**Secretary & “Chairing” Report AGM 2016**

We were unable to fill the Chairpersons vacancy at the 2015 AGM so we continued the ad- hoc arrangement that had existed from 30-5-14 of my “chairing” the group meetings. However we are under increasing pressure to adopt the formal Constitution as recommended by the LDWA national executive, which in turn requires that we have a formal Chairperson.

For my part I was trying to take minutes whilst “chairing” but this wasn’t easy or successful – I’m very grateful that Cath my wife subsequently took minutes for me to coordinate and distribute later. Thanks Cath. I was also pleased to accept the offer from Bryan (Thorpe) to undertake “minute secretary duties” at our last meet – thanks Bryan.

Over the year there has been a great and varied program of walks of which greater detail will be given later by Steph our retiring Walks Secretary. However within this program we launched our “Brisk Walks” which was trialed for 12 months. These were extra walks over and above the normal social walks and were seen by some as an exciting extension to the walks program. However the view was not shared by all members of the group as it was perceived that North Yorkshire were holding themselves out as a “very fast /elite walking group” which was contradictory to the ethos and reputation built up over several years. Consequently after several in depth discussions at Group meetings it was agreed that the “Brisk Walks” would cease at the end of the trial.

The original idea and concept was that of Andy Miller and I would like to give our group and my personal thanks to Andy for all his time and effort on this project.

Many of you will know and have helped on the Rock & Rowel Challenge Walk with the inaugural event was 2013 – regrettably we were not able to hold this in 2015 as two key checkpoint (village halls) had been pre-booked by other events – alternative venues or dates did not work and therefore after considerable angst we reluctantly suspended the event but I ‘m pleased to confirm it will be held in 2016.

Another event – “The Annual Moorland Social Walk” has been an event with a “checkered career” for various reasons and we were close to suspending this indefinitely – however after lengthy discussions and introducing various tweaks we were pleased to agree a 2015 event – Steph will tell us more in his report but as a committee we were all pleased with this years outcome.

Whilst the names of the Committee are often in the “limelight” –nevertheless the running of our 2 Challenge Events (The Kilburn Kanter is the other) and our various social walks / events could never occur without a whole host of people giving freely of their time and endeavour to make these a success – many lead walks, act as support both in transport and catering or check pointing - there are too many to mention and I feel it is unfair to single out just a few especially as I fear I will miss mentioning a key person. However core to all events have been Penny, Sue, Caroline Cath Roger & Dave to whom I proffer our deepest thanks.

However I would like to mention 2 who helped on the KK by marshaling participants away from an obvious and previously used short cut – this annoyed a farmer greatly in 2014 and so we were trying to placate him - we had a marshal at the gate and one who stood on his lonesome further up the field under torrential rain (and umbrella) for 4 hours only to then get abused by the farmer for upsetting the grass management of the public footpath that we were using – you can never win.

There are lots of little anecdotes of our helpers which cannot all find room here but they should all know that their help is enormously appreciated by all the group /committee.

Finally alongside this years busy schedule the organising of next years 100 miler event here in North Yorkshire has been taking place – there has been massive amounts of work and this will only increase further as we approach June 2016 when the participants of the Dorset 100 (2016) look forward to the release of our web page /details of the 2017 event. Caroline (Wandless - our 100 Chairlady) will provide us with an update later but we should all thank the tireless efforts of Caroline and all her helpers for putting North Yorkshire squarely on the map.

Whilst I shall miss many of the 2016 social events (due to travel commitments) nevertheless I look forward to learning of there success as I will continue to assist with the 100 Committee – thank you for all the assistance given to me over the last 3 years. I know you will support my successor just as enthusiastically.

– Regards John Stenton (Secretary but “Chairing of meets) 28-12-15