

# Heart of Scotland LDWA Group

## Annual General Meeting for 2025 - Minutes

1:30 on 11 January 2026 held online due to extensive MetOffice weather warnings

### **1. Attendance**

13 members were present.

### **2. Minutes of the previous AGM**

The minutes of the 2024 AGM, held on 19 January 2025 were accepted, they may be found at <https://ldwa.org.uk/lgt/downloads/HeartOfScotland/HofS-2024Minutes.pdf>

### **3. Annual Report of the Committee**

A group social walk was held every month of 2025 except December (which was called off because of bad weather) with attendance ranging from 4 to 16, with an average of 7.3 walkers. The August walk, taking in Ben Ledi, attracted 16 participants. The monthly walks were spread across our area, ranging from the Whangie in the west to the Fife Lomond Hills in the east.

A highlight of the year was the walking weekend in September joint with the South of Scotland and North of Scotland groups, based at Grantown on Spey and with a total of about 15 participants from the three groups. There was a social meal on Saturday evening.

Seven members between them led all the walks during the past year which was more than previous years. As always, we welcome offers to lead walks.

Formally, the group now has 67 Primary Members (60 in 2024) and 274 Associate Members (whose primary affiliation is with another group) (261 in 2024). Notices of our activities are sent to all of these (except a few who do not have access to email, or request not to receive group emails).

### **4. Statement of Accounts and Independent Examiner's Report**

In anticipation of our challenge walk, an account was opened with the Bank of Scotland in May with a starting income of £515. The balance at the end of our financial year (which runs 1 December – 30 November) was £489.08 with expenditure (entirely bank charges) of £25.92 and £15 due back to the Treasurer. In early January 2026 a bank account was opened with Royal Bank of Scotland which levies no charges and the funds will shortly be transferred to that account.

A satisfactory report had been received from an Independent Examiner. The accounts were accepted. The question of whether it was normal for local groups to pay a fee to their independent examiner was raised.

## **5. Appointment of Independent Examiner**

It was agreed to approach the same person to be Independent Examiner for the year 1st December 2025 to 30 November 2026.

A question was asked as to whether a payment should be made to the Independent Examiner to put the role on a more formal basis. Several members expressed the view this was unnecessary for a small group given the size of the funds. It was agreed that the appointment of the Independent Examiner should be confirmed in a letter. Also an enquiry will be made to the National LDWA Treasurer to ascertain the normal arrangements by local groups.

## **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, Angela Johnston, Andy Painter, Liz Painter, Louise Rawlings, Alison Sefton.

It was noted that committee meetings take place online about four times each year.

## **7. Future plans**

We will continue our social walks programme, with 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. 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. Our policy is that some of our walks should be at least in part wheelchair accessible to enable disabled members to participate. We should continue to explore arranging joint social walks with other Scottish groups..

Organisation of the group's new challenge walk, the Trossachs Trundle to be held on Saturday 12th September are well under way. This is a 23 mile route that encircles Loch Venacher, starting and finishing at Callandar, with three intermediate checkpoints. Entries should be open by March. A subcommittee is progressing the arrangements for the event. We will need members to help in various ways, so please keep the date clear. It was intimated that if this year's walk is successful then the walk might be repeated on an annual or biennial basis.

It was felt that, given the organisation required for the Trossachs Trundle, we would not take on the additional task of organising a joint Scottish local group weekend in summer 2026. However if another group offers to do so then members might be happy to participate.

## **8. Any Other Business**

The question of using social media by the group was raised. At present there is a closed WhatsApp group which group members can join by contacting the Chair. The Facebook page needs to be used more effectively for publicity and Louise agreed to look into this.

The South of Scotland group's new event, the Peebles Pootle with distances of 27.6 and 16.4 miles, will take place on Saturday May 30th. Our group has been asked to help run a checkpoint, probably at Traquair Village Hall, including serving hot food, and volunteers are needed for this. There will be a Marshals' Walk for helpers on May 9th.

The South of Scotland group is celebrating its 40th Anniversary with a 26 mile walk in the Pentland Hills on Sunday April 26th, starting at 9:30am at the Flotterstone Inn. (This follows the route of the first challenge walk put on by the group.) The walk will be followed by a social event at the Flotterstone Inn. Heart of Scotland members are warmly invited to join the walk and social.

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 1:28pm.

KJF 11/1/2026