

LDWA WEST LANCASHIRE GROUP

Committee Meeting
Monday 12th June 2023 at the Sea View

Minutes

	<p>Apologies: Andy, Mike, Ann and John</p> <p>In attendance: Neil, Ian, David, Karen, Jane, Co-opted Gaynor for this meeting</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. Car sharing if possible.</p>
1	<p>Chairs Introduction. Minutes of the Last Meeting in February 2023. Agreed after discussion re the Actions. Ann had provided a spreadsheet summary of the Club's finances before the meeting. Neil has sent out an Agenda prior to the meeting. Actions from the last meeting. Neil felt the Club should be more pro-active in car sharing and as such having meeting points to car share to the start point.</p> <p>Discussion: It was acknowledged that some members are willing to car share, and there are others that are not. Most members know people in their area and those who travel from it. Some members have an established car sharing routine.</p> <p>Membership Neil to contact new members who join a walk directly afterwards for feedback and to emphasise our welcome.</p> <p>Discussion: There are currently 253 primary members. Neil had contacted a couple of new members. He will continue with this action to gain feed back. Although we have a number of new members, we have not seen them on a walk so far. The Club is facing competition with a number of other walking groups in Lancs. On recent walks there have been a number of people who did not want to assign themselves to any group. Gaynor had kindly brought a Google questionnaire to send to new members after they had attended a walk. However, it was decided this added a layer of admin that was not necessary if committee members gained new members views whilst walking with them. Feedback has been positive in that new members have looked at the website and chosen a walk to attend. One of the most important factors is that members can 'opt out of local group emails', therefore would not appreciate being contacted. Conclusion- Chair to welcome new members via e mail but to leave it at that and concentrate on talking with new members whilst on walks and making welcome.</p>

	<p>Banner Action Ian reported that the Club could purchase 2 sizes of banner, at a cost of £40.00 and another for £60.00. It was agreed to purchase both.</p> <p>Social events:</p> <p>Discussion There had been a Social evening and Quiz hosted by Kate and Mike on the 17th April, this was an enjoyable evening.</p> <p>Future events Karen has liaised with Ann in regard to having a summer late afternoon walk in early July followed by a meal. Ann is kindly following this up. It was decided to have another social evening and Committee meeting on 6th September, venue to be decided.</p> <p>Christmas Meal Gaynor and Karen reported back. It was decided to go ahead with the booking on the 17th December at the Cavendish Arms, Brindle. 12 – 2.30. The Club can have the sole use of the conservatory. Details of the menu and cost at a later date.</p> <p>Merchandising Discussion There was no appetite for ‘Club’ printed joggers/bobble hats etc., The new logo badge would need a large number of prints for them then to be sold to members. This was not felt to be cost effective.</p> <p>Long distance paths and staging a 50 mile walk Neil felt staging a 50 mile walk should be on hold for the present. The Comedy Way had taken place and was a success, thanks to Ann for leading and organising the mini bus.</p> <p>The GM Ringway A small number of people had put their names forward. Expense payments to members To be reviewed at the AGM</p> <p>Kanters Neil to contact Enid with a suggestion as to a Kanter from those provided by Jeff to Neil. Actions concluded, the meeting then to the Agenda and discussed the walk programme</p>
2	<p>The Walks Programme David, prior to the meeting had sent out the Walk statistics.</p> <p>Walk stats from 1.1.23 to 6.6.23</p> <p>Longer Walks 14 walks with an average length of 15.2 miles and an average of 12.3 walkers. Weekend walks averaged 11.1 walkers and Tuesday walks 13.5 but the figures for Tuesday walks were somewhat distorted by one walk which had 23 walkers. Weekend walks included two Amble recces and two Comedy Way walks. In 2022 the average was 10 walkers compared with 12 or 13 in the two years prior to lockdown.</p>

Tuesday Social Walks

18 walks with an average of 10 miles and an average of 16.2 walkers.

In 2022 the average was 17 walkers which was slightly down on the figures prior to lockdown.

The Walks Programme shows 14 longer walks in July and August 2023 including 9 GM Ringway walks.

The Walks Programme is on the website, with David sending out Monthly walks.

Discussion:

One member had asked for more 20 mile walks on the programme.

Response, there are some 20 mile plus walks already on the programme and it really is down to the leaders.

From previous Minutes:

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.

Previous decisions remain in 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, per month, including out of area, with the distance 15 miles plus.

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

This subject came up on the Comedy Way and on the 11th June, where there were a number of walkers who worked during the week, they would welcome weekend walks on the programme.

Previous minutes, discussed again at this meeting.

Actions for those leading a walk.

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.

Neil explained how he would like all routes on our website walks database, which would not only include a description (can be brief) and report of the walk, but a route GPX file with map and photos. Those members with a Smart phone or mapping can easily do this, anyone struggling Ian will help.

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.

Karen wanted to emphasise the role of the back marker, they were not a 'skivvy' but played an essential role for the safety of those on the walks.

	<p>Other discussion Jane reported that she will be standing down as the Tuesday walk co-ordinator at the next AGM and she was thanked for her efforts. David is due have a pre-op soon for his knee replacement.</p> <p>Action: To gauge if there is any interest in becoming the short walks co-ordinator. Jane reported that she recruited most leaders for the programme on walks!</p>
3	<p>Finances Discussion</p> <p>Committee members had sight of the spreadsheet prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Neil felt that the Club was in a good financial position, with funds of £8,144.00, £478.00 more than 1st October. The Amble made £2,164.00 profit. It was agreed at the last meeting to pay Mountain Rescue £500.00 and Raynet £200.00. It was agreed at this meeting to pay Air Ambulance £200.00. It was agreed to pay £75.00 towards the mini bus for the Comedy Way and £100.00 for the mini bus for the Sandstone Trail. 18 people had signed up for the Sandstone Trail, paying £25.00 each towards the mini bus. The Club to subsidise the shortfall of £100.00. GM Ringway – No contribution is needed for this trip. Christmas Lunch – A deposit will be required. Karen to advise. SI Entries Ian reported Ann now had access to the financial details on Entries. The Amble and the Barbondale Round are both ‘live’.</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 July 2023 – Afternoon Walk with an evening meal. At members expense. 6th September 2023 - Committee meeting and Social evening to be decided 6th November 2023 AGM at the Sea View</p>

5

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Neil asked the Committee their opinion re the frequency and format of the Committee/social meetings?

It was agreed to have 4 meetings per year, including the AGM. It was agreed to have joint social and committee meetings at the Sea View, with a variety of topics/speakers.

Neil explained the NEC 'Dash Board' and that it was to be a set of statistics in relation to each group.

Succession

Neil reported that no-one had expressed a specific interest in taking on the role of Chair at this year's AGM. Details of what the role is are available on the LDWA's 'tool kit'. Neil stated that he is willing to stay on another year if no one came forward but that would definitely be the last year.

The Committee has a vacancy and it was agreed to try and co-opt a member onto the Committee.

One member asked whether there were any navigational skills courses? It is believed that there are some on SiEntries and these are best given by professional organisations.

Karen suggested the idea of having a West Lancs walking day, perhaps next year with 3 walks on offer from one venue. To be discussed further.

Meeting closed.