

LDWA East Lancs Group

Minutes of the Meeting Held at 8pm on Tuesday 4th August 2020

A Zoom meeting hosted by Gordon Stone.

Present:

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Hilary Scott (HS) | Chair / IT Secretary |
| Roger Jackson (RJ) | Secretary |
| David Walsh (DW) | Walks Secretary |
| Caroline Tennant (CT) | Events Secretary |
| Pauline Melia (PM) | Ordinary Committee Member |
| Gordon Stone (GS) | Ordinary Committee Member (Host) |
| Paul Wadsworth (PW) | Ordinary Committee Member |
| Alma Walsh (AW) | Ordinary Committee Member |
| Nick Halford (NH) | Ordinary Committee Member |

Apologies:

None

The Group was quorate and the meeting 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 March meeting.

2. Matters Arising:

19.01 Ongoing discussion of spending some funds.

VL has established contact with 'Friends of Redisher Woods'. A meeting will be established shortly, to establish where East Lancs would wish repair work to occur, with a view to a possible donation to assist with these costs. Will report back for the group's consideration on this **May Update**: A meeting has now been arranged to view the area concerned and then a decision can be made. **June Update**: VL has had a meeting with Dave Chadwick and others to discuss the required Redisher Woods footpath improvements, in particular ones related to the Two Crosses event. The full estimate for the work is £8000 to £10000. It will be completed by a contractor who does regular work for the council and can be done either in one go or in several stages as the money is available. Crowd funding is being considered with various groups including 'Ramblers' as possibilities. Also, we are applying to the NEC to see if they can help. VL suggested East Lancs LDWA offer to contribute £1000, which was proposed by the Chair and agreed by

the meeting. **July Update:** HS has contacted Dave Chadwick concerning our contribution. Also, VL/CT have put together a detailed proposal, requesting additional funds, to be sent to the NEC. **Action:** HS to send proposal to NEC in time before next NEC meeting. **August Update:** HS sent the proposal to the NEC; it was accepted and the full £1000 granted. She has also informed Dave Chadwick of the decision so he can progress the repairs. **September Update:** We have not heard from Dave Chadwick re the contractor looking/starting the work. **Action:** HS to email Dave Chadwick requesting an update on progress. **October Update :** HS has spoken to Dave Chadwick who has in turn spoken to the contractor. Apparently one hundred steps are required, he will be coming back to Dave with a quote for the work. Dave has since contacted HS to say the contractor has quoted £5000 for the work, split into four sections. This means we are £2000 short of funding the whole scheme. Dave has contacted the Ramblers and had an initial positive response. He has provided the relevant information and they will discuss the request for funding at the next Area Executive Council meeting scheduled for 14th October. Having split the scheme into four sections we have options to carry out some of the work if funding falls short, but he is not going to give that further consideration until after the Ramblers' meeting. **January Update:** Dave Chadwick updated Hilary shortly before the meeting. The contractor has been appointed and weather permitting work should be completed before March 15th (Two Crosses). We will be invoiced for our contribution; PA is aware of this. HS asked to be informed when the contractor is due to start so we can go and get some photos. Both we and the Ramblers have expressed a wish to have a plaque. Dave has no objection so it is something we will need to sort out between ourselves.

February Update: HS contacted Dave Chadwick for an update on when work on Redisher Woods' may start. He replied saying there is not a start date as yet and confirming a date is likely to be a little last minute as there needs to be a spell of dry(ish) weather before they can access the path from the fields above Redisher Wood. Looking back there has been works done in March last year, using the same access, so there has been access at this time of year. He was hoping to get a clearer picture with the contractor and landowner before the end of the week.

Post meeting Dave gave us an update, he had a very positive meeting with the contractor and neighbouring landowner. The landowner is being very supportive in terms of materials being transported across his land to the top of the steps. As a result, it was concluded that it would only be a prolonged covering of snow that could delay the work beyond the mid-March deadline. The contractor proposes to start work commencing 17th February, but that has to be confirmed. Once this is confirmed, we can agree an appropriate day/time us to visit the site. **March Update :** Dave sent HS an update, including attached photos, of the progress on the footpath. The steps are going in and although no stone has been added and it is very wet, it is already easier to get up and down the slope. The continued wet weather means we will probably need to leave the site to dry out before considering how much stone should be introduced, but there will be a full set of steps in time for the walk on the 15th March. HS has arranged a time to visit the footpath. Post meeting HS, CT, VL and RJ went to look at the steps and take photos. All looked good and the steps will be available prior to the Two Crosses event, though the stones cannot be applied until the site has had time to dry out. This is not a problem and the steps will still provide a good route down on the day. **August Update:** Stones still not applied, presumably due to Coronavirus priorities. Will close this matter now then re-open when and if necessary. **Closed**

3 **Chair and Secretary Update:**

We just scraped in before lockdown with the Two Crosses event and even luckier we had no reports of Covid infections in the entrants/marshals afterwards. In fact, we have not had any reports of our members being affected at all, that is great to hear.

