



North of Scotland LDWA committee meeting

Thursday 16th April 2026 7.00pm (on Whatsapp video call)

Attendees: Rikky Beck (RB) Pete Mitchell (PM) Lorna Sproates (LS) Bea Jefferson (BJ) Ros Wright (RW) Alison Collins (AC) John Henderson (JH) Jan Adamson (JA) Roger Boston (RB) and Guest Mark Wallingham (MW)

Apologies: Karen Meikle (KM)

Chair: RB
Recorded by: AC

Agenda:

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising
3. Membership update
4. Treasurer's report
5. Social walks report
6. Challenge events Laich o'Moray
- 7 Facebook
- 8 . LDWA option for email and teams meetings
- 9 .Feedback from AGM
- 10 .Feedback from April Local Groups meeting
 - Social walks guidance consultation
 - Volunteer annual awards
 - Local Group weekend 1st weekend in November
 - First Aid course... applying for Martin Greaves funding
 - Allergy and food hygiene courses
 - New Digital platform- Webmaster
- 11.AOB
- 12.Date and time of the next meeting

	who	when	Status	Comment
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1	Apologies	RB Welcomed everyone. Apologies noted as above.	RB			
2	Minutes of last meeting/ matters arising	Matters Arising from last meeting; LS to check if accounts have been signed off. RB to be added as a signatory to bank account.	AC		On going	LS to check if accounts have been signed off. RB to be added as a signatory
3	Membership update	We now have 114 members	AC			
4.	Treasurers update	Ballance is £3260 . This includes £555 from SI Entries. Half the entry fees for the Laich o’Moray so far. Includes 3 lots of £12 from those members going on the Gaich pass walk.	LS			
5	Social walks report	BJ had shared the social walk plan as it currently stands on WhatsApp. So far in 2026 there have been 5 walks and attendance has not been great. The programme going forward has lots of variety. BJ went through the programme. RB said that since a walk that PM was putting on went through the Chalamain Gap in June she would not put on her suggested Chalamain Gap walk. There is a gap in July and ? Covesea lighthouse walk will be put on. JH suggested a date July 19 th as the only suitable tide day. JH will check ? visit to the lighthouse if that is ok. JA may put on a Cawdor cafe walk in Nov or Dec BJ said that anyone is welcome to put on walks, please feel free to suggest anything.	BJ			JH to investigate the covesea lighthouse walk. RB to think of an alternative walk.
6	Challenge event	Laich O’Moray PM had sent out information by email to all committee members regarding budgeting and volunteer rota.	PM JH			PM and JH to keep us informed

		PM reported that we have 31 participants so far. 10 for the 30 mile and 21 for the 50 mile. A mix of members and non-members. PM has updated the volunteer rota. PM is looking for a sub group to look after the catering. BJ and JA were willing to be part of this group. JA had been in contact with Julie Cribb and she has sent on catering spread sheets. JH suggested that Julie Cribb, given the wealth of her experience would be a good contact. JH and PM have been working on the recces for both routes and the route descriptions. There are still minor changes to forest sections to be checked out. JH reported that is still waiting for permission from the Forestry& Land Scotland, who are charging £110 to process our application. All the checkpoints are booked and some forms will need to be filled in soon and deposits paid. RB suggested that we need to promote the event more as we need 50 participants to break even. JA has updated the risk assessment and Version 3 has been circulated. There was some discussion about a Booker card. BJ will investigate on our behalf.				Sub-group for catering needed PM will email members about this BJ to do some research about getting a booker card.
7	Facebook	MW has started posting on Facebook on behalf of our group. He has shared posts on our and other Facebook pages, about completed walks, future walks and our challenge event. He has also posted on What's on sites. He requested that walk leaders ask if images are ok to be shared on social media. He is happy to post. Please let him know. RW suggested that MW posts the challenge event on Moray road runners and Nairn road runners. PM suggested that MW post the challenge walk on the main LDWA Facebook page. LS suggested we post on Instagram. MW suggested that physical copies of the poster be put up. MW will put one up in Forres swimming pool and Moray Leisure centre. PM suggested that we purchase a Laser Printer. MW suggested that reboot might be a good place to look for one. JA might be able to get one for us.				All walk leaders to ask at the beginning of walks if any images taken are ok to be shared on social media. Laser Printer ? PM / JA to research.

