

**Minutes of West Yorkshire LDWA AGM held on
Saturday 30th September 2023 at 2:30pm at Bingley Little Theatre, Bingley**

In Attendance

**Ralph Warman
Chris Burrell
Tim Rollett
Karen Pickersgill
Lesley Peel
Julia Warman
Tom Wood
Roger Mahony
Warren Yabsley
Margaret Bluer
Eddie Winslow
Judi Webster
Randal Metzger
John Pickersgill
Julie Spencer
Ian Hofmann
Zoe Matsell
Adrian Gosling**

Apologies

**Iain Haigh
Sue Manley
Madeleine Watson
Trevor Wardman
Steve Hammond
John Pratchett
Jane Parry**

Ralph Warman opened the meeting with an introduction of the WY Committee, himself as Chair, Chris Burrell Secretary, Tim Rollett Treasurer, Julia Warman Walks Secretary, Lesley Peel Social Secretary, Tom Wood Web Master, Karen Pickersgill, Roger Mahony Sue Manley & Iain Haigh Committee members. Ralph summarised that the AGM would be a reflection of what had happened in the 2022/2023, financial year and was looking forward to 2023/2024.

Ralph indicated that some members of the WY committee had been in office for sometime and new blood was needed to join the committee to ensure WY moved with the times and enjoyed the success that had become familiar to WY LDWA over the years.

Thanks was given to those who had travelled from afar and overcome the train strike to attend the AGM.

All the relevant reports had been made available to everyone to read in advance of the AGM, and are attached to these minutes.

• **Apologies for Absence**

- Received – as per above

• **Minutes of Previous AGM – held in 1st October 2022**

- Passed as a true accurate record
Proposer – Judi Webster
Secunder – Roger Mahony
- Matters Arising –
 - i. Future Plans for 2022/2023
 1. Tim to look at organising the Lyke Wake Walk - 40 miles from Osmotherley to Ravenscar.
 2. Other possible walks to undertake are,
 3. Yorkshire Heritage Way, from Bradford Cathedral to Ripon Cathedral, covering 42 miles.
 4. Six Dales Trail, from Otley to Middleham covering 38 miles.
- The above four items moved into 2023/ 2024

- **Chair's Report – Ralph Warman**

As the group comes to the end of another financial year and its AGM looms the committee are asked to stand down but are eligible for re-election subject to them not completing their full term of office. The group has had another very successful year. This is down to a strong committee and the involvement of its members and the influx of new members also getting involved with all our activities. I would personally like to thank once again our Group Secretary, Chris Burrell who is a major influence to the committee. Chris's enthusiasm, drive and commitment is appreciated. He undertook heading up a very successful 100 kit check co-ordination at this year's event in the Midlands on 2 very busy checkpoints. His involvement with the NEC, along with Karen, ensures West Yorkshire is well represented at national level.

We continue to be a respected and successful group within the Association. The passion and common interest that brings us together to walk in the great outdoors with fellow members from all walks of life and backgrounds makes for a happy and enjoyable pastime.

We have the luxury of having a large amount of dedicated walk leaders which enables us to host a large and varied walks programme which also attracts members from other local groups.

Having said that we must avoid becoming complacent. Some neighbouring groups are not as fortunate and are struggling to exist in our ageing Association. Something that we must regularly address is the continuation of a committee taking us forward and encouraging others to continue with the involvement of our group. If this resonates with any of you, and you wish to join our or future committees, please have a word with me or any other member of the existing committee. Thanks.

We all have our part to play and without each other our Group wouldn't be as successful as it is. Well done and let's keep up the good work, everyone!

- **Secretary's Report – Chris Burrell**

Where has the last two years gone? At the end of my second year as West Yorkshire LDWA secretary I can honestly say I have enjoyed every minute.

The group has been very active over the last 12 months, adding many social walks to the calendar, and organising two well supported challenge events; the Roundhay 50 in February and One Foot in The Gargrave earlier this month [September]. A big thanks must go out to the lead organiser and the army of volunteers who give up their time to help.

