**Thames Valley LDWA**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Sunday 17th January, 3.00pm**

**Lane End Village Hall**

**Present**:

Chair: M. Burnell (MB),

Treasurer: R. Doole (RD),

Secretary: M. Downes (MD).

LDWA Members: H. Abbott, S. Ahmed, L. Ashwell, D. Birtwistle, S. Birtwistle, B. Boddy, B. Bolton, G. Browning, Y. Burnell, G. Croucher, B. Dunn, J. Esslemont, G. Garland, A. Howell, M. Jones, N. Lawrence, L. Ledger, C. Lloyd, S. Mee, M. Meehan, John Nickerson, Judy Nickerson, T. Price, C. Usher, A. Warrington, C. West.

Non- Members: M. Usher

**Agenda:** As Published

**Apologies:**

T. Turton, E. Lukes, J. Bowler, D. Ricards, C. Chapman, J. Sambrook,

S. Wells, B. Kennedy, M. Whitmore

**Confirm Minutes of 2015 Meeting**:

B. Bolton requested that Item 16 (AOB) is amended to “helping Rod Holland complete a double ‘100’ by assisting with pacing his walk to keep him on going”.

Minutes approved by B. Bolton

**Treasurers Report** (RD)

A full copy of the Treasurers report is available on the website. In short:

1. Thames Valley’s only income is from the Oxon 40 / 20 event
2. Changes to the report include:
   1. Format of the balance sheet.
   2. Appointment of an independent assessor, M. Jones at an EGM.
   3. Accounting year changed to closure as of 31st October to allow time to review accounts before year end / AGM.
3. Profit on year ~ £600
4. 2015 Oxon 40 / 20 realised ~ £1K profit
5. ~ £570 of Stock
6. Thames Valley asset value ~ £7K on deposit
7. Request to all members: Can members forward ideas of how to spend some of our assets on *walking related projects*.

B. Bolton queried what the 40/20 Administration costs included: RD Response: It included printing certificates tally cards and route descriptions, van hire etc.

**Independent Assessor Appointment**

M. Jones stated she was willing to stand again and was unchallenged, M. Jones was duly appointed.

**Chair Report – MB**

MB restated his intention to stand down at this AGM. He felt the TV Oxon 40 / 20 events were highly regarded in the walking fraternity and in safe hands. Both Sunday and mid-week walks were flourishing and the website in a strong position. Slower, shorter ‘B’ walks were slow off the ground but hoped that this would improve over time.

**Secretary Report – MD**

MD attended the annual Group Secretary meeting in November. A full summary of the meeting minutes are available on the website and MD strongly suggested that members read the document. MD raised the following points as being of most significance:

* Gail Elrick (National Chair) is proposing reforms for re-election of national committee members i.e. extend from an annual re-election to three –yearly cycle.
* Data Protection (DP):

Individuals should not keep lists of personal data on their home computers or as hard paper copy

More information on DP will be shared with members by Chris Hedley (NEC) and he is planning to try and visit all walking groups to explain more about DP and its importance to comply with the Law.

H. Abbott suggested that National prepare a video on the topic for general distribution throughout the groups. Action: MD will forward the proposal to C. Hedley

* Long Distance Paths – National is creating a paid post to project manage the updating of all data on long distance paths. The project manager will need lots of volunteers to walk local designated trails and give appropriate feedback. This will ensure the National database is updated and fit for the future. More details to follow.
* National AGM Format – essentially the National AGM format has remained unchanged for a number of years. Would members who regularly attend the AGM like to see a different format? Current format is a walk on Friday afternoon, followed by an informal supper. A selection of walks is available on Saturday. Gala dinner on Saturday evening followed by guest speaker. AGM is held on Sunday morning after which members disperse.

**Social Walks Reports**

C. Lloyd restated his intention to stand down at this AGM. He thanked all walk leaders for their support over the years as without them there would be no walks. Having so many volunteers has made his task very easy. Thames Valley is very fortunate in having a very strong walking group with numerous leaders.

G. Croucher (mid-week walks) – Lots of leader volunteers and currently walks are averaging ~ 15 members, even getting the occasional Rambler! As might be anticipated, mid-week walks are mainly supported by retired members.

R. Doole (AAA walks) – Only two additional walks were provided in 2015. RD is the facilitator for AAA walks and if anyone has an idea for a different ‘AAA’ walk, they should contact RD. Currently two are already planned for 2016 – see website for details.

