



HoE LDWA AGM minutes 2023

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Date:	16th December 2023
Time:	3:00 pm
Place:	The Ark Hall, St. Laurence Parish Church, School Lane, Alvechurch Village, Worcestershire B48 7SB. www.thearkalvechurch.co.uk

Attendees:	Clive Wainwright (Chair), David Hood (Group Secretary), Mike Buckley (Membership Secretary), Christine Stockton (Acting Treasurer), Neil Bromley (Deputy Chair), Graham Jones (Walks Secretary), Robin Richmond (Data Protection Officer). Robert & Yvonne Court, Anne Wade, Michael Jones, Mary Dyche, Lynda Broadway, Mike Anstey, Imtiaz Ilahi, David Powell, Linda Hood, Terry Muckle, Brian Rance, Ian Kelsey, Rupert Connelly, Iain & Debbie Wilson, Rose Harris, Nick Dunn & Phil Champion.
Apologies:	Maggie Nichols, Mike & Terri Phelan, Sue England, David Foster, Liz May, Sally & Richard Hicks & Nigel Willis
Proxies:	Participation of all Heart of England members by all Primary registered members at the time with email listing opted in for Local Group emails.
Preface	<p>The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is a pivotal event in the life of our walking group. It provides an opportunity for members to come together, review the past year, and plan for the future. By attending the AGM and actively participating in group matters, members can contribute to the group. It also is an opportunity to have a say in the group's decisions and its future direction.</p> <p>All members are welcome to propose nominations for committee positions, as well as questions together with any alterations they feel necessary to the Constitution. Ideally any items for discussion should be communicated to the Secretary at least fourteen days before the AGM.</p>

Item	Description
1	Welcome and introductions (present Committee Members) + house safety Thank you to all attendees and participating in this meeting.
2	<p>Review of actions from previous annual general meeting Matters arising. - From points made to the Committee through that meeting & the annual year - Chair addressed points: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>The AGM should be held in a central part of the region.</i> Answer = Achieved. b) <i>AGM - Plenty of advance warning.</i> Answer = Achieved through Website, Minutes & email. c) <i>Several members felt that committee meeting minutes should be made readily accessible to the membership. There was no objection to this.</i> Answer = Achieved, They appear on the HoE website (under the tab Group

3. Development of regular social walks with new leaders involved where possible & variety undertaken across our region.
4. Review of holding the MMM & BCC events back to our traditional running & calendar times.

Looking ahead - As we move into the new year, we are committed to promoting our sport and upholding the legacy of the HoE Group. We recognise the importance of tradition while embracing new opportunities for growth & development. I personally are grateful to our committee members, volunteers, and supporters who have contributed to the success of the Group. We as the committee look forward to welcoming new members, organising exciting events, and fostering a sense of camaraderie among walkers.

- Neil Bromley as Deputy Chairperson :-

As Deputy Chairperson I do not have a specific set of responsibilities, other than to wait around in case the Chair needs to be replaced, in the event of his unfortunate demise, his lack of availability at a committee meeting or him becoming generally unhinged. I am very pleased to report that none of these eventualities transpired. However, I did take part in every committee meeting so I trust I have a reasonable overview of the group's activities and priorities, on which the Chair has reported, so I continue to be available to step in at short notice should the need arise. Unfortunately, due to injury, I have not taken part in many group or challenge walks this year but, all being well, hope to resume normal business next year, lead a few walks and get to know the newer members who have joined us over recent months.

- Dave Hood as present Group Secretary :-

Well it's been an interesting first year as the HoE group secretary.

I was heavily involved in helping to organise this year's 100 event - The Elephant, Bear and Bull. This was massively supported by a very large number of Heart of England group members, who were prepared to support the event in so many ways. Although regarded as an independent event it is fair to say that HoE members took it to their hearts to make it a fantastic event.

I have enjoyed seeing lots of new members join our social walks and seeing lots of members being prepared to take on leading walks. Walks have continued to be very sociable and welcoming and the group has done a wonderful job in being inclusive and welcoming.

The committee of the group works well together, and meetings ensure that members' opinions are taken into consideration and that the group runs in a way that suits members wherever they are in the region.

We have seen the types of walk that are popular to members change. Less popular are walks where transport needs to be booked, and circular walks appear to be more popular. Members want to share lifts more, and moving forward we will have to see if there is a way of helping members to do this.

