

East Lancashire LDWA Group Meeting

Tuesday 13th January, 2026 at 7.30pm

Venue: Sea View Inn, 2 Preston Road, Whittle-le-Woods, Chorley, PR6 7HH

Present

Pauline Melia	Chair
Steve Clark	Secretary
Alma Walsh	Treasurer
Nick Halford	Walks Secretary
Caz Tennant	Events Secretary
Dave Walsh	Ordinary Committee Member
Paul Banks	Ordinary Committee Member
Jeanette Banks	Ordinary Committee Member
Gordon Stone	Ordinary Committee Member
Stephen Hindley	Ordinary Committee Member
Anne Finnegan	EL member
Sue Boardman	EL member

Absentees

Hilary Scott	Secretary (apologies received)
Viv Lee	Social Secretary (apologies received)

Minutes of last meeting

Alma and Caz have read the minutes and confirm that they are a correct record of the meeting.

Matters arising from last meeting

1) Martyn Greaves legacy application.

- a) **From previous minutes.** In addition to the £12,000 from the Martyn Greaves fund, EL LDWA group are providing £2,000, Bury Council have promised £2,000 and United Utilities are paying £6,500. There is a shortfall of £1,700 to complete the project – Caz will approach United Utilities to ascertain if they are willing to make up the shortfall.
- b) **Update.** The £12,000 from the Martyn Greaves fund has been transferred to the EL LDWA and is ring fenced in respect of the above works.
- c) **Update.** Caz reported that works on Redisher Woods have now been completed by Bury Council's contractors, re-finishing and clearing the lower sections of steps and those across the river. We are waiting for an invoice from Bury Council to finalise these works.

- d) **Update.** United Utilities have completed work on the steps at Batridge Barn, but without any communication, so we are currently unaware who has funded the work. **ACTION** Caz to contact UU to find out who has paid for the work and what the current situation is as to whether they are intending to do any more work in the area.

2) The Two Crosses 40th anniversary gift.

- a) **From previous minutes.** Customised sit-mats: Caz is to look at the cost of producing EL LDWA designed sit-mats. These would be issued to participants of the 2026 40th Anniversary Two Crosses Challenge Event.
- b) **A discussion** took place with various gift options available (small woven badge; large woven badge; key fob; sit-mat; tote bag ...). **DECISION** A vote was taken and the large woven badge was selected. **ACTION** Caz to order the large woven badge.

- 3) From previous minutes.** Shelters for CP3 on the Two Crosses Challenge Event. Forwarded **ACTION** for Roger Jackson.

Chair and Secretary update

Pauline wished all a Happy New Year.

Social events were highlighted: two trips to Wales; Ghyll Head; Christmas Cracker meal at Rivington tearooms.

SteveC thanked Jeanette for a smooth transfer of the of Secretary role. He is now open for business.

Treasurer's report

Current Account Balance £173.23

Savings Account Balance £19600.12

SI Entry payments received to date in respect of the Two Crosses 2026 amount to £2102.50

£269.10 was paid in respect of 4/11/25 AGM meal expenses

£190.00 was paid in respect of the Christmas Cracker subsidy

£31.25 was paid to 1 other person of the Flower of Suffolk 100 volunteers from the NEC's contribution

The only other payment made since the last meeting was £52.80 in respect of the Two Crosses food supplies

£12000.00 is still ring fenced in respect of the Martyn Greaves grant

When taking the above into account our net figure over the two accounts is £7773.35

Events Secretary

Caz reported that Reddisher Woods work was progressing.

With less than 2 months to go, we are well on with preparations for this year's Crosses.

Roger is well on with the staffing roster which is looking virtually complete and whilst there will likely be tweaks, we have back up plans in place, so hopefully we shouldn't have any major issues.

Viv has arranged access on Saturday 7th March to St Margaret's at 12:30 and then Greenmount at 14:00.

She asks that checkpoint lead marshals be at **St Margaret's at 12:30** to collect any equipment they require. Viv will also be contacting people individually regarding food collection. Saturday times will be emailed out, along with the full roster to all marshals. Also to be noted in this email, marshals are not to park on the pub car park and they need to bring a mug and hi viz, if they have an east lincs one at home.

Viv, Roger and myself are having a meeting at M&C at the end of January. We will confirm with the pub their maximum parking availability and look at another area Viv has noted for possible parking. We will then decide a final number of entrants to be allowed. We are still limited to 250 actual entrants by UU/NE.