At the EBB 100, West Yorkshire was well represented with a good number of members taking part and finishing the event. West Yorkshire also volunteered to man two check points, carrying out kit checks at Henley on Arden and Coventry. I can confirm the team of 11 kit checkers had a brilliant time, probably more so than those who competed!

We also played host along with North Yorkshire group to Essex and Hert's group over the weekend 25th and 26th March.

By the end of 2022 the quarterly newsletter was getting a bit long in the tooth, so the new year saw the introduction of a monthly news email. Hopefully this is a good idea to let you know what is going on in the group. If anyone wants to add any comments which they would like to share, please send them to westyorks.secretary@ldwa.org.uk

The 2022 Walk and AGM went well last year with a number of new faces attending, and it is hoped that this year's AGM will be similarly well supported. The AGM walk will start from Bingley Little Theatre at 09:00 and it will be a 12-mile gentle pace walk, followed by the AGM at Bingley Little Theatre at 14:30 followed by light refreshments.

The Christmas Walk and Party was well received again, and many thanks to Lesley and Sue for organising [not forgetting Iain for being such a good sport].

The West Yorkshire Social Walks calendar was as ever well supported by walks leaders and walkers alike. A massive thanks to all that got involved. A number of these walks were published under the LDWA History and Pubs groups.

In August a number of members and friends undertook the Across the Bay Walk from Arnside to Grange.

The exchange weekend with the South of Wales group was well supported and enjoyed by all who attended, South Wales lead walks on Saturday into the Black Mountains on a fantastic dry sunny day,

Sunday's walk started off a bit wet but soon the sun came out and we had a brilliant day walking from Monmouth.

A special thanks must go to Tom Wood our Webmaster, who keeps the website up to date [even when on holiday!!!]. It is the best way to keep in touch with everything West Yorkshire LDWA.

Committee meetings are held quarterly at the Brown Cow Bingley, and all are welcome to come along and get involved. Please have a word with any committee member if you want to come along.

The last point from me is to thank all the committee and members who make West Yorkshire Long Distance Walkers Association what it is today, and long may it continue.

• **Treasurer's/Financial Report – Tim Rollett**

West Yorks LDWA Accounts - Income and Expenditure Transactions - 2022/23

Opening Balances	Bank (£)	Cash (£)	Amount (£)
Cash	123.53		
Current account	2606.02		
Total opening balances		2729.55	

Income

Hundred marshal rebates	420.00		
Roundhay 50 entries	5595.52		
Gargrave 2022 (SI Entries adjustment)	10.00		
Gargrave 2023	2220.00		
Donations (Mountain Rescue)	15.44		
EBB rebate	500.00		
LDWA MG Fund	3800.00		
Cross bay	300.00		
Speyside accommodation	350.00		
Total income	13195.52	15.44	13210.96

Expenditure

AGM Refreshments	180.00		
Flowers	57.00		
LGR Weekend	45.00		
Refreshments	63.65	38.70	
Xmas meal	265.56	5.00	
Cross Bay upfront payment	300.00		
Roundhay 50 expenditure	3892.12	50.00	
EBB Marshal expenses	350.00		
Jackets/merchandise	412.00		
Gargrave expenditure	1147.44		
Postage	7.94		
Gargrave (2022 adjustment SI entries)	20.72		
Speyside accommodation	304.00		
LDWA Donation (Roundhay 50)	210.00		
Urban Search and Rescue donation (R50)		200.00	
PAFRAS Donation (R50)	200.00		
Total expenditure	7647.49	101.64	7749.13
Net income/expenditure			5461.83
Closing Balances			
Current account	8154.05		
Cash	37.33		

Total 8191.38

One Foot in the Gargrave provisional profit and loss account

Income	£	Expenditure	£
SI Entries	2220.00	Equipment	101.84
		Petrol	10.00
		Flowers	11.95
		Food	385.66
		Hall Hire	240.00
		Drinks for Marshalls	54.25
		Certificate printing	129.00
		SI Entries fees	214.74
Total income	2220.00	Total expenditure	1147.44
		Less £110 transfer from R50	110.00
Profit/loss			962.56

- **Social Secretary's Report – Lesley Peel**

This year the group has had 2 very enjoyable social events.