During full lockdown there were ways of keeping in touch. There was the EL Natterers group which kept over 20 members amused most days. I posted on FaceBook most days with an average of over 100 views per day.

It does still seem to be a very uncertain future for us all regarding Covid and our group, certainly there are no signs of a return to full normality just yet.

Thank you to those who have continued to support the group in the various ways.

4 **Treasurer's Update**

The Treasurer gave an update of the group's accounts which continue to hold healthy balance No outstanding cheques or payments. Have recently paid for storage at St. Margaret's Church and pastoral care expenses.

5 **Event Secretary's Update:**

Two Crosses 2020 was again a successful event which saw an extremely healthy profit of £1660.38.

This was the first event to be run from the new HQ – Greenmount Old School – which proved an improvement for both entrants and marshals alike.

We were truly fortunate to even run the event, which was one of the last events before the Covid-19 LDWA shut down. The improvement to the route is significant and was appreciated by the entrants.

The steps in Redisher wood were completed the week before the event. Stoning is still to take place

Once again, many thanks to all those who volunteered to assist with the running of this event. It would not be possible without every one of our members that give up their time and effort to make the event the success it is.

Due to the changes, brought about by the new HQ location, feedback was requested from checkpoint marshals. A full review and initial discussion has taken in a mini socially distanced outdoor Two Crosses meeting which was held between Caroline Tennant, Viv Lee , Roger Jackson and Hilary Scott, on 31st June. Feedback from the 2020 event was discussed and plans made for the Two Crosses 2021. At this stage we have no idea if events will be allowed, but plans are taking shape to allow us to prepare as best we can.

Full details of this year's event, and the discussions for 2021 are available in the Appendix East Lancs LDWA Lockdown Update

CT has also been in touch with Tim Glenn about our Strider advert, which we plan to simplify and state 'provisional' at every opportunity.

6 Walks Secretary's Update:

The NEC reviewed the Covid guidance on 3/8/20, their instructions from 19/6/20 remain unchanged in England but we are to be mindful of any local lockdowns & of the local population.

We continue to cancel the walks on the official programme a month before they are due & pointing out to the leaders they can still lead as an "ad hoc" walk if they wish.

Spoken to several people, some do not wish to lead in the present conditions & some do not want to lead with just 6 people.

No requests have been sent out for the January to April 2021 period. Will await to nearer the time as these walks will not appear in Strider anyway.

The Ad / Hoc Social Walks will continue as detailed in **Appendix East Lancs LDWA Lockdown Update**

7 Social Secretary's Update:

Post meeting VL gave us a brief update.

As with the social walking there is uncertainty about whether social events will proceed or not. Our next planned holiday is in November , the Real Ale Ramble based at the Neuadd Arms at Llanwrtyd Wells. Viv has spoken to the owners and the venue is currently closed due to the Coronavirus ; she will continue to monitor the situation.

8 IT Secretary's Update:

Obviously there has been little to post on the website. Some of the AD Hoc walk leaders have sent reports but this was their decision whether to or not.

9 Pastoral Care

Alma has been in contact via telephone, Email & text with some of the current active members. People are OK at the moment.

10 Publicity

Due to the current situation no new developments on publicity front.

11 AOB

11.1 Discussion of Lockdown Email Exchange Notes

The meeting agreed the notes were an accurate account of the Committee Email Exchanges, to date, during lockdown

11.2 Generic Email Addresses

Following the recent spate of spam and phishing emails to some Local Group Officers, purporting to be from other members of their committee and asking for funds or other personal information, NEC suggested that they could change individual contact details on the national and group websites to generic emails, which will then behind the scenes be automatically forwarded to chosen personal email address

All the East Lancs officers now have a generic email address, but the offer is open to ordinary committee members as well if they wish.

11.3 Donation towards LDWA Website Development

At the socially distanced outdoor Two Crosses 2021 meeting, which was held between Caroline Tennant, Viv Lee , Roger Jackson and Hilary Scott on 31st June, we agreed to propose that we pass £1000 of the profit, from this year's event, to the NEC to help fund the IT Website upgrade. There was an alternative proposal put forward to contribute original balance from the Red Rose account (approx. £1475).

The meeting decided to contribute the £1000 now but if next year's Two Crosses goes ahead we could potentially contribute an another £500, together with the proceeds from the Increase in non LDWA charge (Estimated to be around £900) , to which we are already committed. .

