



Thames Valley LDWA

Committee Report for Annual General Meeting 10th January 2021

Chairman's Report

The year has, of course, been dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic, which has severely curtailed our activities. Personally, I have felt safest walking on my own, but I am very grateful to those who volunteered to lead small groups when this was permitted in accordance with the requirements of the LDWA National Executive Committee.

We had hoped, in 2020, to revive the Chiltern Marathon as an LDWA event, and I am grateful to Martin Long and Imelda Robinson for volunteering to co-ordinate the event and for their preparatory work before this became one of many casualties of the pandemic.

The committee has conducted most of its business by email, which has generally worked satisfactorily in the circumstances. During the year Jan Sambrook decided to stand down from the committee after some seven years and, at the same time, we co-opted Duncan Macgregor. We are particularly grateful to Jan for her role for catering for group events and for providing storage for group property. If anybody is able to offer storage space we would be most grateful; otherwise it may be necessary to discard whatever we cannot house.

Our Secretary and Treasurer are both standing down as from this AGM. We owe an immense debt of gratitude to Maureen Downes for her service as Secretary for ten years: well beyond what could reasonably have been expected. Mike Evans came forward to take on the post of Treasurer just under three years ago, following the resignation of his predecessor.

As I said when I agreed to become Group Chair, I was only willing to do so as we had an excellent team of officers and committee in place. I have every confidence that will continue to be the case.

John Esslemont

Secretary's Report

For none of the right reasons, the role of Secretary this year has been minimal. Once Covid impacted on our social life, committee meetings were very limited and hence communication to members was negligible. Indeed, there were no pleas to our cake making fraternity or asking for help running the Oxon 40 / 20; a sad year for us all.

As I stated at last year's AGM, I would be standing down as Secretary at this AGM, having by now been in the role for 10 years. Fortunately, following a request to members to put their names forward if they were interested in taking over from me, Duncan MacGregor said he would like to consider the position when I stood down.

In previous years I have attended the Groups Secretary Weekend hosted by Julie Cribb. However, due to Covid restrictions the weekend was going to have a very different 'virtual' format. As I could not get involved due to family commitments, it seemed appropriate to ask Duncan if he would sit-in on the meetings and represent Thames Valley members. The most relevant implication of the meeting was that groups are being encouraged to organise challenge walks as anytime events and this is already being accommodated in our 2021 planning. Clarification is also required LDWA wide on leaders liability and a workshop is to follow on this.

Currently our member numbers remain high, some 440 as of November with a similar number of Associates. Hopefully when we return to a new normal, numbers will remain high and indeed increase; we did see a number of new faces joining just prior to lockdown.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members and especially the committee members I have worked with throughout my ten years for their support and encouragement.

Maureen Downes

Treasurer's Report

Again sorry for my absence today but this time it is COVID, and I am not abroad visiting Family.

We have had a very difficult year with our main fund raiser being cancelled, together with the fact that a number of our fixed costs were already paid. The financial position states the worst case scenario, on the assumption that we will not have a 40/20 in the coming year. If we are able to hold this then because the hall costs etc have been paid for we, this will allow us to recover a considerable sum towards the loss recorded for this year. I have again reviewed the stock valuation and simply valued the badges and mugs.

We made a loss of £1728.14 for the year. This is wholly caused by the cancellation of our 40/20 event.

I again thank Lynda Ledger for providing an examination and review of my accounts.

To conclude it is regretted that we have lost a considerable sum this year but we still have funds for future years, this does highlight that we were wise to continue to hold these "rainy day" surpluses, as the rains did come this year.

Finally this is the end of my three year term as treasurer of the Group.

Mike Evans

Note: The accounts, as approved by the independent examiner, appear on the next page. The copy signed by the treasurer and independent examiner can be made available for inspection on request.

