

Heart of Scotland LDWA Group

Annual General Meeting - Minutes

14 January 2023 - 12 noon at RSPB Scotland Loch Leven, Kinross

Note: The meeting had been postponed from 18th December 2022 due to severe weather conditions.

1. Attendance

Richard Newall, Chair, welcomed the 14 members present; two apologies had been received.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM

The minutes of the 2021 AGM were accepted, they may be found at <https://www.ldwa.org.uk/HeartOfScotland/W/6993/agmpapers.htm>

3. Activities in the past year

Walking

Unlike the previous two years, our walks programme in 2022 was minimally affected by covid restrictions. Our basic programme included a walk each month, although two walks were cancelled at the last minute, including the December AGM walk. Four of the walks followed sections of the Fife Coast Path, using public transport to get to a starting point and walking back. The four walks covered the all of the path between Kincardine and Kingsbarns, leaving Kingsbarns to Newburgh still to do.

Numbers on social walks have fluctuated from 3 to 11 during the year with an average of 6.1, and several new members have come out on our walks.

The June walk was a 50km walk to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the LDWA on the Association's 'Big Walks' Day. The route, planned by Iain and Jennifer, was in and to the east of the Devilla Forest. Sadly only four members participated partly due to other events taking place the same weekend.

A highlight of the year was the hillwalking weekend in August, based at Blair Atholl and joint with North of Scotland group, with 12 participants. There was a lower level walk on the Saturday, a social meal on Saturday evening, and ascent of two of the Munros in the Beinn a' Ghlo group on Sunday.

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.

Other Activities

On the Trans-Pennine 100 in May, the LDWA's flagship event, the Group, augmented by a number of other helpers, was responsible for the checkpoint at Mam Nick at 52 miles. This was an outdoor overnight checkpoint, cold for the helpers, but much appreciated by the walkers.

Mark Halliwell contributed a recipe for 'Highland Coleslaw' on behalf of the group to the LDWA's Anniversary Recipe Book which has now been published (see December Strider).

The group website has been useful to inform members about our walks as has the Facebook site, maintained by the Webmaster.

Formally, the group now has 56 (49 in 2021) Primary Members and 222 (206 in 2021) Associate Members (whose primary affiliation is with another group). Notices of our walks are sent to all of these (except a few who do not have email).

4. Future plans

We will continue our social walks programme, normally monthly walks of 17-20 miles. Members are encouraged to offer to lead walks. It is always possible to insert extra walks into the programme if a leader is keen.

The programme may include walks along the rest of the Fife Coastal Path, subject to suitable transport arrangements. Other long distance routes in our area should also be considered for our monthly walks.

Following the success of the hillwalking weekend in August 2022, another joint weekend with the North of Scotland group is planned for Summer 2023 – Jo and Doug are liaising with Graham Smith of the North of Scotland group about this.

The Speyside 100 in May 2024 is being organised by our neighbouring North of Scotland group, based at Badaguish Outdoor Centre 6 miles east of Aviemore off the road to Glenmore Lodge. They will soon be recruiting helpers for a wide range of tasks and it is hoped many of our group members will offer to help on this major event.

We should continue to explore putting on a challenge event in our area. The possibility of using the 50km anniversary walk in the Devilla forest area had been suggested, but those on that walk felt that the route was unsuitable. Other suggestions for a challenge walk route are welcome.

5. Election of officers

The following officers were elected.

Chair – Richard Newall

Secretary/ Walks Secretary – Ken Falconer

Treasurer – Jane Macleod

Publicity/Webmaster – Jennifer Smith

Challenge Events – Iain Barclay

Committee Members – Jo Allport, Donald Macleod, Karl Zaczek,

6. Any other business

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting and also thanked those who had led walks or helped the group in other ways.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12:45pm.