

Minutes of East Lancashire LDWA Meeting

Date: 10th January 2023 at 8pm Venue: Doffcocker Inn, 780 Chorley Road, Bolton, BL1 5QD

Present:

Pauline Melia	Chair
Jeanette Banks	Secretary
Paul Allen	Treasurer
Caroline Tennant	Events Secretary
Viv Lee	Social Secretary
Nick Halford	Walks Secretary
Gordon Stone	Ordinary Committee Member
Paul Banks	Ordinary Committee Member
Roger Jackson	Ordinary Committee Member
Alma Walsh	Ordinary Committee Member
Dave Walsh	Ordinary Committee Member

1 Apologies:

Edwina Hill and Chris Green; Hilary Scott, IT Secretary

2 Minutes of last meeting:

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the October 2022 meeting by Alma and Dave Walsh

3 Matters arising:

Regarding the ordering of road-crossing signs by Andy Griffin for the Two Crosses event. These are to be used where walkers are going to be crossing busy roads during the event. East Lancs to purchase 4 signs at a cost of £45 per sign. Caroline Tennant is unsure if this has been actioned, so she will progress the purchase of them if Andy has not.

Redisher Woods update. Viv Lee confirmed that the second phase of steps to improve the footpath is complete. There is a new kissing gate, steps and a sign to direct walkers on the correct footpath. There is an article in last week's Bury Times regarding this work which was done in conjunction with Bury Council, local Ramblers group, East Lancs LDWA and LDWA NEC. The work costed more than initially quoted (the council covered the extra expenditure). There are moneys remaining from the contributed funds, which will be used by the contractor to build a bridge over the river at the bottom of the woods during better weather. An article has also been approved for the April 2023 edition of LDWA Strider regarding this collaborative work. Thanks was noted to Jeanette for photographs.

East Lancs 40th birthday. Roger Jackson has been reccyng the walk 'The Spanners Round – 40th Anniversary Walk', to be led by Steve Clark on 7th May 2023. This was the first ever East Lancs LDWA walk 40 years ago. It was also completed to commemorate the East Lancs 25th Anniversary. Paul Allen will find posters used when the walk was undertaken for the 25th. Karen Pickersgill, Local Groups

Officer, LDWA NEC has been in contact regarding East Lancs 40th Anniversary celebrations. She suggested that a submission is sent for publication to the Strider. Photographs will be taken with banners and posters commemorating the 40th year. Roger will print off certificates for attendees.

4 **Chair and Secretary's update:**

Pauline expressed that this has been a busy couple of months for LDWA with many walks and social events, which is really pleasing. Welcome letters were sent out to 6 new members. Pauline also expressed her thanks for the comprehensive handover from Hilary and Roger to her and Jeanette. Jeanette had nothing to update.

5 **Treasurer's update:**

Update on balances in accounts discussed. Saving account £5335.55. £2,000 just transferred from the saving account to current account to cover cost of various expenses, including Ghyll Head cheque sent this week, costs for Two Crosses event. Some SI entries income has come in for Two Crosses. There is still £1,000 in the savings account for Redisher Woods work as not yet the received invoice for this. Current account balance is currently £1,554.51. This will reduce after cheques sent and cashed.

6 **Events Secretary's update:**

Caroline T and Viv L gave an update to the meeting regarding the Two Crosses Event planning. All is under control. Buying of equipment and foods etc is currently being done. Resource plan for marshalls on the day has been completed by Roger. All permissions are in. Entries for the event to date are 148 individuals, which is slightly up on last year. Orrel Cote Farm have been informed of the walk crossing their land. Pauline is doing the Rovering role this year with Caroline at Orrel Cote checkpoint.

7 **Social Secretary's update:**

The programme that was put out in December social events update still stands. Jeanette to send out Viv Lee's update regarding New Year 2023 at Neuadd Arms Hotel to members.

8 **IT Secretary's update:**

Hilary Scott's report: *"Thanks to all who supported the club last year with walk reports and pictures, we nearly had a full house! It's just a shame that wasn't recorded in the stats too! Similarly we have about 500 followers on Facebook with some posts generating more interest than others. It keeps our name in the public domain and has certainly helped with Two Crosses entries. All I can ask is that people continue to support with a report (and pictures if possible) for their walk. Thank you."*

9 **Walk Secretary's update:**

Nick Halford explained that we are now half way through the Winter Walks programme. More leaders came forward to lead walks, including a number of members who came initially from the Meet Up group. There remains only 2 Sundays to fill with leaders in the Winter Walks Programme. The Spring

programme is now almost full. Great numbers are attending all the walks. Nick will add a note to a future communication that support can be given to future walk leaders (eg navigation skills etc).

Jeanette to contact Iain Connell to suggest he takes issues he has raised regarding GPX files to LDWA NEC, as the committee feel that this is a national matter for discussion.