LDWA THAMES VALLEY ACCOUNTS 1/11/19 TO 31/10/20

	31/10/2018	31/10/2019	31/10/2020	<u>stock/assets</u>		
stock	£279.67	£171.50	£ 171.50			
reserve account	£2,421.69	£2,426.22	£ 2,429.96			
current account	£3,705.77	£4,487.95	£ 2,756.07	mugs	£1.49	37 £55.28
total	£6,407.13	£7,085.67	£ 5,357.53	40/20 BADGES	£1.49	78 £116.22
increase/decrease	£-132.44	£678.54	£- 1,728.14	total		£171.50

income

xmas meal	£205.00
oxon 40/20 entries	£3,686.40
cancelled chiltern marathon	£120.00
cancelled agm	£212.50

total £4,223.90

movement for the year

income	£4,223.90
less expenditure	£-5,955.78
add reserve interest	£3.74
less stock reduction	£0.00

profit for the year £-1,728.14

expenditure

xmas meal	£245.96
agm	£323.15
oxon 40/20 refunds	£3,068.76
oxon 40/20 expenditure	£1,580.61
national agm	£210.40
walk expenses	£0.00
committee expenses	£306.90
gifts	£100.00
chiltern marathon	£120.00

total £5,955.78

signed treasurer

We consider these Thames Valley accounts give a fair

Walks Co-ordinator's Report

The LDWA Walks Database started in April 2020, and many of the walks by Thames Valley now have photos and GPX files. You may have noticed that a lot of the Journal entries about walks have migrated there from our web site. In future I hope that leaders will allow GPX files from their walks to be included

The route descriptions for the Oxon 40/20 in many of the years back to 1989 have been added to our web site, and GPX files are gradually being added for all of them. If you walk one and create a GPX file please send it to me.

When social walks were allowed to start again in July we notified members by email about each one, since the LDWA's NEC decided that walks should be offered only to primary members. To comply with insurance requirements the walks appeared on our web site just before the date of the walk. No-one seems to want to lead groups of more than six (which would require a so-called risk assessment as well). At present we've had very few volunteers to lead, but I hope this will change if/when the government's rules are relaxed.

There is no published programme for January-April 2021, and we don't plan one for the May-August 2021 programme; instead we hope to be able to create a schedule of walks for that period once things have become clearer.

Graham Croucher

Oxon 40/20 Co-ordinator's Report

As you will be aware we had to cancel the Oxon 40/20 for 2020, thank you to all those who had volunteered to marshal for that event, we had been in good shape to stage another successful event.

At the time of cancellation we had 298 entries and were ahead of the previous year in entries at that stage, so we fully anticipate our maximum of 350 would have been reached. The cancellation occurred at quite a late stage in the process, full balances had already been paid to the halls, and many non perishable items purchased. This resulted in the impact on our finances, as seen in the treasurer's report.

I SiEntries were very helpful in the cancellation and refund process.

I Bookings for the village halls were transferred to 2021, along with the payments made. The halls were very helpful on this.

I Some of the food had been purchased, this was donated to the food bank in Abingdon.

I Certificate blanks and tally card paper had been purchased and could be used for future events.

Looking forward to 2021

When we cancelled the 2020 event our assumption was we could just delay the event to 2021 using the same route, village halls and our normal event management, hence village hall bookings were transferred rather than cancelled. However as time has passed and the virus has progressed this has proved to optimistic, with continual replanning and resetting of our expectations.

Given the uncertainty the committee have concluded the best way forward for the 40/20 is to run it as an anytime/flexitime event in 2021. This option is now being planned. Hopefully we can return to normal for 2022.

Huw Davies

Merchandising Officer's Report

No further progress has been made since the last AGM on the apparel for the Oxon 40/20 as it was not sensible to continue at that point in time with the cancellation of the Oxon 40/20.

A new logo for the proposed Chiltern Marathon event was created and approved as part of the planning of that event, to be used in various places (web pages, certificates and possible badges). This was done using inspiration from an old badge combined with the style of the Thames Valley Logo in a suitable computer format.

No further progress was again made with this other than the Logo creation due to the cancellation of the event.

Chiltern Marathon Logo



Andrew Beck