

LDWA East Lancs Group

Minutes of the Meeting Held at 8pm on Tuesday 1st February 2022

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

Present:

Hilary Scott (HS)	Chair / IT Secretary
Roger Jackson (RJ)	Secretary
Viv Lee (VL)	Social Secretary
Nick Halford (NH)	Walks Secretary
Caroline Tennant (CT)	Events Secretary
Pauline Melia (PM)	Ordinary Committee Member
Gordon Stone (GS)	Ordinary Committee Member
Dave Walsh (DW)	Ordinary Committee Member
Tony Clark (TC)	Joanne Griffin (JG)
Andy Griffin (AG)	Barbara Shelton (BS)
Steve Clark (SC)	Sue Boardman (SB)

Apologies:

Alma Walsh (AW)	Ordinary Committee Member
Paul Banks (PB)	Ordinary Committee Member
Jeanette Banks (JB)	Ordinary Committee Member
Jane Hill (JH)	

The Group was quorate and the meeting opened at 8.00 pm and closed at 9.40 pm.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting:

The Minutes were accepted as a true record of the January meeting.

2. Matters Arising:

22.01 Suggestions discussed at Groups Meeting (outstanding actions).

Buddy system. Getting in touch with new members. By email or even phone calls. Offering help/advice where needed. This was generally considered a good idea. Action: HS and PM to look at how to identify new members and the best way of welcoming them. **February Update HS/PM have sent a letter out to each of the forty new members, joining over the last two years. We know that two went on the recent Boots and Brews walk. Just email contact if needed buddying definitely seems to work, HS has been doing individual contacting with some success. Action: HS/PM HS to email new members monthly after PM has made a few minor changes to the letter.**

WhatsApp Group. Exchanging news and views about walks. Reminders about forthcoming social walks. We already have the EL Natterers group which worked exceptionally well during lockdown but has recently gone fairly quiet . The meeting decided to now start using it to advertise walks and social events together with the normal social contact. Action HS: to look in to extending EL Natterers content, RJ to send out bulk email encouraging more members to join / rejoin. **February Update: RJ has sent out Bulk Email invitation for people to join, HS has been pro-active on East Lancs Natterers three more members have joined , too early to assess how much it has helped.**

Joint Walks with other Groups.The subject of sharing social walks with adjoining groups , was raised at the Local Groups meeting in November attended by RJ and HS. This led to what we believed to be a very positive conversation with Neil Harwood, the West Lancs Chairman about how EL and WL could work together. He was looking, in particular, to encourage more people into doing longer walks at the weekend which we agreed could be beneficial to both groups. Some may then chose to join us on normal EL walks and, in practice we would either have more walks available or the same number with less EL leaders required.

Neil raised the subject at their AGM and it was received positively. He has since proposed we try some joint weekend walks with EL doing April, WL May, EL June and August, WL July and Sept.

This proposal was put to the meeting:

A number of concerns were raised and suggestions put forward which HS agreed to discuss with Neil.

Action: HS to take concerns to Neil. **February Update: HS has contacted Neil and gave details of his responses to the meeting. Following a short discussion, which included a couple of clarifications on procedures for dogs, the group agreed to go ahead with the trial, the first joint walk being Gordon Stone's 'Pendle and Ribble Round on Sunday 24/04/2022.**

3 Chair and Secretary Update:

January seemed to be a very busy month. Lots of new initiatives, to increase our membership and numbers attending walks, which seem to be bearing fruit already. More of this from the relevant reports later on. Numbers are excellent for the Two Crosses we expect the event to be full. So lots going on and carry on everyone you are doing a tremendous job.

4 Treasurers Report

Paul was not at the meeting but we believe the account still holds a healthy balance. We do though need to progress activating our new account signatories.

5 Events Secretary

Two Crosses update

All admin is up to date. All permissions have been granted, just awaiting paperwork.

New GPX files have been completed and are on the website.

New route description will be finished this weekend and will be on the website shortly after.

New emergency mobile number. It will be passed to all marshals and is on the tally and route description for entrants.

Tally has changed for this year. No cutting or clipping by marshals. CP1 & COP tear off numbers to drop in a box. Covid - minimise close contact to protect everyone.

Marshals walks planned over weekend of 5th/6th March. Saturday 8 mile section, Sunday 17 mile. Parking likely at Batridge Barn, but to be confirmed.

Running group - contacted to donate an entry for auction. They have listed 2X as one of their qualifiers for their group. Publicity for both groups and proceeds are going to charity.

Entries - 255. (Feb 2020 - 158)

Viv - on top of all equipment, supplies and checkpoint organisation.

Roger - Some tweaks to the staffing list, but still looking good. Sent to all marshals.

Barbara - Organising soup, awaiting further responses.

Steve Clarke - Van Plan discussed at the meeting received advice on van required from Ken Noble. Ongoing.

6 Walks Secretary's Update:

Nick gave his Report

The Spring Walk Programme was advertised at the start of Jan and filled in five days, many thanks to all the leaders who came forward. There were two walks of particular note in January, the final leg of Roger's excellent six part Clitheroe 60k series, begun in November 2018, and Dave's walk on Sunday where he had to manage 26 walkers alone.

Caroline gave a report on the new walks initiative 'Boot and Brews'

First walk took place on Sunday 23rd January. Intended to encourage new members and also to offer our members something a bit different. Whilst the walks are short for the LDWA, they are intended as a starting point for anyone new.

Of those attending, we had 2 non-members, both with current members. 2 new members taking part in their first East Lancs walk, thanks to Pauline's email to new members. None from meetup.

In total we had 17 walkers and 4 dogs.

