

LDWA East Lancs Group

Minutes of the Meeting Held at 8pm on Tuesday 5th March 2019
at the Doffcocker Inn, Chorley Old Road, Bolton BL1 5QD.

Present:

Hilary Scott (HS)	Chair / IT Secretary
Roger Jackson (RJ)	Secretary
Viv Lee (VL)	Social Secretary
David Walsh (DW)	Walks Secretary
Caroline Tennant (CT)	Events Secretary
Alma Walsh (AW)	Ordinary Committee Member
Ken Noble (KN)	Ordinary Committee Member
Pauline Melia (PM)	Ordinary Committee Member
Gordon Stone (GS)	Ordinary Committee Member
Barbara Shelton (BS)	Nick Halford (NH)
Paul Raine (PR)	Mike Bushby (MB)
Jane Hill (JH)	

Apologies:

Paul Allen (PA)	Treasurer
Paul Wadsworth (PW)	Ordinary Committee Member
Alison Wadsworth (AW)	Alf Short (AS)
Kim Walsh (KW)	Andy Griffin (AG)

The Group was quorate and the meeting opened at 8.05pm and closed at 09.35 pm.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting:

Following a correction, regarding Peter Balshaw's attendance, and a couple of other minor changes, the Minutes were accepted as a true record of February's meeting.

2. Matters Arising:

- 18.13** The Secretary to ask the NEC Data Manager as to whether a Walk Register is required on a recce of a Group Walk in order to receive the LDWA insurance cover.
October Update: Still awaiting further advice/guidance from the NEC.
December Update: Still waiting. **March Update:** NEC has now confirmed that walk registers are not required for a recce. **Action Closed.**
- 19.01** The Treasurer gave a summary update on the Group's financial position. The accounts were shown to hold a strong positive balance mainly due to the ongoing success of the Two Crosses, the Red Rose 100 and the two Red Rose 50 events. The Chair proposed we should use some of this profit to promote walking related good causes and the East Lancs LDWA generally. Various suggestions were made including sponsoring repair work on stiles and providing kissing gates with an East Lancs LDWA plaque. Finally it was agreed we would like members to put forward ideas for discussion in the February meeting. **February Update:** To continue. **March Update:** Discussion continued in item 10 on Agenda. **Action Ongoing.**

- 19.2** Complaint, Mr Ray Bangbala HS read a letter alleging discrimination in the giving of 'remuneration' for event volunteers only if they attended the Christmas meal. He does not drive so could not attend. Various comments were passed from the meeting, in particular that there was no remuneration as such, but a subsidy to those spending their own money at the meal, which was deliberately held next to a railway station and on a good bus route. It was also pointed out that the policy was not new and had been agreed by the group in January 2016. It was decided HS should draft a reply, to be shown at the next meeting, explaining the situation, thanking Mr Bangbala for his past assistance, and accepting his request to be removed from the volunteer list.
March Update: Letter drafted by HS, agreed by the committee, and sent to Mr Bangbala. No response received to date. **Action Closed**

3 Chair and Secretary Update:

The Chair declared that February had been a very positive month for the group. All walks well supported, excellent social trip to Keswick, Two Crosses entries high, ICE Tags ordered and PNFS sign No 538 paid for. She also sent a well-done message to everyone for their work and support.

We were approached by a non LDWA runner asking if the group would like to help him to put on an event (Pendle Way). This was declined as we are already committed with our own events.

The Secretary has contacted Christopher Hedley to confirm our Data Protection compliance. Also has applied the agreed changes to Walk Leaders Expenses documentation on the LDWA main server.

4 Treasurer's Update:

The Treasurer forwarded details of our accounts which continue to hold a healthy balance.

5 Event Secretary's Update:

Two Crosses

The Two Crosses Event is live on SI, 241 entries received to date, comfortably up on this time last year.

VL together with Dave Chadwick, from the councils pathways department have been inspecting damaged stiles between the Laurel Centre and Affetside, photographs have been taken which Dave will talk initially to land owners then if necessary to the council. East Lancs has asked for an estimate with the possibility of offering a contribution towards the cost.

Redisher Wood revisited and all works now complete including, steps, stepping stones and banking reinforced. One new stile is in place. Still several broken ones in the section before Affetside which Dave Chadwick is chasing up.

Two crosses general description and pictures on the website. Route description and GPX updated to show Redisher Wood and Crowthorn diversions. These have been distributed to all entrants and are on the website. Diversions will be sign posted on the day.

Risk assessment updated for diversions, all permits received from United Utilities and National Trust, no firing on Holcombe on 17th.

