

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

Minutes

Wednesday 20 April 2022 at 7.30pm

Present

Dave Jacques (Chair), Robert Cope, Lynn Hathaway, Bob Jowett, Jill King, Malcolm & Sue Reid, Christine Stopford, Caroline & Roger Wandless

Opening Remarks

Dave Jacques welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for turning up. Dave then handed proceedings over to Caroline who had kindly agreed to conduct the meeting on his behalf.

1. Apologies for Absence

Andy Miller, Roma Haigh, Paul Nellist

2. Minutes of the 2021 AGM

These were unanimously accepted. Proposed: Lynn Hathaway, Seconded: Roger Wandless.

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.

Following each officer's report Caroline, on behalf of the Chair, thanked each of the officers for their individual contribution to the Committee.

3. Chair's Report

Dave reiterated his thanks to everyone for their contributions to the Group over the past year. In particular thanks to:

- Lynn for the fantastic job as Walks Secretary
- Wendy & Jon Leete (who recently retired from the Committee) for their contributions over many years
- To everyone who stepped up and helped out at the recent Kettlewell event

There were no questions arising.

4. Treasurer's / Financial Report

Roger noted the following:

- At the time the accounts were initially circulated there was one expense item not finalised. This has now been settled and the figures noted below reflect this. It was agreed and these minutes will show these revised figures.
- Following two years of Covid cancellations the Kettlewell finally took place and proved a great success, returning a surplus of £474.99. Roger thanked everyone who had helped making it a successful event.
- The Club's total funds are £2,953.87

Jill queried the purpose of the Cash for Petty Cash item. Roger replied that there were some items of expenditure that typically needed to be settled on the day (for the Kettlewell in this instance).

Jill also asked if it was usual for the accounts to be audited. Historically this has been done by the Chair, and it was confirmed that this would now resume in person by Dave (now that Covid allows).

5. Secretary's Report

Robert had nothing new to add to his report, but summarised that it covered the following topics:

- Thanks for the generally satisfactory completion of Risk Assessment and Walk Register documents
- A welcome to ex Cleveland members and their contribution to a programme of mid-week, shorter walks
- Our primary membership numbers were 373 at the end of the year up from 326 the previous year
- We had two "Group Focus" articles published in Strider last year
- Following consideration of the LDWA's Inclusion and Diversity paper, the Committee agreed that we should adopt a more welcoming, pro-active approach to new members

There were no questions arising

6. Walk Secretary's Report

Lynn reiterated the following points from her report:

- Thanks to all the walk leaders, including the new Wednesday group
- To encourage new walkers, we are trialling Meetup and have also started a Facebook page
- Walks are no longer being advertised in Strider

Malcolm and Sue felt that the absence of our walks programme on Strider was negatively impacting attendance by some walkers. It was agreed that this should be an agenda item for broader discussion at the next Committee meeting.

7. Webmaster's Report

Robert advised that there had been a constructive new website requirements workshop towards the end of last year, but with little apparent progress since then - possibly due to the continued absence of an IT Officer being appointed to the NEC.

Jill asked why only 48 walk registers had been completed out of the 50 social walks for the year. Robert advised that timely and accurate submission of the walk register had proven consistently challenging for one walk leader – and resulting in two never being completed at all.

8. 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	Lynn Hathaway
Treasurer	Roger Wandless	Malcolm Reid	Robert Cope
Walks Secretary	Lynn Hathaway	Robert Cope	Bob Jowett
Web Master	Robert Cope	Lynn Hathaway	Malcolm Reid
Committee Member	Malcolm Reid	Caroline Wandless	Dave Jacques
Committee Member	Caroline Wandless	Bob Jowett	Dave Jacques
Committee Member	Bob Jowett	Caroline Wandless	Roger Wandless
Committee Member	Jill King	Eva Bowes	Albert Bowes
Committee Member	Christine Stopford	Caroline Wandless	Lynn Hathaway
100s Coordinators	Caroline & Roger Wandless	Dave Jacques	Lynn Hathaway
Auditor (Accounts)	Dave Jacques	Jill King	Robert Cope

Jill King and Christine Stopford were welcomed on to the Committee.

