

# **NORTH YORKSHIRE LDWA – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (Virtually via Zoom)**

## **Minutes**

**Thursday 11 March 2021 at 7.30pm**

### **Present**

Dave Jacques (Chair), Robert Cope, Lynn Hathaway, Bob Jowett, Jill King, Chris Leese, Jon & Wendy Leete, Andy Miller, Malcolm & Sue Reid, Caroline & Roger Wandless

Prior to opening the meeting each member briefly introduced themselves.

### **Opening Remarks**

Dave Jacques welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for turning up. Last year had been particularly difficult due to Covid, but Dave reflected that the Group had endured a number of “ups and downs” during his many years associated with it, and he remained optimistic that North Yorkshire LDWA would rise up again (Phoenix like) – just, for example, as it had 14 years ago when it had come very close to folding. Dave then handed proceedings over to Caroline who had kindly agreed to conduct the meeting.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Giselle Dudley

### **2. Minutes of the 2020 AGM**

These were unanimously agreed. Proposer: Robert Cope, Seconder: Bob Jowett

### **Note on the following Officers’ Reports**

Written reports had already been posted on the website before the meeting, and are also included as appendices to these minutes. The reports below therefore reflect only any specific additional comments made at the meeting or responses to questions raised.

### **3. Chair’s Report**

Dave had nothing to add to his opening remarks and there were no questions arising.

### **4. Secretary’s & Walk Secretary’s Reports**

Robert reiterated that we managed only 12 social walks throughout the entire year and sadly only 5 since the first lockdown in March.

Risk Assessment Documentation had proved unpopular with some walk leaders, but the NEC’s latest announcements on the possible re-commencement of social walks (no earlier than 12 April) would almost certainly include adherence to the same Covid-secure guidelines. Those leaders that had completed the risk assessment documentation had found it quite straightforward and not unduly onerous.

The sad folding of Cleveland Group resulted in some “DL” postcode members being reassigned to North Yorkshire. The net result being we now have 310 Primary members (243 one month ago) and 516 Associate members (609 one month ago).

## 5. Treasurer's / Financial Report

Roger commented that there were relatively few transactions throughout the year, though we did have some on-going costs such as the lock-up which we share with another Group. The closing balance is however somewhat flattered by approximately £1,500 worth of Kettlewell entries held over until 2022 (from the cancelled 2020 event).

Dave Jacques offered to continue as independent examiner of the financial accounts - though this had not yet been completed for last year's accounts due to Covid restrictions. Dave's re-appointment, together with a decision to defer the 2020 examination until the relevant restrictions permitted, were both unanimously agreed. Proposer: Wendy Leete, Seconder: Jill King.

## 6. Webmaster's Report

Robert remarked that all the website functions had appeared robust and reliable throughout the year. As no social walks would be published in the forthcoming April Strider our website, together with bulk emails, would most likely be the primary means of communication for our walks programme for the next few months at least.

Caroline concluded this part of the meeting by thanking all the Officer's for their contributions throughout the year.

## 7. Election of Officers

Our Constitution obliges all Officers and Members of the current Committee to automatically retire at the AGM. The following were then elected (or re-elected), as the case may be. All were elected unanimously.

Position	Name	Proposer	Seconder
Chair	Dave Jacques	Caroline Wandless	Roger Wandless
Group Secretary	Robert Cope	Dave Jacques	Wendy Leete
Treasurer	Roger Wandless	Malcolm Reid	Robert Cope
Walks Secretary	Lynn Hathaway	Robert Cope	Wendy Leete
Webmaster / IT	Robert Cope	Wendy Leete	Malcolm Reid
Committee Member	Wendy Leete	Roger Wandless	Jon Leete
Committee Member	Jon Leete	Robert Cope	Malcolm Reid
Committee Member	Malcolm Reid	Caroline Wandless	Dave Jacques
Committee Member	Caroline Wandless	Wendy Leete	Dave Jacques
Committee Member	Bob Jowett	Jon Leete	Roger Wandless
100s Coordinator	Caroline & Roger Wandless	Dave Jacques	Wendy Leete