I personally have been able to maintain a good level of personal walking. Weeks doing Munros, Challenge walks, doing sections of the Southwest coastal path, Walking in Iceland and doing the Annapurna Circuit and Annapurna Base Camp walks. It's been a hard year!

My attitude is that if something is a good idea, then I will do what I can to help it happen.

My enthusiasm to continue being group Secretary has only increased, and hopefully you will feel that you can vote to support my continuation next year.

- Mike Buckley as present Membership Secretary :-

I am happy to continue in the role of membership secretary if elected to help or advise new members regarding any questions they have.

Presently we have a membership of 528 primary members, and many associate members who choose us when they join, or update, from other groups.

Each new member receives a welcome letter which includes key features of our walking year, encouraging them to join our social walks and to contact me for any further information they need.

It is a worry that a significant percentage of new members do not elect to accept email contact from the group. When we send out bulk emails to members, only those who enter their emails in personal information and tick the box will receive emails from HoE. We therefore rely upon them using Strider or accessing the group's website to gain information about group walks and events.

Many members join to use information about LDP walks around the country as well as access to any other groups' walks. GPX files are available to members only for most of the named paths.

- Graham Jones as present Walks Secretary :-

Another good year, with a reasonably full schedule, saw the group take part in:

21 Group social walks

1 Challenge Walk (Malvern Midsummer Marathon – held in April)

3 Group walks as reccies for sections of the EBB100.

1 AGM walk.

25 walks in total for the group is a handful less than the pre Covid years, but approximately every other weekend is a good offering nonetheless.

However, what is a little concerning is that the number of members offering walks has dropped – A thank you to David Hood, Ian Kelsey, Terry Muckell, Sally Hinks, Dave Pettifer, and Anne Wade for leading walks this year. There was also one walk held jointly with BBN (which allowed me to keep the walk on our calendar, even though I could not lead it).

Relying on a small number of members to offer walks is probably not sustainable in the long term, so we need additional members to help out in this respect – this might be a good opportunity to catch newer members to see if they would be willing to offer walks for the group.

Next year, we intend to offer both of our Challenge Events, the MMM and Birmingham Canal Canter.

On a personal note, next year will hopefully see me able to start leading walks again, so all my research of the canal network will be getting put to good use.

- Robin Richmond as present Data Protection Officer :-

Some of the EBB100 social walks in early 2023 were videoed as part of the promotion of the event itself, and stimulated a discussion about data protection matters, including permissions. One of my first tasks was to understand what was in the Data Protection in Privacy User Guide and work with the NEC Data Protection Officer to clarify and improve the Privacy Statement. It is worth quoting the new statement in full.

'I understand that the personal information submitted for this social walk will be held by the organisers and retained securely on the LDWA website for up to seven years after the walk has taken place. Non-members consent to supplying

contact details to facilitate a follow up to check whether you wish to become a member if the LDWA.

The purpose of holding this information is to satisfy the requirements of the LDWA public liability insurance policy.

I accept that photographs or videos are likely to be taken during the walk, which may be featured in Strider magazine, group newsletters, on LDWA websites and on LDWA social media. I understand this will be held in perpetuity and I have the right to request deletion where it is physically possible for the LDWA to do so.

Please see the Data Protection and Privacy User Guide on www.ldwa.org.uk for more information.

Challenge event organisers will ensure that this statement is included in SiEntries entry forms and the Walks Secretary, or in his absence, the walk leader will ensure that all Social Walk participants are made aware of this statement when they sign the walk register.

The main task of the GDPR Officers is to make an annual return to the NEC setting out HoE's compliance with GDPR requirements, i.e. the personal data held, the length of time it has been held, and its security. I am pleased to report that all committee members have been engaged fully in this process and have confirmed that HoE is compliant. Three exceptions have been identified and actions have been taken to ensure compliance from 2024. Copies of the 2022 annual return are available on request.

To elect the 2023/24 committee. Nominations received are as follows:-
(outcome through attendees at AGM)

Constitutionally - All committee members should be subject to re-election every AGM.

The Chair led the formal voting for each of the positions.

a) Chair.

Proposed resolution: Clive Wainwright continues as future Chair

Nominated: Linda Hood

Seconded: Terry Muckle

Passed/Not passed

b) Deputy Chair.

