



# Thames Valley LDWA

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Date: Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2019**

**Venue: Lane End Village Hall – 3pm**

**Agenda: As published**

**Attendees:** A. Attard, A. Beck, G. Browning, G. Croucher, H. Davies, E. Dellor, M. Downes W. Dunn, P. Endacott, J. Esslemont, J. Ginty, A. Howell, P. Jacobs, M. Jones, N. Lawrence, J. Ledger, L. Ledger, D. Macgregor, A. Mansi, S. Mee, M. Meehan, A. Mograby, D. Norbury, D. Orth, G. Scott, J. Sheen, K. Sykes, C. Usher, A. Yealland.

**Apologies for Absence:** M. Evans, J. Sambrook, M. Crawford, N. Barras, R. Doole, B. Smart, C. Symons, R. Disney.

**Minutes of 2018 AGM:** Approved. Proposed by J. Ginty, 2<sup>nd</sup> by G. Croucher

**Chairman's Report – M. Meehan**

Following the untimely death of Howard Mann, Mike Meehan, a sub-committee member, kindly offered to stand in as Chairman for the AGM. This offer was fully endorsed by the committee.

In Summary:

- MM thanked Steve Mee and Gerry Garland for their contributions in their role of Chairman, Ron Doole for his contribution as Treasurer and Route Master, and Gerry Garland for coordinating the 2018 Oxon 40 / 20
- Mike Evans was appointed Treasurer at the EGM and later Duncan Macgregor offered his support as Route Master for the Oxon 40 / 20 2019
- The 2018 Oxon 40 / 20 was, once again, a great success
- A 10 strong TV team supported the Kent '100' at CP8
- Having advertised for a new Chairman, Howard Mann kindly stepped forward to offer his services, but sadly died before he could get involved with the group
- Huw Davies volunteered to co-ordinate the Oxon 40 / 20 for 2019, taking the pressure away from the Chairman.
- To share the 'workload' of the Oxon 40 / 20 sub-committee, a Merchandiser was sought. Phaedra Binns kindly volunteered to fill this role.
- Mike thanked Maureen Downes, Secretary, Graham Croucher, Walks Coordinator and Webmaster, and Jan Sambrook and Gill Scott for their continued support and contribution to the group
- All current members of the committee and sub-committee are willing to stand for office again

**Treasurer's Report - ME:** In his absence, M. Evans provided a spreadsheet of TV Accounts from 1/11/2017 to 31/10/2018 audited and signed off by L. Ledger, the TV Independent examiner.

M. Evans logged the following:

- Thanks to R. Doole for a clear and concise handover
- Set 2 personal goals, namely clear accurate accounting and a non-loss making year.
- Loss of £132.44 logged, due to exceptional circumstances:
  - a) Cancelled Christmas Lunch – cost £295.77
  - b) Support for Kent '100' - £435.90
  - c) Donation to Oxford Lowland Rescue - £200
- Thanks to L. Ledger for examining the financial accounts.
- Plan to review stocks and assets for an accurate record during 2019
- TV are financially able to continue without any concerns

Comments from the floor:

J. Ginty – Will TV receive any recompense from the Kent 100? Typically we have received a donation back from the organising committee once the accounts from the 100 event have been finalized.

J. Esslemont – Why does TV have to support the CP team financially? Shouldn't it come from the organising group?

Action: MD will write to the Kent LDWA Treasurer asking for clarity

#### **Secretary Report – MD**

MD reported that as of 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 there were 419 Primary members and 441 Associate members of Thames Valley

Using the National Database bulk email facility, email communications are sent to 369 Primary members; very few communications are directed to Associates as well. Approximately 50 Primary members do not receive any email communication because they have either not provided an email address or opted out of receiving bulk emails. Some family memberships only have one member logged. If both / all members of a family wish to receive the communication, they must amend their requirements on the National Database, e.g. Membership number followed by A, B, etc.

With G. Croucher's support, a copy of any communication is pasted on the TV Website.

MD reiterated that she only sends out bulk emails as and when there is something to communicate; they are kept to a minimum.

