

Draft Minutes of the 49th Annual General meeting of the Essex and Herts LDWA held on Saturday 3rd February at the WI Hall, Old Harlow

To be approved at the 2025 Annual General Meeting

Present: Gill Struthers, Elaine Oddie, Richard Haynes, Peter Tremain, Harold Toze, Carol Toze, Judith Jolly, Brian Martin, Bill Bowers, Jean Bowers, Francoise Bannister, Richard Rose, Peter Aylmer, Liz Wills, Steve Wills, Helen Lambert, Linda Fordham, Ginny Powell, Lizzie Bridge, Maggie Stevenson, Jackie Burnett.

1. Gill Struthers welcomed everyone to the 49th Essex & Herts AGM.

2. Apologies: Kirsteen Newell, Rob Struthers, Dennis Jacobs, Peter & Georgie Hogg, Eddie Short, Rob Ratcliffe, Mike Wheatley, Sue Gooch, Fiona Gosling, Heidi Miller, Kerry Clark, Eddie Short, Jane Skinner.

3. Approval of minutes of the previous AGM: The meeting agreed that the Minutes of the previous AGM were a true record. The Minutes were proposed for acceptance by Brian Martin and seconded by Richard Haynes.

Matters Arising: the mileage rate for marshals was discussed by the Committee and raised to 30p per mile.

4. Officers' Reports

i. Chair's Report (see Appendix 1 for full report): Gill Struthers reported back on another positive year for Essex & Herts with four Challenge Walks, with a total of 704 entrants, and a regular programme of social walks and another great weekend away. Gill thanked the outgoing members of the Committee and welcomed those stepping up to replace them.

Jackie Burnett proposed a vote of thanks (seconded by Steve Wills) to Gill Struthers for her magnificent contribution as Chair over the past two years.

ii. Treasurer's Report (for the full Financial Statement for the year ending 2023 see Appendix 2) Elaine Oddie reported that all our Challenge events had generated a surplus, that we had received payments for marshalling on the last two Hundreds and following a successful bid for promotional equipment (banners, blade flag and Essex and Herts aprons), we had received £1,575 from the Martyn Greaves Legacy. Expenditure included Secret Santa, Committee and AGM expenses, equipment and donations to the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance and the Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Association. Our end of year Reserve was £13,375.

The Food Hygiene and Allergy courses will be promoted again in the Monthly update (JB)

Richard Rose asked about running a First Aid course for members: to be discussed by the Committee. Gill Struthers commented that other groups had successfully bid for funding for First Aid courses from the Martyn Greaves Legacy.

The Financial Statement was proposed for acceptance by Richard Rose and Seconded by Peter Tremain.

Elaine was given a vote of thanks for her long stint as Treasurer.

iii. Secretary and Membership Secretary's Report (see Appendix 1 for full report) Jackie Burnett reported that four committee meetings were held, and two email updates sent out per month last year. We submitted a successful bid for a portable defibrillator from the Finish Line Fund.

Membership Secretary Ginny Powell reported that we currently have 1118 members (Primary 658 and Associate 460). Ginny continues to contact new members.

Internet and social media: Jackie Burnett reported that she is trying to keep our website attractive, up to date and easy to navigate. Our Facebook account has 390 members, we have 300 followers on 'X' and our WhatsApp group has 42 members.

Richard Rose commented on membership turnover and whether some members join for a short period to get the lower entry fee to challenge events.

iv. Walk's Secretary's Report (see Appendix 1 for full report): Lizzie Bridge reported on a memorable weekend away in Yorkshire and thanked North Yorks LDWA and the emergency services for their prompt response following Dolores' accident.

38 social walks have been held since the last AGM, covering 678 miles and with 521 participants, and Lizzie thanked all the walk leaders.

5. Election of Officers and Ordinary Members of the Committee: The following nominations for Officers were received prior to the AGM. As there were no other nominations they were duly elected.

Position	Nominations	Proposed	Seconded
Chair	Kirsteen Newell	Gill Struthers	Ginny Powell
Treasurer	Maggie Stevenson	Jackie Burnett	Elaine Oddie
Secretary			
Walks Secretary	Lizzie Bridge	Richard Haynes	Helen Lambert

As there were no nominations for the Secretary position before the meeting or from the floor, Jackie Burnett agreed to continue as Interim Secretary until a replacement can be found. Proposed Elaine Oddie, Seconded Carol Toze.

Richard Rose asked whether anybody had been asked about taking on the Secretary's role and also suggested putting something in Strider as not all our members receive or read emails.

Gill Struthers responded that some members had been approached and two emails sent out. Jackie Burnett will add a note about the Secretary vacancy in the Group News section of Strider.

Election of Ordinary members: Brian Martin is stepping down from the Committee and was thanked for all his input and in particular for his notetaking at committee meetings.