Current entries stand at Full with 250 entrants and a waiting list of 72. An email will go to entrants to remind them they can transfer or sell their entries, if they no longer need them. If unable to do either, to let me know if they are cancelling and I can invite from the wait list. I may have to match some cancelling entrants up with those on the wait list, but with GDPR I would need permission to pass on email addresses, which I will obtain before sharing any details.

Other groups list DNS by name on their results. Is this something to consider as a possible deterrent to not cancelling, rather than just not turning up? I'm going to have a word with the group that do this currently, to find out their reasons for doing this and whether it has any effect.

After more discussions, the Cut off time will move back to 10:30 to see how it goes this year. We still had people after 17:00 with the earlier cut off, so we may just have to accept that there will always be a handful over time. 10:30 stops us exhausting people in the first section. The route is also generally smoother than it was in earlier years. Checkpoint closing times after CP4 will remain and we will have to manage late runners as they progress. Please can entrants be warned if they are running behind, then if they have to be retired it isn't a surprise to them.

Route works – Redisher Woods – steps have been re hard-cored and cleared. Looking good and much safer. Section down from the way marker, over the river crossing and all the way around to the bottom. Batridge Barn car park steps. These have also been completed with new hand rails and re hard-cored, though UU appear to have done this entirely themselves. I have no idea what they are doing, but I will find out and update in the next meeting.

Route check of 26 mile extension. May need a minor route alteration around a gate. There is access, but not suitable for 150 entrants to pass through. Otherwise all well and no cutting back required on the social walk. I do suggest waterproof trousers as the moorland and vegetation is very soggy. Social walk including the 'extension' Wednesday 11th Feb and Marshals only 18 mile route on Sunday 15th Feb.

Crosses 40th anniversary - ideas for merchandise discussed and voted on.

Walk's Secretary Report

The Winter Walks Programme has gone well and suggested dates for the Spring Walks Programme have been emailed out. I have unfortunately discovered that our email system does not allow direct replies, so I shall repeat the details with a request to reply using my personal email address, nickhalford@virginmedia.com, or Whatsapp.

Would members please consider if they can lead walks for the club on any date, and also encourage others, nicely, to do so.

IT Secretary Report

Hilary sent the following IT report:

The website and Facebook continue to be updated regularly. Thank you to those walk leaders who do send reports and pictures. Also to the members who kindly send walk pictures. We are a few reports short in the last few months but every walk has some pictures.

Social Secretary Update

A request from Viv to include the Hawes trip in the next bulk email was received. **ACTION** SteveC

The 3 night break will be from Monday 6th July 2026 in Hawes in North Yorkshire. Folk who wish to attend will need to book their own accommodation and then inform Viv that they are attending so that she can organise the appropriate numbers of meals out in local hostelryes. There will be walks led by Roger Jackson and Steve Gilleard, which will leave at 9.30am from outside the Fountains Hotel in Hawes.

Agenda Items

1) It was **decided** that the £43.00 received from the AGM raffle of leftover drinks from the Two Crosses Party be gifted to Bolton Mountain Rescue Team. **ACTION** Alma to process this.

Any Other Business

2) Nick described the archives display window that Andrea Foster is in the process of organising on behalf of Leigh Ramblers and asked if we had anybody willing to contribute to this. Nobody volunteered for this. **ACTION** Nick to feed this back to Andrea.

A post-meeting **update** on this matter has been received from Nick:

Post-meeting Andrea explained that she would be creating most of the display herself, Nick then composed a short description our activities and Caroline provided badges and information on the Crosses, so East Lancs will be included, along with other Lancashire walking groups.

Andrea was **thanked** for her sterling effort in promoting walking and including East Lancs in the presentation for Leigh town hall.

3) Pauline reported an overture from John Clark of West Lancs LDWA to see if we were interested in running joint walks with WL. A discussion took place and it was thought that

existing ways of joining other LDWA group walks were sufficient and the we did not wish to put joint walks on. **ACTION** Pauline to respond to John.

4) The club expressed our thanks and appreciation to East Lancs members Gordon Stone and Iain Connell for their terms in office on the national executive, as Strider editor and Long Distance Paths officer.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm

Date and time of next meeting: Tuesday 3rd March 2026 at the Sea View Inn, Whittle-le-Woods.