Staffing List complete, confirmed and available on East Lancs website.

6 Walks Secretary's Update:

The Walks Secretary confirmed details coming in for September to December walks. He also informed the meeting The August walk program is not in Strider, though they were provided with details prior to the required date.

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7 Social Secretary's Update.

Recent Events

VL reported a group of eighteen East Lancs LDWA members had just returned from a very enjoyable week in Keswick, great walks on the tops each day, relaxing social evenings including a visit to ' **The Theatre on the Lake**'. House fully booked up for next year but there will still be accommodation available elsewhere in the town.

Future Events

VL also hi-lighted the following upcoming events.

2019

April – South West Coast Path. Based Exmouth.

May – Hadrian 100. Based Dufton. Fully Booked

Nov - Real Ale Ramble, Llanwrytd Wells

Dec – Ghyll Head. Walks in South Lakes. 11 people booked 3 places remaining.

Also June 23 rd Ramsbottom Round - Visiting Peel Tower in the afternoon which will be opened & staffed by Viv & others to raise funds for MND & MS. Light refreshments available. Tower open. Please contact Viv if you would like to help.

2020

May – The Welsh 100

For further details or to book a place please contact the Social Secretary, Viv.

8 IT Secretary's Update

The Web Site is currently up to date, Including the 2019 Two Crosses Staffing List. The postings on Facebook are going well. We will endeavour to keep it to a level of three or four new entries a week.

9. Red Rose 50

RJ gave a brief update.

Entries - Red Rose 50 2019 details on Si-Entries and East Lancs web site, we have 8 people entered to date.

Route - KN has proposed a change to section leaving Jubilee Tower down to A666 road, which will improve the night section. This will be discussed at the meeting Tuesday March 12th.

Venues - All venues have now been booked, though the parking at Turton Tower will now cost £300, rather than the £200 last year.

Staffing - The staffing list is nearly complete with just a few confirmations / vacancies remaining. Will be distributed at next Red Rose 50 meeting.

10 Suggestions for best use of East Lancs funds (continued).

A lengthy discussion considered most of the ideas that had been put forward with the others being covered in Item 11.

It was agreed to replace the large storage boxes with smaller ones Action: CT to investigate options.

VL has already purchased the large water jugs.

There was general agreement that we should be giving full support to the Ramblers in backing the proposed amendments to the new Agricultural Bill, however this is a long-term solution and should not preclude us looking to help improve our local walking environment now, including signs and stiles. Also, although it is good to promote the East Lancs brand the important thing is to contribute to the area generally and assist the people providing the services particularly if these should involve volunteer groups

Walkie Talkies were suggested to help solve the problem of walks fragmentation. Several members commentated that when tried previously they were of little help and a better solution would be an exchange of phone numbers prior to the walk, use of whistles, and encouragement generally regarding individual walker and leader responsibility.

Health and Safety and Risk Assessment training proved a popular idea and we already have considerable expertise in the group, but other suggested training was not considered required at local group level. **Action:** VL to progress First Aid training.

Suggestion to use 2nd (unused) car port at Batridge Barn – concern was raised that this may too small and not sturdy enough in bad conditions. However, it was decided to use this shelter at the Two Crosses / Red Rose 50 / LDWA 100 party, then assess its suitability. The other shelters we have are too light and small to use at Batridge Barn.

11

Future social event subsidies

For the past three years those members who have helped out at specific East Lancs events have been given a subsidy towards the cost of the annual Christmas Meal , as a small thank you for their efforts. However, following concerns that this may be unfair to helpers unable to attend that event, several alternative suggestions have been put forward for consideration. Including:

Fully funding the Two Crosses / LDWA 100 / Red Rose 50 party and possibly providing entertainment.

Paying for the lunch on the Christmas Cracker walk.

Giving the appropriate money to local Charities.

Fully funding the Two Crosses was initially the most popular, but then it was decided people liked the format as it was, particularly everyone bringing a food contribution. Also, none of these options actually address the initial concern.

Finally, we decided a compromise, if finance available, may be to continue the Christmas Meal subsidy in its current form, but the same amount per head for non-attending helpers should be given to a local charity. It was also agreed to continue to fund the drink for the Two Crosses / LDWA 100 / Red Rose 50 party.

AOB

None

Date and Time of the Next Meeting.

8pm, on Tuesday, 2nd April 2019.

at the Doffcocker Inn, Chorley Old Road, Bolton BL1 5QD.

Sandwiches will be provided.

ALL WELCOME

