

**LDWA East Lancs Group**

**Minutes of the Meeting Held at 8pm on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 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
Viv Lee (VL)	Social Secretary
Nick Halford (NH)	Walks Secretary
Alma Walsh	Ordinary Committee Member
Pauline Melia (PM)	Ordinary Committee Member
Dave Walsh (DW)	Ordinary Committee Member
Andy Griffin (AG)	Paul Raine (PR)

**Apologies:**

Caroline Tennant (CT)	Events Secretary
Paul Banks (PB)	Ordinary Committee Member
Jeanette Banks (JB)	Ordinary Committee Member
Gordon Stone (GS)	Ordinary Committee Member
Jane Hill (JH)	

**The Group was quorate and the meeting opened at 8.00 pm and closed at 10.10 pm.**

**1. Minutes of the Last Meeting:**

The Minutes were accepted as a true record of the February 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. **April Update: New members are now being contacted monthly with the offer of a chat / contact with Pauline. Closed**

**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. **April Update: Little change we have some quieter periods and then sometimes a burst of activity. Closed**

**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. **April Update: Joint Walks program now in place - now looking for walk leaders in the summer. Closed**

## 22.02 Meetup

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 **April Update: All has gone very quiet. We have gained new walk attendees and occasionally some enroll in the LDWA. Closed**

## 22.03 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 ( particularity 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. **April Update: Now on calendar, still some availability at Ghyll Head. Closed.**

## **22.04 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. **April Update: We agreed to wait a couple more months before doing a repeat order.**

## **3 Chair and Secretary Update:**

The high point for the last two months must be the success of the Two Crosses Event. The weather was on our side, for once, everything went smoothly, and minor problems were overcome. Thank you to all who helped. We still continue to learn even after all these years and this will be covered in more detail later in the meeting.

As ever, thanks to the walk leaders who are putting on excellent social walks which are being well attended, in the main. Lets carry on doing what we do and doing it well.

## **4 Treasurers Report**

Paul gave a update on the Group Accounts which continue to hold a healthy balance, even when we take into account that there is a larger amount than usual being held to pay for future events.

Virgin money has taken over Yorkshire Bank. There is concern over a potential charging issue but we should be able to avoid this by careful management of transactions.

The meeting also agreed that Caroline Tennant would replace Paul Wadsworth as bank account signatory and the appropriate forms are now being completed.

## 5 Events Secretary

### Two Crosses update

Caroline had sent her apologies, as she could not make the meeting , but sent in a event report that was printed off and passed round the meeting.

### Stats

**Income £3,603.60                      Expenses    £1590.00                      Profit    £2,0123.24**

**Entrered 300      Non starters    73      Retired 1                      Completed    226**

**LDWA 116                      Non LDWA 184                      Long Route 100      Short Route 126**

This was another successful East Lancs Event which saw a very healthy profit of £2013.24. It was the second event to be run from the Greenmount Old School. Changes were made in how we used the hall to make the best use of the space. We also had the advantage that there no classes, so we could use all the available space.

We had many compliments from the competitors. We are currently collating feedback, to be discussed by the group and plans and changes agreed to make the event better in 2023.

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 everyone of our members that give up their time to make the event the success it is.

There followed a discussion on how we should handle entrants who were running behind schedule, requests for food ingredient, deity requirements and and a few other occurrences on the day, all of which will be fed into the already collated feedback for future discussion.

The meeting agreed to follow the previously agreed principle to contribute the non LDWA entrance supplement to the New IT project , which this year amounts to £920.00.

## 6 Walks Secretary's Update:

Nick gave his Report

We are in the last month of the Spring programme, with seven walks this month. Numbers attending have been at or even above pre-covid levels. The Summer programme has been advertised but there are still many dates to fill, so would leaders please check the website and come forward for these. Our Meetup experiment is going well in my view, particularly on Sundays, and we have several new regular members as a result.

## 7 Social Secretary's Update.

Recently back from an excellent weekend at the Hazelwood House in Kewick great social and good walking

Viv hi-lighted the following upcoming events

02/06/2022 to 06/02/2022 LDWA 100 2022 ( Breakfast Check Point) Hathersage **Full.**  
The Little John Pub meal booked for 3<sup>rd</sup> June for the helpers, pre-booking required, please let Viv know your meal choices.