Feedback was that the 10 mile length was about right, any more would have put people off. The time could be adjusted to be a little later, the next walk will be at 09.30 (no later due to potential parking issues)

Overall, I am very happy with the initial results, especially given the number of regular walkers were in Ambleside that weekend. Hopefully, with a few tweaks, it will only get bigger and better.

The next Boots & Brews will be on 27th March from Tockholes, going over Great Hill.

Thank you to all those that attended and made the new people welcome and thank you to all those who have supported me through the planning process and on the day.

7 Social Secretary's Update.

Recently back from an excellent weekend at the Old Vicarage in Ambleside great social and good walking

Viv hi-lighted the following upcoming events

25/02/2022 to 04/03/2022 Hazelwood House, Keswick, walks in North Lakes. **Full**

02/06/2022 to 06/02/2022 LDWA 100 2022 (Breakfast Check Point) Hathersage **Full.**

19/06/2022 Ramsbottom Round - Peel Tower Holcombe Hill charity event for Motor Neurone Disease and Multiple Sclerosis Trust pop up cafe at the Tower, any cake or jams welcome, please phone Viv Lee to volunteer to help on the day.

26/06/2022 Two Crosses Party at Hilary Scott's. Please contact Viv to attend this event and chose what food you can bring. It was agreed that the club would fund the drinks (both alcoholic and non alcoholic).

25/11/2022 to 27/11/2022 Real Ale Ramble Neuadd Arms Hotel Llanwtryd. Wells Book directly with the hotel Tel: 01591610236 and state you are with East Lancs LDWA and then let Viv Lee know.

31/10/2022 to 04/11/2022 Hydro Hotel Llandudno LDWA 50th Anniversary Celebrations Please contact Viv Lee if interested.

05/12/2022 to 09/12/2022 Ghyll Head

Full but there is a Reserve List

29/12/2022 to 02/01/2023 New Year Neuadd Arms Llanwrtyd Wells

Full

20/01/2023 to 24/01/2023 Old Vicarage Ambleside Walking in South Lakes

Please book directly with the Old Vicarage and inform Viv Lee.

26/05/2023 to 02/06/2023 LDWA 100 2023 West Midlands Breakfast Check Point

8 IT Secretary Update

The Website is up to date with most walk leaders sending in a report. I am also updating Facebook about three or four times a week , its hard to say whether this actually has a positive impact on numbers but it is raising our profile.

9 Pastoral Care Update

Alma sent her apologies as she could not attend the meeting but did pass on that there is nothing new to report.

10 Publicity Update

Pauline did contact Bolton local magazine '**Here4You**' about advertising but considered the costs prohibiting and the meeting agreed. She did bring some posters advertising East Lancs LDWA, to the meeting to be handed out to local businesses.

11 MeetUp Update

Between 1-5 walkers from Meetup on each walk that has been advertised.

At least 1 person has now joined and a couple more likely to.

Walk that caused issues, Boots & Brews. Lots of initial interest and bookings made via meetup. A week before 12 strangers were booked on. But, lots of drop outs in the days before and the rest were no shows. This will be monitored and people can be marked as no shows if repeatedly not turning up.

Otherwise, all very positive. We are still only at the start of the trial, so we are still learning and tweaking. As we get more data we can make further changes to see what works best for us. We can control what we advertise and can minimise entrants if it proves too successful.

It is entirely up to walk leaders whether they want to have their walks listed and how many people they allow via meetup.

Nick said he entered our walks on Meetup and asked if anyone could provide a library of 30 or 40 photos so he could choose one suitable for the walk advertised. Also whilst our Sunday walks are traditionally 18 miles plus, Nick would welcome leaders for shorter walks on a Saturday or a vacant Sunday as this might attract new walkers on Meetup unsure of whether they could handle an 18 miler.

Thank you to Nick for taking on the meetup administration. **Action: HS and JB to provide Nick with photos.**

12 Spring in Lakeland Series of Walks

The 'Spring in Lake Land 50' consists of three separate loops based Round Staveley .

Loop 1 18 miles

Loop 2 16 miles

Loop 3 16 miles.

At Ghyll Head last year we did loops two and three as social walks and we have been considering running them as three East Lancs club social walks , We have permission from the walk owner Tony Willey,

RJ outlined the various options available

First thought would be to do all three walks together over consecutive days (combined mini social event) , that would probably mean four night stay

One option would be to use Ghyll Head as a base (about 8 miles away)

RJ had previously spoken to John Cresswell and provided details of cost and availability. We would need a minimum of twelve people for this booking.

A second option (particularly if number less than 12) would be to base ourselves in Staveley ,in B an B's

Both above would still allow these to also run as normal group walks and people could come and join us on the day.

Final thought was to just to fit them into our normal Walks Program (presumably on Sundays).

Following a short discussion the group decided that Ghyll Head was the preferred option. **Action: RJ to send out a bulk email to see how many people interested.**

13 Dog Tags

Jane Hill had sent her apologies as she could not make the meeting but had previously offered to order some more Dog tags if there was a demand.

We decided in principle to fund a new round for new members or those whose medical prescription has changed. But, we are going to wait about 3 months to see how many new people actually join up and thus are eligible.

AOB

Survey Monkey

PB and JB have been looking into using Survey Monkey to help our understanding our members priorities and what they are looking for when joining the group. They had sent apologies for not being able to make the meeting and sent an update which HS presented to the meeting

They have set up an account and suggested an initial question. It was passed round and was well received. We had a discussion regarding other possible questions and options we may use which HS will pass on to Paul and Jeanette

The meeting also considered how we can move forward , so when ready envisage sending out a bulk email with a link to the survey. We felt it should go to both Primary and Associate members to get a good feel for responses.

Next Meeting

April 5th 2022

Action: RJ to contact Doffcocker to discuss.