

Norfolk & Suffolk LDWA
Draft Minutes of AGM on 21st May 2023 at Hoxne Village Hall

To be approved at the 2024 Annual General Meeting

Present: Chelle Armour, Jane Audsley, Fran Bedding, Robert Bilbie, Hayley Calver, Jayne Cook, Simon Hodgin, Katie Hunt, Malcolm Hunt, Jon Inett, David Lindars, Hilary Magnall, Ray Orman, Roger Osborne, Yvonne Osborne, Ron Richardson, Martin Watson

Apologies: Andy Dack, Sue Mobbs, Martin Pooley

The meeting started at 13.33

1. Approval of minutes of the 2022 AGM

The meeting agreed that the Minutes of the AGM on 29th May 2022, previously circulated by email, were a true record.

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

2. Chairman's Report (Hilary Magnall)

Hilary opened by thanking all the committee for their hard work and support during her first year as Chair.

It has been a difficult time for the Group with the passing of Simon. In Hilary's words, "We all have memories of him and I do not need to say how much he is missed." There will be a memorial walk from Ashes Farm on Saturday 24th June; Dianne and family should hopefully be joining us for part of the walk.

In 2022 we had 68 walks and so far this year 28. Hilary thanked Jane for her work as Walks Secretary and the walk leaders. We have had many new leaders in this last year which is really pleasing to see, so a special thank you to you. Thanks also to Yvonne and Roger who led the walk for us today.

Since last year's AGM we have run the Summer Poppyline and Flower of Suffolk last year and the Daffodil Dawdle in March this year. Before the end of the year we will also have the Summer Poppyline and Flower of Suffolk, so the Tri-Anglian challenge is also possible in 2023. A very big thank you is given to all the event organisers and marshals that have made these events possible. In 2025 we are holding the East Anglian 100 at the end of May, a huge undertaking. Katie's report as Hundred committee chair is coming up.

Financially the club is in a healthy position. We plan to spend some of our reserves on new event equipment and banners; also on First Aid and food hygiene training for marshals. There has been comments questioning the level of our reserves as a not for profit organisation. Entry fees were increased as insurance against cancellation because of Covid, this will be discussed at our next committee meeting.

Hayley was thanked for all her hard work in organizing the new club bespoke kit range.

Robert was thanked for his efficient work as Treasurer over the past 7 years and was given a small gift as a token of the group's appreciation.

Martin Pooley was thanked for auditing the accounts again.

Susanna Smart has decided to stand down and was thanked for her services on the committee.

Finally thanks to all of you for attending today.

3. Treasurers Report (Robert Bilbie)

For the full financial statement for the year ending 31st December 2022 see Appendix 1.

Robert presented the accounts (1st January to 31st December 2022) that had been audited by Martin Pooley. The final balance was £10,920.40, an increase in reserves of £3,217.24 from last year. Income came from the group running 4 challenge events last year instead of normally 3. There had been some reinvestment from proceeds with the healthy bank balance giving insurance against possible event cancellations.

4. EA100 Report (Katie Hunt)

The Norfolk and Suffolk group have been awarded the 100 event in 2025. It is fantastic for the group to be able to host people from all over the country in the “flagship” event. It will take place on the late May Bank Holiday weekend. The event had been in the planning since 2021 and Katie praised the fantastic 100 committee.

The event is now to be called “The East Anglian 100”. Chelle has been working hard on a route to showcase the area to people; some of who may not have visited Suffolk before. Michael has been busy also booking the checkpoint venues.

The event HQ will now be Ipswich School Sports Centre, Rushmere.

Chelle then gave an outline of the places to be visited on the route.

Katie then asked the meeting to imagine the scale of the event and gave a list of examples where help would be needed.

LDWA groups from around the country have already volunteered to man the checkpoints for us and Katie appealed for as many N&S members as possible to put themselves forward to help in any way. Volunteers do not have to be LDWA members so friends and family, who would be willing to help in any way, are welcome. Also Katie appealed for contact details of any organisations that may have mini buses or vans that they are willing to hire for the event.

The marshal’s event would be held on the early May Bank Holiday would also need volunteers for HQ, checkpoints, food and transport. We cannot rely on other groups for their help quite so much on this event.

Katie closed with “This is a fantastic opportunity to put our group on the 100 map as this will be the first time the 100 event has come to the East Anglia region in over 50 years; we want to put on a great event with a huge Norfolk and Suffolk welcome.”

5. Election of Officers

Robert Bilbie stood down as Treasurer but was willing to remain as a committee member and Susanna Smart resigned from the committee.

There was no nomination for the committee member vacancy so the committee would be reduced to nine members in the immediacy.

Hilary Magnall and Ray Orman were willing to continue in their existing roles.

Re-election of Committee Members: Chelle Armour, Hilary Magnall, Ray Orman, Jayne Cook, Robert Bilbie, Jane Audsley, Simon Hodgkin, Jon Inett, Hayley Calver.

Proposed: Hilary Magnall, Seconded: Ron Richardson

Re-election of officers:

Chairman – Hilary Magnall

Secretary – Ray Orman

Proposed: Martin Watson, Seconded Chelle Armour

Election of new officer:

Treasurer - Jon Inett

Proposed: Hilary Magnall, Seconded: Ray Orman

6. Appointment of the Auditor

Robert confirmed Martin Pooley was prepared to continue auditing the accounts.

7. Approval of the revised N&S Constitution document

Hilary, in particular, and Ray had spent time during the year on bringing the Group Constitution up to date. The revised constitution had been made available for viewing to all members prior to the meeting. The document had also been submitted to the National Executive for their acceptance as required. It was approved by them with a couple of minor changes to bring it into line with their standard model. The motion “That the revised Constitution of the Norfolk and Suffolk group be adopted.” was carried.

Proposed: Ray Orman, Seconded: Simon Hodgkin

8. Charity Donations

No prior nominations had been made; the following were taken at the meeting.

Four were raised and each attendee was given two votes in the poll.

Charity	Nominee	Votes
River Gipping Trust	Hilary Magnall	10
Through the Wall	Fran Bedding	6
Historic Churches Trust	Chelle Armour	8
Diabetes UK	Jayne Audsley	7

This resulted in this year’s donation being split equally between the River Gipping Trust and the Historic Churches Trust

9. Date of the next meeting

On 12th May 2024 – with the venue to be agreed.

10. AOB

Martin as President stated how pleased he was that the club is doing fantastic and hoped that we can continue to prosper.

The meeting discussed the erecting a memorial for Simon, possibly a bench, somewhere on the Rodent Wriggle route.

Martin also suggested that we hold an annual memorial walk in future using one of Simon’s past routes.

Meeting closed at 14:04