## **8. AOB**

- 8.1. Caroline advised we have rolled-over our agreement to support the 2022 Vermuyden 100 at Wentworth check point, towards the end (80-90 miles). The Bank Holiday will be at the beginning of June, not the usual end of May.
- 8.2. Chris asked about the number of members who walked. Robert advised that in the 12 months to lockdown (March 2020) there were 118 different walkers, of which (perhaps) two thirds were North Yorks primary members. But a small number walked very frequently and a much larger number relatively infrequently.
- 8.3. Lynn said she was looking forward to joining the Committee and to her new role as Walks Secretary.
- 8.4. Bob enquired about the Kilburn Kanter. Roger advised that plans are proceeding and he has booked Kilburn, Cold Kirby and Hawnby village halls. Hesketh Hall may be a doubt due to a change of ownership but Boltby village hall is a potential alternative CP5. Not yet clear what Covid-secure guidelines may have to be adhered to and entries will not open before June. Consideration needs to be given to curtailing the number of no-shows which have gone up a lot in recent years.
- 8.5. Robert has received a number of NEC requests to promote other Groups' virtual/showcase events in our newsletters or bulk emails (e.g. North West Grampian's March virtual challenge). After some discussion it was agreed that for the time being at least we should focus primarily on either our own activities (e.g. our own social walks) or other neighbouring Groups' events where our members can realistically, legally and physically consider participation (Spring in Lakeland was cited as a relevant example).
- 8.6. Dave asked about The Kettlewell (2022). Andy/Roger advised that the halls are provisionally booked and 138 entries are held over from the original (but cancelled) 2020 event. Entries will not re-open until September earliest. Andy was confident that he will have all the necessary support in place nearer the time.

## **Closing & Date of Next Meeting:**

The meeting closed with Dave thanking everyone once again for attending and Caroline was thanked by all for managing proceedings so effectively.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 19 April at 7:30pm. By Zoom, Robert to host.

Robert Cope, Group Secretary  
16 March 2021



## **NORTH YORKSHIRE LDWA AGM CHAIR'S REPORT**

Thanks to everyone for all they have done over the last year, it has certainly been a strange one! We managed to hold North Yorkshire Group AGM in January and the National AGM in March, but one week later we ended up in lockdown because of the COVID-19 virus!!

Particular thanks go to:

Andy and Birgitte for all their work over the last few years.

And also to Robert for temporarily stepping in when Andy Ward resigned.

Now we need to look to the future and hope more of the North Yorkshire people wish to join us and possibly play active roles in the group.

David Jacques



## **NORTH YORKSHIRE LDWA AGM SECRETARY'S & WALKS SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The roles of Secretary and Walks Secretary were both held by Andy Ward throughout 2020. Andy, assisted by Birgitte Harvey, had occupied both roles for five years, but decided to stand down with immediate effect early in January 2021. Andy's and Birgitte's valued contributions to our extensive annual walks programme over this period are acknowledged and recognised here. I have agreed to take over both of these roles on an "acting basis" pending the outcome of the Committee elections at this AGM.

### **Group Social Walks:**

The social walks programme was severely disrupted throughout much of the year by Covid-19 lockdowns, restrictions and regional tiers, but in summary:

- 30 walks were planned and published on the website of which only 12 actually took place
- 7 different leaders actually led walks, comprising 105 participants
- Although not onerous, the requirement for a Risk Assessment for all group walks larger than six, proved a disincentive to put on additional walks even when they could have been held under NEC Covid-secure guidelines. This resulted in some "invitee only" group walks being organised outside the North Yorkshire LDWA programme and to the exclusion of the wider membership.

Thanks to those walk leaders and members who made every effort to contribute and participate within the necessary constraints and guidelines - and for their understanding when things changed.

### **Challenge Walks:**

Both the first Kettlewell Challenge and the annual Kilburn Kanter Challenge had to be cancelled due to Covid-19. The Kettlewell in particular had to be called-off at less than one week's notice resulting in much additional work by Andy Miller and Roger Wandless to notify entrants and minimise the financial impact of the cancellation.

### **Support for the Easingwold LDWA AGM (14 March):**

- Andy Miller, assisted by Robert Cope and Malcolm Reid, devised and led the 24-mile Beacon Banks "long walk" for 26 AGM attendees
- Caroline Wandless organised a coach trip and tour of York for a number of AGM attendees

Both activities were greatly appreciated by their respective participants and the LDWA NEC.

There are grounds for optimism that we may be able to re-commence group social walks in the not too distant future, and work on a provisional walks programme is underway. The support, patience and pro-active participation of all members and walk leaders is encouraged and will contribute to rebuilding momentum and a vibrant North Yorkshire LDWA Group.

