

Heart of Scotland LDWA Group

Annual General Meeting for 2024 - Minutes

1:15pm on 19 January 2025 at the Battle of Bannockburn Visitor Centre, Stirling

1. Attendance

11 members were present; 6 apologies had been received.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM

The minutes of the 2023 AGM, held on 17 December 2023 were accepted, they may be found at <https://www.ldwa.org.uk/HeartOfScotland/W/6993/agmpapers.htm>

3. Report on the past year

A group social walk was held every month of 2024 with attendance ranging from 3 to 15, with an average of 7.0. The January walk 'Around Mid-Fife' attracted 15 members with numbers falling off in the autumn, which seems to be an annual trend. The monthly walks were spread across our area, and included an ascent of the Munro, Ben Vorlich.

A highlight of the year was the walking weekend in August, based at Aberfeldy and joint with North of Scotland group, with about 12 participants from the two groups. There was a lower level walk going west from the Birks of Aberfeldy on the Saturday, a social meal on Saturday evening, and ascent of Schiehallion on Sunday.

At the end of May the group supported the Speyside 100 organized by our neighbouring North of Scotland group. Three members were in the control team and about eight staffed the outdoor checkpoint at Tamdu at 71 miles along the route. Thanks to everyone who helped, including Ross whose piping encouraged walkers at the start and at the checkpoint.

Formally, the group now has 60 Primary Members (65 in 2023) and 261 Associate Members (whose primary affiliation is with another group) (256 in 2023). Notices of our activities are sent to all of these (except a few who do not have, or request not to receive, email).

4. Finance

The group holds no funds and therefore there are no accounts. The Treasurer is trying to set up a bank account, but is having considerable problems with bureaucracy in doing so. This is because the national organization wishes to give us a donation in recognition of our help with the Speyside 100, and also because it will be needed when we organize an event.

5. 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 difficult. As always, we welcome offers to lead walks. Five members between them led all the walks during the past 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. It was agreed that some of our walks should be at least in part wheelchair accessible to enable disabled members to participate.

Following the success of the hillwalking weekends in summers 2022-24, another joint weekend with the North of Scotland group is planned for Summer 2025 – Jo is liaising with the North of Scotland group about this – Tounmintoul has been suggested, but some members said that Granton on Spey would be a better centre from the points of view of walks and accommodation.

The meeting remains keen to put on a challenge event, and the new committee should actively discuss this. Dunkeld and Callander were suggested as possible bases.

The question of recruiting new members was discussed in the hope that we could get a few more members out on walks and as leaders. The Facebook page needs to be used more effectively and Jo said that she would investigate this. Articles in local newspapers were suggested particularly if eye-catching stories could be written. Getting posters printed for placing in appropriate locations (youth hostels, waiting rooms, etc.) with local group details would also be provide appropriate publicity.

Committee meetings should take place online every three months. It was suggested that all primary members should be notified of committee meetings so that they could attend if they wished.

6. Election of officers

The following officers were elected.

Chair – Jo Allport

Secretary/ Walks Secretary – Ken Falconer

Treasurer – Jane Macleod

Committee Members – Dougie Allport, Iain Barclay, Chris Feeney, Angela Johnston, Donald Macleod, Andy Painter, Liz Painter.

7. Resolution

The following resolution was proposed by Ken Falconer and seconded by Jo Allport.

That Clause 6.9 of the Heart of Scotland LDWA Constitution be amended by adding the words “or in the January immediately following” so as to read:

6.9. The Committee shall convene an Annual General Meeting of the Group during December each year *or in the January immediately following*. The time and venue shall be notified to members through appropriate channels which shall include e-mail, the Group’s website and (provided publishing schedules permit) Strider at least 42 days before the date of the meeting.

The rationale for this was that it had been found in recent years that many regular members and committee members were unavailable in the run up to Christmas and a quorum was uncertain, whereas January did not have such problems. Indeed, two AGMs in recent years had been postponed to January. This amendment allowed more flexibility.

The resolution was carried by 10-1 (the ‘1’ preferred March or April).

Thanks were expressed to the committee members and walk leaders for their contributions over the past year.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 2:00pm.

KJF 19/1/2025