

LDWA East Lancs Group

Minutes of the Meeting Held at 8pm on Tuesday 3rd March 2020

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

Present:

Hilary Scott (HS)	Chair / IT Secretary
Roger Jackson (RJ)	Secretary
Paul Allen (PA)	Treasurer
Viv Lee (VL)	Social Secretary
David Walsh (DW)	Walks Secretary
Alma Walsh (AW)	Ordinary Committee Member
Pauline Melia (PM)	Ordinary Committee Member
Gordon Stone (GS)	Ordinary Committee Member
Paul Wadsworth (PW)	Ordinary Committee Member
Mike Bushby (MB)	Andy Griffin (AG)
Ian Hamilton (IH)	Jane Hill (JH)
Peter Balshaw (PB)	Paul Raine (PR)
Steve Clark (SC)	Alison Wadsworth (AW)

Apologies:

Nick Halford (NH)	Caroline Tennant (CT)
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The Group was quorate and the meeting opened at 8.00 pm and closed at 09.45 pm.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting:

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

2. Matters Arising:

19.01 Ongoing discussion of spending some funds.

VL has established contact with 'Friends of Redisher Woods'. A meeting will be established shortly, to establish where East Lancs would wish repair work to occur, with a view to a possible donation to assist with these costs. Will report back for the group's consideration on this **May Update**: A meeting has now been arranged to view the area concerned and then a decision can be made. **June Update**: VL has had a meeting with Dave Chadwick and others to discuss the required Redisher Woods footpath improvements, in particular ones related to the Two Crosses event. The full estimate for the work is £8000 to £10000. It will be completed by a contractor who does regular work for the council and can be done either in one go or in several stages as the money is available. Crowd funding is being considered with various groups including 'Ramblers' as possibilities. Also, we are applying to the NEC to see if they can help. VL suggested East Lancs LDWA offer to contribute £1000, which was proposed by the Chair and agreed by

the meeting. **July Update:** HS has contacted Dave Chadwick concerning our contribution. Also, VL/CT have put together a detailed proposal, requesting additional funds, to be sent to the NEC. **Action:** HS to send proposal to NEC in time before next NEC meeting. **August Update:** HS sent the proposal to the NEC; it was accepted and the full £1000 granted. She has also informed Dave Chadwick of the decision so he can progress the repairs. **September Update:** We have not heard from Dave Chadwick re the contractor looking/starting the work. **Action:** HS to email Dave Chadwick requesting an update on progress. **October Update :** HS has spoken to Dave Chadwick who has in turn spoken to the contractor. Apparently one hundred steps are required, he will be coming back to Dave with a quote for the work. Dave has since contacted HS to say the contractor has quoted £5000 for the work, split into four sections. This means we are £2000 short of funding the whole scheme. Dave has contacted the Ramblers and had an initial positive response. He has provided the relevant information and they will discuss the request for funding at the next Area Executive Council meeting scheduled for 14th October. Having split the scheme into four sections we have options to carry out some of the work if funding falls short, but he is not going to give that further consideration until after the Ramblers' meeting. **January Update:** Dave Chadwick updated Hilary shortly before the meeting. The contractor has been appointed and weather permitting work should be completed before March 15th (Two Crosses). We will be invoiced for our contribution; PA is aware of this. HS asked to be informed when the contractor is due to start so we can go and get some photos. Both we and the Ramblers have expressed a wish to have a plaque. Dave has no objection so it is something we will need to sort out between ourselves.

February Update: HS contacted Dave Chadwick for an update on when work on Redisher Woods' may start. He replied saying there is not a start date as yet and confirming a date is likely to be a little last minute as there needs to be a spell of dry(ish) weather before they can access the path from the fields above Redisher Wood. Looking back there has been works done in March last year, using the same access, so there has been access at this time of year. He was hoping to get a clearer picture with the contractor and landowner before the end of the week.

Post meeting Dave gave us an update, he had a very positive meeting with the contractor and neighbouring landowner. The landowner is being very supportive in terms of materials being transported across his land to the top of the steps. As a result, it was concluded that it would only be a prolonged covering of snow that could delay the work beyond the mid-March deadline. The contractor proposes to start work commencing 17th February, but that has to be confirmed. Once this is confirmed, we can agree an appropriate day/time us to visit the site. **March Update :** Dave sent HS an update, including attached photos, of the progress on the footpath. The steps are going in and although no stone has been added and it is very wet, it is already easier to get up and down the slope. The continued wet weather means we will probably need to leave the site to dry out before considering how much stone should be introduced, but there will be a full set of steps in time for the walk on the 15th March. HS has arranged a time to visit the footpath. Post meeting HS, CT, VL and RJ went to look at the steps and take photos. All looked good and the steps will be available prior to the Two Crosses event, though the stones cannot be applied until the site has had time to dry out. This is not a problem and the steps will still provide a good route down on the day.

Ongoing

19.7 **Breath of Fresh Air Website**

As the Breath of Fresh Air website has only had a few hits recently and entries in the walkers register at the Stork Hotel have been mainly limited to East Lancs LDWA members. we felt we should consider if it should be retained as an independent site and domain. After a short discussion it was agreed not to keep the website but to hold all the information on the East Lancs LDWA site and provide a link from the main LDWA website. **Action:** HS to progress.

