**LDWA Lakeland Group 6th Annual General Meeting**

**Whoop Hall, Kirkby Lonsdale, 23 November 2019**

**Member Attendees:**

Robert Nutton (Chair), Nicky Wood (Secretary), Tony Willey (Treasurer), Thomas Sellers (Walks Secretary and Webmaster), Ian Dyer (Committee), Bev Birkett, Jim Bispham, Colin Firth, Davina Harrison, Alan Jones, Brian Leslie, John Manning, Margaret Parker, Alan Parker, Caroline Roy, Jean Savage, Ian Scott, Chris Seddon, David Shepherd, Hazel Storozuk, Fred Stubbs, Helen Stubbs, Christine Willey, Ken Wyles, Jenny Wyles, Lavinia Yates

**Apologies of Absence**

Barry Utting, Brian Wright

**2 Minutes of 2018 AGM**

Minutes agreed as an accurate record, proposed by Fred Stubbs.

**3 Matters Arising**

Nicky updated the group regarding the request to change the name to Lake District. This issue is still with the NEC, pending the updates to the National website. Margaret Parker raised the question of whether we had any problems with being called Lakeland. There were no problems, just Lake District is an actual area, whilst Lakeland is not. Other groups all have geographical names. TBC.

**4 Chairman’s Report**

Robert started his report with some congratulations to members for this year’s achievements:

Tony and Christine for 50 years of Marriage

Tony Willey and Ian Scott both for achieving Silver Awards in the National Trails Register

Nicky Wood for achieving Gold Award in the National Trails Register

Caroline Roy for having just 4 Munros left to climb, hopefully aiming for a finish in 2020

Caroline Roy, Barry Utting, Ian Scott and Nicky Wood for completing their Donald Hills as a team

Brian Wright for completing his Munros this summer

Robert explained we had two new committee members this year (Robert Nutton as Chair and Ian Dyer). We have also welcomed some new faces to the walks this year. Our challenge walks were both successful. That’s Lyth had a surplus of £1,233 (compared to £1,211 the previous year). Spring in Lakeland had a surplus of £1,500 (compared to £900 the previous year). We had an increase in entrants on this latter one, and increased the price a little for non LDWA members on That’s Lyth. We have been able to make good charitable donations this year.

Robert thanked Tony for all his work in researching and planning the logistics for our forthcoming Spring in Lakeland 50 in April 2020. There is more work to do. We have 280 entries so far. We are asking members to help at the Staveley main Checkpoint, all the others covered by partner organisations.

2020 will see the group embarking on its first overseas trip – to Jersey and Guernsey, and we are exploring interest in other trips such as Spain and the Alps.

**5 Secretary’s Report**

Nicky gave an overview of the various social walks which have taken place since the last AGM. This included trips away to the North Pennines to help at Garigill on Hadrian’s Hundred, and two trips to complete some of the Southern Upland Way. The Eastern section will be completed in April 2020, if anyone wants to join in.

Nicky explained we are routinely using the bulk email system to communicate with the group, including a reminder email for each walk. A show of hands confirmed that these are reaching people. Anyone not receiving them can change their personal settings on the main LDWA membership login section.

Facebook works well for us but could be used more by members. If you are going out for a walk, and want a little bit of company, feel free to post onto Facebook, over and above our planned walks. Or post some pictures of what you have been up to. This generates interest and creates more ‘hits’ on the site. Hazel suggested we consider Instagram to get the younger members on board.

**Action: Nicky to investigate how this works.**

Sign-up sheets are here for future activities and members were asked to sign up and note dates in their diaries.

**6 Social Walks Co-ordinator/Webmaster’s Report**

Tom gave an update on what is coming up in the programme.

8 December Loop 2 of Spring in Lakeland – from Staveley with a cuppa and mince pies at Wilfs

11 January Loop 3 of Spring in Lakeland – from Staveley with a January Jolly meal at the Eagle and Child.

26 January That’s Lyth Challenge Event

29 February Leap into the Furness – a walk from Coniston Church on Leap Year

21 March The Dales High Way Long Distance Path – 6 days (+ 09 May + 28 to 31 Aug)

18/19 April Spring in Lakeland 50 Mile Challenge Event

Tom is now looking for walks for April, May, June, July and August for the April Strider. Deadline for this is 31 January and he will send an email reminder out. Do contact Tom if you have ideas. We would like to base more walks in the main Lakeland hills in 2020.

**7** **Finance Officer’s Report**

Tony circulated the finalised accounts. We have had excellent surpluses on challenge events as reported by Robert and we have been able to give £1800 to charity and still have a £375 surplus with £5000 reserves. This will continue to be the trend next year as our events are going to be full. The Hadrian’s Hundred divided its surplus between groups. We received £200 for Garigill and £300 for Tony’s work as Treasurer for the event.

Because of our surplus we can be generous about subsidised activities. This meal is paid for, we will pay for hot drinks/mince pies after the December walk and look for ways to promote walking as a group.

Our donations have included: Cancer Care, Bendrigg Trust, Calvert Trust, Learning Plus in Ambleside, FRCC, Fix the Fells, Mountain Rescue and John Muir Trust. FRCC is Fell and Rock Climbing Club, to help after the Wasdale fire which destroyed their hut. Nicky asked if people felt Cumbria Wildlife Trust would be a suitable organisation for a donation – perhaps to the fund to protect Bees. General approval was given. Further donation suggestions welcome from all members anytime.

Tony also attended the Local Group Representatives meeting last weekend. About 2/3 of all groups were represented and several new faces were there. The big topic for discussion was IT funding for the future website

**8 Nominations and election of 2019/20 Committee Members**

All five existing members are happy to stand again. There were no further new nominations. We are allowed to vote the team back in on block. Proposed by Caroline Roy and Seconded by Margaret Parker.

**9 Motions requiring a vote**

No motions were raised

**10 Topics for Discussion**

**10a Finance for the future IT Website**

A summary of the discussions from the local group representatives’ meeting was circulated and discussed. Tony stressed there is no intention to take reserves from local groups. Lakeland Group are pioneering the Challenge Walk Levy - we have charged non LDWA members 50% more for entry to That’s Lyth and we will send that money to NEC for the IT fund. We have raised £860 from this one event. If all groups would/could adopt this practice it would go a very long way towards the £200 - £400k required over the next 5 years. Alan commented that he would not like to see Strider with increased advertisements as the LDWA has always done a great job of keeping the magazine ‘clean’ of excessive adverts. The NEC ask members to read the document and send in feedback or further suggestions. If you wish to comment please email Nicky as our secretary and she will put together a group response to NEC.

**Action: All - comments to Nicky Nicky – Feedback via Julie Cribb**

**10b Reintroduction of Evening Walks**

Nicky proposed this. Robert suggested that the best way forward would be to promote on Facebook.

**Action: Committee to keep an eye on this and encourage/lead evening walks**

**10c T shirts to promote us**

We need some marketing T shirts. Feedback included a preference for Green/Blue, full coloured T shirts, and wicking style T shirts so that they can also be worn for walks for better group exposure. Avoid cotton which has limited use. Hazel offered to ask the Irregulars who their supplier has been.

**Action: Nicky to liaise with Hazel and get samples. Aim to have in place for Spring in Lakeland 50**

**11 Any Other Business**

Hazel thanked the committee for all their work on behalf of the group.

**The meeting was closed at 4pm**. It was followed by a talk on the Appalachian Trail by Jim Bispham.