

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION LIMITED



2015 AGM & SOCIAL WEEKEND

Friday 13th March to Sunday 15th March 2015

The Norton Park Hotel, Sutton Scotney

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Sunday 15th March 2015

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION LIMITED

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Long Distance Walkers Association Limited will be held at The Norton Park Hotel, Sutton Scotney, near Winchester at 10a.m. on Sunday 15th March 2015.

The business of the Annual General Meeting will be as follows:

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 16th March 2014.
3. To receive and consider the accounts for the year ended 30th September 2014 and the reports of the Directors and Accountants.
4. To appoint Accountants for 2014/15, and authorise the Committee to fix their remuneration.
5. To receive reports as follows:
 - (a) Chairman
 - (b) General Secretary
 - (c) Membership Secretary
 - (d) Editor
 - (e) Local Groups
 - (f) Internet
 - (g) Events
 - (h) Hundreds Co-ordinator
 - (i) Long Distance Paths
 - (j) Merchandise
 - (k) Environment
6. Election of 2015/16 Executive Committee:
 - (a) Chair
 - (b) General Secretary
 - (c) Treasurer
 - (d) Membership Secretary
 - (e) Editor
 - (f) Internet Officer
 - (g) 6 Executive Officers

The present Chairman, LDP Officer, Merchandise Officer and 100's Co-Ordinator are standing down, having served their term of office.

A list of nominations received, with background details of nominees, is appended. Voting for the Executive Committee is by a poll of those Members of the Association entitled to vote and attending the Annual General Meeting in person or represented by proxy.

7. To determine the subscription for the Membership Year 2016.
8. To authorise the Committee to determine honoraria payments in accordance with past practice.
9. Any other business. *Items must have been notified to the General Secretary at least 6 weeks prior to the meeting.*

End of formal business

Open forum and discussion. To include any matters which the membership would particularly wish the Committee to consider during the forthcoming year. There will be a box for written questions at the AGM Registration Desk, which will be collected at 8.00 am on Sunday morning, or you can ask questions in the meeting as usual. Invitees and attendees of this meeting should be aware that the minutes of the meeting, inclusive of names, will be published on the LDWA website and available to the public.

Phil Heneghan, General Secretary *On behalf of the Executive Committee*

Agenda Item 2

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION LTD

**MINUTES of the 15th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of LDWA Ltd
held at 10am on Sunday 16th March 2014
at The Cairn Hotel, Harrogate.**

**(To be approved at the 2015 AGM held at The Norton Park Hotel,
Sutton Scotney on Sunday 15th March, 2015)**

PRESENT. 126 members whose names are recorded in the Attendance Register and are listed at the end of these Minutes.

Notice of Meeting. The General Secretary read the formal notice convening the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Chris Bancroft, Avril Stapleton, Simon Townson, Joan Wrenn.

2. Minutes of the 14th Annual General Meeting of LDWA Ltd held on 10th March 2013

The Minutes of the meeting were contained in the AGM booklet that had been circulated to those attending the AGM. Following the amendments to Item 9 Honoraria, to remove Janet Chapman (who was not at the meeting) as the seconder to the proposal and a correction in the attendance Register from Robert Wallon to read Robert Waller, the minutes were proposed and unanimously accepted as a true and accurate record by all members who had been at the AGM.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the Agenda.

4. Accounts

Accounts for the period ending 30 Sept 2013 and the reports of the Directors and Accountants had been supplied to all those attending the AGM. The full Directors' Report and un-audited Financial Statements and Report of the Accountants were incorporated in the AGM booklet. Ian Beveridge, the Treasurer, presented the report.

A loss of £5,600 had been made. A loss for the coming year was also expected in line with the Committee decision to reduce the level of reserves. The loss had not been as great as anticipated in respect of the slight increase in Membership. No questions were raised on the accounts. Proposed for acceptance by Peter Cowlyn (Bristol & West), seconded by Tony Willey and unanimously approved.

5. Accountants

It was proposed by Ken Falconer and seconded by Peter Haslam and unanimously agreed that R F Miller, Bellevue, Princes Street, Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 7NB

be appointed Accountants for the year ending 30 September 2014 and that the Executive Committee be authorised to fix the remuneration of the Accountants.

6. Annual Reports

Note: These are available to members via the LWDA Website in the library section. (Those without internet access can request a booklet from the General Secretary).

6a) Chair – John Sparshatt

John had nothing to add and there were no questions.

6b) General Secretary – Phil Heneghan

Phil had nothing to add and there were no questions.

6c) Membership report – Steph Carter – visual presentation on membership data

Membership numbers – 10th March	7,290
Renewal reminders: Responses	694
Pending	49
Lapsed 2013	1,133

New Membership was up by 20% compared with 2013.

