



North of Scotland LDWA committee meeting

Thursday 2nd November 2023 7.00pm

Attendees: Graham Smith (GS) Alison Collins (AC) Bea Jefferson (BJ) Pete Mitchell (PM) Lorna Sproates (LS) Stewart Nelson (SN) Jan Adamson (JA) Mick Banks (MB) Julie Cribb (JC) John Henderson (JH)

Apologies:

Chair: GS
Recorded by: AC

Agenda:
 Committee update
 Membership update
 Treasurers update
 Social walks
 Christmas meal... Deposit
 Laich O'Moray 50 .. non-starter fees and review
 Group merchandise
 Speyside 100 update
 Challenge events
 Joint walking weekend with the Heart of Scotland group
 AOB,
 Date and time of next meeting.

Agenda		Action Items	who	when	Status	Comment
1	GENERAL					
	Minutes	The minutes of the meeting from 02.10. 23 were accepted with no matters arising.			accepted	
	Committee update	All 'notification of changes' for committee members have been done from the recent AGM. PM has updated the web site to reflect these changes				

2	Membership	We now have 112 members. Of the Primary members 1x International. 27 x family. GS reported that there are 3 more folks joining. We have 25 members joining this year.	AC			
3	Treasures update	Current status £1938.00	LS			
	Account	All of the Laich O'Moray expenses have been paid £581 for halls etc. £647.59 for food and other expenses. £395 for flags and £20 for Edinkillie hall for the AGM. We received £2459 from entry fees.				
4	Social walks	PM has sent out an email with a spread sheet for 2024 walks. He is looking for walk leaders to fill in the gaps. PM is keen to encourage walks outside the Moray area. LS would like to be added to the walks leaders list. PM will send out an email to encourage members to be 'Path finders' to encourage involvement and potential walk leaders.	PM		On going	PM to add LS to walk leader list. PM to sent out an email to encourage member to be 'Path finders'
5	Christmas walk.. Deposit	MB has organised a meal at The Bandstand in Nairn on Sunday 17 th December. There was then some discussion with LS about how the deposit should be paid. The Bandstand have asked for a 20% deposit. It was decided that members who book on would choose their menu and then pay for their choices in full to our LDWA account by Bank transfer. LS said that members would have to reference their payment with their name. MB said that all members would need to book on before 11.12.2023 when the deposit would need to be paid and choices given to The Bandstand. AC to send out an email with all the menu choices and the bank details, sort code and account number on the email.	MB			AC to send out an email about the Christmas walk and meal.
6	Laich O'Moray	GS thanked SN for organising such an enjoyable event. SN reported that he had received many positive comments.				

<p>Non-starter fees</p>	<p>There were 12 non starters. SN reported that one of the non starters had suggested that his fees be donated to Mountain Rescue which is something that SN has discussed with 2 other non starters. There is no defined policy on SI entries regarding refunds. SN said that it would be good PR for our LDWA if this donation was made.</p> <p>JC said that in other challenge events if someone lets you know prior to the closing date then the fee would be refunded if there was cancellation insurance through SI entries. A lot of LDWA groups do make donations, these are agreed at the AGM.</p> <p>BJ said that at the Moray Walking Festival there is a detailed refund policy and they do not give donations. Their constitution outlines what they can and cannot do with their money.</p> <p>GS said that on one of the challenge events he has been involved with, a donation is made to the National Trust but this is agreed before the event.</p> <p>MB said that if an entry was made and the person could not participate then the entry was moved forward to the next event in a challenge event that he has been involved with.</p> <p>After the discussion it was decided that a donation would be made of £100 to Cairngorm mountain rescue. LS will make the donation. AC will send them an email. GS will write a piece for the local press.</p>	<p>SN</p>	<p>soon</p>	<p>On going</p>	<p>LS to make a donation of £100 to Cairngorm mountain rescue. AC to send them an email about it. GS to write something for the local press.</p>
	<p>LS asked how she could make sure that she had received the right amount of money from SI entries. LS has issues logging in to the system. JC will liaise with LS to try to solve this admin issue.</p> <p>SN suggested that he might be able to streamline this to make sure it is the correct amount.</p>	<p>LS</p>			<p>LS to liase with JC to sort this admin issue. SN to check.</p>

	<p>Review of Laich O'Moray</p>	<p>The Laich O'Moray was a great success, the feedback very positive. MB wanted to highlight 3 points; 1. Mandatory kit list. This is something that happens on Challenge events that he has been involved with. The kit list including waterproofs and space blankets for example. 2. Route change at Burghead. Due to the weather there was a route change in Burghead but this was not on the route description. The route needs to be safe in all weathers. JA explained that there was a bit of 'faffing about' in Burghead as people moved more quickly than anticipated. PM said that the checkpoint was put up 10 minutes late which caused some problems. JH said that the route should be permanently change so that it is safe in all weathers. PM reported that the clipper at the flood alleviation was not there which was on the route description. 3. Route Description. There needed to be a proper overhaul of the route description. PM said that is something that he would do now while it is fresh. GS commented on the style of the route description for most LDWA challenge events. GS will liaise with PM regarding this style.</p> <p>SN suggested that there needs to be a clearly stated refund policy in future and a mention about Kit in the SI entries.</p>	<p>MB</p>			<p>PM to do an overhaul of the route and route description.</p> <p>GS to liaise with PM about Style of route description</p> <p>Clearly stated refund policy and mention of Kit in the Si entries for the future.</p>
7	<p>Group Merchandise</p>	<p>JC and PM have been in communication about designs. JC said that PECO is often used for merchandise for the LDWA.</p> <p>Thought about; Colours, logo, words, map of area, which side for designs (left or right). PECO can send an example of what the garment will look like. Members can go on PECO and buy direct. There is a wide range of items. You can add an extra £1 or £1.50 to go into our LDWA account. A more complicated design and having a range of colours puts the price up.</p>	<p>JC</p>			<p>JC PM to liaise regarding design.</p>

