



Thames Valley LDWA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Sunday 23rd January, 2022, 14.45

Lane End Village Hall

Agenda: As published

Attendees: S. Ahmed, A. Attard, A. Beck, G. Bullock, L. Boxhall, G. Browning, D. Carson, G. Croucher, W. Dunn, H. Davies, R. Doole, M. Downes, S. Easingwood-Wilson, J. Esslemont, C. French, J. Ginty, C. Harvey, A. Howell, P. Jacobs, M. Jones, L. Ledger, D. MacGregor, S. Mee, A. Mograby, G. Scott, A. Warrington

John Esslemont welcomed members to the meeting. S. Ahmed was thanked for the curry she provided before the meeting.

Apologies for Absence (Agenda Item 1):

M. Evans, Nicholas Lawrence, G. Mayo, D. Norbury, A. Richards, J. Sambrook

Agenda Item 2 : To approve the minutes of the 2020 AGM

The minutes of last years meeting were approve unanimously without any comment or objections.

Agenda Items 3-8 : To receive the annual report of the committee and statement of accounts

The report (Appendix 1) had previously been made available online to members and was handed out at the meeting. The Chair offered the opportunity to officers and others to update their written reports.

Chairman: Commented that at this time a Chiltern marathon event in 2022 had not been ruled out but would be contingent on a lead organizer coming forward in the next few weeks. There were no immediate volunteers.

Secretary: Looking for a volunteer to come forward to fill a broad logistics role related to the considerable amount of now dispersed equipment used for catering.

Treasurer: The main highlight is that we are now back to close to a pre-COVID balance. Adoption of the accounts presented was proposed by J. Ginty and seconded by G. Browning. There were no objections and they were therefore approved.

Social Walks: It was commented that few members are volunteering to lead walks at more than a months notice, particularly on Wednesdays, but some vacancies were being filled at very

short notice. All members were reminded to check the website a few days before considering attending a walk, particularly if they wished to attend a Wednesday walk

Oxon 40/20: The event will open on February 1st.

Merchandise: Looking to merge this role with Logistics as A. Beck is moving to be Oxon 40/20 lead.

Agenda Item 9: Election of Officers –J. Esslemont

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

	Nomination	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chairman	John Esslemont	M. Downes	G. Croucher
Secretary	Duncan MacGregor	J. Ginty	A. Mograby
Treasurer	Sarah Easingwood-Wilson	A. Warrington	M. Downes

Agenda Item 10: 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	Proposed by	Seconded by
Committee	Huw Davies	A. Mograby	M. Downes
Committee	Andrew Beck	a/a	a/a
Committee	Mike Meehan	a/a	a/a
Committee	Graham Croucher	a/a	a/a
Committee	Alison Attard	a/a	a/a

There were no volunteers or nominations for the proposed Logistics committee role or for either of the 2 possible vacancies on the Committee.

Agenda Item 11: Appointment of independent examiner:

		Proposed by	Seconded by
Nomination:	Lynda Ledger	S. Ahmed	J. Ginty

Agenda Item 12 : Results of Membership Survey – D. Macgregor

The secretary presented the results of a recent online membership survey, which had 93 participants so included many members who have not yet attended a social walk and it was interesting to see their views. Highlights were

- Favourite LDWA activities are the various social walks and challenge walks. Wednesday walks were surprisingly popular given the recent turnouts. B walks on Sundays were almost as popular as A walks.
- 25% of A walk participants find the pace too fast but only 3% of B walkers do so.

- There were 3 themes in the answers to a question on what would make you do more social walks, 1) Starts not on public transport, 2) New members scared to attend, either due to not knowing anyone or expecting the walk to be too fast for them, and 3) A demand for 'theme' walks.
- A few more members offered to help in the survey with leading walks or with Oxon 40 marshalling but generally not with other catering or committee-like roles.