Proposed resolution: Neil Bromley continues as future Deputy Chair

Nominated: Christine Stockton

Seconded: Robin Richmond

Passed/Not passed

c) Group Secretary.

Proposed resolution: David Hood continues as future Group Secretary

Nominated: Anne Wade

Seconded: Mike Anstey

Passed/Not passed

d) Treasurer.

Proposed resolution: Yvonne Court as new Treasurer

Nominated: Christine Stockton

Seconded: Lynda Broadway

Passed/Not passed

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June with new location for start/finish being the 'Chase' school Malvern. Present members at the meeting offered support & were listed as volunteers for helping. Dave Hood - He also mentioned he had been approached by the 'Norfolk & Suffolk Group' for the LDWA 100 event 2025 & could HoE provide assistance in a support checkpoint - members at the meeting offered their services, noting any other members available in May 2025 time who can offer their time gratefully received - correspond with David please.

Dave Powell - outlined his intention to run the 'Forest Marathon' again in our area post Covid for 2024 - new venue HQ likely (Memorial hall, Alcester) presently scheduled for Sat 28th September. Again any members who can offer assistance for checkpoint support etc, gratefully received by organiser Dave P.

Brian Rance - As a member outlined he was the author of a new book called "A Midland Meander" A circular 150 miles walk which circumnavigates the West Midlands written in a travelogue style. Visit WWW.BOOKGUILD.CO.UK for more information.

Anne Wade - enquired if there was any floor covering available the HoE group had for hall venues proposed on her 'Coventry Way' event. Unfortunately the committee advised there was not such ownership or availability. She is also presently revising some of the short 'Warwickshire walks' affected by HS2 in the area - ref: - [Free Warwickshire Walks | Warwicks Walking Routes from across the web. \(walking-routes.co.uk\)](http://FreeWarwickshireWalks.com) She will also be leading some for our social programme.

Points made prior to the meeting by email:-

Sue England - Noting the role of Property Officer role is not presently filled as a position, the committee acknowledges our constitution allows up to 9 folk on the committee, extra people can always join just as ordinary committee members for support on specialisms as required - e.g. IT advice or property support. Also reference to any change to the constitution in the year, this has not taken place in respect of electronic electoral voting to date, but the committee acknowledges you would be very happy to assist the committee with revising the constitution to arrive at a version that the NEC is happy with and more importantly that our members are happy with. Noted for future committee meetings.

Meeting closed:

At 4:15 pm

Minute taker:

Clive Wainwright

Date:

20th January 2024 available for issue.

Minutes to be distributed to all group members. <https://www.ldwa.org.uk/heartofengland>



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**Heart of England Walking Group
Annual Accounts**

**Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 30th September 2023**

	Income	Trfs	Expenditure	Surplus/ Deficit
	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p
Malvern Midsummer Marathon	2,791.20		(1,421.30)	1,369.90
Go Outdoors evening			(26.36)	(26.36)
Stationery			(143.96)	(143.96)
Auditors fee for 2020 21 accounts exam			(62.40)	(62.40)
Charitable donation - Trees for Life			(500.00)	(500.00)
AGM			(62.40)	(62.40)
Group Secretaries Weekend			(45.00)	(45.00)
Wychavon Way 1 and 2	315.00		(550.00)	(235.00)
Equipment			(34.99)	(34.99)
Group income EBB	500.00		0.00	500.00
Group general expenses			(42.45)	(42.45)
Committee travel expenses			(38.75)	(38.75)
Totals	3,606.20	0.00	(2,927.61)	678.59
 Excess of Income over Expenditure			 678.59	

**Heart of England Walking Group
Annual Accounts**

Balance Sheet as at 30th September 2023

Current Assets

Cash at bank	6,990.14
Cash in hand	158.95
	<u>7,149.09</u>

Represented by:

Cumulative fund	
Balance as at 30th September 2022	6,470.50
Add surplus of receipts over payments for the year	678.59
Balance as at 30th September 2023	<u>7,149.09</u>

Report of the independent examiner

I have examined the income and expenditure account and balance sheet for the year ended 30th September 2023, together with the relevant books of account and vouchers and have obtained all the information and explanations necessary.

I am satisfied that the accounts are consistent with the underlying financial records and that no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that there are any matters to which attention should be drawn to ensure a proper understanding of the accounts or the private funds to be reached.



Alistair Hayward-Wright
Hayward Wright Ltd