**Oxon 40 / 20 event – 2015**

G. Browning provided a summary of the event held last May.

* Well organised event
* Lots of positive feedback from entrants, Twitter etc
* Event full before deadline
* 300 of the 350 entrants started the event (14% no-shows)
* Only 5 retirees on the day and all other walkers finished by 8pm
* Profit ~ £1100
* Sufficient Volunteer Marshalls to support the event
* Continuous improvement suggestions for future events include, First Aid provision e.g. St. Johns and monitor levels of food at CP’s so it does not run out.
* GB restated his intention to step down as Project Manager
* All thanked him for his contributions to the group

**Election of Committee**

Chair:

Steve Mee is prepared to stand as Chair. Uncontested, Brian Bolton proposed the appointment and Lynda Ledger seconded the appointment

Secretary:

Maureen Downes is willing to stand for re-election, although stated that if duly elected, this would be her last year. Uncontested, Martin Burnell proposed the appointment and Graham Croucher seconded the appointment

Treasurer:

Ron Doole is willing to stand for re-election. Uncontested, Martin Burnell proposed the appointment and Gavin Browning seconded the appointment

**Election of Officers**

Social Walks Co-ordination

David Birtwistle is willing to stand. Uncontested, C. Lloyd proposed and G. Croucher seconded.

TV Oxon 40 / 20 organiser

Alan Warrington is willing to stand. Uncontested, R. Doole proposed and M. Downes seconded.

Catering Organiser

Jan Sambrook is willing to stand for re-election. Uncontested - G. Browning proposed and Y. Burnell seconded.

IT Webmaster (+ day-to-day IT traffic)

H. Abbott is willing to stand for re-election. Uncontested – M. Downes proposed and G. Croucher seconded.

Mid- Weeks walks co-ordinator

G. Croucher is willing to stand for re-election. Uncontested – M. Burnell proposed and B. Boddy seconded.

IT Support for Oxon 40 / 20

Tony Turton has agreed to maintain support for 2016 only

**Oxon 40 / 20 – 2016**

Alan Warrington provided the following feedback

* Alan has simplified the documentation
* As of 17th January, there were 166 entries on Sport ID
* AW thanked the 28 people who to date have volunteered to help this year. He would still like a few more!
* Some long standing members have opted to walk the event this year. AW has asked if they would support the Marshalls event by providing refreshments etc at designated points on the route.
* AW has stated his intention to stand down after this year’s event but would offer his support for a seamless handover.
* The event has been well managed and documented in the past and the task of project managing it for future events is not onerous.

Jan Sambrook - Catering

Catering for the 2016 event will be managed by J. Sambrook. JS proved a pre-read and thanked 2015 Marshalls for their pro-active feedback which has been duly logged and noted. JS requested ‘cake’ volunteers and pastry volunteers for the event. Please let JS know if you can make some cakes and / or cheese scones / cheese straws

B. Bolton raised a query – Our event clashes with the Henley ‘Tough Mudder’. Are the committee looking into other possibilities?

Response (AW): 2016 event will remain unchanged. The committee are looking into bringing the event forward by one week in 2017 and based on feedback re car parking by C. Lloyd this seems a viable option.

**Thames Valley 40th Celebrations – B. Boddy**

BB provided the members with a hard copy of events throughout the year, namely:

* 1. February 21st – Foundation Walk Remembered
  2. May 15th – Thames Path / Boat Trip
  3. June 19th – 40km walk
  4. July 17th – Red Kite Canter – significant discussion regarding this as a social event. For insurance purposes, it would need to be logged in Strider.
  5. September 4th – Walk / Steam Train ride / BBQ
  6. 31st October – Halloween night walk

On-going throughout the year:

1. Walking the 40 hills in the TV area – list on Website.
2. Anniversary Badge available to all at any event.
3. December – final round up at Christmas Party

MD stated that she had invited national committee members and expected Gail at least to turn up at one or more events.

**Christmas party – 2015**

MB reported that the event was very well received and Paul Lawrence, as guest speaker, gave an interesting talk on his travels.

Future Christmas Parties – J. Sambrook has suggested that it is timely to organise an alternative event at Christmas and this was put to the floor.

L. Ashwell proposed a ‘Bring a Plate’ option. C. Usher had attended a similar event which worked well. Feedback from the floor was positive.

LA suggested Remenham Village Hall as an alternative to accommodate some ‘different’ walks prior to the party.

Action: MD will put out an e-mail to all members asking for additional proposals before making a decision. Need feedback by end March in time to book suitable hall if indeed one is required.

**Twitter Account**

Tony Turton is standing down from managing the TV Twitter account. He has asked for a volunteer to oversee it but no-one has put their name forward. There are currently ~ 200 followers. It would appear that few TV members use it and it was suggested that the account is ‘killed’ off.

Action: MD to ask T. Turton to suspend the account for one year and then take a final decision at the next AGM.

**AOB**

1. B. Bolton – BB raised the issue of Fault Reporting. Please report paths and fallen debris etc to your local council. There is approximately 5000miles of footpaths in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire combined. Action: BB to provide links to the appropriate websites to RD who will make them available to members.
2. S. Ahmed requested help with navigational skills. Action: RD will offer a walk under AAA to cover this topic.
3. MD reported the untimely death of Peter Alford, a TV member, in December 2015.

No further business. MB duly declared meeting closed.