



Thames Valley LDWA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Sunday 12th January, 2020

Venue: Lane End Village Hall – 3pm

Agenda: As published

Attendees: H. Abbott, A. Beck, G. Croucher, H. Davies, E. Dellor, R. Doole, M. Downes, W. Dunn, J. Esslemont, J. Ginty, A. Harwood, A. Howell, P. Jacobs, M. Jones, N. Lawrence, J. Ledger, L. Ledger, M. Long, D. Macgregor, S. Mee, M. Meehan, A. Mograby, A. Richards, D. Rossington, G. Scott, J. Sheen, K. Sykes, C. Usher, A. Warrington, S. White

Apologies for Absence: M. Evans, J. Sambrook, A. Yealland. C. Csemiczky, G. Browning

Minutes of 2019 AGM: Approved by committee and accepted by members.

Follow-up actions:

J. Ginty – Recompense from Kent '100' – This was investigated by M. Evans, treasurer and there is no firm National policy. Any profit from the event is usually shared between groups providing CP support. Subsequently Thames Valley received a donation of £130 from Kent LDWA

D. MacGregor – Suggestion to pay for a lunch for volunteer walk leaders. This proposal was considered by the committee but not taken forward.

J. Sheen – Promote LDWA on the back of Oxon 40 / 20 certificates. The additional expense could not be justified and subsequently the NEC produced flyers promoting the organisation which were handed out at the event.

Chairman's Report – J. Esslemont (JE)

JE took the role on with some reluctance. However, he recognized that he has the support of a good experienced team and thanked the committee for their contributions.

The additional requirement of recording walkers on a walks register to appease the NEC insurers has not proved onerous and TV will continue with this obligation.

The group was approached by Chris Lloyd to take over the running of the Chiltern Marathon. M. Long has stepped forward to take on the role of principle organizer for the event to be held on 13th September, 2020.

Following Chris's untimely death in November, JE wanted to minute the gratitude of all Thames Valley members for everything Chris had done to support the group over the years. He will be sorely missed and he is a great loss to Thames Valley.

Finally, JE thanked all the volunteers for their on-going support without which the group could not function.

Treasurer's Report – Mike Evans (ME): In his absence, ME produced a spreadsheet of accounts for 1/11/18 to 31/10/19, TV accounting period. The accounts were independently examined by L. Ledger.

Three points were raised by members:

N. Lawrence – Cost of mugs – error – should be £55.13 (not £55.28)*

G. Croucher – Cheque £10.35 – not cashed

L. Ledger – Stock query – No accurate stock list and therefore unsure of value. Action: over coming months carry out a full and comprehensive stock take.

The accounts for the period stated were approved

Proposer – J. Ginty

2nd – J. Esslemont

*Post meeting note: ME confirmed this was a matter of rounding, with the mugs not valued at a whole number of pence.

Secretary Report – M. Downes (MD)

Primary membership to 1st January, 2020 is 454 members and in addition there are 465 Associate members of Thames Valley.

MD aims to limit the number of bulk emails she sends to members, very few going to associates.

Currently 384 Primary members receive email communication. 36 members have opted out of bulk email communication and 34 members have not provided an email address.

H. Davies accompanied MD on the Group Secretary Weekend held in November last year in Sherwood Forest. The weekend covers two workshops, a walk and talk session and finally a formal meeting.

The main topic was IT funding. It is recognized that the current LDWA Website will need to be fully redesigned within the next 5 years at a cost of ~£400K.

David Morgan, LDWA Chairman provided details of a number of ways this money can be realized. One fund raiser that the committee are prepared to support is the Challenge Walk Levy i.e. the additional charges imposed on non-members, typically 50% more than a members entrant fee, is passed on to National.

In short all groups need to 'buy in' to the scheme to make it a fair and manageable fund raising project.

Comments from floor:

A. Warrington: National is struggling to maintain the current website on a daily basis. There are numerous issues with it.

S. White / A Beck: Is the new system going to be like-for-like?

H. Abbott: What is the justification for the spend i.e. what is the rationale behind this decision?

Social Walks Coordinator Report – G. Croucher (GC)

There are a number of 'Strider' gaps but ultimately walk leaders do come forward and offer to lead. These 'late' offers do not appear in Strider; the TV website will be more up-to-date. GC sends out a bulk email with the walk details if a leader comes forward at short notice to lead a walk.

It is recognized that it is sometimes difficult for members to commit to leading walk so far into the future.

A new IT facility has been made available from the NEC. The idea is that, after a social walk, we can load a description, photos, and a GPX file to the web and this will all be available to everyone for view/download.

Note that the Strider walk descriptions are sometimes 'edited' by Julie Cribb. Strider space may be an issue. The full walk details are always on the TV website.

GC asked for more walk leaders to volunteer. Currently there are 42 walk leaders listed but only a few of those names regularly lead in practice. More are needed to share the task.