Agenda Items 13 and 14 : Open Discussion and AOB

- The membership survey stimulated a discussion on the current set up of walks and their relative paces. A. Warrington pointed out that a rough NEC derived guideline for social walks was 3mph including stops, and that A walks were exceeding this. It was acknowledged that differences in pace had been an issue for decades and the division between A and B walks was the nearest we will likely get to a resolution on the issue. These should thus continue. Running both can of course only continue if enough leaders come forward. It was also suggested by several attendees that walks should be better described, so potential attendees could have an idea whether it was suitable for them. In particular, a guide should be given to the amount of ascent.
- L. Boxhall – would the group be interested in organizing a 50 mile challenge walk in the Sandhurst-Crowthorne-Ascot-Windsor area, offering to lead on this? A. Warrington - NEC are keen for more such events to take place as 100 qualifiers. M. Downes – should this be an 'AAA' walk? G. Scott – we don't walk often in this area. do some social walks there first? . H. Davies – suggested L. Boxhall took an observer role at the Oxon 40 to see what's involved. J. Esslemont – committee would support if a team could be formed to organize this event. D. Macgregor – needs a sub-committee of around 4.
- M. Downes- enquired as to TV Group plans for the anniversary walks on the 19 June. D. Macgregor – still plan two walks from Henley though no leaders have been identified as yet. S. Easingwood-Wilson – Do not wish to advance plans before leaders are identified as they will have their own ideas.
- M. Downes – have a self-catered 'cream tea' walk in the summer? Committee noted this idea.
- A. Warrington – wished to acknowledge and thank all TV walkers who had participated in the 2021 Virtual Hundred and those who had entered the 2022 Hundred.
- A. Howell will represent the group at the LDWA Group AGM in March 2022

The meeting closed at 16.00

Appendix 1: Committee Report for Annual General Meeting 23rd January 2022

Chairman's Report

Perhaps unsurprisingly we have been rather slow returning to normal as the pandemic has waned and waxed. In particular our leaders (including myself) seem reluctant to commit themselves as long in advance as previously. However, I am very grateful to those who have stepped in at short notice to give us a fairly full programme. Our new Secretary and Treasurer have both taken over flawlessly, with help and advice from their predecessors when required. My own role, as Chairman has remained minimal. During the year we co-opted Alison Attard as an additional member of the committee. Many of you will remember Steve Singleton, a well respected leader and member of the group who died suddenly at the end of 2012. Unexpectedly this year we received a legacy from his mother's will. It seemed appropriate to use this money to donate a gate in Steve's memory, which has now been installed by the Chiltern Society where a path from Watlington meets the Ridgeway near Dame Alice Farm. Nice as it would be to commemorate other former members in this way, that could quickly become unaffordable; this gate was only possible because of Mrs. Singleton's bequest and is not to be regarded as a precedent. My thanks, as always, to the committee, to our leaders, and to those who volunteer as marshals for the Oxon 40/20 which, Covid permitting, will be returning as a physical event in 2022 after a successful virtual event in 2021. John Esslemont

Secretary's Report

I took over as Secretary at the online AGM in January 2021 and of course there was little to do for a few months. As we came off lockdown, I soon learnt this job was a bit of a mishmash with tasks ranging from monitoring the Covid restrictions, organising and minuting committee meetings (my conservatory – with windows open- is now the new venue!), attending the Groups weekend in Yorkshire, organising a few social events when we could and taking over management of the TV LDWA catering inventory from Jan. I am looking for someone else to take over the last of these roles! 1 Membership (primary members) is more or less identical to this last time last year (434 as opposed to 440), though it fell earlier in the year to rise again lately. As Graham will expand on in his section, participants in walks (what we might term the 'social walk' portion of the membership) has understandably fallen, though numbers notably perked up for the summer picnic, held outdoors of course, at 21 and particularly for the Xmas party at 38. Judging by comments, the Xmas party seems to have been a particular success. My thanks to everyone who contributed to this success, particularly Trish Jacobs. The message seems to be that members like a walk and a bit of socialising and/or food, so we will see what more we can do on this in 2022, when of course it is allowed. It was apparent at the November Groups weekend that we are one of the strongest LDWA groups, with others amazed at the number of walks we organise. As the only group doing A and B walks on a regular basis, I think we can claim to be catering for a range of abilities (though some groups are ONLY doing what we would call B walks). There is a big push on for the LDWA to acquire a new generation of members and to be accommodating to those coming for a trial walk or who are not yet ready to do 20 miles at 3mph pace, also to make sure that we are welcoming to these new members and make sure they don't end up walking alone. One of the initiatives suggested

was an informal buddy system to keep an eye on new members and we would also like some volunteers to come forward on this. Duncan Macgregor

Treasurer's Report This is my first-year reporting on the financial position of the Thames Valley LDWA group as I took over as Treasurer at the AGM in January 2021 after rejoining the Thames Valley LDWA group in 2020. In summary the total cash balance increased by £1,545.96 year on year, which, following a significant reduction last year, puts the year-end balance back in line with pre Covid levels. The main reason for the increase year on year is the refunds for costs incurred in the 2019/20 year in relation to the May 2021 Oxon 40/20 that was subsequently cancelled and moved to an 'anytime' event. Excluding the refunds, the level of income & expenditure was significantly lower than normal due to the impact of Covid on activities with the Oxon 40/20 being an 'anytime' event rather than in person, no Christmas lunch or other social activities and meetings being online (or in Duncan's Conservatory). The main source of income of the group is the Oxon 40/20, so hopefully we can see this take place in 2022. Some deposits have been made towards this event and are therefore included in the cashflow expenditure reported for 2020/21. A stock take of badges & mugs was completed and this has been included in the report. The overall Group financial position is good and means that we have reserves in place to ensure we are financially stable and also to enable us to subsidise social events. I would like to thank Lynda Ledger for her independent review of the accounts and Mike Evans for the time he took to handover the Treasurer role. Sarah Easingwood-Wilson 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.