12 Date of Next Meeting

We agreed not to have a September meeting but to aim to have one On Tuesday October 6th. We will review the situation early September to determine details of how and where.

Appendix

East Lancs LDWA

Lockdown Update

23/03/2020 – Present

Introduction

These notes are a summary of our email conversations, between committee members, during lockdown and are serving as a record of those exchanges.

1. Two Crosses

2020 Event

Two Crosses 2020 was a successful event which saw an extremely healthy profit of £1660.38.

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The steps in Redisher wood were completed the week before the event. Stoning is still to take place.

Due to the changes brought about by the new HQ location feedback was requested from checkpoint marshals

Once again, many thanks to all those who volunteered to assist with the running of this event. It would not be possible without each and every one of our members that gave up their time and effort to make the event the success it is.

Statistics

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|---------|----------|-----------|--------------|------------|
| Entrants | Advance | 300 | OTD | 16 | Total | 316 |
| | Non starters | 85 | Starters | 231 | Retired | 3 |
| Of Total | Male | 187 59% | Female | 129 41% | | |
| | LDWA | 127 40% | Non LDWA | 189 60% | | |
| 25 mile | Completed | 103 | Fastest | 3hr 56min | | |
| 17 mile | Completed | 125 | Fastest | 2hr 37min | | |

Accounts

Expenses £1,436.60 Income £3,096.98 Profit £1660.38

2021 Event

36th Two Crosses – July 2020 update

A mini socially distanced outdoor Two Crosses meeting was held between Caroline Tennant, Viv Lee , Roger Jackson, and Hilary Scott, on 31st June (with carrot cake). Feedback from the 2020 event was discussed and plans made for the 2021 event. At this stage we have no idea if events will be allowed, but plans are taking shape to allow us to prepare as best we can.

Below is a summary of what was covered:

- Date – **Sunday 7th March** - avoiding clashing with Mothering Sunday on 14th.
- Prices – **LDWA £10.00, non LDWA £15.00**. Increase in non LDWA for donation to IT fund. Minor increase to round prices off for convenience. This still leaves us with similar profits after the IT donation is made. (IT donation will be somewhere in the region of £900)
- EOD – No entry on the day. Allows for better planning, especially regarding food and supplies, minimizing waste and cost. To be reassessed after 2021 event.
- SI entries – To be used as usual. The event can be put on the system, but entries will not be opened until we know the event can take place, then we do not have to deal with refunds etc. Entry number to be set at 330, taking non starters into account.
- Parking – Pub to be contacted to increase parking. Cricket club to be contacted about cars already parked. School to be contacted as another possible area for parking. Cones from Old School to be used to keep areas of road clear of parked cars.
- Covid 19 – Changes to use of hall to be made as needed in relation to any government guidelines that may be in place at the time. Space available but will need to be managed accordingly.
- Start – to be done over the road from the hall, taping off the path (without impeding public use) Entrants to be supervised across the road by parking marshals.
- Mugs – no mugs or disposables to be provided at the hall or checkpoints. Entrants AND marshals to bring their own mugs.

- Late finishers – Cut off point to be pushed back to 10.15 for the 25 milers. Cut off to remain at 13.30 for Batridge barn. Both allow enough time to complete, without causing hold ups further along.
- Checkpoint 7 – to be moved to below Peel Tower and refreshments/staffing reduced. Ensures safety of entrants as we can monitor progress, ensuring everyone is safely off the moor.
- Food/equipment – Feedback was taken into account and the variety and volume of food has been reduced accordingly. Checkpoint leads to go to St Margaret's on the Saturday to ensure they have all the equipment they require.
- Van driver - to be recruited from our members. Bulk email to be sent.
- St Margaret's – propose earlier Sunday drop off large equipment, approx. 16.00. Having a set time will prevent hold ups all round. All remaining small equipment to be taken by marshals in cars, to be returned later in the week as convenient for the Church caretakers and charged for as required. This may also allow for a clear out and stock take of all equipment held.
- Route description – Being given a full refresh. Various changes to paths following the moorland fires and logging at Batridge. Whilst the route remains the same, the appearance of some paths has changed significantly. Minor route alteration after Peel Tower for the new location of Checkpoint
- Finish desk – to be moved to the front entrance in the main hall after the morning class. Use back door for first finishers, move as soon as able to front to see entrants in without tripping up over each other. Also, more room for some seats for putting on boot covers.
- We suggest we pass £1000 of the profit to the NEC to help fund the IT Website upgrade.
- As a safety precaution we have decided to split up the four gas bottles previously held by Ian, Hilary, Caz, Roger, and Ian now each have one. All is documented so we do not forget their status.