Direct Debits: Steph made a case for DD versus renewal by other payment methods. A cheque involved processing, banking and the issue of reminders. To make Direct Debit attractive, new joiners were sent a £5 voucher to exchange for LDWA merchandise.

Future Challenges for Membership:

- * The need to streamline the processes
- * Payment method - to convert all to payment by Direct Debit
- * Move to electronic DD - get a licence to convert.

John and Steph thanked Peter Haslam and Janet Chapman, as part of the newly formed Membership Team for their support with membership. Peter's role was to issue passwords and Janet's the *Strider* mailing and inserts for new members plus handbooks, and mailing for late renewers, thus freeing Steph Carter, the Membership Secretary, to manage the Direct System.

Tony Willey (a former Treasurer) raised the issue of the Membership workload saying that he appreciated the work involved but that membership was the main income. Peter Dyson, a former Treasurer during the early nineties, had built up reserves ready to outsource membership administration. However, the LDWA did not wish to take this course of action. Geoff Saunders followed by Janet Chapman from 1998 – 2004 avoided this route. In 2001 the Direct Debit System was written by the late Reg Chapman and put in place. Following further problems with membership administration from 2004 onwards, Peter Haslam took over as Membership Secretary in 2006, working with Reg Chapman to re-establish the efficient operation of the system. In early 2013 the system almost collapsed again, due to a heavy workload on the Membership Secretary. During the past year Steph Carter as Membership Secretary had worked with the newly formed team to achieve a now healthy membership.

Steph Carter responded saying he was trying to divide the role into bite-sized chunks and that processes needed to be adjusted and tweaked.

Wendy Watson (Bristol and West) observed that the presentation should be 'the push' for all in the room to pay by Direct Debit.

It was noted that cheques were expensive to present.

To avoid the system being outsourced, a plea was made to the members to go back to their groups to stress and encourage the members to pay by Direct Debit.

Guy Vowles (Wiltshire) suggested that outsourcing could be a sensible option and that the committee should look at the costs involved – a subscription increase could be considered to cover the costs involved with outsourcing.

Peter Forrest as an alternative option to outsourcing, suggested a paid internal employee.

Action: Steph Carter replied saying that he would conduct a cost analysis of the cost of outsourcing, he would talk with membership agencies to try and determine a way forward.

John Sparshatt noted that prior to going forward with outsourcing the LDWA requirements would need to be quantified for presenting to agencies. Outsourcing administration could mean some loss of LDWA functionality over membership listings. It was intended to introduce a differential in favour of DD payment versus other methods at the time of any increase in subscription.

6d) Editor – Julie Welch

Julie had nothing to add to her report, but asked for ‘the photos of cakes’ to continue to be sent to her.

6e) Local Groups – John Batham.

John made reference to the annual Local Groups Representatives weekend. The 2013 weekend had been held in Shropshire at Wilderhope Manor, however the merits of the weekend were being questioned by some members. Questionnaires had been circulated to all attendees. The Committee were now considering the responses. John asked for individual comments to be sent to him via the Local Groups email address as listed in *Strider*. Comments could reflect a change of format or thoughts on dropping the meeting.

6f) Internet - Simon Leck

Simon had nothing to add to his report and there were no questions.

6g) Events – David Findel-Hawkins

David had nothing to add to his report and there were no questions.

6h) 100s Co-ordinator – Gail Elrick

Gail reported that applications for the staging of future Hundreds were looking healthy. She stated that the coming year would be her final year as Hundreds Co-ordinator and that she was in the process of writing a Hundreds Manual.

Valleys 100 – 2014: South Wales LDWA. The organisers David Morgan and Gwyn Matthews were at the meeting and available to answer questions.

Colin Wormold Cup: Awarded to the organisers of each hundred event, was presented by Annette Merchant, the organiser of the 2013 Camel Teign 100, to David and Gwyn.

Red Rose 100 – 2015: Peter Haslam reported that the 100 would include the best that Lancashire had to offer, including the climb of Pendle Hill.

Dorset 100 – 2016: Deidre Flegg on behalf of the organising group highlighted that the 100 would not be a soft option; there would be 15,000 foot of ascent. She thanked all the groups who had already offered their help.

6i) Long Distance Paths – Paul Lawrence

Paul had nothing to add to his report. He stressed that the work was time consuming for all the volunteers and invited more members to get involved. There were no questions.

6j) Merchandising – Tim Glenn

Tim invited attendees who had not yet visited the shop to visit following the meeting. He made particular reference to and promoted the purchase of bags for the 100 that met the correct size requirement.

7. Election of Officers

Sir John Johnson assumed the Chair and asked the meeting to confirm the election of John Sparshatt as Chairman by a show of hands. He then declared John to be duly re-elected as Chairman for the coming year. The other members of the Committee, as there were no other nominations, were similarly elected *en bloc*. The following persons were declared to have been appointed to the positions shown and consequently as Directors of LDWA Ltd.

