

LDWA WEST LANCASHIRE GROUP

Committee Meeting
Monday 20th February 2023 at the Sea View

Minutes

| | |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <p>Apologies: Jane, Andy</p> <p>In attendance: Neil, Ian, David, Ann, Karen, Mike, John Other members: Gaynor, Kate, John E, Robb, Steve M, Doreen, Gareth</p> <p>Standing items: The club is committed to litter picking at car parks. Associated membership of the Ramblers and looking after the Trig point at Darwen.</p> |
| 1 | <p>Chairs Introduction. Minutes of the Last Meeting in August 22. Agreed. This was the first meeting with Ann as the Treasurer. Neil has sent out an Agenda prior to the meeting and welcomed members to attend the Committee and social meeting. Neil wished to discuss the walk programme as item 3, then 2 (Membership).</p> |
| 2 | <p>The Walks Programme David, prior to the meeting had sent out the Walk statistics.</p> <p>The Walks Programme is well under way following the covid restrictions with 27 walks already scheduled in the next six months.</p> <p>Numbers on longer walks in 2022 were slightly down at an average of 10 walkers, compared with 12 or 13 walkers in the two years prior to lockdown.</p> <p>Numbers on Tuesday walks in 2022 at an average of 17 were very slightly down.</p> <p>A brief summary of walks during 2022 and early 2023 is as follows:-</p> <p><u>2022</u></p> <p><u>Tuesday Social Walks</u> 38 walks by 32 leaders from 33 starting points with an average distance of 10 miles and an average of 17 walkers.</p> <p><u>Longer Walks</u> 22 walks by 17 leaders with an average distance of 16 miles and an average of 10 walkers.</p> <p><u>Additional Walks</u> Between May and June 2022 there were four 50th Anniversary Walks and five Lancashire Way Eastern Loop Walks with an average of 15 miles and an average of 12 walkers.</p> |

In addition, seven walkers did the full 51 miles of the 50th Anniversary Walks.

1.1.23 - 17.2.23

1.1.23 - New Year's Day Walk from Dole Lane, Abbey Village - Karen & Ian - 8 miles - 22 walkers

3.1.23 - Along the Yarrow - Kate & Mike - 10 miles - 14 walkers

10.1.23 - A Witton Wander - Neil Harwood - 7 miles - should have been 11 - shortened because of appalling weather

15.1.23 - Anglezarke Amble first recce - Ian Wardle - 15 miles - 6 walkers

17.1.23 - Dinckley, Ribble Way, Ribchester - Ady Houghton and Tom Lyons - 14.5 miles - 6 walkers

29.1.23 - Anglezarke Amble 2nd recce - Ian Wardle - 14.5 miles - 12 walkers

24.1.23 - Jane Anthony - Nicky Nook, Barnacre, Church & Grizedale Bridge - Jane Anthony - 14.5 miles - 12 walkers

31.1.23 - Winter Hill - Steve Clark - 11.2 miles - 10 walkers

7.2.23 - Brock Valley - Sue Fagg - 10 miles - 21 walkers

14.2.23 - John Clarke - Bamber Bridge, Cuerden Park - 13.4 miles - 18 walkers

14.2.23 - Gaynor Wilkinson - Bamber Bridge, Cuerden Park - 8 miles - 8 walkers - plus Harper in her pushchair

David also sends out, monthly, the walks for the month.

Overview:

The 38 Tuesday walks had attracted an average of 17 walkers.

22 Longer walks, averaging 16 miles, had an average of 10 walkers.

However there had been two longer walks with (1) and (3) attendees on the walks.

The question was asked whether attendance was weather and winter conditions related?

Neil made the comment that there were no Thursday walks on the programme as take up last year had been poor and there was one longer weekend walk on the programme, either a Saturday or Sunday.

Neil commented that there was no appetite from East Lancs to share weekend walks, as in their Minutes 'everyone can choose to walk with other groups'.

