



# Thames Valley LDWA

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2021, 17.00

Meeting carried out on Zoom media

**Agenda: As published – The Agenda and Voting / Question form was available to all members to submit. This format had previously been approved by the NEC.**

**Attendees:** By submitting the AGM Voting Form those members named below will be considered to have “attended” the meeting, irrespective of whether they joined the Zoom meeting.

A. Attard, A. Beck, P. Bevis, G. Browning, G. Croucher, C. Csemiczky, H. Davies, R. Doole, M. Downes, S. Easingwood-Wilson, J. Esslemont, M. Evans, J. Howe, A. Howell, P. Jacobs, Neil Lawrence, Nicholas Lawrence, J. Ledger, L. Ledger, D. MacGregor, S. Mee, M. Meehan, A. Mograby, A. Place, S. Richards, D. Rossington, J. Sambrook, G. Scott, K. Sykes, C. Symons, A. Warrington

### Apologies for Absence:

M. Spielberg (and G. Scott with respect to the zoom meeting).

John Esslemont welcomed members to the Zoom meeting and expressed his hope that the AGM in 2022 will be a more ‘normal’ meeting i.e. a social walk preceding the AGM.

The voting / question form and zoom meeting proposal was approved by the NEC, Madeleine Watson. The numbers of responses to the voting form meant that there was a quorum of people for the meeting to proceed.

In short:

- 31 voting forms were submitted and therefore all 31 members were considered to be ‘attending’ the meeting
- 24 members provided an email address so that they could be invited to join the Zoom meeting.

### To approve the minutes of the 2020 AGM

26 votes - For

4 votes – Abstain

1 vote – Against

- A. Warrington – wording incorrect w.r.t. placement of badges on T-shirt merchandise. New wording agreed (Put badges on arm of T-shirt as the rucksack straps tend to hide it if on the front). Minutes will be amended to reflect change. Minutes approved.
- R. Doole: Suggestion to consider the numbers for quorum. Response: JE – Not required.
- S. Mee: Consider amending time for members to stand on the committee (currently 3 years with maximum of 5 years). Response: JE – Ordinary members typically retire after 5 years but with so few people volunteering to fill positions, this is not a concern.

## To receive the annual report of the committee and statement of accounts

The report had previously been made available and is attached as an appendix to these minutes. The Chair offered the opportunity to officers and others to update their written reports.

**Chairman:** Thanks to G. Scott, who has indicated that she would like to stand down from the main committee, but that she will be willing to help out with future Oxon 40 / 20 events, hopefully from 2022.

**Secretary:** Nothing to add to written report.

**Treasurer:** Previously, ME stated the worst case scenario of a loss of £1728.14. However, he is pleased to report that £450 of M&S vouchers have been purchased by committee members and ME has received £1099.50 refund from village halls. Therefore TV accounts are effectively back to status quo.

**Social Walks:** Nothing to add to written report.

**Oxon 40/20:** The event, should it go ahead, will be an 'Anytime' event. However, due to tighter Tier restrictions and NEC guidelines HD will not be promoting the event on Sientries for the foreseeable future; the event is 'on hold'.

A. Warrington: If an area is in Tier 3, an event can proceed for 'local' members.

Response: HD – Currently the NEC guidelines clearly state that no events can be supported in Tier 3. The event was planned to be between Mid-March and End May. Details are on the TV Website.

**Merchandise:** Further to A. Warrington's badge concerns, the plan is to put the badge on both arm and front of the T-shirt.

### Election of Officers –J. Esslemont

The following uncontested nominations were proposed and endorsed: Note: There were NO votes logged against the proposals

	Nomination	For	Abstain
Chairman	John Esslemont	31	0
Secretary	Duncan MacGregor	29	2
Treasurer	Sarah Easingwood-Wilson	29	2

### Elections of committee members – J. Esslemont

In line with the TV Constitution, the following uncontested nominations were proposed and endorsed: Note: There were NO votes logged against the proposals

	Nomination	For	Abstain
Committee	Huw Davies	31	0
Committee	Andrew Beck	29	2
Committee	Mike Meehan	29	2
Committee	Graham Croucher	31	0

Appointment of independent examiner:	For	Abstain
Nomination: Lynda Ledger	30	1

### **AOB**

- N. Lawrence – Consider more walk start point from Bus Stops / Railway Stations.  
JE – Buses and trains have a very limited time-table on Sundays. This option may be more feasible mid-week.
- N. Lawrence – also consider linear walks so that members can socialize before returning home via public transport.  
DMacG – The membership is very dispersed and public transport very limited; no easy fix.
- A. Howell – Increasingly far fewer Car Parks offering free parking – makes offering walks more complicated. Maybe a train option is more viable?
- A. Warrington – “Virtual 100” – Over the May Spring Bank Holiday, members can participate in a ‘Virtual 100’ event. This event is unique in that no pre-entry qualifiers are required and completing 50 miles would be a qualifier for the 2022 Trans Pennine 100. To date, 75 members have entered. This event does come under the ‘exercising once a day’ guidelines; walk from home and don’t stop overnight. The cut- off date for entries is 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021.
- A. Warrington – Suggestion: Local groups to help local members by providing TV support with gpx files etc.
- Maureen Downes – Graham Smith, Strider Editor, has asked for contributions for the next issue of Strider magazine due out in April. If any member would like to share photos of lockdown walks, interesting topics i.e. how they are coping through these troubled times etc so that Strider can still be a good read, please submit them to him directly by the end of January.
- A. Beck – Chiltern Marathon – could this event still go ahead later this year? JE – Response: The new committee will consider the proposal.

J. Esslemont finished the meeting by thanking M. Downes for her contribution to the group as Secretary for the last 10 years.

The meeting closed at 17.30

## **Appendix 1 – AGM 2021 - Annual Report**

### **Chairman’s Report – J. Esslemont**

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.

### **Secretary Report – M. Downes**

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. I am delighted to say he was a very willing and proactive participant.

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.

### **Treasurer's Report – M. Evans**

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.

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

	31/10/2018	31/10/2019	31/10/2020				
				<b>stock/assets</b>			
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
<b>total</b>	£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	<b>total</b>			£171.50
<b>income</b>				<b>expenditure</b>			
xmas meal	£205.00			xmas meal	£245.96		
oxon 40/20 entries	£3,686.40			agm	£323.15		
cancelled chiltern marathon	£120.00			oxon 40/20 refunds	£3,068.76		
cancelled agm	£212.50			oxon 40/20 expenditure	£1,580.61		
				national agm	£210.40		
<b>total</b>	£4,223.90			walk expenses	£0.00		
				committee expenses	£306.90		
				gifts	£100.00		
				chiltern marathon	£120.00		
<b>movement for the year</b>				<b>total</b>	£5,955.78		
income	£4,223.90						
less expenditure	-£5,955.78						
add reserve interest	£3.74						
less stock reduction	£0.00						
<b>profit for the year</b>	-£1,728.14						

We consider these Thames Valley accounts give a fair

signed treasurer

### Social Walks Coordinator Report – G. Croucher

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

### Oxon 40/20 Co-ordinator’s Report – H. Davies

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.

SiEntries were very helpful in the cancellation and refund process.

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

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

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 too optimistic, with continual re-planning 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.

### **Merchandise – A. Beck**

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**