The following were all elected to the Committee (Proposed Helen Lambert, Seconded Harold Toze):

Peter Tremain, Richard Haynes, Ginny Powell, Elaine Oddie, Jane Skinner, Jackie Burnett

6 Appointment of Financial Examiner: Harold Toze was thanked for auditing our accounts for the past few years,

Richard Rose agreed to be our independent Financial Examiner for the coming year. (Proposed by Gill Struthers, seconded by Elaine Oddie)

7. Donations and equipment: the following donations were agreed by the Meeting:

Organisation	Amount	Proposed	Seconded
Essex & Herts Air Ambulance	£300	Peter Tremain	Helen Lambert
Mountain Rescue Team covering area of the Speyside !00 *	£100	Carol Toze	Ginny Powell
Finish Line Fund	£75	Jackie Burnett	Peter Tremain

- Gill Struthers to ask Graham Smith which MRT this will be.

Equipment: Richard Haynes suggested we carry out an audit of our equipment and dispose of items no longer needed. Some floor covering needs to be replaced. All our electrical equipment has been tested. Richard Haynes and Peter Tremain will investigate less bulky options for 'Caution Walkers' signs. Richard will purchase some survival bags with a donation from Dolores Rice.

8. Challenge Events (for full reports see Appendix 1)

i. Herts Hobble: This was Peter and Georgie's last Hobble, having organised them for over 20 years. They thanked everyone who had helped on the Hobble. Peter and Georgie were in turn thanked for all the time they had put into running so many successful events.

ii. Shotley Peninsula 50: We had 169 starters and 138 finishers. The figure of eight route worked well, as did forming a committee to run the event. Gill Struthers thanked the E&H marshals and also the Norfolk and Suffolk group who ran two checkpoints.

iii. Blackwater Marathon: There were 125 starters, with just one retirement. The original venue for the headquarters pulled out a few weeks before the event, but Jean and Bill were able to secure use of the rugby club and a nearby car park instead. The marshals were thanked for making it a good day for participants.

iv. Stansted Stagger 2024: There were 152 starters and 149 finishers. Peter received many positive and kind comments after the event.

v. Essex Walker 2024: 89 entries so far, checkpoints all booked, and the first draft of the route description checked.

vi. Herts Hobble 2024: Richard Haynes has devised 26 and 18 mile routes from Baldock. HQ and first and last checkpoints have been booked. The hall we hoped to use for the second checkpoint has been damaged by fire but there is potential to use the gazebo on the same site if necessary.

vii. Stansted Stagger 2025: To be held on Sunday 5th January, with a new route via Hallingbury, Thorley, Little Hadham, Upwick, Farnham and Hazel End.

9. Social Walks Programme: Lizzie circulated the most up to date 'Available Walks Dates' forms: the programme is beginning to fill up, but there are still gaps later on in the year. Lizzie reminded the meeting that there are links to the Walks Register and Social Walks Risk Assessments templates on the web site. Once Lizzie receives a new walks form, details are added to the Future Walks list

10. Future 100s:

2024 Speyside 100: Essex and Herts will not be running a checkpoint this year. Anyone who would like to marshal on the event should contact the organiser Graham Smith, or London, BBN and Norfolk and Suffolk who are all running checkpoints.

2025 Flower of Suffolk 100: We have been allocated Checkpoint 7 at the village hall in Knodishall (49.5 miles) which will be open from 23.00 – 11.00. In addition, we have been asked to run a kit check at a different checkpoint.

2026 Hunnypot 100: We have been provisionally allocated the evening meal stop at Cowden

It is hoped that Essex and Herts will also help on the marshals' walk for these two 100s.

2027 The Jurassic Coast 100 (Cornwall & Devon LDWA) Gill Struthers will contact Julian Pursey to request a checkpoint in the early part of the walk.

11. Essex and Herts 50th Anniversary 2025: it was proposed that we ring-fence £5000 to either pay for or subsidise events during our Golden Anniversary year and that an organising committee is set up as soon as possible. Volunteers will be needed to help. Ideas include:

- The AGM being held on Sunday 23rd February (anniversary of our first walk)
- A Golden 50 event which visits both counties with a special badge and certificate
- St Peter's Way in a Day on the August Bank Holiday weekend
- Mementos for members – suggestions include mugs, neck warmers, reflectors, torches
- Special badges for our challenge events in 2025 (nb it will also be the 25th Blackwater)
- A Walks Day and a special Secret Santa
- Ideas for social walks: a linear coastal walk using trains, the Maldon Millenium walk followed by tea on a barge, visiting the high points of both counties, rerunning walks from each decade, walks in the farthest reaches of Essex and Herts, a walk followed by fish and chips and also bowls
- Possible tie-in with Kinetika's King Charles III England Coast Path project
- Something commemorative eg a stile or tree

12. Essex and Herts Constitution: The NEC have drawn up a new Model Constitution which was discussed at two of our Committee Meetings. A revised Essex and Herts version has been approved by the NEC. The following are the main changes from our previous Constitution:

Attendance and voting by Associate members at AGMs has been clarified.

Timescales for notification of our AGM, Committee nominations and substantive motions for the Agenda have altered.

A Finance sub-committee made up of the Treasurer and two other committee members will be established.

The Meeting voted to adopt the new Constitution (proposed Jackie Burnett, seconded Gill Struthers)

13. AOB: Steve Wills commented on the camaraderie and support on the EBB100, both on the walk itself and the checkpoints

Jackie Burnett suggested that we include all Essex and Herts events in the Triple Challenge. To be discussed further by the Committee.

14. Date and time of next meeting: Sunday 23rd February 2025. Venue to be arranged.