One member commented that he felt the walks were 'too short', to go any distance for 10 miles and was not cost effective in terms of rising petrol costs.

A discussion took place, it was not just the length of the walk, but the quality of walks as well. It was noted in previous discussions that both David and Jane try and vary the programme, in that they try and avoid repetition in regard to areas frequently visited. It was decided that the format for the Tuesday social, 10 mile plus walk, was not to change.

Neil then summarised what he would like to see from April to October.

2 weekend walks, including out of area, with the distance 15 miles plus.

Neil felt that weekend walks will attract new members, who work during the week.

There needs to be an option for such people and also for those who prefer the longer walks.

Previous minutes, discussed again at this meeting.

Actions for those leading a walk.

| | |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <p>Neil reiterated that there needed to be a brief description of the walk, so walkers knew what to expect ie the time, length, ascent and terrain of the walk. This will continue. Neil felt the more detailed the description, it might encourage more people to attend walks and know what walks would be appropriate for them.</p> <p>Neil explained how he would like all routes on our website walks database, which would not only include a description and report of the walk, but a route GPX file with map and photos.</p> <p>This is what the LDWA had requested of all groups, so that members can access walk routes after the event. Neil is keen to promote this, and we should all try to encourage leaders to provide the necessary information to populate the walks database.</p> <p>Neil had already previously emailed members explaining the Walks Database and the need for a GPX file of every walk.</p> <p>David and Jane to remind leaders to do this.</p> <p>Hopefully with this increased awareness and constant reiteration of this message, we should manage to upload more of our walks.</p> <p>Ian felt that we should, however, continue to show our walks under ‘past walks’ and he is happy to upload both. Those members with a Smart phone or mapping can do this task easily. Anyone struggling, Ian will help.</p> <p>There have been comments from a few members in regard to the cost of petrol and travelling distances for recce’s and 10 mile walks. Also see AOB.</p> <p>Action: The club should promote car sharing and have designated places to park up and share if there is a distance to be travelled. This is in line with the LDWA’s environmental policy, page 98 Strider April 2022.</p> <p>Membership.</p> <p>Neil commented he had looked at the figures, which did not appear to be accurate – 55 new members in 2023 but still substantial. A lot of new members could be runners. West Lancs have 266 Primary members.</p> <p>Neil asked what steps do we take to welcome new members?</p> <p>David sends out a walks programme, Karen talks to any new members that attend walks as do we all. We feel that we do make every effort to welcome new members on walks.</p> <p>Action: Neil is to contact new members who join a walk directly afterwards for feed back and emphasise our welcome.</p> |
| 3 | <p>Neil at the meeting had presented a financial spreadsheet, which Ann will keep up to date. This will be presented at each Committee meeting so everyone can see clearly the current financial position and recent transactions.</p> <p>The proposal had been to go to internet banking, this was in progress.</p> <p>Neil felt that the Club was in a good financial position, with funds of £8,631.12 up just over a £1000 on last September. However, there were still expenses to pay for the Amble and some further income. We will report the final position of the Amble profit at the next meeting.</p> |

