

Heart of Scotland LDWA Group

Annual General Meeting - Minutes

19 December 2021 - 12:30 pm in a garden in Kingseat

1. Attendance

Richard Newall, Chair, welcomed the ten members present; two apologies had been received.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM

The minutes of the 2020 AGM were accepted, they may be found at <https://www.ldwa.org.uk/HeartOfScotland/W/6993/agmpapers.htm>

3. Activities in the past year

Officers' reports were circulated before the meeting.

Chair: Our AGM again comes at a time when the future seems uncertain because of Covid, and we earnestly hope the our activities will not be significantly restricted in the coming year. This year the group's social walks programme was again hit by Covid restrictions. Indeed there were no social walks from September 2020 until April 2021. We are grateful to the LDWA National Executive Committee (NEC) who put considerable time and effort into negotiating with Sport Scotland (where there are different rules from England and Wales) to allow walks to resume as soon as possible, albeit under restricted conditions. When our monthly walks first restarted, travel was not permitted between Scottish regions, so the April walk was restricted to those from Fife, the region where the walk was based. However, this restriction was lifted in May and for the rest of the year we have been able to operate fairly freely. Covid risk assessments for walks were initially required until restrictions were relaxed further over the summer.

Sadly, the South Wales 'Y 100 Sir Fynwy' Hundred planned for May 2021 was cancelled having already been postponed from the previous year. This was replaced by a virtual event with participants doing a verifiable 100 mile route in their own locality, and (at least) two members of the group completed this challenge.

Formally, the group now has 49 Primary Members and 206 Associate Members (whose primary affiliation is with another group).

Secretary/ Walks Secretary:

In the end we were able to put on 10 social walks during 2021, with some advertised at quite short notice due to the unpredictability of the Covid situation, including an additional walk in early December. Numbers on social walks have fluctuated from 3 to 11 during the year with an average of 6.7, and several new walkers have been out with us. In particular, December Strider included a nice article 'Ruminations of a Newbie' by Jo Allport on her experiences on joining the group. But it would be good to have a few more coming on our walks.

As always, we welcome offers to lead walks. If you would like to lead a walk or have a favourite route that you would like to share, then please let the Walks Secretary know. We are very happy to provide support for new walk leaders.

Challenge Events / Funds:

For several years we have been discussing putting on a challenge event in our area but this has been put back by Covid. Iain Barclay has now come up with a draft route in the Devilla Forest area which seems feasible for a challenge walk. Hopefully it will be possible for this to take place in 2023 and this will need help from group members.

At the moment the group does not hold funds, but a group bank account will need to be set up to facilitate handling entry fees and expenses for an event.

Internet:

The group website has been useful to inform members about the changing and ongoing situation during the year, in particular concerning special arrangements during. The Facebook site, maintained by the Webmaster, has also advertised our walks.

Following the query last year, both the Webmaster and Secretary/Walks Secretary now have access permissions for the group

4. Future plans

- We will continue our social walks programme, normally monthly walks of 17-20 miles, subject to any restrictions that may be imposed because of covid..
- A walks programme for January to April 2022 has been compiled and details are on the website and in Strider. Following the popularity of the Fife Pilgrims Way, which the group walked in sections before lockdown, these include two walks along the Fife Coastal Path, the aim being to complete the entire path over the year.
- The LDWA is celebrating its **50th** Anniversary in 2022 and the group will be marking this in several ways. There will be a **50km = 31 mile** social walk in the Devilla Forest area on 19th June, which will be a version of the proposed challenge event (see above) and such that members can walk just part of the route if they wish. Most other LDWA local groups will also be holding '50-themed' walks on the same weekend. The LDWA is producing an Anniversary 'Walker's Cookbook' and we are grateful to Mark Halliwell for contributing a recipe for 'Highland Coleslaw' on behalf of the group.
- In the coming year we hope to arrange joint walks with our two neighbouring groups, Central and Lowlands, and North of Scotland, and also resume our summer Munro walk. The possibility of a weekend away, perhaps camping, has also been suggested.

Helping on future Hundreds

- 2022: Trans-Pennine 100, based at Wombswell, near Barnsley. The Group, with some others, is running the checkpoint at Mam Nick, 52 miles into the route. Anyone who would like to help should contact the Group Secretary.
- 2024: Speyside 100. This is being organised by our neighbouring group NW Grampian based at an outdoor centre near Aviemore, and our Group is likely to be involved in several ways.

5. Election of officers.

The following officers were elected.

Chair – Richard Newall

Secretary/ Walks Secretary – Ken Falconer

Publicity/Webmaster – Jennifer Smith

Challenge Events – Iain Barclay

Committee Member – Jo Allport

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 1:30pm.

KJF 21/12/21