10 **Possible weekend walking in the Peak District:**

Roger Jackson led a walk in the Peak District last Spring, but very few attended the walk. It is considered that the Peak District is a little too far to travel for some for a day's walk. Therefore, he has been considering a weekend in the Peak District. He has worked with Viv Lee and a provisional date booked with St Michael's Environmental Education Centre in Hathersage for 21st, 22nd and 23rd July 2023 for 20 people at a cost of £90 for 3 nights accommodation. Roger, Viv Pike and Stephen Blackshaw are reviewing walks in the Peak District for the weekend. The committee are in agreement that the event should go ahead. Jeanette to forward communication to East Lancs LDWA members.

11 **Local groups weekend feedback: Pauline Melia and Jeanette Banks:**

Feedback was received regarding the Local Groups Weekend attended in November 2022:

A very informative and enjoyable weekend. It offered a great insight into the LDWA. There was a lovely walk (2 distances offered) and great food from the LDWA recipe book. Fantastic opportunity for learning and sharing with other groups. Other members to consider future attendance.

'Membership and Local Groups – Data Analysis and Insights' – was shared. This shows East Lancs LDWA to be an active group offering high numbers of social walks, with the 4th highest number of walks nationally. A high number of walks registers have been uploaded to the system in 2021/22. East Lancs also has a large database of GPX files of walks. Notably, East Lancs was listed as a 'model group' for having: a Constitution, an AGM, AGM minutes submitted, engagement with Local Group Officer Meetings & Weekends, Facebook Group and trialing Meet Up. Full analysis can be found as follows: ldwa.org.uk – on LDWA toolkit page – Local Groups section – Local Groups Weekend 2022

There was discussion regarding the Meet Up trial with diverse findings reported from different LDWA groups. Further conversations to be held. There was no talk regarding NEC repeating the funding for groups to advertise on Meet Up. East Lancs committee agreed that this has been valuable in recruiting new LDWA members and wish to continue with Meet Up. Nick to clarify when the current Meet Up agreement ends; Pauline Melia will approach Matt Parker, Communications and Publicity Officer at NEC to identify 2 other groups who wish to continue with Meet Up to share the cost of Meet Up fees.

Event catering was discussed. The committee requested that Caroline add a disclaimer to communication with entrants to Two Crosses event that we cannot guarantee that food is free of allergens. Individuals requiring an allergen free diet to be encouraged to provide their own food at their own cost. Viv Lee and Alma Walsh to complete catering qualification.

Stider consultation (view on LDWA toolkit). Gordon Stone fed back that there was no requirement to change the format of the publication currently, following the findings of the consultation.

NEC opportunities were highlighted to the East Lancs LDWA committee

Additional Challenge Events have been encouraged by the NEC. East Lancs LDWA committee feel that we are happy offering one event per year. This takes a lot of work and it may be difficult to get members to commit to a second event each year.

12 **Merchandise:**

Pauline Melia discussed and showcased merchandise with the meeting. It is considered that the company that has been trialled is providing good value for money. The East Lancashire LDWA club shop is available at <https://customsportskit.co.uk/other-clubs/east-lancashire-ldwa/>. Jeanette to promote the merchandise to LDWA group members via email.

Paul Banks made a suggestion that the club purchases a number of East Lancs LDWA tops/ teeshirts for marshals to wear at events. Marshals that wish to purchase their own tops/tees could receive a 50% contribution from East Lancs LDWA. All agreed that it would make marshals more visible at events if wearing red tops and that it is good publicity. Viv Lee will let Pauline know the profile of current marshals. Pauline will order a supply of red tops/tees for use at events.

13 **Joint walks with West Lancashire LDWA group:**

Joint walks took place over the last 12 months with West Lancs LDWA group. It was felt that West Lancs considered it unsuccessful and have drawn a line under the joint activities. The committee felt that as both groups walk in the same area, members are easily able to join a walk with their neighbouring group. It was felt that East Lancs should persue the joint walking that has been started with Lakeland group as East Lancs LDWA members holiday regularly in the Lake District already.

14 **Donations in memory of Stephen Clarke:**

£100 will be donated by East Lancs LDWA. This will be shared by two of the chosen charities - Motor Neurone Association and Air Ambulance. Paul Allen will send the donation to Tony Clarke.

15 **East Lancashire LDWA badges:**

Nick Halford to hand out to new members on walks. Caroline Tennant to sell at Two Crosses event (£1).

16 **Two Crosses/ 100 party:**

A new venue is needed for the annual Two Crosses/100 party. Thanks to Hilary Scott for opening her house for the parties over the last few years. Jeanette is to email members for venue suggestions or volunteers to open their house for the party.

17 **Any other business:**

Jeanette will repond to Derek Magnall's email regarding EL article in the Bury Times, advertising walks I Bury Times and his suggestions regarding East Lancs LDWA 40th Anniversay. All suggested actions done.

18 **Date, time and venue of next meeting:**

Tuesday 14th February 2023 – **please note change of date.** 8pm, Doffcocker Inn, Bolton.

Meeting closed 9.40pm