

LDWA East Lancs Group

Minutes of the Meeting Held at 8pm on Tuesday 7th February 2017
at the Doffcocker Inn, Chorley Old Road, Bolton BL1 5QD.

Present:

Paul Wadsworth (PW)	Chair
Alison Wadsworth (AEW)	Secretary
Paul Allen (PA)	Treasurer
David Walsh (DW)	Walks Secretary
Viv Lee (VL)	Social and Events Secretary
Hilary Scott (HS)	IT Secretary
Alma Walsh (AW)	Ordinary Committee Member
Ken Noble (KN)	Ordinary Committee Member
Peter Steckles (PS)	Ordinary Committee Member
Caroline Tennant (CT)	Nick Halford
Barbara Shelton	Steve Clark
Sue Boardman	Peter Balshaw

Apologies:

Paul & Sue Raine	John Picton
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The Group was quorate and the meeting opened at 8.03pm and closed at 9.45pm.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting:

The Minutes were accepted as a true record of January's meeting.

2. Matters Arising:

Action 16.16 In total 28 people attended the two CPR courses held on 24th September and 1st October.

and 16.17: February update: The following actions were agreed:

- The Group would make a £100 donation to the Fire Service Benevolent Fund, which the Fire Service has requested is made in person at one of its fundraising events but has no dates as yet. The Secretary to chase and make arrangements for a cheque to be handed over as soon as possible.
- The Treasurer has made a £50 donation to the British Heart Foundation.
- Viv Lee brought disposable gloves to the meeting for Group members.
- Viv will add disposable face shields and gloves to the first aid kits for the Group's challenge events.

Action: Ongoing

Action 16.30: Some concern was expressed at the Group acting as a Travel Agent and any liability that might apply in the event of a holiday monies being lost and whether it might be better for a Group member to book properties on a credit card and then reclaim this amount from the Treasurer. The Chair and Secretary to try and obtain any additional information on any impact on the Group and review this at a later meeting.
February update: The Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Social Secretary met in January 2017 to discuss when this started, the process that has been followed, how monies are reported in the accounts, the impact of the Group's bank accounts and the risks and issues faced by the Group and those attending the holidays. A summary of the findings is as follows:

- Feedback from other groups shows that some have similar arrangements,

whilst others had discontinued the practice due to fall outs. However the Group is not acting as a travel agent;

- The group's bank accounts were not fully transparent in that monies contained and reported within the accounts included contributions to these holidays and so there had been some over reporting of the Group's financial accounts;
- This process had only been used for holiday bookings made for the Dorset (2016) and North Yorkshire (2017) 100s, and Ghyll Head 2016 and 2017;
- The Treasurer and Social Secretary provided a breakdown of monies spent and monies received and the Chair could confirm that Group funds had not been used to subsidise holidays.

The Group voted on the proposal that it should continue to facilitate the booking process. This was carried by a substantial majority subject to the following actions:

- The Treasurer and Chair will meet before the April meeting to agree a mechanism to enable the separate reporting of holiday bookings and the flow of monies;
- A number of risks to the individual and the Group were identified in using the Group bank accounts. The Secretary has produced 'Booking Guidelines' (attached) which should be read by members and guests booking such holidays. The gist of these is to confirm that the total responsibility for the holiday and the booking lies with those taking part and at no time and in no event will the Group be financially responsible for such bookings;
- No holiday payment will be made by the Group until sufficient cleared monies have been received to cover it.

Action: Ongoing

**Action
16.35:**

The Treasurer confirmed he has electronic access to the Group's bank accounts but the Chair has not received view only access.

February update: The Chair has finally received view only access and has complained to the bank about the poor level of service received.

Action: Closed

**Action
16.46:**

A discussion took place about the preparedness of some walkers on group walks with some walkers carrying only very minimal equipment.

The issue was discussed at the Group Reps weekend with a mixed response, some Groups asked walkers to sign a disclaimer before social walks.

The Group agreed that walk leaders should be supported to refuse entry to a walk to anyone deemed to be so ill equipped that it could represent a danger to the walker and others.