A. Warrington: Some walks are too fast. A moving average of 3mph is acceptable but 3.25mph is too fast for a social walk. The term 'brisk' in a walk description may put walkers off.

General feedback:

- Leaders should be sensitive to the group requirements;
- 'B' walks should eliminate the problem but it is recognised that some 'B' walks are getting faster.
- A flat walk leads to a faster pace
- If the walk leader has a GPS device they should use it and monitor the walking pace

Oxon 40 / 20 2019 – H. Davies (HD)

HD thanked all those who helped make the Oxon 40 / 20 2019 a great success.

The Oxon 40 / 20 for 2020 will be held on Saturday 2nd May. A new route has been compiled by D. MacGregor, route master and will only use two CP's, doubling up for the 40's as happened in 2019. Catering will be provided by T. Jacobs. After seven years of catering for the 350 entrants each year, Jan Sambrook decided to step down from the role. HD thanked JS for her massive contribution to the event and members showed their gratitude with a round of applause.

G. Scott is Marshal co-ordinator and along with HD, they will be allocating Marshal roles in due course.

To date, 130 entrants have signed up for the event.

The pre-walks will be on Sunday 29th March. HD will lead on the 40 mile route and D. MacGregor on the 20 mile route.

This year, there is a price rise for entrants. The halls are more expensive and catering costs will be higher. If there are fewer entrants, this will impact on profit.

The committee will use this year's pricing structure to gauge what it might be able to give to National for their 'IT' fund.

Comments from members:

J. Ginty – WhatsApp for Marshals worked very well.

Merchandise and Logo – A. Beck (AB)

Logo - AB has updated the Thames Valley logo to facilitate printing. The design is essentially the same, just simplified i.e. a drawing not a jpeg. This will enable easier reduced colour formats for silk screen printing, larger printing and amendments as required in the future. The committee has given their approval for the updated design. The members also gave their full approval.

Merchandise - AB has found a provider for aprons and technical T-shirts and produced samples of both garments which have the new logo; embroidered on the apron and a vinyl badge on the T-shirt. Costs are ~ £18 for apron and £15 for T-shirt. Costs should be reduced for bulk orders.

With committee approval, it is hoped that T-shirts and Aprons will be purchased and will be given to all volunteer Marshals for the Oxon 40 / 20. Final approval will be sought at the next committee meeting.

Comments from members:

H. Abbott – Factor in for both male and female fit T-shirts; she has experience of a company not providing ladies T-shirts.

A. Warrington – Put badge on arm of T-shirt as the 'Vinyl' badge on technical (wicking) material wears off if put on the front, as the rucksack straps put wear on it.

Constitution amendment – J. Esslemont

The current constitution only allows the AGM to elect a maximum of seven committee members, including officers. If this number is increased to ten, it will give more flexibility. The NEC has

approved the amendment and 75% of Thames Valley member's present need to approve the amendment. There was a full showing of hands (30 members) to accept the proposal.

Comments from members

S. Mee – Consider amending time for members to stand on a committee

R. Doole – Consider the numbers for quorum as there has been an increase in ordinary members

JE wanted to get his proposal through at this AGM. Other points raised will be considered at the next committee meeting.

Election of Officers – JE

The following nominations were proposed and endorsed:

	Nomination	Proposer	2 nd
Chairman	John Esslemont	G. Scott	D. Rossington
Secretary	Maureen Downes	J. Ginty	S. White
Treasurer	Mike Evans	D. MacGregor	A. Beck

JE pointed out that MD has stated that she will only continue as Secretary for one more year. It is essential that a replacement be found by the 2021 AGM to ensure future viability of the group.

Elections of ordinary committee members – JE

In line with amended constitution the following were proposed en bloc by J. Ginty and seconded by C. Harvey:

Huw Davies, Gill Scott, Mike Meehan, Graham Croucher, Andrew Beck, Jan Sambrook

Appointment of independent examiner:

Nomination: Lynda Ledger Proposer: G. Croucher 2nd: A. Mograby

Social Events for the group – MD

- Christmas party 2019 – Following two exhilarating walks options, the members enjoyed a hot meal, lots of delicious desserts and a quiz. A great time was had by one and all. A similar event is planned for 2020.
- Steve Mee organised a 'Fun Group Kanter', 12 or 20 miles, in August which was also well received.

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, appropriate contacts.

AOB

Volunteer awards – Promotion by NEC, Madelaine Watson, general secretary (Strider No. 145, p11). There has been little support for this initiative nationally and Madelaine has extended the closing deadline in the hope that more nominations will come forward. JE asked members if they would like to consider nominating a member of Thames Valley and convey their proposal to John after the meeting. There was no immediate response from the floor.

JE thanked the leaders of the morning's walks, S. Mee and W. Dunn, and M. Downes (assisted by G. Scott and P. Jacobs) for refreshments.

The meeting closed at 16.35