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <p>It was agreed at this meeting to pay Mountain Rescue £500.00 and Raynet £200.00. Neil wanted to see what the final figures of the Amble were before committing to a donation to Air Ambulance.</p> <p>A refund to Doreen of her contribution to the John Viney bench was agreed.</p> <p>The question was asked about spending some money? It was agreed the club needed no equipment but could do with a West Lancs banner for outside the Hall on the Amble and use in other events.</p> <p>Action: To find out costs. (see AOB)</p> <p>Outstanding financial Actions: A member has asked the club to fund a Northern Peaks sign. These are £385.00 plus VAT and installation. Action: On hold at present.</p> <p>Emergency Tags These are available to Primary members. 24 members so far have tags. This is still open to any Primary member.</p> |
| 4 | <p>Social Events Previous Social events: The hot pot supper at the AGM and 32 people attended the pudding plod. Thanks to Glyn and Julie for organising the Pudding Plod.</p> <p>Future events: A Jacob's Join and quiz is arranged for the 17th April at Kate and Mike's – Parr Hall, Ecclestone. Karen had already asked for a Summer social event in the Garstang bubble area. Ann reported that there had been a lukewarm response. A walk, tea and cakes venue would probably be better. Ann to explore further.</p> <p>Christmas Lunch 2023 There has been a request from a few members for a change of venue. Karen reported that venues were already busy with bookings. For example, East Lancs had their lunch at Rivington tea rooms and reports were good. They have also booked for this year. One member voiced concern there were no changing facilities. Locally the Beaumont had closed, as had the Half Way house. (Although this is re-opening on the 1st March).</p> <p>Action: Gaynor/Karen to look at alternatives.</p> |
| 5 | <p>AOB Logo Neil gave an update on the Logo. Neil commented there was a low response, but number 4 had been chosen. Ian reported that he had been in touch with LDWA who were having some problems uploading our new logo. As of 1.3.23 – Logo now on website! Gaynor asked about whether an embroidered badge could be made available to new members?</p> |

Ian and Doreen reported that there needed to be a substantial order made in the past and it would probably not be cost effective.

There was a discussion about general merchandise, ie caps and tea shirts with the new logo on.

Action: To look at how East Lancs order their kit. Gaynor to also look at costs of a badge and let's see if cost effective.

Long distance paths and staging a 50 mile challenge event

Neil asked whether there was an appetite for hosting a 50 mile event?

A discussion concluded that the club could not host such an event on its own.

Action: Neil to discuss with other groups to gauge if there is any interest in sharing an event?

Thursday/Longer walk

Several suggestions had been put forward.

Neil has subsequently sent out an extensive email on these three routes.

Steve Martin's GM Ringway, 190 miles in stages, using public transport. Up-to 20 plus miles a day.

Action: Depending upon interest, Steve potentially to look further at the mileage, as 20 mile days will probably be too long for a lot of members.

The Comedy Way. Ann had completed this with Lakeland, it is a good route.

Action: Ann to look at mini bus/days that this walk could be put on the programme, early Spring Summer.

Others: Sandstone Trail. This is a possibility with members staying overnight, potentially half way, as it is a 2 day walk. Suggested date: sometime in September.

Response to e mail to members - Initial interest was promising and a date of 25th/26th September was now being proposed.

Expenses

Karen wanted this on the Agenda, following an article in Strider, written by David Morgan, encouraging Clubs and the LDWA to have a policy on expenses. (see page 44).

The attendees at this meeting were resolutely against any expenses being paid for recce's or anything else.

Karen is recording this as a disappointment, as other clubs in the area pay "reasonable expenses".

Action: It was agreed to have this as a yearly standing item.

Neil felt that the Club should be more pro-active in car sharing and as such have 'meeting points' to car share to the start point. This would form part of the planning for a walk.

There was some comment as to whether this would add a layer of admin to a walk?

It was suggested that this was an option and we should look at finding appropriate meeting points for potential use by leaders.

Kanters

To progress this further, a discussion with Enid is needed in regard to putting on a memorial Kanter that Jeff particularly enjoyed.

One member asked about the Northern Peaks sign, which Jeff had asked the Club to spend some money on. Neil responded that publicity such as the Darwen Trig point sign was more cost effective.

East Lancs have 3 spaces on their Hathersage walks in July, (21st, 22nd and 23rd) based at an outward bound centre. Details on East Lancs social events. Contact Viv Lee.

Ian presented a resume of the 'Amble'.

It was agreed to increase the entry fee to £15.00 for non LDWA members. Members remain at £10.00.

Raynet had used Banner Buz for their banners.

Action: to cost a Banner for use on the Amble.

Meeting closed.