Let's hope that 2021 marks a relaxation of current restrictions for our well-managed outdoor activities, and that we can get back to the social walking that we all enjoy.

**Robert Cope (Acting Secretary / Acting Walk Secretary) - 12 February 2021**



## **NORTH YORKSHIRE LDWA AGM TREASURER'S / FINANCIAL REPORT**

Very little activity since the previous AGM due to COVID restrictions. Breakdown is detailed on the next page.

Entrant refunds due to the postponements of The Kettlewell Challenge Walk have not put a burden on the group's finances & the event is expected not to run at a loss in March 2022.

The equipment store is secured until August 2021 with an expected annual rental fee of £140, half of which is received from another LDWA group who share the store with us.

No major expenditure is expected until the Kilburn Kanter Challenge Walk in November 2021 and the group remains in a stable financial position.

Roger Wandless  
North Yorkshire Group Treasurer



## Funds Flow for LDWA North Yorkshire Group

Report for Group AGM Mar 2021

### CURRENT ACCOUNT

01-Jan-20	Opening Balance	£	3,339.00
<b>FUNDS IN</b>			
The Kettlewell - Entries		£	1,488.67
Lockup Rent		£	70.00
		£	<b>1,558.67</b>
<b>FUNDS OUT</b>			
<b>Operational Costs</b>			
Group Officials National AGM Costs		£	284.00
Lockup Rent (To Aug 2021)		£	140.00
<b>Events</b>			
The Kettlewell - Marshals Event		£	58.60
The Kettlewell - Main Event		£	409.77
The Kettlewell - Entry Refunds		£	502.71
The Kettlewell – Entry Refunds to St Gemmas Hospice		£	252.00
<b>Misc</b>			
H100 Helpers Share Out		£	184.52
Kilburn Kanter 2019 Expenses		£	15.05
		£	<b>1,846.65</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>		£	<b>3,051.02</b>
01-Mar-21	Cash in Hand	£	17.37
<b>Total Cash</b>		£	<b>3,068.39</b>

### CREDIT NOTES

17-Mar-20	Bookers	£	157.90
02-Jun-20	Bookers	£	140.48
	Total	£	<b>298.38</b>



## **NORTH YORKSHIRE LDWA AGM WEBMASTER'S REPORT**

Website functional developments (both the LDWA main site and our local groups' version) are essentially frozen for the foreseeable future, with only "break-fix" activity taking place. As such there are no major initiatives to report for 2020. However, both sites appeared robust and reliable throughout the year which is encouraging.

My personal view is that the North Yorkshire local group website is not, by modern standards, "webmaster-friendly" to maintain and keep up to date. Nevertheless, it serves an invaluable real-time purpose for updating members on virtually all of our relevant activities, and remains in my opinion a critical communication tool for the Group. This was proven throughout 2020 given the frequent and often unpredictable changes of the sort that we experienced due to Covid-19. Strider, unfortunately but inevitably, was of limited value in such extraordinary times. I expect that this will continue to be the case for 2021 at least. By way of an example a new or last-minute revised walk (with all the normal details, Covid-19 guidelines and updated documentation if any) can be posted at a days' notice accompanied by a bulk email to direct all members to the website.

The following activities related to the website are worthy of note:

- All 12 walks that took place were accompanied by the mandatory Walk Register
- The NEC should be congratulated for the outstanding job it did in relation to Covid-19. It met almost every week and published regular updates to its Covid-19 guidelines on the website to facilitate our legitimate and safe walking
- The NEC Risk Assessment documentation represented a huge effort on its part, was not onerous to complete, and provided both legal and health and safety protection for leaders and walkers
- 4 different leaders who led walks completed NEC Risk Assessment documentation (only one of which was actually an NEC requirement for a group of greater than 6).
- All Walk Register and Risk Assessment documents were filed via the website in a GDPR compliant and confidential manner alongside the archive of all published walks. Whilst hopefully the need to recover such documents in order to justify or defend our activities will never arise, this LDWA "belt and braces" facility is perhaps an easily overlooked benefit of our membership of a responsible association.

My thanks to Andy Ward with whom I collaborated closely over the last few years, and to all others who submitted walk reports, photos and any other required documentation enabling me to keep our website reasonably well-maintained and up to date.

**Robert Cope (Webmaster) - 12 February 2021**