Any persistent walker who was deemed to not be adequately equipped will be contacted by either the Chair, Secretary or Walks Secretary and advised of the requirement to wear/carry appropriate equipment.

Addition information regarding the expectations for equipment to be carried should be included in our Group section in Strider and on our web site. We could also take this opportunity to the add information regarding the pace/duration of the walks. The Secretary to draft updated information and bring to January's meeting for discussion/agreement.

3.1 January update: A revised introductory section to the East Lancashire Group for inclusion in Strider was presented. No amendments were suggested and this information will be sent to both the Editor of Strider and the the IT Secretary for inclusion on our web site.

3.2 It was also suggested that the Secretary writes to the NEC requesting national guidance on preparedness of walkers be included in every edition of Strider particularly in view of recent events with two walkers stranded in the Cairngorms in adverse weather conditions.

3.3 February update: All actions completed.

3.4 Action: Closed

Action 17.01: Entrants to all challenge events are advised to bring a mug. The LDWA's Environmental Policy advises against providing disposable cups except in case of emergency. This has been discussed with Viv Lee and it was agreed at the December meeting that disposable cups would no longer be provided on either of our challenge events. Plastic reusable mugs with the Group's logo will be ordered at a cost of £150 for 100 and would be available for entrants to buy for £2 at the events.

The Secretary to order 100 mugs once the Group's logo has been updated.

January update: The Secretary to contact Gordon Stone who has agreed to revise the Group's logo. The logo will be brought to February's meeting for approval and sign off and then mugs will be ordered.

3.5 February update: In Gordon's absence, no revised logo was discussed. The Group agreed to purchase customised mugs rather than just plain mugs. The Secretary to action.

3.6 Action: Ongoing

Action 17.02: The LDWA is the UK Governing Body for long distance walking and is recognised by Sport England. To deliver this, the LDWA website contains a Long Distance Paths (LDP) database containing extensive information relating to LDPs. The current version of the database is old, requires considerable effort to maintain and needs to be redesigned. The database administrator would like to understand the current use of the database, the on-going needs of the user and any other information that he should be aware of in making a decision regarding the future of the database.

Group members to look at the LDP part of the LDWA website and feedback their thoughts, ideas, current usage and future needs. All contributions should be emailed to the Secretary by 10th January 2017 when they will be collated and forwarded.

3.7 February update: No comments were received.

Action: Closed

Action 17.04: Norman Thomas, Chris Langabeer and Ian Pickup are organising four walks covering the Red Rose 50 route. These will start in May 2017 on the second Wednesday of each month. Anyone interested in attending these walks should contact Chris so that suitable coach arrangements can be made. Chris to provide quotations for the coaches so that the Group can discuss and agree the size of coach to be booked / cost to individuals / potential Group subsidy.

January update: As 11 seats have now been reserved, It was agreed to book a 20 seater coach for each of the four legs and that individuals would be charged £6.00 per leg. This was agreed to reduce the possibility of the Group having to provide a significant subsidy whilst allowing for more members to attend. Once a seat has been booked it would be expected that payment would be made even if the individual was unable to attend.

Dave Walsh to send out a reminder email to all members asking them to book early if they wished to attend.

February update: Due to popular demand, a 33 seater coach has been organised for each leg. Members who have reserved a place are reminded that if you book, you pay the agreed £6 even if you can't attend. This will make any shortfall in funding minimal.

Action: Closed

Action 17.05: Viv Lee is organising two Sunday walks covering the Red Rose 50 route. The first is on 2nd April. Anyone interested in attending these walks should contact Viv so that suitable coach arrangements can be made. Viv to provide quotations for the coaches so that the Group can discuss and agree the size of coach to be booked / cost to individuals / potential Group subsidy.

January update: Viv confirmed that she will not be asking the Group to subsidise the cost of a coach. If there is insufficient interest expressed by early March then cars will

be used instead.

Dave Walsh to send an email to all primary and associate members regarding the walk.

The Secretary to inform other Group secretaries of this also.

February update: To date 16 people were walking the first leg on 2nd April and 15 people the second leg on 18th June. Please let Viv know as soon as possible if you want to join.

