for ICE dog tags for those members who requested them. There has also been some new equipment and a new banner purchased for the Two Crosses. We are also involved in some further remedial work in Redisher Woods which is being supported by the NEC. Work should be completed in time for the next Two Crosses. We sent 2 members to the groups reps weekend last year, a very informative and constructive weekend. Most groups seem to be facing the same challenges and some of the suggestions made at the weekend have been implemented. On a positive note, membership numbers have increased since last year with 298 Primary members of East Lancs and 316 Associate members. I hope that more of these members will be encouraged to join in with our walks and activities.

Finally, Roger and I would like to thanks all the members of the committee and group who have supported us over the last 4 years. We will still be around to help the group and new Chair and Secretary.

3 Treasurer's Update:

The Treasurer presented the annual accounts.

Introduction

- To begin with, Members should note that we have seen a big increase in activity with our accounts over the last year. However, this should be seen as a good thing and reflects the fact that many of our events and activities are, thankfully, getting back to normal after the Covid restrictions.
- Although we have seen a lot more activity, our balances have remained remarkable consistent with what we have seen over recent years and continue to indicate that the Group remains in a healthy financial position.

Savings Account

- At the outset, looking at our **Savings Account**, I should explain that a back-dated payment has been included in this year's account from SI Entries. Although the payment went into our account in October last year, it was not included in last year's accounts. The inclusion of this payment now rectifies this omission.
- Looking at the **Savings Account in general terms**, we see the usual monies coming in for accommodation bookings (but this money goes out when we pay for the accommodation and this year this includes Ghyll Head, the Spring in Lakeland event, also at Ghyll Head, and 100 accommodation payments both for the Trans-Pennine 100 at Hathersage and deposits for next year's Elephant, Bear & Bull 100).
- The spreadsheets I keep on accommodation monies show the breakdown of monies received and payments made. The essential point is that at the present time we have **£853.20** in our Savings Account held against accommodation bookings.
- In addition to accommodation payments, we have significant income from the **Two Crosses** (SI Entries and cheques) and towards the end of the year the Savings Account received a payment of **£1000** from the **LDWA NEC** as a grant towards further footpath work in Redisher Woods.
- In conclusion, therefore, it can be seen that the end of year balance in the **Savings Account is £7,037.05**. If we deduct monies held against accommodation, this leaves the Group with **£6,183.85** of its own money in this account. Against this figure it should be borne in mind that a further £1,000 is the NEC grant committed to footpath works. This leaves the Group with **uncommitted reserves in excess of £5,000**.
- All the outgoings from the Savings Account are shown as transfers to the Current Account where actual expenditure details are recorded.

Current Account

- Now, looking at the **Current Account**, this is the main account setting out the general expenditure of the Group.
- Looking through the expenditure we can see payments going out for various costs incurred by the Group and its members – so we see costs associated with buying **equipment and supplies for the Two Crosses event**, general **Group costs and meeting expenses**, **Christmas Cracker costs**, **accommodation payments** (including Ghyll Head, the Trans-Pennine100 at Hathersage and deposits for the Elephant, Bear & Bull 100 next year). There are also various payments including ICE tags, 100 party expenses, a donation to the LDWA website fund, refund payments, storage costs and pastoral expenses.
- It should also be noted that in November 2021 we received a compensation payment of £75 from Virgin Money following problems with our internet banking.
- Also, it should be noted that an amendment item has been added at the end of the Current Account statement – this covers a cheque issued in January 2022 which has not been cashed and is now time expired. The amendment corrects the balance on our Current Account.
- In conclusion, therefore, our Current Account shows a year end balance of £423.27.

Summary and Conclusions

- So, looking at the **Summary Statement**, we can see that the Group's accounts show funds for the year 2021/22 standing at **£7,460.32** in total, slightly down on the previous year total of £7,594.60.
- This figure continues to represent a healthy balance.
- If the monies held against accommodation bookings (£853.20) are removed, we can see that the Group currently holds funds of its own totaling **£6,607.12**.
- Finally, as mentioned earlier, the above figure of £6,607.12 includes the grant contribution from the LDWA NEC of £1,000 which is committed to footpath works at Redisher.

Account Audit

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

In the last 12 months we have had 36 midweek walks, average attendance 12, and 33 weekend walks, average attendance 14, up from 9 or 10 the previous year. Together with one Friday night walk this gives a total of 70 walks, easily more than one a week, average attendance 13.

The Best Attended Walk was once again Norman's Christmas Cracker, with 34 walkers, thank you Norman.

The David Walsh award for the year's Wettest Walk was amazingly not won by Dave this year, but by Heather Massie for a 13 mile Rawtenstall slosh, which only four attended but enjoyed hugely nonetheless.

The year's Champion Walk Leader, with a superb 11 events is Hilary Scott. Also featuring strongly were Dave & Alma, Caroline & Alfie, and Mike & Heather, but there were in fact 26 different Leaders over the year, a big thank you from all the walkers to you all.

Worth noting this year was the introduction of advertising walks on the MeetUp app, which attracted many new members, sometimes providing up to a third of those attending. As Walk Sec I hope the group continues to support this endeavour.

4.2 Events Secretary

Caroline gave the following report.