9. AOB

- Caroline mentioned the following forthcoming challenge events being supported by North Yorkshire:
 - 2022 Trans-Pennine 100 / Wentworth CP 15. There is a core group of volunteers in place but additional volunteers are still welcome
 - 2023 EBB 100 / Moseley St. Anne's Church CP 14 at approx. 90 miles
 - 16/17 July 2022 Afoot in Two Dales / Bainbridge CP
- The following topics were also raised and it was agreed they should all be discussed at the next Committee meeting:
 - 50th Anniversary Event / Chop Gate / Saturday 18 June
 - Bob asked about progress for the Kilburn Kanter
 - Advertising (or not) social walks in Strider
 - Dave wished to discuss whether we should run The Kettlewell again
 - Jill asked about our policy concerning dogs on social walks

Closing & Date of Next Meeting:

The meeting closed at 8:10 pm with Dave thanking everyone once again for attending and Caroline was thanked by all for managing proceedings so effectively.

It was agreed that the next Committee meeting would immediately follow this AGM – by Zoom.

Robert Cope, Group Secretary
10 May 2022



NORTH YORKSHIRE LDWA AGM 2022

CHAIR'S REPORT

2021 proved to be yet another strange year interrupted and impacted by Covid-19. On the positive side social walks were up and running again from mid-April for the remainder of the year but, unfortunately, we lost both our flagship Kilburn Kanter Challenge and the first running of The Kettlewell Challenge due to Covid restrictions.

2021 also saw the re-assignment of many members of the former Cleveland Group – and whilst we were saddened by the closure of our northern neighbour, we were delighted to welcome these former members into the expanded North Yorkshire Group and their contribution to the social walks programme was a bonus.

As always thanks to everyone for their contributions over the last year and for going the extra mile to ensure that everything we did was both safe and legal.

Particular thanks go to:

- Lynn who stepped into the Walk Secretary role at this unusual time and straightaway built a vibrant programme of social walks with a number of new walk leaders.
- Wendy and Jon who are retiring from the Committee for their considerable and valuable contributions to the Committee over the past several years.
- Lynn, Roger, Wendy and Jon for stepping up at short notice to ensure the successful first running of The Kettlewell in March of this year.

Looking forward to the remainder of 2022 and beyond let's hope that this return to Covid-free normality will continue. However, two consecutive years of Covid interruptions leaves our Group facing existing and new challenges including:

- The decline in average social walks participation numbers (from over 11 in 2019 to about 8½ in 2021).
- New members rarely become regular social walkers.
- Very little rotation or succession of roles on the Committee which comprises loyal and dedicated officers and members, several of whose terms of office exceed the constitutional guidelines.
- The appearance of a degree of polarisation in some of our Saturday social walks.

Finally, the North Yorkshire Group will celebrate the LDWA's 50th anniversary this year with a combined "walk and tea party" event on Saturday 18 June. I hope as many members as possible will join us for this all-inclusive and social fun day.

David Jacques



NORTH YORKSHIRE LDWA AGM 2022 TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT

A significant change is to be applied to the Virgin Money bank account from **1st June 2022**. The first 10 transactions we make each month are free of charge, such as Bacs transfers & credit invoices from SiEntries. From **1 June 2022**, a fixed monthly service fee of £6.50 will be added if we have more than 10 transactions each month. Charges will also then be applied for certain additional transactions, like paying cash in at a Virgin Money

Payments by our debit card are exempt from charges providing the currency is in Pound Sterling and payment made within the UK.

The likelihood of triggering this fee might be at the time of a challenge event with the remainder of the year free of this charge.

The local Virgin Money branch in Selby (formerly Yorkshire Bank) has now closed and charges for Clubs & Societies accounts are becoming industry wide.

The Anytime Kilburn Kanter

- Administered via SiEntries and open from October 2021 to Jan 2022 had 61 completions from 73 entries which returned a surplus of **£216.18**.

The Kettlewell Challenge Event (2020 – 2022)

- Cancelled twice before being successfully delivered on 19th March 2022, it proved to be as much of a financial administration challenge as a physical one. Numerous entries, refunds, roll overs and donations over a 3 year period, the event returned a surplus of **£474.99**.
- Entrants who expressed their refund go to charity resulted in a payment in 2020 to St Gemma's Hospice of **£252**.
- Entrants who expressed their refund go to charity in 2022 plus a donation from the event car park owner at Kettlewell resulted in a payment to DEC Ukraine of **£56**.

