

**Essex & Herts LDWA Committee Meeting
Friday 18th July 2025, 1pm Writtle Village Hall**

Draft Notes

Present: Kirsteen Newell (KN), Richard Haynes (RH), Peter Tremain (PT), Elaine Oddie (EO), Maggie Stevenson (MS), Jackie Burnett (JB), Lizzie Bridge (LB), Sue Gooch (SG), Tracy Cottis (TC)

1. Apologies for Absence: Ginny Powell (GP), Jane Skinner (JS).

2. Approval of the April Minutes: Agreed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising: There were some issues with receipt of the Minutes and personal email addresses of committee members were collected to use for future circulation of committee papers.

4. Chairs Update

- Kirsteen thanked everyone for making this a great 50th year so far.
- She gave special thanks to Lizzie for the bowls and afternoon tea organisation last week and to Elaine for leading a great walk beforehand.
- She also gave special thanks to Peter for his great Golden 50 route and organisation of this coming event, and to Peter, Rob, Gill, Ginny and Nigel for supporting the Golden 50 Marshal's walk.

5. Secretary & Membership Secretary's update

- Tracy advised that all Secretary updates were covered by specific agenda items.
- Lizzie shared the membership numbers which had been provided by Ginny as at 2 July 2025: Total 1079 with 627 Primary and 452 Associate members.

6. Financial Update

- Current balance: £16,582.70
- £500 had been received for our support as Hundred Marshalls and £ 462 had been paid out to 11 claimants.
- Thank you letters had been received from 3 organisations for donations which had been made, which Maggie circulated.
- 35 people had paid for the fish and chips at the Epping Ongar Railway Trip and the 50th anniversary fund had provided a subsidy of £875.50.
- Herts Hobble had made a profit of £1,450.08

7. Social walks update

- Lizzie noted the need for some walks in September & October.
- She noted that the bill for the bowling and the catering for the Bowling & Afternoon Tea were still to come. It was agreed that those who did not come and no cost was incurred would be offered a refund.

8. Challenge Events

- **Herts Hobble 15 June 2025:** Jackie has done a report for the AGM. She noted the lovely route and said the model of a loop with one checkpoint worked well and needed fewer marshals. There were some who did not like there being 2 GPX files but this had been deliberate so that those on the shorter route did not do the additional milage loop in error.
- **Golden 50 26-27 July 2025:** The final information has gone out. Peter has leafleted Manuden and all places on second loop to advise them of the event. It was clarified who was buying food for which Checkpoints and Kirsteen's draft rota was discussed. Jackie has set up a marshals group on WhatsApp to use for messages only on the day. Peter asked that it be noted that he disagreed with the National LDWA paying for entries for the President and her friend and these not coming via the SI Entries route and said he felt the email he had received from the LDWA had been condescending.
- **Blackwater Marathon 25 October 2025:** Are currently 58 entrants (Limit 180 due to car parking) and mugs are being ordered by Jean.
- **Stansted Stagger 4 Jan 2026:** Peter has done a route and Jackie / Richard / Maggie to check it. Entries open 1 September with the Marshals walk on 9 November.
- **Essex Walker 2026:** Peter advised that Mike Wheatley was potentially interested in leading this but said Mike would need some support. Peter said he would be happy to help with the route and hall bookings. Tracy, Sue and Kirsteen volunteered to be part of the organising committee. Peter agreed to check the suggested date of 19th April 2026 with Mike.

Action: PT

9. 50th anniversary events

- **Neck Warmers** - Kirsteen noted that how great these have been and Lizzie reminded the committee that it was important that entries for the neck warmer competition be formally made. Lizzie to add a note to the E&H WhatsApp group and Sue to add a note in the next email update. **Action: LB / SG**
- **Seaside Ice cream walk 2 August 2025:** Lizzie may not be able to be there so Steve who is leading the walk may need to pay for and claim for the ice creams.
- **St Peters Way in a day 23 August 2025:** Kirsteen will follow up with Mike re issue of final information to those taking part. There are 4 people on the waiting at present and it is believed there is some space in cars travelling back from the end. Those on waiting list to be offered places if there is found to be space in the cars. **Action: KN**
- **Christmas gift for 50th anniversary:** Kirsteen suggested maybe providing an E&H present at the Secret Santa eg small walking related gift to mark the 50th year. This is to be discussed again at the next meeting.
- **Strider article:** Jackie said we should ensure we got an article into the April 2026 Strider with photos of our 50th year. She offered to write this but asked for feedback from the Ice Cream walk when this took place. **Action: JB**

10. Local Groups Call update (Tracy)

Tracy and Kirsteen joined the 1 July call and Tracy fed back on the items discussed:

- Temporary Event notice needed for any venue providing hot food and drinks and / or entertainment between 11pm and 5am and there is a charge (either directly or via an entry fee), which is the case in a 50 mile challenge event. Kirsteen and Peter completed forms for the 3 halls impacted in the Golden 50 and these have now been agreed by the relevant Council.

- Data Protection annual declaration form will come out soon with guidance and it has been suggested that completion be aligned to the AGM date.
- Transfer to the new email system seems to be going well but some emails are still going to old address. Sue to ensure committee email addresses on E&H website now reflect new Outlook addresses. **Action: SG**
- BBN fed back their view that the guidance on social walks needed more work and this will be looked at during the Local Groups weekend in November.
- The Meet Up app is being trialled nationally as a means of linking people into groups.
- Tracy is attending as the E&H representative at the Local Groups weekend. (Elaine will be there as an NEC representative).
- NEC Secretary vacancy is still to be filled and someone has expressed interest.
- National AGM will be held in Maidstone in March.
- Next Local Groups call is scheduled for 14 September

11. 2026 Hunnypot 100 planning

- Tracy advised we have provisionally committed to the 30 miles Checkpoint and the kit check. The kit check is likely to need 7-8 people and as a cooked meal is needed at the Checkpoint, this is likely to require 12 people, including the check in activity. Tracy and Jackie are leading the Checkpoint planning and Gill is leading the kit check activity.
- There was some discussion on this year's checkpoint layout and it was agreed in hindsight a different layout might have been better.

12. Health & Safety

Nothing to report.

13. Any Other Business

- **Food safety:** It was noted that 2 online courses are available covering Food Safety on LDWA events and there is also an LDWA Advice sheet on Food Safety and Allergens. It was suggested that the guidance to marshals capture the key points from this material. Following the meeting Sue provided Kirsteen with copies of the documents provided to the Flower of Suffolk 100 marshals as this covered these aspects.
- **Date and venue for AGM:** Suggested as 22 Feb 2026 in Writtle Village Hall. Peter will seek to book the large hall and arrange a walk on the day. 9am for 9.30am start for meeting with a walk at 1pm. **Action: PT**
- **Lost Paths:** Jackie flagged this activity which aims to gain formal recognition for paths that are not legally recorded, but which have been historically used as a right of way and suggested we look at the Mansell Way near Braintree (a 20 mile circular route). She will follow up with the Lost Paths team. **Action: JB**

14. Date of next meeting

Friday 24 October 2025, 1pm Writtle Village Hall.