



Thames Valley LDWA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Sunday 14th January, 2024, 14.45

Lane End Village Hall

Agenda: As published (summarized as headings below)

Attendees: S. Ahmed, L. Annetts, L. Ashwell, A. Attard, A. Beck, G. Browning, G. Bullock, G. Croucher, H. Davies, R. Doole, M. Downes, W. Dunn, A. Eade, J. Esslemont, G. Garland, J. Ginty, C. Harvey, K. Heaney, A. Howell, M. Jones, L. Ledger, D. Macgregor, D. Rossington, H. Sarachi, J. Sheen, P. Wheeler

John Esslemont welcomed members to the meeting. H. Sarachi was thanked for the couscous she provided before the meeting, together with the walk leaders and D. Macgregor for organizing the event.

Apologies for Absence (Agenda Item 1):

S. Easingwood-Wilson, G. Scott, S. Mee, L. Caswell, A. Richards

Agenda Item 2 : To approve the minutes of the 2023 AGM

The minutes of last year's meeting were approved. Approval was proposed by A. Beck and seconded by G. Croucher.

Agenda Items 3-5 : To receive the annual report of the committee and statement of accounts

A report of the committee for 2023 had previously been made available online to members and was also handed out at the meeting. The Chair offered the opportunity to officers and others to update their written reports.

Chairman: Stated that this was his last AGM as Chair. Acknowledged the efforts of committee members over the year and stated that the main problem we were currently encountering as a group was finding leaders. D. Rossington proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing Chair.

Secretary and Treasurer : These were combined as the Treasurer was absent, though she had submitted a detailed report and accounts, which were circulated. Membership continues to increase while active participation (leading walks, committee) falls. This follows a trend noticed in other LDWA groups. The accounts for the year were approved without any objections. A surplus for the year of £1141 was attributed to income from 2 challenge walks in 2023 and the receipt of £500 from helping on the Hundred. The latter sum should be ring-fenced for use on the Hundred in 2025 and beyond. As we only plan a Marlow Donkey challenge event in 2024,

we expect a small loss in 2024. The budget for social events and cakes continues, though it was emphasized that for all expenditure, we need prior approval and receipts.

Social Walks: G. Croucher commented that relatively few members are volunteering to lead walks, particularly on Wednesdays. L. Ashwell enquired as to training for potential leaders, particularly given problems some are having with navigation programmes. D. Macgregor said this had been tried last year with minimal participation but would be considered again.

Challenge Events: The Oxon 40 will not be run this year as no-one has been found to lead the event. The Marlow Donkey will be run again on Sept 29th in a slightly expanded format. This had been found to be a much easier and less stressful event to run in contrast to the Oxon and there had been no marshalling issues. D. Macgregor said that we might consider a second low key event in 2025, but only if the Challenge Events Coordinator role could be filled. L. Ashwell asked if the lead role on the Oxon could be shared. J. Esslemont replied that this had been suggested but 2 volunteers could not be found.

Agenda Item 9: Election of Officers –J. Esslemont

The following uncontested nominations were received by the deadline and were endorsed.

	Nomination	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chairman	Gerry Garland	D. Macgregor	J. Esslemont
Secretary	Duncan Macgregor	J. Ginty	G. Garland
Treasurer	Sarah Easingwood-Wilson	G. Browning	M. Downes

The meeting voted unanimously in favour of the nominations.

Agenda Item 7: Elections of committee members – J. Esslemont

In line with the TV Constitution, the following uncontested nominations were proposed and endorsed. D. Macgregor said we would like to fill some of the vacant Committee slots (up to 7 can be taken) and particularly that of a Challenge Walks Coordinator. There were however no volunteers for any of these roles. The meeting voted unanimously in favour of the following nominations.

	Nomination	Proposed by	Seconded by
Committee	Graham Croucher	J. Esslemont	D. Rossington
Committee	Andrew Beck	a/a	a/a
Committee	Anushka Howell	a/a	a/a
Committee	Alison Attard	a/a	a/a

Agenda Item 8: Appointment of independent examiner:

		Proposed by	Seconded by
Nomination:	Lynda Ledger	J. Esslemont	G. Bullock

Agenda Item 9 : Motion to approve new TV LDWA Constitution

- Proposed by J. Esslemont, seconded by D. Macgregor
- J. Esslemont explained the issues behind the motion. The NEC wish us to adopt a new constitution for which they provided a model. The three main office bearers had spent some time revising this in order to remove some ambiguities. Our revised version had now been approved by the NEC and it was now ready for approval by the meeting. Members had been given access to this new constitution on the website before the meeting. Approval would require 75% of those present to support the motion.
- L. Ashwell asked for a summary of what had changed over the previous constitution. J. Esslemont replied that following discussions, it had been decided to allow associate members to vote at the AGM and at other meetings. Additionally, there was a tightening of financial authorities and a clarification of the process for dissolving the group. D. Macgregor added that the NEC wish for a revision seemed to be driven by some recent cases in other societies of financial irregularity and even of fraud. R. Doole asked for clarification on the issue of associate members being allowed to vote or join the committee. J. Esslemont said it was largely at the discretion of the Chair. A. Beck thought this issue to be rather meaningless as all LDWA members could readily switch their branch memberships on the membership portal. D. Macgregor pointed out that we have some associate members who have contributed more to the group than the majority of primary members have.
- A vote was then taken on the motion. 26 members voted unanimously to adopt the new constitution. The document thus has immediate effect.

Agenda Items 10 : Open Discussion of Issues Raised and Others Raised by Members

- There were no further motions raised.
- A number of members reported issues with LDWA emails. D Macgregor has reported this.
- A. Beck gave an update on the work on a new website. This is moving steadily but slowly.
- D. Macgregor reported from his attendance at the LDWA Local Groups weekend that it was expected that there were significant funds put aside to meet the costs of updating the website and also that a discussion had taken place on using money from a recent legacy to develop an LDWA App.

The meeting closed at 15.55