Cashbook: 1.11.2020 - 31.10.2021

LDWA Thames Valley

Summary	31.10.19	31.10.20	31.10.21	Stock / Assets		
Stock Value	£171.50	£171.50	£158.08	Mugs	36 @ £1.494	£53.78
Reserve Account Balance	£2,426.22	£2,429.96	£2,430.20	40/20 Badges	70 @ £1.49	£104.30
Current Account Balance	£4,487.95	£2,756.07	£4,315.21			
Cash in Hand	-	-	-			
Total	£7,085.67	£5,357.53	£6,903.49			£158.08
Increase / (Decrease)	£678.54	(£1,728.14)	£1,545.96			

Movement for the Year

Income	£2,468.14
Expenditure	(£909.00)
Add reserve interest	£0.24
Less stock reduction	(£13.42)
Total	£1,545.96

2020/21 Income & Expenditure

		Income	Costs	Total
Oxon 40/20: 2020	Refunds relating to cancelled 2020 event	£1,549.50	-	£1,549.50
Oxon 40/20: 2021	2021 Virtual event	£408.64	-	£408.64
Oxon 40/20: 2022	Hall deposits	-	£280.00	(£280.00)
Bequest	Purchase of a gate from bequest	£500.00	£500.00	-
Gifts	-	-	£50.00	(£50.00)
National meeting	-	-	£45.00	(£45.00)
Committee expenses	-	-	£34.00	(£34.00)
Christmas Lunch 2021	-	£10.00	-	£10.00
Total		£2,468.14	£909.00	£1,559.14

(1)

(1) The cashflow excludes £47.95 relating to the 2021 Summer picnic lunch which debited the bank account post year end and will therefore be included in the 2021/22 cashflow.

Walks Co-ordinator's Report

Since social walks resumed in April 2021 we have been offering two walks on most Sundays, and Wednesday walks have at last resumed. This has been possible only because a core of

leaders has been leading most of the walks, so please consider leading a walk, since we can't rely on their good nature forever. I'm sure one of our experienced leaders would give help and advice if required. 3 There is no walks programme in Strider for January-April 2022, so you'll need to continue to monitor the website as you have been doing. I've asked for volunteers to lead in the May-August 2022 program, for inclusion in the next magazine, although this seems a long way in the future. We are liaising with the Wiltshire group to offer joint walks if the location is convenient for both groups. These will be publicised and highlighted in both our programmes. I continue to add GPX files to the LDWA Walks Database for many of the Thames Valley walks. Remember that articles and/or photos associated with a walk can also be added, so if anyone would like to contribute please let me know. GPX files are still being created for past Oxon 40/20 routes which do not already have one. This page on the website appears to have been used substantially during the pandemic. If you walk one and create a GPX file please send it to me. Graham Croucher

Oxon 40/20 Co-ordinator's Report

The 2021 Oxon 40/20 was again affected by the Covid pandemic. As we were unable to run a full event we offered an anytime event. Duncan modified his route from the cancelled 2020 event to remove checkpoints, and the event was made available on SiEntries for £5 with optional printed certificate for £2. Additionally Oxon 40/20 badges could be purchased for £2.50. All entrants who reported completion were given an electronic certificate. 92 people entered, 57 on the 20 route and 35 the 40/32. 13 printed certificates and 8 badges were ordered. We received the following number of completions: 41 x 20 miles, 7 x 32 miles and 14 x 40 miles. Relative to other local anytime events, the Oxon 40/20 was well subscribed and received good feedback from entrants. Looking forward to the Oxon 40/20 in 2022, it is planned to return as a normal/marshalled event on 30th April 2022; as usual there is a new route. There will be some changes this year, both in response to the Covid pandemic and to attempt to simplify the organisation. The entry numbers are reduced from 350 to 200 and a smaller range of food will be offered. The start of entries has moved from its traditional 1st December, to 1st February. If you would like to volunteer to help marshal this event please email tv.oxon4020@ldwa.org.uk. With your help we will have another successful Oxon 40/20 on 30th April. Huw Davies