Donation to the LDWA Website Fund

- A donation from The Kettlewell surplus is to be agreed at the next group meeting for the LDWA website fund.

Future Payments

- An annual rent of **£140** is due in August 2022 for the equipment store, **£70** of which is recouped by subletting equipment store space to another LDWA group.
- Costs relating to the 2022 Kilburn Kanter are expected to begin after June 2022.



Funds Flow for LDWA North Yorkshire Group

Report for Group AGM Apr 2022

January 2021 to April 2022

CURRENT ACCOUNT

01-Jan-21	Opening Balance	£	3,091.02
Inflated by The Kettlewell enties without its major event expenditure			

FUNDS IN

The Kettlewell	£	1,126.60
Anytime Kilburn Kanter	£	257.48
Lockup Rent from Irregulars	£	70.00
Miscellaneous	£	36.18
	£	1,490.26

FUNDS OUT

Capital Costs	£	-
Operational Costs		
Lockup Rent (To Aug 2022)	£	140.00
Events		
Kilburn Kanter Anytime Challenge	£	41.30
The Kettlewell Refunds	£	211.20
The Kettlewell Expenses	£	617.28
Cash for Petty Cash Box	£	400.00
Donation to Dec Ukraine	£	56.00
RAYNET Donation	£	300.00

Misc

Odds & Ends	£	3.02
	£	1,768.80

Closing Account Balance	£	2,812.48
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Cash in Hand	£	141.39
Credit Notes	£	-

Total Club funds	£	2,953.87
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(Includes Cash in Hand Figures & Credit Notes)



CASH IN HAND

01-Jan-21	Opening Balance	£	17.37
FUNDS IN			
17-Feb-22	Bookers Credit	£	298.38
17-Feb-22	R&C Credit	£	0.10
11-Mar-22	From account	£	200.00
17-Mar-22	From account	£	200.00
Total Funds In		£	698.48
FUNDS OUT			
17-Feb-22	Kit for Challenge Event	£	53.92
16-Mar-22	Kettlewell Tally Printing	£	3.04
17-Mar-22	Wooden posts for road signs	£	12.50
19-Mar-22	Kettlewell Car Park Costs	£	220.00
19-Mar-22	Kettlewell Food Costs	£	285.00
Total Funds Out		£	574.46
Closing Balance		£	141.39

CREDIT NOTES

		£	-
Total		£	-



NORTH YORKSHIRE LDWA AGM 2022

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Following more than 3 further months of Covid restrictions, 2021 finally got under way for North Yorkshire LDWA in mid-April and thankfully continued (almost as normal) for the remainder of the year. A total of 50 social walks were held to the end of the 2021.

The Covid legal requirement for a Risk Assessment for all group walks larger than six together with the LDWA insurance requirement for a Walk Register was willingly embraced by all walk leaders but one. My thanks to all those walk leaders who collaborated with this requirement and consistently submitted such properly completed documents in a timely manner.

The demise of our Cleveland Group neighbour was of course a great shame, but nevertheless we were pleased to welcome the reassignment of a considerable number of its former members to North Yorkshire Group. A welcome bonus of this new cohort of members was the emergence of a number of mid-week shorter walks which proved consistently popular with a number of members.

The Group's membership at the end of the 2021 comprised 373 Primary Members and 661 Associates (up from 326 Primary Members and 539 Associates at the beginning of the year). The Webmaster's report explores in more detail the relationship between our overall membership and our walk statistics. The Chair's report also refers to the decline in the average number of participants on our social walks.

During the year we published two "Group Focus" articles in Strider. The first (in August) highlighted how we hit the ground running with our social walks after the Covid lockdown, whilst the second (in December) focused more broadly on the outstanding North Yorkshire landscape and the Group's background and history.

