

LDWA WEST LANCASHIRE GROUP

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the LDWA West Lancs Group held on 21.11.2022 at the Sea View

Meeting opened 19.30 hrs

Members Present 24 (18 last year)

	Apologies:	ACTION
	Hot Pot was served from 19.00 and at 19:30 Chair, Neil, welcomed all members. Apologies received: Peter and Sue, Stan and Shirley.	
1	<p>Approve the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.</p> <p>Minutes of the 2021 AGM, which had been sent to members, were passed as a true record.</p> <p>Actions from previous meetings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It was agreed to plan the Committee meetings to coincide with the group meetings, which were to be held every other month. Meetings to follow a format of slide shows and talks. Action: Future group meetings and Committee dates to be decided. It is suggested a Committee meeting in January 2023 to formulate dates. Previous agreements have suggested that committee meetings and groups meetings be held on the same night, to reduce travel and time. (David). There has been a previous agreement to hold two open committee meetings with members present for transparency and discussion. It was agreed that whatever format, there would be 15 minutes allocated to members time at the end of the meeting, if there has been a speaker/slideshow. 2. Walks Register, it was agreed to complete these for every walk. Andy agreed to co-ordinate this. Action: Walk registers are still a requirement, risk assessments are not, unless there is a challenge event. Walk registers to be completed and sent to Andy Webster. As a note, it would be good practice to gain a periodic update from Andy as to how this is going. 3. It was suggested and agreed that the financial year would end in September, with the AGM being moved to November. Action: It was decided that the financial year would be finalised at the end of September each year. 4. Stan had asked in AOB at the AGM in 2019 that the Club spend funds on a separate social occasion, not necessarily linked to a walk. Action: A social event happened for the 50th Anniversary and it has been agreed to have at least one social event to include past members in 2023. 5. AOB 2019, a request from a member for a Peak and Northern Footpath sign, to be placed somewhere on the Amble route. Cost is £375.00. plus materials. This request is on hold at present. <p>Previous minutes agreed by Glyn and seconded by John</p>	CARRIED
2	<p>Annual Reports of the Committee</p> <p>The Chairman's, Secretary's, Challenge Walks Organiser's, and Walks Secretary's reports were circulated to members prior to the meeting for their perusal and comments.</p> <p>The Chair, the Secretary, Challenge Walks Organiser & Walks Secretary briefly went through their reports.</p>	

Chair's report: Summary – Neil commented that he had been Chair of the Group for three and a half years. This is an extract from his report.

Neil felt the focus for 2022 was the LDWA's 50th Anniversary, culminating in the big walk weekend. Previous to this, there had been 4 days Thursday walking the Lancashire Way, with mini buses and a good attendance for each walk.

Neil's 50 mile route started on the evening of the 18th and finished on the 19th June, culminating in a social event at the Bayley Arms on a very sunny and warm day. One member, Karen Nash actually ran the route and completed in time for chips and sandwiches with everyone else. It was good to see some older members attend.

Neil commented on another successful Amble challenge event. This year, following from some changes in the kitchen and in view of some COVID safety guidelines, it was decided to out source the end of event catering to the Village Tea Rooms. Everyone commented that this was a good move. To be repeated in 2023.

Neil stated that the core of any walking group was their walks programme. West Lancs continued to have a strong walking programme, as commented by the LDWA statistics.

Neil thanked David and Jane for co-ordinating the programme, the leaders, who are all volunteers for their time and effort, finally to the Committee.

Two people are standing down, Jacqui as Treasurer and Glyn who organised social events. Many thanks on behalf of the Club for their time and efforts.

Neil felt that after 3 and half years he would like to consider stepping down at next year's AGM, with this in mind, he would like someone to consider becoming Chair next year, even joining the Committee would be a start!

Neil talked about the recent emails from NEC asking for volunteers for various roles, some of these had been filled, however he would like West Lancs to be more pro-active in their support of the wider organisation. The Groups had met on the 18th – 20th November, unfortunately he could not attend and despite emails out to members, no-one had come forward.