8	LDWA option for emails and teams	The LDWA has given groups the choice of 3 user licenses (for email), one of which is ‘business basic’ which provides administrator use of Sharepoint and teams. Or to continue to have 4 LDWA mailboxes. It was suggested by AC that we go for the ‘business basic’ option and that BJ and AC share this mailbox. Walks email can be directed to the secretary account. All agreed with this				AC to inform IT that we will go with the Option of a ‘business basic’ license by April 30 th .
9	Feedback from AGM	RB attended the LDWA AGM She put forward the idea that a paper version of Strider be an ‘opt-in’ rather than an ‘opt-out’ for members. It was felt by some that the paper copy helped to encourage engagement with the LDWA . RB reported that walking levels in our group were the same as others	RB			
10	Feedback from April Local groups meeting	AC attended the Local Groups ‘teams meeting’ on 14th April. Some relevant feedback; Social walks guidance consultation Following the Local Groups weekend Penny Southern (Volunteer Support Officer) said there was a small group looking at the social walks policy and guidance which was thought to be overcomplicated and could put potential walk leaders off. There is consultation process on-going and BJ is part of that. Volunteer annual awards If anyone would like to be part of a group looking at the revamp of the volunteer awards please let AC know and she will put you in contact with Penny Southern. Local Group weekend 1st weekend in November There will be a Local Group weekend in Nottingham. The NEC usually pay for this. First Aid course... applying for Martin Greaves funding Our first aiders are BJ, RB, RB,AC and members Samantha Richard, Dianne Saywack and Jo Cowie. The certificates run out in October 2027. AC wondered how long it took for the Martin Greaves funding to come through, BJ said it was several months. AC suggested an application be made early in 2027 for first aid courses, in order to renew. Allergy and food hygiene courses Allergy and food hygiene training for challenge events.	AC			AC to contact NEC IT to inform them that LS is willing to test out the new website.

		There are 2 courses that they recommend are completed for all checkpoint leads. The allergy course is free. The level 2 food safety and hygiene course costs £12. The NEC will pay for 2 people from each group to complete the course. It was suggested if the courses were done that this could be added to the risk assessment for challenge events. It was decided that the catering sub -group would make the decision about who would be best placed to go on these courses. MW said that as checkpoint lead for Lossiemouth (where hot food is served) he would be happy to do the courses. New Digital platform- Webmaster The new digital platform will be launched soon and at the meeting it was suggested that the each group have a ‘webmaster’ to help with migration to the new web site. PM agreed to be part of this. RB said that they were looking for volunteers to test the new platform. LS agreed to do this.				
11	AOB	AC Thanked Mark for all he is doing for our group and asked him if he would like to be more involved in the committee. He declined the offer as he is very busy. AC felt that the camping facilities offered for the Laich o’Moray should be more prominent as having to source accommodation could be putting people off entering. JA Asked if there was ever likely to be more than 200 people in HQ for the challenge event, if there are then you have to put in place an evacuation plan. PM said that there will not be more than 200 people. JA talked about data protection. Permission to take photos, WhatsApp etc. AC said that all new members are invited to join our WhatsApp groups, some do but most do not. BJ said that emergency contact information collected by walk leaders should be deleted after the walk. BJ said that ICE tags are being used for the Moray Walking and Outdoor Festival. These are kept on the outside of the rucksack. Allergies and medical conditions can be written on these and they can be used if needed. BJ will let us know how this goes.				PM to ask about allergies on the pre event email.

[illegible]