

Minutes of LDWA London Group 2020 Annual General Meeting

18:30 Wednesday 12th February 2020

King and Queen pub, 1 Foley Street, London, W1W 6DL

Present: Ali Pretty, Gavin Fuller, Colin Saunders, Cathy Phillips, John Elrick, Gail Elrick, Lonica Vanclay, Ian Watson, Ken Fancett, Chris Blackwell, Douglas Robinson, Pete Colley, Marita Sanders, Paul Lawrence, Gordon Parker, Christopher Hedley, Adam Dawson, Dave Williams, Ron Williamson, George Johns, Jean O'Reilly, Marie Heracleous, Minna Graeber, Keith Lane, Marcus Duyzend, Susanne Waldschmidt, Ian Fairweather, Jeff Golland.

Apologies: Paul Tilley, Barry Arnold, Peter Alymer, Nigel Barraclough, Rod Smith, Julie Welch

1. Minutes and Matters Arising from 2019AGM

<https://www.ldwa.org.uk/London/W/6390/agm-2019-minutes.html>

The minutes were agreed. Matters arising:

- strider deadlines had been moved back two weeks and more flexibility was agreed for the amount of detail needed on walks listed in Strider;
- someone was needed to lead a project on communications;
- London walking networks – Chris Hedley was leading.

2. Secretaries' report: LDWAL20-10

Jeff explained trends in membership numbers. The national membership secretary had been busy dealing with a surge in new members and a creaking IT system and so had not had time to provide a geographical analysis of London membership. Adam agreed to provide this.

Susanne raised the problem of LDWA emails being treated as spam or junk. Unfortunately there was currently way to correct this from the LDWA-end of the process.

3. Treasurer's report and accounts: LDWAL20-10, LDWAL20-9

Pete presented the report. Susanne appreciated the donation for the London group helpers at the 100 challenge event

The meeting ratified Ron as Independent Examiner and approved the accounts.

4. Motion to:

- a) **donate £2,500 to National for IT renewal fund;**

The meeting approved this unanimously.

b) adopt a Challenge Event Levy on non-Member entrants to contribute to IT fund going forwards.

The meeting approved the motion with one abstention.

Pete introduced the motion by explaining the points in document LDWAL20-8. He emphasised the great job being done by LDWA National to keep the ageing computer systems running. He explained that National could not demand funds from local groups; any donations would be entirely voluntary. The proposal for the one-off donation represented about half of London group's reserves but would still leave sufficient reserves to meet all realistic potential demands on funds.

Pete explained the high cost of producing and posting Strider. National would save money if people who don't need a paper copy of Strider were to opt out of receiving hard copies of the magazine by contacting the LDWA Membership Secretary.

The levy would be introduced from this year's Founders' Challenge.

Douglas pointed out that in the past it was difficult to find ways to spend money so welcomed the proposal on something that was very much needed rather than just nice to have.

Douglas asked whether on-going money would be needed to keep a revamped system going. Answer was yes: it is a long-term project.

In discussion of the levy the inclusion of runners in LDWA events was commented on and the need to give priority to LDWA members in over-subscribed events.

5. Walk Secretary's report: LDWAL20-12

Marie presented her report. General message was that there were good numbers on walks and there had only been one weekend without a London group walk. Walks not listed in Strider did not in general have fewer participants.

More leaders were needed to maintain the variety of walks.

Gail asked for more evening walks in summer as this attracted a wider range of participants. Pete reported that he was planning a number of these.

One leader observed that putting a lot of effort into planning new routes on less trod paths does not necessarily attract many participants.

The meeting thanked Marie for her hard work and the committee noted that it would soon have to start thinking about a replacement.

6. Capital Challenge report: LDWAL20-11, LDWAL20-14, LDWAL20-15

Jean thanked everyone in the room for supporting the capital challenge, particularly Susanne who had done so much work on the new routes.

GPS tracking was needed on the marshals walk so that the information can be made available to the challenge walk participants. Ken volunteered.

Jean noted that a continuing risk to the financial viability of the Capital Challenge was the use of royal parks and borough parks for which no charge was currently made. The parks have been kept informed of our plans. One year a park ranger asked questions during the event but it did not lead to any problems.

Jean asked for a few more marshals for this year's event.

Draft certificates for the new routes had been circulated and Jean asked for comments on them and names for the new routes. Susanne noted that the mileage information on the draft certificates needed to be changed and proposed "Windmill Walk" as the name for the 2020 event.

