LDWA WEST LANCASHIRE GROUP

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the LDWA West Lancs Group held on at the Sea View

10th November 2025

Meeting opened 19.00 hrs Members Present: 27

	Apologies: Hot Pot was served from 19.15 and at 19:45Chair, John, welcomed all members. Apologies received: Mike and Kate, Ann, Bob and Margaret, Hilary B, David J, Ron W The meeting opened with a Minutes silence to reflect Armistice Day and the loss of our member Julie W. The Christmas lunch menu was circulated at this meeting.	**ACTION**
1	**Approve the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.** Minutes of the 2024 AGM, which had been sent to members, were passed as a true record. Actions from the Previous AGM's 1. AOB 2019, a request from a member for a Peak and Northern Footpath sign, to be placed somewhere on the Amble route. Following the sad death of Jeff Parr, a memorial plaque to him has been agreed. An ideal site is to replace the plaque on the Trig point at Darwen Tower. 2. A previous action was to source a new plaque for our Trig point at Darwen Tower. Unfortunately, the Trig point and nearby benches have been the subject of repeated vandalism. Whilst BwD Council have re-painted the Trig, other issues are hard to remedy, like the scratched memorial plaques on the benches nearby. 3. There was a discussion in regard to replacing the existing plaque, which is not now recognisable due to age. 4. Action: it was agreed that the new Committee will look at this.	
2	**Annual Reports of the Committee** 2024: The Chairman's, Secretary's, Challenge Walks Organiser's, and Walks Secretary's reports were all circulated to members prior to the meeting for their perusal and comments. No comments were received from members. These Minutes are a summary of discussion, further information, if needed, is available within the reports. The Chair, the Secretary, Challenge Walks Organiser & Walks Secretary briefly went through their submissions. **Chair's Report** This was John's second year as Chair. He felt that there were a lot of positives to report because the walking programme was strong, with a varied programme and good attendance. There had been two social walk events again very well attended, particularly, Gaynor's walk from Ulverston to Chapel Island. Steve's walk, the Llangollen Round in Wales was a tough challenge, which everyone enjoyed. John thanked Ian for a fantastic 50th Amble. **Equipment** Mike reported that all the equipment is 'good to go'. He is getting/replacing sufficient road crossing signs for all major road crossings.	

Amble Report
Ian started by highlighting how this year's Amble had been a great success as usual. He mentioned that there were 280 entrants so far so we will easily reach our maximum of 350.

He used his report to highlight two challenges for the group, the first being the replacement of Mike and Kate as equipment officer. He stressed how important it was to try to find someone prepared to take on this role by February so that they would be able to shadow Mike on the day. This would give them the opportunity to see exactly what is involved on the day. A new storage facility for our equipment also has to be found by 2027
It was agreed that Ian would email members to see if there is anyone prepared to take on this role.

The second challenge is replacing Ian as the Challenge Walks Organiser. Ian highlighted how this role has changed significantly since he took over and suggested that there was too much for one individual to do. He suggested that the group consider replacing him by setting up a subgroup made up of three or four members. This suggestion was approved so Ian is to send an email to members to see if there is any interest. This will be done once all avenues have been followed to find a replacement for Mike which is the priority now.
Ian thanked all the volunteers for making the event so successful.

Ian to contact members to find a replacement equipment officer

Secretary's report:
It was reported that the Club have 335 Primary members and 397 Associate members. Interestingly, a significant number of members do not want emails, ie the walk programme or other information. Despite stating that is the member's responsibility to go to SI membership, to change their status, quite a few members still feel it is the secretary's role.
This last year, the NEC have changed the email system, which is due to 'data protection'. This will take some time for new Committee members to adjust to. Please bear with us.
The Plod in December had varying feedback. The two social/group meetings this year have been well attended.
In relation to the Committee, John has agreed to stand again as Chair. I am standing down, along with Andy Webster and not seeking re-election on the Committee.
Neil Harwood is standing down as is Mike Motley, but both wish to remain on the Committee. Ann has agreed to stay on as Treasurer. David Whittaker and Steve Martin have agreed to stay on. Ian is to remain as the Amble organiser, until after the 2027 Amble, but is stepping down as the Web co-ordinator, but Neil has agreed to take on this role. Gaynor has agreed to take on the secretary'r role (thank you Gaynor). Diane Gordon has expressed an interest in joining the Committee and this was agreed.
Role of Equipment officer, storage of equipment and driver, remains unfilled.
I will help in the kitchen until after the Amble in 2027.
It is really important with the changes ahead to support the Committee and the Club in general.
Thank you.

The Walk Programme
Neil had sent extensive statistics before the meeting.
Neil summarized the current year reflecting that the club had a programme of 71 walks this year (with 2 fish and chip walks) compared with 78 last year.
Overall the average numbers on all walks has decreased, particularly when there is a 20 plus mile walk, which the LDWA deem to be a long walk. The average attendance on these walks has been 3. Social walks, remain the most popular. A question was asked re the age population on walks and it was accepted that the membership was getting older, with no new younger members attending walks.
Chair John led the way by leading the most walks!
As Si takes on the new role it will be important to support him and Steve with a varied and interesting programme.

	Financial Report. Ann had sent through the accounts which had been verified by the auditor Andrew Whittaker. The current balance is £7674.9. Chair John had attended the Groups weekend and most groups have a surplus balance of £7,000. Neil summarized the reports, stating the major expense had been the ‘buffs’ for the Amble. There was one question about the financial report, did the money raise any interest? A nominal amount of £30.00 was mentioned. The meeting agreed to accept the report and appoint Andrew as the auditor for 2026. Ann was thanked for the succinct reports.	
3	**Election of Committee members** As there were substantial changes to the Committee as follows: **<u>Officers</u>** **Chair** John Clarke **Secretary** Gaynor **Treasurer** Ann **Equipment Officer** **Vacant** **Challenge Walks Organiser** Ian **Walks Secretary’s** **Si** **Web Master** Neil **Social Walks Co-ordinator** Steve **Committee Post 1** David **Committee Post 2** Diane **Committee Post 3** Mike **Committee Post 4**	These were agreed Proposed by Bob and seconded by Sue F
4	**AOB** There was a discussion to change the Constitution for up-to 20 committee members, some of whom can be co-opted. John E asked for clarification re the Christmas meal, which was circulated on the night. John again thanked everyone for their attendance and was looking forward to the next walking year. Meeting closed at 8:45pm.	This was agreed Proposed by John E and seconded by Ian Action to change the Constitution