		<p>There was then some discussion about members from the NoS group all wearing the same colour if they were volunteering on a Challenge event, for example manning a checkpoint.</p> <p>In summary the general consensus was that if we are manning a checkpoint or something like that then we all wear the same. If you are wanting something to walk in then you can choose you own colour.</p> <p>AC said that she thought that if volunteers were expected to wear the same clothes then NoS LDWA should provide them. SN concurred with this view.</p> <p>JA suggested that we offer smaller cheaper priced items like Buffs. That could be bought as presents.</p> <p>LS suggested plastic mugs with the logo on.</p> <p>JC will look at costs.</p>				
		<p>BJ suggested that we look into the environmental policies of PECO. Where they manufacture their items and what sustainability policies they have in place. JC has been working with someone (Sandra) who has very green credentials who has used the company so she thinks they will be eco friendly. JC will look into this aspect of the company.</p>				<p>JC to look into the environmental credentials of PECOS</p>
8	Speyside 100	<p>There is a separate organising committee for the Speyside 100. So this is a brief update.</p>	JC JH	On going		
	entries	<p>Entries opened 31.10.23 225 showing interest</p>				
	Volunteers	<p>70 volunteers so far and in addition checkpoints all manned by LDWA groups</p>				
		<p>JC explained that the Speyside 100 has to be re routed as permission for the previous was denied by the RSPB, Cairngorm National park Committee (CNPC) and Forestry Land Scotland (FLS). Checkpoints were cancelled and sadly some money was lost because of this.</p>				

		<p>A new route is being planned provisionally and proposals have been sent and responses are awaited from RSPB, CNPC and FLS.</p> <p>The new HQ is Boat of Garten with a proposed breakfast stop in Dufftown.</p> <p>JH talked about the development of the new route, hoping to create an enjoyable safe route where the sections in the dark are not dangerous. The development has been hampered by bad weather. He has route development supporters JC, Roger Boston and Ken and Isobel Falconer from the Heart of Scotland group. The route planning is going well apart from a section.. Glenlivet to Dufftown. Paths are shown on maps that do not exist, with fences and locked gates providing challenges.</p> <p>JH discussed the proposed new route.</p>				
		<p>JC asked if anyone knows Norman Thompson who wrote The Moray Way Companion, as JC is hoping that some quotes from his book (accredited) could be used to accompany the Speyside 100 information.</p> <p>BJ knows him and suggested that JC sends an email to BJ asking if this can be done and BJ would pass it on to him.</p>	JC BJ		On going	JC to send an email via BJ to Norman Thomson .
9	Challenge events	<p>GS outlined his future vision for Challenge events. GS is aware that next year all focus is on the Speyside 100. So this is possibly for 2025.</p>	GS			
	30 mile challenge	<p>GS would like to liaise with the Heart of Scotland group and the South of Scotland Group and put on a challenge event every year. The groups working together to support each event.</p> <p>GS mentioned a Speyside 30 figure of 8, 15 mile loops starting at Nethybridge with a route, marshalls and checkpoints.</p> <p>JH suggested a coastal route, Forres to Cullen/Buckie when the tide is out due to potential issues with RSPB, CNPC and FLS.</p> <p>PM asked how active the groups South of Scotland and Heart of Scotland are.</p> <p>BJ said that the Heldon Hill 25 mile walk has been poorly attended and there is the Ghost train walk, so it would be good to look at timings of events so that they do not</p>				Look at timing of events so that do not clash.

		clash. GS mentioned the 'Dirty 30', walking festivals and the Golspie 3 peaks.				
	Tri Nation 50 mile challenge	JC and GS discussed this proposed event. A 50 mile event in Wales, England and Scotland. One event a year over 3 years in a different country. If completed you would get a Tri Nation certificate and badge. So we would host the Laich o'Moray every 3 years as part of the Tri Nation event.			On going	
10	Joint walking weekend HoS	GS said that there will be a Joint walking weekend with the Heart of Scotland group in Aberfeldy on the 17/18 th August 2023. South of Scotland LDWA will also be invited. There will be low level and a mountain walk over the weekend. A group meal on the Saturday night.	GS			
11	AOB					
	Gpx files of prosed speyside 100	JH will send out Gpx files to PM to have a look at the proposed new route, particularly the section Glenlivet to Dufftown.	JH			
	Martin Greaves fund	BJ asked about the status of the application for training from the Martin Greaves fund. JC said that all applications were approved on 24.20.2023 so should be hearing soon.	BJ			JC to follow this up
	Resignation	SN resigned from the committee. This will be his last appearance. He felt that due to his geographical location it was difficult for him to join social walks. He is willing to help in challenge events. PM asked him if would like to lead walks in the Aboyne area, which he agreed. PM will add him to the walk leader list. SN agreed to find out if Andrew Thacker was going to the Christmas meal. GS Thanked SN for all his work on the committee.	SN			PM to add SN to the walk leader list.

	Walking Festival	GS has asked JA to put on a walk at next years Inverness Walking and Wheeling Festival.	GS			
	Previous walk	JC said that a previous LDWA walk was held in April 2016 around Dufftown which may be of interest to JH.	JC			
12	Date and time of next meeting	Thursday 11th January 2024 at 7 pm				