

Heart of Scotland LDWA Group

Annual General Meeting 2023 - Minutes

17 December 2023 - 12.30 noon at Mona's of Muckhart, Pool of Muckhart

1. Attendance

Eight members were present; two apologies had been received.

The meeting remembered Allan Brannigan, a very active group member who died in November.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM

The minutes of the 2022 AGM, postponed till 14 January 2023 were accepted, they may be found at <https://www.ldwa.org.uk/HeartOfScotland/W/6993/agmpapers.htm>

3. Activities in the past year

Walking

Our 2023 walking programme began with the 2022 AGM walk in January which had been postponed due to a police warning not to travel for the original December date. We aimed at a monthly social walk though two were cancelled, one because of severe weather and one because of lack of participants. The attendance on the other walks ranged from 5 to 14 with an average of 7.6 walkers. The monthly walks were spread across our area and included an ascent of Ben Chonzie, a Munro.

A highlight of the year was the walking weekend in August, based at Ballatar and joint with North of Scotland group, with about 12 participants. There was a lower level walk including visiting the huge cairns on the Balmoral estate on the Saturday, a social meal on Saturday evening, and ascent of Lochnagar group on Sunday.

As always, we welcome offers to lead walks. It was noted that just four members between them led all the walks during the year. If any member would like to lead a walk or has a favourite route they would like to share, then please let the Walks Secretary know. We are very happy to provide support for new walk leaders.

Other Activities

The group website has been useful to inform members about our walks as has the Facebook site. An opt in WhatsApp group has been set up to enable last minute information about walks, etc. to be circulated rapidly.

Formally, the group now has 65 Primary Members (56 in 2022) and 256 Associate Members (whose primary affiliation is with another group) (222 in 2022). Notices of our activities are sent to all of these (except a few who do not have email).

4. Group Constitution

The National Committee had produced an amended model constitution for local groups. The meeting was happy to adopt this for our group, keeping the quorum for a general meeting at 5,

for a committee meeting at 3, the AGM in December, and the accounting year from 1st December to 30th November.

5. Finance

The group holds no funds and therefore there are no accounts, though once a group challenge event is organised a bank account will be needed.

6. Future plans

We will continue our social walks programme, normally monthly walks of 17-20 miles. Whilst it would be nice to have more walks, until we have more members and leaders this is scarcely feasible. Members are encouraged to offer to lead walks. It is always possible to insert extra walks into the programme if a leader is keen.

Following the success of the hillwalking weekends in summer 2022 and 2023, another joint weekend with the North of Scotland group is planned for Summer 2023 – Jo is 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. Three of our group will be on the control desk at the Boat of Garten HQ, and about eight other group members will be running the checkpoint at Tamdu at 70 miles into the event - this would either be in an outhouse of the distillery or in a marquee.

The meeting remains keen to put on an event, and Iain and Karl were asked to progress this.

The question of recruiting new members was discussed. It was felt that Facebook was an ineffective means of advertisement. MeetUp was considered a possible channel for recruitment, but the annual cost seemed prohibitive. It was believed that other groups used this and we would contact the national group secretary about the position of this. Articles in local newspapers was another possibility.

7. Election of officers

The following officers were elected.

Chair – Jo Alport

Secretary/ Walks Secretary – Ken Falconer

Treasurer – Jane Macleod

Challenge Events – Iain Barclay

Committee Members – Donald Macleod, Karl Zaczek, Jennifer Smith

Thanks were expressed to the committee members over the past year, and in particular to Richard Newell who had been group chair since the group's foundation in 2012.

6. Any other business

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