Chair	John Sparshatt, proposed by Tom Wood, seconded by Andrew Ward
General Secretary	Phil Heneghan, proposed by John Walker, seconded by Guy Vowles
Treasurer	Alexander Gee, proposed by Aileen Baldwin, seconded by Jimmy Smith
Membership Secretary	Steph Carter, proposed by Tim Glenn, seconded by John Batham
Editor	Julie Welch, proposed by John Bullen, seconded by Peter Balshaw
Internet Officer	Simon Leck, proposed by David Green, seconded by Kate Farrell
Executive Committee Members	
John Batham	Proposed by Elaine Dee, seconded by Ann Bell
Abigail Elrick	Proposed by Don Bolton, seconded by Gillian Morris
Tim Glenn	Proposed by Nigel Dean, seconded by Peter Ibison
Paul Lawrence	Proposed by Andy Shoesmith, seconded by Lonica Vanclay
Steph Carter	Proposed by Caroline Roy, seconded by M. Reid
David Findel-Hawkins	Proposed by Michelle Armour, seconded by Neil Fennell
Chris Hedley	Proposed by Phil Heneghan, seconded by John Sparshatt

All of the above duly elected Officers were also elected as Company Directors of LDWA Ltd.

8. Special Business: Amendments to the Articles of Association

A list of proposed amendments to the Articles of Association, with background details, was appended to the AGM booklet. The Chair asked the meeting for their approval that, with the exception of Item 3, the amendments be approved *en bloc*. Questions were raised on the items below.

Item 1 Junior Membership

Amendment proposal:

The change would remove the formal class of Junior Membership.

The constitution specifies Junior Membership as a separate membership class for those under 18, who are not part of a family membership. This has never been operated as a separate category and there had been hardly any Individual Members under 18 in the Association's history. The Chair asked if there were any comments on the proposal?

Hazel Bound (Cornwall and Devon) asked if as part of a Family membership under 18s could vote?

The Chair confirmed that under 18s would have voting rights.

Item 2A Affiliate Membership

Note: The Committee had decided that the option of Affiliate Membership would be removed from the Membership Form. This did not require a constitutional amendment as Article 2.3(A) states that the Executive Committee has the right to 'decline the membership of the Association to any person, entity, group or organisation'. It was felt that now information on LDWA activities was readily available on the website, there remained little need for affiliate membership. The National Committee had agreed, however, that it would be unreasonable to terminate the Membership of those bona fide organisations who had been Affiliate Members for many years, but that the category would dwindle and eventually disappear.

Peter Grayson from Black Combe Runners (Affiliate Member number 23720) spoke to the proposed amendment. 'The members of the above group were surprised that the LDWA felt it was

necessary to make this move as most were unaware that anyone saw a problem with Affiliate Members, and that Black Combe Runners were of the opinion that membership represented a mutually beneficial partnership based on shared aims and interests. The main reason, for the proposal would seem to be that members of affiliated groups were getting reduced entry fees at LDWA events. The group's perspective regarding affiliation was that if that was the reason it would not be cost effective, as discounts received in the course of a year are never in excess of £10, sometimes less. The group felt however that it was about solidarity, not the money, meaning that they would retain their link with the LDWA as long as allowed.

Ken Falconer (Heart of Scotland) responded explaining the note and wording was a reflection of the Committee's thinking, but that it was not intended for any constitutional change at the moment. The meeting approved all the proposed amendments with the exception of item 3. It was noted that those members representing both Affiliate Groups and the LDWA had two votes.

Item 3 LDWA Number of Members renewing after a break

Current wording Article 2.4(A)

Each member shall be entitled to: - receive a membership card setting out their category of membership together with a membership number, which shall remain the same as long as a Member remains a Member of the Association.

Current wording Article 3.1

... In the event that a Member successfully rejoins the association he shall be entitled to be re-assigned his original membership number.

Proposal: To delete "which shall remain the same as long as a Member remains a Member of the Association" from Article 2.4(A) and to delete Article 3.1.

Background: Members who leave the organisation and rejoin several years later may and are re-assigned their original number. As a result of data protection legislation, the Association no longer kept records of members who leave, so finding and checking the numbers may be difficult and time consuming.

A discussion followed concerning members renewing after a break of some years and the re-assignment of their membership number.

Geoff Saunders stated he could not understand the references made to Data Protection difficulties. Interpretation of the Act was discussed. Geoff Saunders added that he had serious doubts if it were illegal to keep records electronically and that he was prepared to do research on the Data Protection Act. A number of members were confused re: the reason for the amendment and that therefore they did not feel confident to vote. Was it a data protection issue or a workload factor?

Wendy Watson (Bristol and West) suggested that the re-allocation of numbers workload was allocated to a member of the Membership Team.