This year saw the return of the Two Crosses after Covid prevented us running the 2021 event. We were spoilt by good weather and minimal mud. It was our second event run from Greenmount. We made much better use of the space this year, some planned and some last minute changes, but all improvements.

We were fully booked at 300 entrants, 226 of whom completed the event on the day. We were able to generate a profit of £2013.24. £920.00 of this was donated to the IT fund as previously agreed.

We are booked in for 12th March 2023. Plans are well under way and we have 69 entries already. Progress is being made towards further steps in Redisher wood, another joint funding project with Bury council, the Ramblers and our NEC.

Thank you to Viv and Roger who do all the hard work to plan the event and all of the marvellous marshals who make the event possible.

For the minutes, all document retention and destruction is up to date for GDPR purposes. Also Asset list of all equipment up to date and stored on the website.

4.3 IT Secretary

Hilary gave the following report.

The website has been kept up to date all year with all the walk reports and pictures that have been sent to me.

There is still no firm news re a new website though it is apparent that it will be an evolutionary approach rather than a “big bang” transformation.

FaceBook has also been updated through the year with an increasing number of likes. It is difficult to say whether this translates into people actually walking with us but posting certainly helps encourage Two Crosses entrants.

The WhatsApp group is still live but is fairly quiet in general.

4.4 Social Secretary

Viv gave the following report

East Lancs Social Report

Following a question raised a few months ago regarding the specifics of individual roles , for anyone considering joining the committee.,Viv thought it may be useful for her to describe the role of Social Secretary. Obviously it is still very much in the hands of each individual how they do it.

Overview

To develop initiatives, to raise the the public profile of East Lancs LDWA as a versatile walking group that has interest in a variety of walking and walks related activities suitable for existing members of varying abilities but also to inspire and attract new members to the group.

Role

The Social Secretary will respond to East Lancs member's ideas.

All activities should be diverse, should be diverse covering a range of interests and be good value for money.

To undertake the research and communication with various agents, including booking accommodation , advertising within the group and arranging payment through the treasurer.

Most social activities require an amount of meal planning , equipment planning, transport , led walks and restaurant / entertainment booking.

The Social Secretary is the initial point of contact for member of social activity problems.

For East Lancs helping to run our own and NEC events , especially in catering or equipment areas and responsibility for equipment in general.

Average Time Spent.

Obviously these time vary with different approaches but Viv's in this case averaged over an eleven week period average per week as follows:

Some form of physical activity in club duties = **5.5 hrs**

Phone calls , responding to relevant club emails, dealing with matters of organisation on club matters. =**55 mins**

4.5 Publicity

Pauline gave the following report.

Not a lot new to report this year though we have continued to look at various options for advertising East Lancs LDWA including PM attending a mini trade fair at Greenmont school..

We have tried a lot of options over the last three years , including an appearance on Radio Lancashire (just before the last Two Crosses before covid) Overall these initiatives have helped increase interest in the group

Social media, including MeetUp has been the most effective approach.

We also looked at advertising in magazines but costs proved. to be prohibitive.

However we think now is the time to progress them generally within the group / committee rather than keep this a a separate role.

4.6 Pastoral

Alma gave the following report

The last period was quiet as regards to Pastoral Care as the Covid pandemic had eased so there was no need to contact members on their own as the club was up & running again.

There has been a small number of members who have been poorly & the club has been in contact with them.

A total of 32 pounds & 59 pence has been spent on pastoral care in the last 12 months.

I do not wish to renew my role as Pastoral Care officer as I no longer think there is a need for it now. If any members are poorly in the future the committee would ensure that contact would be made. I certainly think the role has served it's purpose in the last two years though.

5 Election of Officers

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

Hilary Scott - IT Secretary ,

Paul Allen - Treasurer , Caroline Tennant - Events Secretary

Viv Lee - Social Secretary , Nick Halford - Walks Secretary

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

Paul Banks - Ordinary Committee Member , Dave Walsh - Ordinary Committee Member

Hilary Scott is standing down as Chair but is happy to stay on as IT Secretary, Roger Jackson is standing down as Secretary, but would like to stay on the Committee as an Ordinary Member.

Pauline Melia and Jeanette Banks , both currently Ordinary Committee Members, have put themselves forward for the roles of Chair and Secretary respectively and both have been proposed by Hilary Scott and seconded by Roger Jackson.

There were no new nominations on the day and all these proposals were accepted by the members present.

The Committee for 2022/23 is as follows:

Chair	Pauline Melia
Secretary	Jeanette Banks
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	Roger Jackson
Ordinary Member	Alma Walsh
Ordinary Member	Paul Banks

6 Chairs Statement

Thank you to all the committee and members who have supported myself and Roger in the last four years.

There have been some challenging times for East Lancs but we are confident the new Chair and Secretary have a great base on which to move forward. We wish them all the best in their new roles and we are sure that they will be as well supported as we have been.

East Lancs has a great bunch of people who support the ethos of Long Distance Walking and they will continue to do so in the year ahead.

7 Any Other AGM Business:

None

8 The AGM closed at 9.15 pm.

9 Normal Group Business

None

10 Date of Next Group Meeting

Tuesday January 10th 2023

11 AOB

None

The meeting was closed 9.35 pm