The IT system, to which our club had contributed £600.00 and had a reserve of £130,000.00, still had not been updated.

Neil is a supporter of the GPX file system, asking walk leaders to complete and append to their route description and photographs. He felt that the web site data base meant that walks were available for everyone and a very good recruitment tool.

Neil had received the report from Karen Pickersgill, Groups Organiser, which contained some interesting facts and figures and presented this to the meeting. Appended to this report. (since the AGM, Karen P has made some amendments). Some highlights

The membership figures stood at 10,518.

Age differences

9% under 40

45% over 60

50% 51 – 55

27% 66-80

These suggest LDWA is an 'older organisation' and male orientated with 61% being male members.

Social Walks are popular again.

Challenge Events appear to be down, in particular 50 miler's.

Neil would like the Group to consider such an event, perhaps working with another Club or rotating with one or two other Groups so that it was only held every three years.

One of the Statistics was the Walk Register's downloaded, unfortunately West Lancs was a little behind in this matter, but going forward this will be rectified. Otherwise we have performed relatively strongly and would otherwise probably have been a "model group".

The Logo

It was agreed at the last AGM that the present West Lancs Logo was outdated and looked like Andy Capp.

Gaynor had submitted some examples and Neil had forwarded these and ideas to a graphic design company.

Several examples were presented at the meeting with input from members.

Action: Neil to ask the Graphic design company to amend some examples. The Committee to approve three designs and then put these to members.

Secretary's report:

Karen reported that there were 250 primary members, 324 associate members, with 36 new members this year. From discussion with some new members, it was felt that the website gave them all the information they needed for the walk programme and current events.

In line with the NEC, the Groups Organiser has asked Groups to consider more linear walks, access to public transport, car sharing and reducing food waste on challenge walks. Walking is 'green' which is carbon neutral, as a Group we just have to work at some 'greener' initiatives. However, the Village Tea rooms do have their own private waste collection, saving food from landfill and as a Club we are supporting a local business.

Karen suggested a smaller group to discuss next year's longer walk, there had been some suggestions like the Greater Manchester Loop and the Peakwaywalk.

Equipment Officer's report: Mike, on the night, commented that the equipment hut needs a good sort out and will be seeking some volunteers soon to assist him.

Challenge Walk Organiser: Ian briefly went through his report emphasizing that it was his intention to continue with four the key changes that were made this year as they all worked so well namely the new hall setup, no refreshments at White Coppice, the Winter Hill checkpoint being moved to Pike Cottage and outsourcing the catering. He closed by reminding members that the Amble always takes place on the second Saturday in February so members should do all they can to keep this date free.

Walks Organiser's report: David's report was again self-explanatory. A full programme is on the web site. David sends out the walks on a monthly basis. The Tuesday walk programme is still popular.

The only notable statistic is attendance on the longer walks is slightly down.

Karen commented that someone had emailed in regard to what 'training' to lead a walk was available.

3 **Annual Statement of Accounts**

The annual statement of accounts was circulated to members prior to the meeting for their perusal.

Neil summarised the accounts by a spreadsheet comparing with previous years. In summary we had generated income of almost £1800 from the Amble Challenge event and had used this to cover ongoing expenses of £1241 and made net donations of £648. The ongoing expenses were similar to pre covid years in spite of spending £550 on the 50th Anniversary Event.

FUNDS at 30.9.22 as a result were £117 down on last year but still very healthy as follows

Savings Account	£4,110.57
Current Account	£3,479.65
TOTAL	£7,590.22

Jaqui prepared the accounts and informed the Committee that this will be her last year as Treasurer.

Outstanding expenditure: John Viney's chair, despite reminders, the bill has still not been received. The Sea View, for previous refreshments and tonight's hot pot.

The accounts were agreed – proposed by John Clarke and seconded by John Evenden.

The statement of accounts had been approved by Peter Lomax. Peter had informed the meeting that this will be his last 'approval'. Neil thanked Peter and asked the floor if anyone would consider taking over, Andrew Whittaker kindly offered.

For completeness, the accounts were proposed by Karen and seconded by Ian.

