**Thames Valley LDWA**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Sunday 22ndJanuary 2017, 3.00pm**

**Lane End Village Hall**

**Present**:

Chair: S. Mee (MB),

Treasurer: R. Doole (RD),

Secretary: M. Downes (MD).

LDWA Members: H. Abbott, S. Ahmed, L. Ashwell, D. Birtwistle, S. Birtwistle, Y. Burnell, M. Burnell, N. Carbonara, L. Caswell, J. Crawford, G. Croucher, H. Davies, B. Dunn, J. Ginty, M. Hickman, A. Howell, P. Jacobs, M. Jones, P. Lawrence, L. Ledger, J. Ledger, C. Lloyd, D. Macgregor, M. Meehan, T. Price, G. Scott, J. Shepherd, J. Smith, G. Upstone, C. Usher, S. Valourdos, C. West, S. White

**Agenda:** As Published

**Apologies:**

J. Sambrook, G. Browning, A. Ball, N. Lawrence, S. Wells, B. Kennedy,

**Confirm Minutes of 2016 Meeting**:

Minutes accepted and approved by J. Ginty and L. Ledger

**Action Items from 2016 AGM**

1. MD – Ask members for suggestions for Christmas Party. Done. Closed
2. MD - Ask T. Turton to suspend Twitter account for one year. Done. The committee and members agreed that they do not want a Twitter Account and MD will confirm closure with TT. Open for action by MD.
3. B. Bolton raised issue of fault finding on paths. BB did not provide links as proposed. However, SM suggested that Path Watch was a good alternative to logging path concerns / faults. Closed
4. S. Ahmed requested help with Navigational skills. RD set up a training day under the AAA umbrella. Closed

**Treasurers Report -RD**

RD provided hard copies of the accounts to all members. The period covered was from 1st November 2015 to 31st October 2016. The accounts will be available on the TV Website in due course. In short:

* M. Jones (appointed in 2016) is the independent assessor for the accounts. She approved the financial statement.
* The group are in a strong financial position and have significant reserves ~ £6K

RD suggested that it would be appropriate to utilise some of the funds to support local, walking related, charities and suggested donations of £250 to both Thames Valley Air Ambulance and The Chiltern Society

This motion was accepted by the floor.

Proposed by G. Scott

Seconded by G. Croucher

RD also suggested that he would like the group to consider donating a proportion of the profits raised from TV Oxon 40 / 20 event annually to a relevant charity. Members were encouraged to suggest potential recipients to the committee for consideration.

This motion was accepted by the floor.

Proposed by M. Burnell

Seconded by C. West

**Chairs Report - SM**

SM began his report by informing the members of the sad and untimely death of one of our former members, Karen Thompson after a very short illness.

TV Social calendar for 2016 was dominated by the 40th Anniversary celebrations which was project managed by B. Boddy.

SM suggested that a number of the events should be repeated as social events due in part to their popularity e.g. Kanter and London by Night (new option).

The ‘B’ walks are now a regular once a month inclusion in the walks programme being held on the second Sunday of the month. Their continuation depends on leaders coming forward and SM urged people to consider leading a walk.

To vary our walks programme, two ‘linear’ walks are planned for the near future. The cost of public transport (1 way) will be paid for out of TV funds.

The Oxon 40 / 20 for 2017 will have new routes, a new venue for HQ and new software (PACER).

Membership currently sits at 362 primary members with an additional 352 associates. However, there are probably only 40 – 60 ‘active’ members who regularly come out on social walks.

The 2016 walks programme listed 83 social walks and these were covered by 35 leaders. SM would like to see more members coming forward to lead walks to lessen the burden. As a way of encouraging members to lead a walk, they should ask a leader if they could shadow them on a walk reccie to gain experience of what the task entails. Help is on hand from the more experienced leaders.

The Oxon 40 / 20 event funds all group activities. SM would like a few more marshalls to come forward to help make the day a success. Action: SM will write to members asking for their support for this event.

Volunteers are needed to stand on the committee and also to get involved in the supporting roles.

Floor:

* A. Howell – Have the committee got a list of members who are trained First Aiders in the group?
* Response – No. There is no requirement for members to offer this information
* D. Mc Gregor – What are the First Aid requirements for staging the 40 / 20 event?
* Response: No specific requirements have to be met. Duty of care would prevail.
* L. Ashwell – The British Red Cross provides First Aid training and support

**Secretary Report - MD**

MD hoped that members enjoyed the numerous e-mails that she provided to keep members abreast of current issues / changes / news. The same information is posted on The Forum for those members who either do not have an e-mail address or prefer not to provide it to National. No other form of communication is provided i.e. no postal communication.

MD attended the Group Secretary weekend organised by National (Julie Cribbs – Local groups Secretary) at Stratford-Upon-Avon. Numerous topics were discussed during a lengthy meeting and a summary of the points will be made available on the TV Website.

**Social walks report – GC**

GC confirmed that there had been a full programme of social walks throughout 2016. This has only been achieved by most leaders offering to lead at least twice a year. Numbers vary on Sunday Social walks while the mid-week walks attract an average of 13 walkers.

Linear walks will feature in the 2017 programme; would anyone with some new ideas like to put them forward to the walks co-ordinator? Linear walks need to be in the summer months to allow for extra light for the additional travel.