Action: Ongoing

Action 17.06: In 2016 Gordon Stone produced some A4 publicity flyers advertising the Two Crosses Event. PW will advise how many were produced so that Gordon / CT can update and provide the same amount for this year's event. These should then be brought to the February meeting for Group members to take and put up in appropriate locations.

Action: 17. 06: AW to contact Gordon Stone.

3.8 February update: Gordon had sent Caroline an electronic version of the poster. Caroline had provided printed, laminated copies and entry forms for distribution at the meeting.

Action: Closed

	Agenda Items:
3.	Chair and Secretary's Update:
3.1	The Chair displayed a slide from June 2016 showing the Group's anticipated spend for the year ahead as £2,300. The actual spend was £2,600. If large one off items are excluded then if spend is replicated, it is anticipated that the Group's annual expenditure would be approximately £1,300 per annum. This would only be possible if the Group's challenge events returned to pre-2016 levels of profit.
3.1	Action 17.07: The Events Secretary to bring a breakdown of the the Two Crosses income, expenditure and profit to the April meeting, to allow the Group to discuss its finances and set its expenditure levels for the year ahead.
3.2	Gail Elrick, NEC Chair, has advised that the National Trust is now actioning its plans to charge a licence fee for challenge events which cross its lands and a per entrant fee, even if the event uses public footpaths. The actual amount is not known at present.
4.	Treasurer's Update:
4.1	The Treasurer provided an update on the group's financial position, including adjustments after holiday monies had been removed.
5.	Walks Secretary's Update:
5.1	The Walks Secretary requested volunteers for the September to December 2017 Walks Programme. At present 4 Wednesday and 5 Sunday walks need filling.
5.2	Walks continue to be well supported with Barbara Shelton's recent walk attracting 34 walkers.
6	Social Secretary's Update:
6.1	Full details of all social events can be found on the website.
6.2	Viv was thanked at the meeting for all her hard work in booking the holidays.
7.	Events Secretary's Update:
7.1	66 entries have been received to date for the Two Crosses.
7.2	Caroline reported that all necessary permissions had either been received or were in progress with no issues anticipated.

7.3	Some problems had been identified with the Two Crosses Route, a stile was missing and a gate had been erected near the maggot farm. Caroline will contact 'Fix My Street' to try and resolve this.
7.4	The Two Crosses Marshal's Walk will take place at 8.30am on Wednesday, 15 th March 2017.
7.5	Action 17.08: The Chair to chase Sue Gettings and Any Griffin to arrange access to the Scout Hut prior and after the event.
7.6	In 10 weeks 86 RR50 entries have been received, 75% through SportIdent.
7.7	Action 17.09: The Secretary to contact Gordon Stone asking him for a further 10 A4 posters.
7.8	There will be a Red Rose 50 Co-ordinators meeting before the Group meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 4 th April 2017.
8	IT Secretary's Update:
8.1	The Group's web site is up to date, nothing further to report.
8.2	Ken Noble reported that he had put photographs from Ian Wardle covering the recent Ambleside holiday on the Group's Facebook account.
9.	Any Other Business
9.1	Member's Open Forum:
	Steve Clark and Sue Boardman have recently retired and brought in a cake to mark the event. Congratulations to them both.
	Viv reported that Norman Thomas has suffered a small heart attack and is undergoing further tests. The Group sends Norman its best wishes and the Treasurer will send a get well card and gift on behalf of the Group. Action 17.10
9.2	The Secretary apologised for the lack of sandwiches at the meeting but this was due to a mistake by the Doffcocker. The Doffcocker has received a request to book the room we use every week and so wants to move the Group meetings into the smaller upstairs room. Whilst this would be possible for most meetings it would be cramped and not ideal for presentations. Action 17.11: If Group members know of another venue which can seat us in comfort please let the Secretary know. (Provision of sandwiches preferred but not essential).

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Date and Time of Next Meeting

**8pm, Tuesday 7th March 2017 at the
Doffcocker Inn, Chorley Old Road, Bolton BL1 5QD.**

**The meeting will be followed by a presentation from Kate Hughes entitled
'Walking the Kungsleden- Sweden: Abisko to Nikkalouka'.**

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Sandwiches will be provided.

ALL WELCOME