#### **Social Walks Coordinator Report – G. Croucher**

Following the National directive that all walk leaders should log a list of the walkers on the day, GC expressed concern that to date, National have not given a clear indication of what information is required.

MD confirmed that the National committee was meeting to finalise a template for use which will conform to the Insurers requirements and lay out what information should be collected.

In short TV still offer a very well supported and varied walks programme.

*Wednesday Walks* – Well supported, routinely a good turnout. GC would like to reiterate that the walks of ca. 15 miles should be at a slower pace (2.5 mph) and not the typical Sunday pace of more than 3 mph. He has received complaints that some of the walks are too fast. He suggested that the walkers should slow the pace if the leader is not complying.

*Sunday Walks* – well supported but currently GC is struggling to fill all available slots and needs more Sunday walk leaders. Currently three Sundays are ‘vacant’. TV pride themselves in offering a very full programme but this can only be achieved and maintained by members volunteering to lead a walk. *Your support required* - When GC asks members to lead a walk, he uses the National bulk email provision to send out a note. If you can offer to lead a walk, please reply to Graham and not use the ‘reply’ button, as the response goes to M. Downes, not Graham.

#### **Oxon 40 / 20 Event Report 2018** – M. Meehan

Thanks again to M. Meehan for providing this summary.

We had another successful Oxon 40 / 20 event. It was a new route provided by Ron Doole. We were still adjusting to the change in venue from Henley to Stokenchurch, but things at HQ seemed to run more smoothly than the previous year.

The weather was again kind and we had 303 participants out of 362 entries. 197 participants completed the Oxon 20 & 96 completed the Oxon 40 with only 10 people retiring. The fastest 20 was 3hr 19 min and the fastest 40 was 7hr 34 min. Being based at HQ, I was able to get feedback from the finishers and they were very positive about our event.

Of course the event can only take place because of the many volunteer marshals who help with all aspects and make it a pleasant experience for the entries & I thank you all.

Plans are already in hand by the committee for the 2019 event and I hope that you will continue to support them.

#### **Oxon 40 / 20 2019** – H. Davies

Having volunteered to be the Coordinator for the Oxon 40 / 20 for 2019, HD set up a sub-committee of the following members:

Duncan Macgregor – Route Master

Gill Scott – Marshals co-ordinator

Mike Meehan – IT

Jan Sambrook – Catering

Phaedra Binns – Merchandising

HD was very impressed with the organisation of the 2018 event and would build on the learnings and feedback. HD is confident that TV can, once again, deliver a good Challenge event although recognizes that there is a need to think of a more sustainable tactic longer term.

Feedback from floor:

- J. Esslemont – Reiterate to members that it is the only source of income for TV and members should try and offer some time to help at CP’s
- P. Endacott – Ask CP team leader to source additional Marshals / help
- D. Macgregor – Extra Marshals needed for checking in entrants; same numbers for catering
- G. Browning – Skirmett CP (2018) – very hectic. The ‘personal’ approach to getting members on board to marshal works better than a bulk email.
- J. Ginty and D. Norbury – Thanked G. Scott for her efforts in getting members to Marshal, whatever her tactics.

- M. Jones – Consider changing dates so that it does not clash with a Bank Holiday (BH). Immediate feedback from floor stated that this option had been investigated and dates either side of the BH would conflict with other long standing Challenge events
- A. Mansi – Offer marshals a post event dinner to show the committees appreciation for their support i.e. give Marshals a bigger reward.
- A. Beck – Promote the event earlier and get Marshals on board sooner
- M. Meehan – There will be procedural changes for 2019

#### **Oxon 40 / 20 – The Future** – MD

MD wanted to reiterate that without the continued support of members, the event would not go ahead. Getting sufficient Marshals to volunteer to manage the event is a permanent uphill struggle and if TV members are not prepared to offer a few hours of their time once a year, then maybe it is time to rethink our values. The event has been going for over 40 years and it would be a great shame to see it vanish from the Challenge events listing. It is a very popular event for entrants and generates TV only source of income.