In December last year, more than 30 people met in the car park of The Wheatley Arms in Ben Rhydding near Ilkley, for our annual pre-Christmas walk. The 12-mile route took in lots of the local scenery, including passing through Nesfield and Denton. Part way round, lots of mince pies were eaten, fuel for the rest of the walk. Once back, we all enjoyed a festive drink in the pub, with many of us changing into party gear to enjoy a festive late lunch in the restaurant. The menu catered to all tastes, - traditional Christmas, beef, fish or vegetarian - and a choice of 2 or 3 courses. Plus, we were very lucky to have a visit from the Christmas Elf, a quiz to keep us on our toes, a raffle and some rousing singing. It was a very splendid and enjoyable day indeed, and I'd like to express my thanks to Sue and Iain for all their wonderful help.

In the middle of August this year, on a sunny day, we had a wonderful time doing the Cross Bay Walk, which is an 8 mile walk across Morecambe Bay starting at Arnside and finishing at Grange Over Sands. So late in the afternoon, 20 of us gathered on the beach in Arnside, together with several other hundred people and dogs, all awaiting instructions from the official guide to commence the walk. There was a briefing about possible sinking sand, that tractors would accompany us in case anyone got into difficulty and that once we got to the river, everyone needed to form a long line to cross it together. Feeling very eager to start, we set off following the coast line, then out across the expanse of the bay towards the distant sea. A few miles into the walk, we could see the river Kent ahead of us. This created lots of excitement as we didn't know how deep the river water was going be to wade through. Obviously the taller you were, the less wet you got, but for most of us it was up to knee high or a little beyond. The effort needed to wade through came as quite a surprise and was very much the highlight of the walk. Once through the river, we turned right and followed a long, wide sand bank that took us to the end of the promenade at Grange over Sands, the finish of the Cross Bay Walk. We all enjoyed ourselves immensely and highly recommend it to others.

- **Walk's Secretary Report – Julia Warman**

Yet again, I am happy to report that our walk leaders have provided us with a busy and varied programme of walks over the last 12 months. The walks have ranged from Walking Across

Morecambe Bay, to visiting the Scarecrows in Kettlewell and a trip on the Flying Scotsman. In addition, we have had lots of great walks in the Dales, Kirklees and Calder Valley, providing lots of good miles and ascent.

We have had another new leader on board, Steve Hammond, who lead for us in June and is leading again for us in October. There are also “potential” new leaders in the wings who have intimated an interest in leading a walk.

In addition, we have continued with supporting other groups by putting on joint walks with Calderdale, Nidderdale and South Pennines.

We also managed to fit in our annual One Foot in the Gargrave event together with the Roundhay 50. Both events receiving great feedback and good attendance.

MONTH	MILES	PEOPLE ON WALK
2022		
October	169	88
November	135	77
December	95	95
2023		
January	37	40
February	35	44
March	85	62
April	63	62
May	98	54
June	89	47
July	128	72
August	58	59
September	23	13
TOTALS:	1015	713

My personal highlight was Julie Spencer’s birthday walk back in April from Digley. It was great to see such a good turnout for Julie’s special day, the weather, the route, the pub in the middle of the afternoon and the cake at the end made it one of my most memorable walks of 2023.

Our walks programme for 2024 is looking to be another good one – so thanks to everyone who leads a walk, back marks on a walk, opens and closes the gates, welcomes new members to our walks – we all play our part in maintaining a very active social walks calendar.

- **LDWA NEC Report – Karen Pickersgill**

Karen confirmed that the NEC is sending out a monthly newsletter, which confirms all things NEC related.

The development of the new LDWA website is underway, with the new membership system now up and running through SiEntries and is proving to be a great help to the new membership secretary after input from Julia and Ralph Warman during the transformation.

The NEC is still looking for volunteers to work in the Media/IT team, if you have some free time and fancy a challenge please get in touch with Karen.