Susanne thanked Douglas, Gordon, Jean, Adam, Rod, Pete and Colin in planning the new routes.

The meeting thanked Jean for her excellent work in planning and running the event.

7. Founders' Challenge report: LDWA20-16

Gordon introduced the report of the 2019 Founders' Challenge. There was much positive feedback about the new route. It was disappointing that there were a lot of no-shows: people who had booked and paid but did not turn up on the day. Gordon thanked the marshals and Christine Ketteringham who had organised the catering for the last time.

Chris Blackwell reported on the planning of the 2020 event. At the end of March he would undertake a review of what still needed to be done in time for a report to the next committee meeting. There would be few changes from last year, with perhaps a diversion to the memorial tree.

8. Webmaster's report: LDWAL20-13

Gavin summarised the main statistics in his report. The walks programme was the most viewed part of the web-site. Leaders were generally reliable in providing walk reports.

Gavin will look into any ideas from members for changes to the web-site.

9. Communications project

Pete introduced the idea of producing a communications matrix to list the different ways the LDWA communicates with its members and other organisations. The task of doing this thoroughly would require a volunteer with some experience of such work. Nobody present volunteered.

Action: Ali to write advert after Treasurer has been found.

10. Project 50 (celebrating LDWA's 50th year in 2022)

The meeting noted that LDWA national would be asking local groups to undertake events to mark the LDWA's 50th anniversary. The chair asked members to propose ideas.

11. London Group's 25th

Colin noted that this year was the 25th anniversary of the creation of the LDWA London Group. The first AGM was held at Tanner's Hatch YH in September 1995 attended by 12 members. Colin is planning to lead a walk on 10th September, and suggested a walk and an event on the 12th, to celebrate the anniversary. To be discussed further at next committee meeting.

12. Social events

Ian reported on plans for a weekend away on 21st June walking along the south coast; a walk in the Netherlands "The four days marches" on 21 to 24 July 2020; and a first aid (CPR) course for walk leaders that would be funded by the Group.

Further details will follow.

13. Links to other walking organisations and events

Chris Hedley reported on a meeting he had attended that aimed to coordinate activity to get more money into walking. Six organisations were involved: LDWA; Ramblers; Council for the Protection of Rural England (London branch); London Living Streets; London Festival of Walking; and London National Park City. Chris would attend the next meeting in March.

Chris was hoping to create a database of walks in London and asked members to provide him with details of walking routes together with the relevant GPS data.

Ali spoke about LDWA being a campaigning organisation and noted that the UK led the world in metropolitan walking. Ali sought LDWA support for a series of walks on coastal paths in 2021 called the "Beach of Dreams" which would seek funding from the Arts Council.

Ali volunteered to chair a working group to promote the LDWA's interaction with other walking organisations and events.

14. Committee appointments

The meeting noted that the treasurer post would be vacant after the meeting. Arrangements would be made to ensure that London group could continue to make financial transactions but it was necessary, under the London Group constitution, to have a committee member who was treasurer in time for the committee meeting in

April. The treasurer did not need to have accountancy skills as there was a volunteer to keep track of the book keeping and prepare accounts

Action: Ali to arrange for a fresh advert for the treasurer post describing how the role could be split if necessary.

Pete conducted the voting for the following nominations

Post	Nomination	Proposer	Seconded
Chair	Ali Pretty	Gordon Parker	Douglas Robinson
Treasurer			
Job-share secretary	Minna Graeber	Cathy Phillips	Jeff Golland
Job-share secretary	Barry Arnold	Jeff Golland	Cathy Phillips
Walk secretary	Marie Heracleous	Pete Colley	Jeff Golland
Newsletter editor	Julie Welch	Marie Heracleous	Jeff Golland
Web-master	Gavin Fuller	Jeff Golland	Cathy Phillips

All were agreed.

15. Other roles – for the record

Post	Nomination
Social Secretary	Ian Fairweather
Capital Challenge organiser	Jean O'Reilly
Founders' Challenge organiser	Chris Blackwell
Communications project	Vacant

16. AOB

Susanne would be seeking volunteers for the 2020 100 that would head north from Chepstow.

Paul Lawrence planned a walk along Offa's Dyke that would follow the 100.

Colin planned special walk on May 16th to honour founders. It would visit the memorial tree and be about 16 miles.