#### Election of Officers – MM

The following nominations were proposed and endorsed:

	Nomination	Proposer	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Chairman	John Esslemont	P. Endacott	J. Ginty
Secretary	Maureen Downes	G. Croucher	S. Mee
Treasurer	Mike Evans	J. Ginty	H. Davies

#### Elections of committee members – MM

In line with TV Constitution, the following nominations were proposed and endorsed:

	Nomination	Proposer	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Project Manager 40/ 20	Huw Davies	J. Ginty	D. Macgregor
Marshal Recruitment	Gill Scott	D. Norbury	A. Mograby
IT Support	Mike Meehan	S. Mee	D. Norbury
Webmaster	Graham Croucher	A. Mograby	W. Dunn
Social walks	Graham Croucher	A. Mograby	W. Dunn

In addition, the meeting endorsed the following additional members of the Oxon 40 / 20 sub-committee:

Catering	Jan Sambrook
Merchandising	Phaedra Binns
Route Master	Duncan Macgregor

Appointment of independent examiner:

Nomination:	Lynda Ledger	Proposer: D. Norbury	2 <sup>nd</sup> : J. Esslemont
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## Social Events for the group – MD

### Christmas Party 2018

The main and only social event during 2018 was the Christmas walk and party. Approximately 40 members attended the event. Two walks led by B. Dunn and G. Croucher preceded a hearty Lasagne lunch provided by Trish Jacobs while other members provided warming (and fattening) puddings. A game of Christmas Bingo finished the occasion. A good time was had by one and all.

### Christmas party 2019

A similar event will be held at Hambleton Hall on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

If any member would like to suggest or plan a social event, please approach the committee with your idea. They will not take over the organising but may be able to offer additional support e.g. financial

## AOB

- Christine Usher – CU really enjoyed the Kanter put on by S. Mee. Would there be sufficient support for a similar event? Positive feedback from the floor encouraged S. Mee to confirm that he would be happy to amend his social walk (11<sup>th</sup> August) to a Kanter.
- Duncan Macgregor – DM asked committee to consider a ‘Marshal’s Appreciation Walk’, paying for a pub lunch enroute
- Julia Sheen – JM suggested a good way of promoting the LDWA was to put some further information about the organisation on the back of the Oxon 40 / 20 certificates. A significant number of 40 / 20 entrants are not LDWA members. Action: HD will look into costs etc. Alternatively hand out ‘flyers’ after the event promoting the organisation.
- Andrew Beck – Saturday Social Walks - Are they well supported? Typically all TV weekend social walks are on Sunday and the very ‘occasional’ *Saturday* walk doesn’t always register with the walker. If a leader wants to lead a Saturday walk, can it be advertised better? Response - GC said that due to some Strider restrictions not all the information can be printed.
- Andrew Beck – Mid week walks – AB felt that a 9.30am start time impacted on late rush hour traffic. Would a 10am start be more attractive to walkers? Reply – GC stated that it was up to the walk leader to define the start time. A later start might impact on the journey home, catching homeward bound rush hour traffic. No easy solution.
- Maureen Downes - Walks Register – National executive have imposed the requirement to log all walkers on a social walk, brought about by the need to conform to the requirements of the LDWA Insurers. TV has not implemented it yet, rather waiting for the finalised template from National which will show what information is required from members. It is understood that name and membership number needs to be logged and if a person turns up who is not a LDWA member, they must provide an email address and name.  
Response from floor:  
H. Davies – HD is prepared to trial it when he next leads a walk  
J. Esslemont – JE walks with a number of groups; some have implemented change while others have not.

- Maureen Downes – Data Protection Officer – This post is another National requirement. MD has advertised for a TV to come forward to fill the position but to date has not received any offers. The role is not onerous and needs very little involvement.
- Maureen Downes – Safe Guarding Representative – This position is unfilled. LDWA nationally have a duty of care to safeguard children and vulnerable adults. See policies and procedure on the National Database. In the absence of a representative, the role falls on the chairman.

The meeting closed at 4.30pm followed by light refreshments.