Comments from Floor:

* G. Upstone – Could we hire a mini-bus?
* Response – Cost is very high and TV is a very big area to cover – not viable especially with unknown numbers turning up.
* L. Ashwell – Consider a linear walk along the Thames and get a boat back (Henley – Marlow). Action: LA to look into price of fares.

Note: If your walk changes e.g. length, contact GC and he will update the website. GC can also add your pictures to the Web. Additionally, you can start a walk at any time, although the ‘default’ is 9am.

**Oxon 40 / 20 Event Report 2016 – SM**

SM gave an overview of yet another successful event:

* A. Warrington was the event organiser
* AW has put a number of procedures in place for future events
* The committee obtained a lot of feedback from the event marshalls and along with AW recommendations, the committee will be implementing a number of changes for the 2017 Oxon 40 / 20
* Feedback from entrants was very positive
* The event made a sound profit
* As always, the event was over-subscribed but as with most challenge events, the ‘no-shows’ were in excess of 10% of numbers – limit 350

**Oxon 40 / 20 – 2017 – SM**

Due to the impact of the Tough Mudder event held in Henley on the same day (Saturday of the May Bank Holiday) and the possible of loss of adequate car parking, it has been decided to relocate the Oxon 40 / 20 to a new venue. Alternative dates were considered but these clashes with other long-standing LDWA Challenge events.

In short:

* New venue is Stokenchurch Village Hall.
* Good location just off M40 / J5
* Sufficient Car Parking has been agreed with local companies
* Entrants will be given a map to direct them from the car park to HQ
* RD has devised new routes for both distances. The 20 mile route has ~ 2500 ft ascent. The 40 mile route has ~ 5500 ft ascent
* There will be no opportunity to retire after 35 miles
* All CP’s are indoors and no CP will be used twice.
* There will be a Marshall’s walk ONLY FOR MARSHALLS. On request, RD will provide a route description. The walk will be unsupported but RD will be available at the start of the walk and also monitor that everyone is checked back in. The walk will be on the Easter Weekend
* The IT system devised by T. Turton for the previous events can no longer be supported.
* H. Abbott has been working closely with National to develop PACER – a new web-based system.
* PACER has been trialled at Stokenchurch using TV volunteers.
* As some CP’s do not have good connectivity, PACER will only be in use at HQ for 2017. This is in part because there is little or no IT support within the group to manage this aspect of PACER. It is hoped that its use will be expanded in later years.
* The current TV website was developed and maintained by T. Turton (stepped down in 2016) and H. Abbott to current day. The committee would like to thank Helen for her enormous contribution to PACER and the Web. The decision by committee was endorsed by M and Y Burnell. SM presented HA with a book token.

**Election of Officers – SM**

Chair – S. Mee willing to stand. Motion proposed by G. Scott. 2nd by M. Burnell

Secretary – With no other volunteers stepping forward, MD stated that she would take on the role for one more year. Motion proposed by C. Usher. 2nd by Y. Burnell

Treasurer – R. Doole willing to stand. Motion proposed by G. Croucher. 2nd by M. Burnell

**Thames Valley Support roles**

Social Walks Programmes – G. Croucher happy to continue in the role

Catering – J. Sambrook happy to cater for the Oxon 40 / 20 (and other events as required)

Independent Assessor for the Accounts – M. Jones happy to continue in the role

Webmaster – H. Abbott would like to stand down from this role. N. Carbonara was willing to take over this role and the proposal was endorsed by members. (Post meeting, NC withdrew her offer of help).

Oxon 40/20 IT co-ordinator – H. Abbott would like to stand down from this role. N. Carbonara expressed an interest in taking on this task. It was agreed that HA and NC would discuss the requirements of the role outside the meeting. (Post meeting, NC withdrew her offer of help).

**Election of Committee**

Prior to the AGM the incumbent committee agreed that they would like to invite more members onto the committee by announcing four non-executive posts (without portfolio). This would enable members to get a better understanding of the role of the committee and the topics that were under discussion. The motion was passed by the floor.

**Non-Executive Posts**

G. Croucher - Motion proposed by G. Upstone. 2nd by J. Ginty

G. Scott - Motion proposed by S. Birtwistle. 2nd by M. Burnell

S. Ahmed - Motion proposed by T. Price. 2nd by C. West

One position vacant

All those elected would be invited to attend all committee meetings

**Christmas Party 2016 - SM**

Once again, the party was a great success. The Social Walk was followed by hearty fare provided by T. Jacobs, J. Sambrook and team.

It was agreed that the format would remain unchanged for 2017 although the venue for the party would be Lane End Village Hall. Date confirmed as 10th December.

Note: The 2018 AGM will be held at Hambleden Village Hall on 14th January 2018.

(Switch of venues)

**AOB**

H. Abbott – Stated that the delegate pack for the group secretaries meeting was distributed too late to allow appropriate feedback. She had forwarded her concerns about the rules for the 2017 ‘100’ event to M. Downes to be raised at the Group Secretary Weekend but they arrived late. MD had forwarded the comments to D. Morgan for a response but HA was not satisfied with the response she received.

MD stated that J. Cribb (Local Groups Secretary) had apologised for failing to distribute the documentation in a timely manner.

It was agreed that HA should contact D. Morgan directly for a clear response.

Meeting closed at 4.35pm.

AGM – 2018 will be held at Hambleden Village hall on 14th January