



North of Scotland LDWA committee meeting

Thursday 20th March 2025 7.00pm (on teams)

Attendees: Pete Mitchell (PM) Lorna Sproates (LS) John Henderson (JH) Bea Jefferson (BJ) Ros Wright (RW) Alison Collins (AC) Graham Smith (GS)

Apologies: Julie Cribb (JC) Jan Adamson (JA) Roger Boston (RB) Karen Meikle (KM)

Chair: PM
Recorded by: AC

Agenda:

1. Apologies
2. Committee update/matters arising
3. Membership update
4. Treasurers update
5. Social walks
6. Challenge events
 - Coast to Coast
 - Laich O'Moray
7. Annual Joint Walking weekend
8. Mugs
9. First Aid Update
10. Feedback from Bi-monthly Feb meeting
- Emails
- Social walks register
- Annual data protection form
- Lean Project
- next bi-monthly meeting 8th April volunteer needed
11. Facebook admin
12. Request for start time at 10.00am
13. No zoom or teams ... way forward for meetings
14. AOB
15. Date and time of next meeting.

			who	when	Status	Comment
1	Apologies	PM Welcomed everyone. Apologies noted as above.	PM			
2	Committee update / matters arising	These will be discussed as we go through the Agenda	PM			
3	Membership update	107 members. We loose members every year at this time as people choose not to re join. We lost 16 members this year.	AC			
4	Treasures update	Current status £5982.61 Received £3672.50 from SI Entries Service charge £4.25 LS requested a breakdown of costs for the Coast to Coast. Still no card reader/card or password for PM. LS asked if PM could find the letter sent about this. LS is trying to add PM to the on-line banking account, BJ offered to assist LS with this after the meeting. LS explained if we use cheques or go into the bank to pay cash in there are charges. Encourage the use on on-line banking at all times and we are allowed 100 BACS transfers a month.	LS		On going	Awaiting card and reader for PM to use the bank account LS Requested a breakdown of costs for the Coast to Coast.
5	Social Walks	PM had sent an updated programme of walks by email before the meeting. No walks in Jan, 4 walks in Feb and walk registers have been done for those walks. Ideally walk reports and a GpX should be uploaded as well. PM discussed the AGM walk, AC suggested that this should be in the more central Inverness area. GS suggested Shelagh Walker be contacted regarding an AGM walk. This will be on Sat October 18th.	PM			AC to contact Shelagh walker about an AGM walk in the Inverness area

6	Challenge events					
	Coast to Coast	GS There are 200 plus entries, £35 for LDWA and £45 for non-LDWA. KM is sorting out the coaches and £1800 is to be paid on the week of the event...an invoice will be sent out. On Sunday April 20th JC, KM and GS will be going to Ullapool to look at arrangements for the start of the event. They will drive to the first checkpoint. JC is doing a risk assessment. There are 32 marshalls on the list so far they will be allocated various roles shortly. The marshalls' walk is on the 14th June and a mini-bus from Golspie has been booked for 16 people at a cost of £125. There will be a nominal charge for participants. JH had been to Ullapool and has been looking at start arrangements. There is a very wide promenade which could be a starting area, when you first come into Ullapool on the left hand side. Then participants would cross the road to the North. There is a Ferry at 10.45am so it is not feasible for the coaches to drop off in the ferry car park. Coaches could drop off by the fish and chip shop. There are toilets behind the ferry car parking area. PM suggested a staggered start. GS will recce on the 20th April. LS asked about the budget, how much to expect from SI Entries. Jo Cowie is involved in the catering.	GS			
	Laich O'Moray	JC is now the Challenge Event Co-ordinator. She is happy to organise the Laich O'Moray this year. PM had contacted the NEC with a view to putting on a minimal support challenge walk, but this was thought not to be the spirit of the LDWA. There was some discussion about the date, the 13/14th September was thought to be a good choice by PM and GS as more daylight and the tides had been checked by JH and were good for that weekend. BJ discussed the Moray Way Association arts project. An artist had done lots of sketches of the LO'M walk. He had walked 30 miles of it with BJ and did try the remaining 20 miles. The BBC outdoors radio would like to do a piece about the L O'M possibly in April. BJ will then have an opportunity to publicise the event.	PM			

		GS is happy to contact local media to publicise the event.				
	Ghost to Coast	The Dava Way Ghost train walk will be overnight 21st/22nd June. PM is planning to do the Ghost train walk and then continue to Lossie then Elgin to make a 50 mile walk called Ghost to Coast.	PM			
7	The joint walking weekend	The joint walking weekend will be on the 27/28th September in Grantown -on -Spey. The Grant Arms hotel has been booked for a meal at 18.30 on the Saturday. RB has kindly agreed to plan, one mountain walk, one low level walk and an alternative walk in case of bad weather for the mountain day. South of Scotland, Heart of Scotland groups have both been invited.				
8	Mugs	It was decided that the cost of mugs using recycled plastic was too expensive. PM thought some members may want a porcelain mug to have at home. AC will look into this.	AC			AC to investigate prices of porcelain mugs.
9	First Aid	AC has produced checklists for the 3 small first aid kits. She has a list of items to buy for the larger one that will be used for Challenge events. AC will do this near to the CtC challenge event, due to expiry dates.	AC		On going	
10	Bi-minthly meeting feedback Emails Social walk registers Data protection Lean Project	Emails The LDWA is moving to business grade emails. 4 per group. There will be no more redirections, a proper in box where you log in. This expected to roll out in March/April. AC suggested the Chair, secretary, treasurer and social walks secretary have an email account. Social Walk Register The social walk register will be mandatory. PM said walk leaders should be informed. He worries that it might put folks off leading walks. AC will use it for the walk she is leading in April and feedback. PM requested that the register be sent to him by email. Annual Data Protection Form AC asked if anyone would like to be the Data protection officer for our group. We have to sign a form every year to say that we are complying with GDPR issues. The	AC			AC to send PM the social walks register by email.

		form is under review. PM suggested that we wait to see the form and review then. Lean Project A new research project 'Lean' will be funded by the Martin Greaves fund. Newcastle University are conducting the research with a view to improving the experience of future long distance walkers. Possibly in conjunction with Montane who organise the Spine Race. The next bi-monthly meeting is Tuesday the 8th April . PM will go.				PM to attend the bi-monthly meeting on Tuesday 8 th April
11	Facebook admin	PM and AC are now facebook admin.	PM			
12	Request for walk start time 10.00am	KM had requested by email that walks start time be at 10.00 so that folks travelling a long way do not have such an early start. PM suggested that for very long walks this may not be possible, Rafford VH cafe opens only from 10-12. It was agreed that walk leaders should be encouraged to start walks at 10.00 if possible.	AC			
13	No Teams or Zoom ... way forward	There will be no one with a zoom or a teams soon. PM suggested a face to face meeting with committee members from further away joining in on Whtasapp. This was not popular. AC suggested a teams meeting on Whatsapp, there will be a trial of this. The next meeting will be held on Whatsapp if the trial goes well, with a back-up teams meeting organised by BJ.	AC			
14	AOB	GS has kindly agreed to do one more newsletter. GS shared news that there is to be wind farm around Fryish monument.	GS			
15	Date and Time of Next meeting	Thursday 22nd May at 7pm on WhatsApp.				

[illegible]