Towards the end of the year the Committee considered the LDWA's Inclusion and Diversity paper which lists a number of initiatives and pilot projects the NEC is promoting to broaden the LDWA's reach and appeal to potential new members. The Committee felt that in the main we already adopt most of the suggestions it contains but it was agreed that we should adopt a more proactive approach to new members which now comprises a monthly welcome letter to new members. Also, we agreed to join an LDWA trial of the Meetup social media platform to advertise our social walks programme to potential new members.

This year's AGM is unfortunately being held later than is normal due to Covid concerns and other unforeseen circumstances. Accordingly, the Officers' reports which ordinarily would focus on the activities of the prior calendar year may also refer to an April to April walking year for completeness.

Robert Cope



NORTH YORKSHIRE LDWA AGM 2022
WALKS SECRETARY'S REPORT
April 2021 – April 2022

I enthusiastically took over as Walks Secretary last year just as the country was coming out of Lockdown and with members appearing to fall into either the “keen to get out and back to normal camp” or, the “I’m not 100% comfortable with this” camp. Despite low participation numbers initially, which actually most were more comfortable with in that post Covid climate, numbers on social walks have increased along with an introduction of lower mileage midweek walks which proved to be very popular and then to complete the year we successfully held the previously cancelled Kettlewell Challenge.

Social Walks

I had the privilege of leading the first walk on the first weekend we were allowed (17/4/21) from Barden Tower in glorious sunshine; this was followed by 60 other social walks covering areas from the edge of Cumbria, The Dales, The Moors and the coast, with every variant of English weather available, from Robert Cope’s hottest walk ever from The Hole of Horcum, to Jon Leets rather damp, but picturesque walk from Easby Abbey, but each walk individual in scenery and topography.

One exceptional walk was Andy Miller’s Sprouts from Kettlewell. Starting out very cold with freezing foggy, we trudged along the valley in the mist to Hubberholme church, “*we’re not going up Buckden Pike in this fog*” our leader informed us, instead we climbed up a beautiful footpath from Stubbing Bridge past 5 waterfalls towards The White Lion at Cray emerging into brilliant sunshine above a sea of mist in the valley stretching as far as you could see towards the Vale of York.

We also had enjoyable joint walks with Nidderdale & West Yorkshire groups giving the opportunity to meet up with old friends, invaluable after the restrictions.

Many thanks go to all walk leaders who unselfishly put in a lot of time and effort to plan and recce routes, without you, there simply wouldn’t be a North Yorkshire Group.

Future Planning

To encourage new members, we are trialling Meet Up and have started a Face Book page, which we can hopefully develop over the coming year.

We have moved away from advertising walks in Strider with social walks being advertised solely on the North Yorkshire Web Site.

Lynn Hathaway



NORTH YORKSHIRE LDWA AGM 2022 WEBMASTER'S REPORT

As last year, website functional developments (both the LDWA main site and our local groups' version) remained essentially frozen, with only "break-fix" activity taking place. Fortunately, both sites remained broadly robust and reliable throughout the year. There was however a considerable amount of NEC activity during the latter part of the year in considering strategy and options for the replacement website project including a lively but very constructive local groups' workshop in October that I contributed to and participated in. It seems likely that the website replacement project will comprise a number of incremental upgrades/changes over an extended period of time rather than any form of "big bang" approach. That said the absence of an IT Officer on the NEC appears to be impeding further progress at the moment.

The North Yorkshire Local Group website (together with the bulk email facility) continues to serve an invaluable real-time purpose for updating members on virtually all of our relevant activities, and remains in my opinion the critical communication tool for the Group. This continued to be case throughout 2021 as we navigated our way through the changing Covid restrictions and furthermore will remain essential in 2022 and beyond as the Group will no longer be posting our social walks in Strider.

As Webmaster processing and filing all the walk registers, I've become the de facto "data manager" for the Group's social walks. The following statistics relating to our social walking activities in 2021 are worthy of note:

Number of social walks:	50	
Number of walker participants:	407	
• Average per walk		8.5
Number of different walkers:	94	
• More than 10 times		11
• 6 to 10 times		13
• 3 to 5 times		17
• Once or twice		53
Number of different walk leaders:	14	
• Led 3 or more walks		7
• Led most number of walks		13
Walk registers completed:	48	

My thanks to all walk leaders and participants for the submission of walk reports and photos throughout the year.

Robert Cope