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.

25/06/2022 Two Crosses Party at Hilary Scott's. Please contact Viv to attend. As usual this will be a bring a dish night, beer and wine will be provided by the club

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 50<sup>th</sup> 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 Llanwrttyd Wells **Full**

20/01/2023 to 24/01/2023 Old Vicarage Ambleside Walking in South Lakes  
Please book directly, by September 2022, with the Old Vicarage and inform Viv Lee. ( 14 people booked to date)

26/05/2023 to 02/06/2023 LDWA 100 2023 West Midlands Breakfast Check Point  
Staying at Knightcote Farm Cottages two cottages reserved so far sleeping sixteen people, more cottages available at the same farm. Fifteen people booked to date, Please contact Viv on 017068244074 if you are interested .Small food kitty will be required, Viv will do the usual catering. Awaiting owners response to actual cost per person.

09/06/2023 to 16/06/2023 Keswick / Hazelwood House, 1 weeks self catering, led walks each day some meals in plus a couple of pub meals and the option of a night out in the Lakeside Theatre. The house sleeps eighteen persons. Cost £128, one place remaining in twin male room.

## **8 IT Secretary Update**

Walk reports are up to date, most leaders have kindly sent in a small report. There are pictures on the website of all the walks. Facebook following is still increasing.

## **9 Pastoral Care Update**

One active member has recently suffered a mild heart attack .He was in hospital for six days and is now recovering at home and is doing well.

I have been in contact with him an a get well card has been sent on behalf of the club.

## **10 Publicity Update**

Not a much new to report this month, but VL noticed that Greenmount School are doing an open day on 25/6/2022 with various groups ( include walking ones ) doing presentations / displays and she has arranged for us to be included so we will use one of our big white boards to advertize East Lancs LDWA.

## **11 Survey Monkey Questionnaire Feedback**

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 have set up an account , sent out a questionnaire and sent out a bulk email with a link to the survey.

Paul and Jeanette had sent their apologies as they could not make the meeting and forwarded a report of their findings which were circulated around at the meeting:

Unfortunately, the Free Survey Monkey service only allows the survey-designer to review 40 of the received responses for free (this information was not transparent). To view the other 57 responses, Survey Monkey wanted £99. Therefore the analysis below is taken from the first 40 responses received. We do however feel that this gives a good indication of the club member's views.

50% (20) of our current and associate members that responded that they initially joined to undertake social walks. 30% (12) just wished to undertake challenge events, 20% (8) had other reasons for joining the LDWA.

Of the 30 respondents that attend social walks, 73% (22) were happy to travel up to 1 hour to get to the start of an East Lancs LDWA social walk, with only 26% (8) willing to travel more than 1 hour.

31 of those questioned attend East Lancs LDWA social walks. Of these: 48% (15) prefer to walk 10-15 miles on a social walk, and 51% (16) like to attend walks above 15 miles.

This would suggest that East Lancs LDWA are currently offering about the correct mix of walk choices with the shorter mid-week and longer weekend walks available.

The meeting agreed with the conclusions , though noting there were a reasonable number of people who would also welcome some longer walks ( over 20 miles). Also with the additional costs involved it was decided it was not viable to continue the survey.

**12 Suggested Future Expenditure**

We had a sort discussion on ideas for future expenditure for the group.

VL suggested we look at doing some further improvements to our Two Crosses route in the Redishire Wood area. The meeting agreed to her to start looking into this.

Viv was also looking for a couple of things for the Batridge Barn checkpoint, a new folding table to replace the old wooden one, also four more tow ropes to help secure the tent, it was agreed she could go ahead with these purchases.

AG recommended some new signs, for Checkpoint Two to make crossing the main road safer for the entrants, and brought some rough costings to the meeting. We agreed Andy should follow this up with a more detailed proposal.

**13 Future Direction**

There was a brief discussion on how we could encourage more people to come forward to take on committee positions in the future, particularly relevant as Chair and Secretary are stepping down this November.

Not a lot decided , but it was agreed we need initially a clear and concise description of duties each role would involve, to be readily available.

**14 AOB**

None

**15 Next Meeting**

June 7<sup>th</sup> 2022

**Action: RJ to contact Doffcocker to discuss.**