2. Ad / Hoc Social Walks

Following June Government / LDWA NEC guidelines we agreed we were still unable to restart East Lancs social walks in the normal manner.

However, the suggestion was then put forward that we could run a series of Ad / Hoc walks, ' **Walks with Friends**' that would remain within current guidelines.

Each walking week is to be considered the Saturday to following Friday

There is a maximum of six people on any one walk

Generally, a member wishing to lead a walk should contact Hilary with details of the walk, they may wish to ask members to join them on, prior to 9.30 pm Monday. She will then, on the Tuesday send out a Bulk Email to all primary members with a list of walks on offer for the next week. They will also be on Latest News on the website.

It is up to members to contact the proposer themselves to participate on the walk.

At the time of writing, following the initial walk, two or three walks have been offered each week ranging from 9 miles to 18 miles.

Walk reports are available on the Website

Dave will contact those leaders due to lead walks from our published social programme from August , for that month, to check whether they are still happy to lead their walk bearing in mind the Covid guidelines. These will then be also in with the Ad Hoc programme timings. Any recces can also go on the Ad Hoc programme if the leader wishes.

If we just stay with the published programme then we would only have about 24 walking places a month.

3. Strider

Social Walks

The latest edition of Strider does not contain any details of Social Walks for the next period of September to December. This is due to the uncertainty pre-publication as to what the situation would be. When and if Social Walks resume under a normal format, then members will have to check the website for walk details. Challenge Events will be publicized but may not go ahead depending on the circumstances at the time.

Graham Smith, the Editor of Strider, has contacted Dave Walsh for our group opinion of whether we should publish the full proposed EL walking programme, in future editions of Strider, now that they are readily available on the internet.

Our consensus was that we would prefer not to and rely on the website and this was forwarded to Graham. Following the full consultation with all groups, the Editor of Strider is letting each group decide for themselves, so some will be in the next edition, others, including us will not. We can always revisit this decision if necessary, in the future.

Latest Addition

There is an excellent article on the group in the latest Strider ' **Focus on East Lancashire**' and also a mention on Viv Lee receiving her 'Eager Beaver ' award under '**Awards for LDWA unsung Heros**' .

4. Next East Lancs meeting (Non – Video)

Roger has enquired, with Sharon, if we could use the room at The Doffcocker for a meeting but that is currently not allowed. There is a possibility for September / October. for a committee only meeting. She will keep us informed of the situation. There are also another couple of potential options, for a committee meeting.

5. NEC Zoom Meetings.

General

Apart from the Groups Reps meeting in November there are no dates / agendas set for any other Zoom meetings. We do not have an agenda for the Groups Reps meeting yet.

Hilary has said she will attend as Chair for that relevant forum if or when it happens and will keep the committee informed.

Perhaps the other officers involved in potential Zoom meetings could do the same, but it is up to each officer whether they attend or not. We are volunteers after all and already do an awful lot for the club.

First Zoom Meeting Report

The first LDWA Group Zoom meeting re restarting social walks was held Thursday July 16th

Approx. 35 people attended the meeting with approx 20 groups represented. Julie Cribb was host.

Firstly, where are the groups with social walking? 20 groups, 20 variations. But some common themes. Some groups have started a programme, some have not, one has no intention at the present time to do so. Quite a few were doing similar to us, an ad hoc programme with fairly short notice. Some groups had a central booking officer, others were asking walkers to book in with the leader as we are.

What was made noticeably clear is that any walk that is advertised under the bulk email system must be keyed on the website. The walk can also be keyed after the event. So, Hilary will key the ones that have already taken place to cover us. We were not the only group who had not done this. She can also key the attendees, so all our past walks are covered for insurance. Going forward the walk leader can let Hilary/Dave know who came and will not need to take an actual register.

Questions were asked re the LDWA putting pressure on to have numbers allowed to walk together increased. There are guidelines in place for sporting events of up to 30 people in one static place, but we are on the move, so it does not yet cover us. However, we are not a campaigning organization but there does seem to be some contact with the Ramblers who are.

One big issue on the horizon is the question of Risk Assessments. It seems that the Government is looking at a RA being produced for every sporting activity involving up to 30 people. So, this would mean every walk leader having to fill one in. Apparently, the Ramblers have started this and one member of the Ramblers who was there said it has stopped the walks in his area completely.

This is not yet mandatory, but it does seem as though it is coming in in Wales (do not forget Scotland and Wales have different policies) so it is a real possibility for England. Stuart Bain is looking at producing a generic one for the LDWA and South Wales group have offered to trial it.

6. Data Protection

Roger has completed our annual Declaration for Data Protection Compliance and sent it to Stuart Bain.