- **Web Master – Tom Wood**

Tom confirmed the website was working all ok and thanked those who had contributed, one point he made, was he has started to edit the photos which have been sent to him, he hopes nobody will take offence if their photos aren’t shown.

- **Election of Officers**

Chair – Position Vacant Nomination – Ralph Warman	Proposer – Chris Burrell Seconded – Tim Rollett
Secretary – Position Vacant Nomination – Chris Burrell	Proposer – Ralph Warman Seconded – Roger Mahony
Treasurer Nomination – Tim Rollett	Proposer – Tom Wood Seconded – Judi Webster
Walks Secretary Nomination – Julia Warman	Proposer – Tim Rollett Seconded – Lesley Peel
Social Secretary Nomination – Lesley Peel	Proposer – Chris Burrell Seconded – Roger Mahony
Webmaster Nomination – Tom Wood	Proposer – Julia Warman Seconded – Karen Pickersgill
Ordinary Committee Member Nomination – Sue Manley	Proposer – Lesley Peel Seconded – Karen Pickersgill
Ordinary Committee Member Nomination – Iain Haigh	Proposer – Judi Webster Seconded – Tim Rollett
Ordinary Committee Member Nomination – Karen Pickersgill	Proposer – Lesley Peel Seconded – Roger Mahony
Ordinary Committee Member Nomination – Roger Mahony	Proposer – Tim Rollett Seconded – Ralph Warman
Ordinary Committee Member Nominated – Zoe Matsell	Proposer – Roger Mahony Seconded – Judi Webster
Ordinary Committee Member Nominated – Margaret Bluer	Proposer – Judi Webster Seconded – John Pickersgill

Please note, in the absence of Sue Manley, and Iain Haigh, they were re-elected after confirming they would stand for another year.

Zoe Matsell and Margaret Bluer put themselves forward for the roles Ordinary Committee Members respectively and were voted onto the committee.

Ralph thanked both Zoe and Margaret for putting themselves forward and welcomed them to the committee. As in Ralph's opening, reference to members putting themselves forward to help on the committee, this is fantastic news and will go a long way in keeping the WY group active in many years to come.

- **AOB**

- Warren; - asked if the National and Local Groups websites would still be linked when the new National website is up and running: - Karen confirmed this would be the case and would work together as they are now.

- Judi; - thanked all for the kindness shown after her accident, and didn't mind admitting she shed a tear or two when she received the flowers from the group.
- Warren raised two points on the 2022/2023 accounts; -
 - i. What is the MG Fund? Tim explained that a member Martin Greaves had left the LDWA a large sum of money to be used for development of ideas within the LDWA. WY applied for a sum £3800 to develop a new updated Ebor Way walk guide, the money was granted and sits in our account ready to be used in editing, printing etc.
 - ii. What is the EBB rebate? Tim explained if there was a profit made on the 100 events, all groups who sent teams to help were entitled to a rebate, to be shared to cover/go towards fuel and accommodation of members who helped. At the 2023 event £50 was offered to the members who helped, note not all took up the offer hence the £420 Hundred Marshal Rebate.
- Ebor Way
 - i. The original guide was published in 1977 and is well out of date, WY have taken on the challenge to rewrite the guide, and already some of the sections have been walked and the wording drafted accordingly, if you can help with this task, please contact Ralph Warman.
- Ralph asked if the 2024 committee dates could be displayed in strider.
- Ralph confirmed that the Gargrave village hall had been provisionally booked for the 7th Sep 2024.
- Randal, suggested hi viz vests with WY logos should be worn by walks leaders when leading a walk and when receiving it, to get the WY LDWA name out there.
- Margaret, suggested we had embroidered logo badges made to attach to T Shirts, Jumpers etc, again to show who we are. Chris confirmed that a new range of merchandise will be available very soon and would ask if embroidered badges could be purchased.
- Warren, suggested we had business cards printed to hand out or leave in significant places, again to let people know who we are. Julia has some LDWA cards and will see how many there are. Zoe suggested that a QR code was included.

Meeting ended at 3.30pm