February Update: HS has updated the East Lancs Website but is still waiting for GPX files from GS before she can complete the job. **March Update:** HS has the GPX file, but it was not compatible with HS or CT's pc so couldn't be uploaded to our BOFA page. GS has now let the original page lapse so it will not now be available. **Closed**

20.2 **LDWA Merchandise**

Following several people declaring an interest VL looked into the possibility of, as we have done previously, getting some black tracksters with East Lancs LDWA printed on legs. A bulk order would lead to a price of £18 each. After a short discussion we decided to send out a bulk email to gauge interest. **Action** RJ to send bulk email. **February Update:** RJ sent out bulk email little response so far. **March Update:** A few people have contacted VL verbally who will now look at ordering a few pairs independently. **Closed**

20.3 **LDWA 100 / Red Rose 50 / Two Crosses Party**

We have had a volunteer to hold the party at a members house in Sabden.. As this slightly of the way for some members, it was suggested we could arrange a series of minibuses to pick people up and drop them off afterwards. The meeting decided the best way forward was to send out a bulk email to determine how many members would be happy to travel to Sabden and who would be interested in a minibus. Action: RJ to arrange bulk email

Other possibilities suggested were St Margaret's, Doffcocker , any other Church Hall / Clubs -many offer rooms for free. **March Update:** We now have a venue for the event this year in Chapeltown . **Closed**

3 **Chair and Secretary Update:**

Well ! Wasn't February a dreary month , the many storms , wind and rain even causing the cancellation of one of our social walks .On a more positive note there was a very successful group trip to Keswick and has been re-booked for next year. There is a lot to look forward to in March with our annual challenge event in two weeks plus a good walking program. Thank you for your continued support of East Lancs.

4 **Treasurer's Update**

The Treasurer gave an update of the group's accounts which continue to hold heathy balance All outstanding cheques have now been cashed , including Fire Fighters Benevolent fund and British Heart Foundation .

5 Event Secretary's Update:

Two Crosses – All still on schedule; we have 298 entries still well up on last year. An updated route description will be sent out via SI Entries after Fridays photo visit. There is currently tree felling around Entwistle Reservoir CT to investigate , we can make a minor route change if required. Post meeting CT was able to confirm there was no need to alter the route around Entwistle.

Staffing list available on Web Site.

It was suggested we showcase our Redisher Woods improvements at the event start. HS to send photos to GS , after Friday visit , then GS to do a poster.

6 Walks Secretary's Update:

May to August walk details are on the website , have now been released and are now in Strider. September to December program is now filled except for one Wednesday.

7 Social Secretary's Update:

VL reported a group of East Lancs members had recently returned from a very enjoyable week in Keswick.

VL Hi-lighted the following future events.

Future Events

2020

April – South West Coast Path. Based Weymouth.

May – The Welsh 100 Accommodation at Longtown Outdoor Centre.

June 6th Two Crosses / Red Rose 50 / LDWA 100 Party –Venue Agreed .

June 14th Ramsbottom Round Charity Walk.

November – Real Ale Ramble

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

8 IT Secretary's Update:

Website is up to date. Facebook continues to attract more likes. What do people think about setting up a Twitter account ? This may reach a different audience though it may not say anything different to our other platforms.

10 Pastoral Care

Alma has again had a productive month contacting several present and past members.

11 Publicity

Business cards and posters have been distributed to walking and running shops, JD Sports , libraries, colleges. Planning to give business cards to entrants at Two Crosses.

Waiting for a response from Radio Lancashire. Post meeting PM had had a reply and an East Lancs LDWA appearance arranged on John Gilmore and Nishma Hindocha show.

Lancashire Life have provided details of their costs but unfortunately, they are prohibitive.

We have had a couple of responses to the Our Lancashire webpage.

Very supportive messages from Dave Morgan and Julian White , the new publicity officer, for our efforts on the publicity front .

Also, PM has now received the latest LDWA publicity manual which stresses the use of social media

12 LDWA Website Update

Julia Warman has discussed the problems NEC have been having with the LDWA Website with HS and sent a PowerPoint presentation to be shown to the meeting.

In summary the recent refresh of the Website , highlighted the fact that it is based on an out of date coding language. This means bugs can be difficult to fix and changes to take longer and can possibly be more expensive.

Also, although it should last us a few years :

- It is not built to the requirements of what the LDWA wants
- Is Awkward to navigate
- Doesn't enable apps for interactivity and content delivery
- Will become dated in appearance
- Content needs an overhaul
- Bespoke technology platform expensive to support
- Simple changes need costly input from IT suppliers

A complete renewal would allow all these issues to be addressed

To build a new website we estimate budget for a 1 year, £200-£300k project, is required, sometime between 2021 & 2024

The NEC is considering how it can raise without raiding our reserves and has made the suggestion that each group should impose a non-member levy of 50% on the entry cost of their challenge event and that the extra money should go towards the Website Build costs. East Lancs agreed to this in principle with the proviso we could withhold it if the event particularly unsuccessful one year. Also, as our Two Crosses event is in March it is too late to introduce it this year, however we are happy to pass on the £2 levy we already charge and depending on the success of the event may contribute a larger amount.

There was a suggestion that we could give all the money in our Red Rose account but decided to also hold that decision until after this year's event.

It was also noted by some members the NEC do hold a large amount of money so could perhaps lead the way for committing a bit more themselves or explain the justification for not doing so.

AOB

None

Due to the Government advice on Coronavirus

Meetings are now suspended until further notice