Peter Forrest asked if it was a constitutional issue as Data Protection related to Public Bodies?

Peter Haslam and **Geoff Saunders** (previous Membership Secretaries) both offered, that if it was not a constitutional issue but a time factor, to source old records for the re-assignment of numbers.

Caroline Wandless (North Yorkshire) asked if it would be possible to have a compromise if there were evidence of the member number?

Ken Falconer (Heart of Scotland) noted that the wording did not imply an absolute right, and may be interpreted as subject to proof of prior membership and entitlement by the member. Following this discussion, the Chairman asked the meeting to vote on whether the AGM should proceed to vote on the Constitution amendment, which vote was taken and passed by a majority.

A further vote was then taken on the proposed amendment Item 3 in the agenda. Barbara Blatchford and Ann Sayer, both Vice Presidents of the Association acted as tellers. 75% were in favour of the amendment to the Constitution.

To summarize, the proposed constitutional amendments were all carried. The amended constitution is available in the Library section of the LDWA web pages or on request from the General Secretary.

9. To determine the subscription for the Membership Year 2015

Ian Beveridge (Treasurer) proposed that there be no increase for 2015.

The motion to maintain current subscription rates for 2015 was unanimously **AGREED**.

10. Honoraria payments

The proposal for the Executive to authorise and determine honoraria payments in accordance with past practice was: Proposed by **Peter Toghill** (Wessex), seconded by **John Stewart** (Northumbria) and unanimously **AGREED**.

11. Any other business.

There was no other business.

The Annual General Meeting closed at 11.50

12. Open Forum and Discussion

12.1 A question re: Honorary membership was raised

John Sparshatt (Chair) responded that it was inappropriate for the current meeting.

Ken Falconer (Heart of Scotland) added that Honorary members are proposed by the Committee to the AGM, not at the Open Forum.

12.2 LDWA application Form

Steph Carter (Membership Secretary) informed the meeting that the form had been revised to take account of the increased price of the Handbooks. He asked for all the previous leaflets to be destroyed. The new leaflets were available for people to take.

Hazel Bound (Cornwall and Devon) asked if there were a way when a family joins for all names to be listed?

Steph Carter responded that he had been in discussion with Simon Leck, re: the possibility. The difficulty was that the software would have to be re-written and at the moment resources were not available.

Steve Osborne (South Manchester) asked if 'calling cards' were to be reissued?

Peter Haslam responded that Catherine Gregory a previous Committee Member had organised the printing.

Action: John Sparshatt to investigate.

Mike Buckley (Heart of England) asked if there was a local Constitution Group Template?

John Sparshatt responded that this was being addressed, that he was in discussion with Ken Falconer and John Batham (Local Groups Secretary) and that a draft constitution for Local Groups to adopt would be circulated.

12.3 Publicity

Publicity issues were raised and discussed. e.g Twitter, Facebook. South Wales and the London Group were on Facebook. Publicity strategies were discussed.

John Sparshatt made reference to past exhibitions that the LDWA had been represented at

with little benefit, adding that entries in magazines were very costly with little return identified. **Ann Sayer** stated that in the past Publicity Packs had been sent to Youth Hostels and Camping Barns etc. A past article in SAGA re: Betty Lewis who at the time was the oldest female to complete a 100 was noted.

Reference was made to Peter Morrill a previous Publicity Officer on the LDWA Committee, who had organised and produced Posters.

Action: Tim Glenn (Merchandising) offered to address the poster issue.

A question was raised re: no Environment and Publicity Officers on the Committee.

John Sparshatt responded that publicity was a joint responsibility.

Steph Carter stated that to get any return on Publicity an outcome of a minimum of 200 new members would be needed for an investment of £1,000.

Penny Baldwin (North Yorks) questioned if an increased membership was desirable or could be sustained?

Wendy Watson (Bristol and West) suggested leaving old *Striders* in Public Places, Libraries etc.

Steph Carter highlighted that local group secretaries are sent additional *Striders* for this purpose.

David Appleby (Yorkshire Coast) asked if information was sent to walking shops?

Tim Glenn (Merchandise) replied that he sends forms to various outlets.

Action: Norman Corrin (BBN) to send information on shops that offer discounts.

12.4 Merging of Local Groups, Morecambe Bay & Bowland and Westmorland and N Lancs - to form the Lakeland Group from the 1st May 2014.

13. John Sparshatt thanked

- * Reg Kingston, the overall organiser of the AGM. After a number of years it was Reg's last year as organiser and he was handing over to the capable hands of Katie Hunt (Norfolk and Suffolk) the new Organiser.
- * the Walk Leaders members of the Nidderdale and West Yorkshire Groups for leading the walks and the trip on Saturday.
- * Hamish Brown, the Friday evening speaker.

14. President's Address

Sir John Johnson gave a brief address, saying that to advertise the LDWA – just show the cover of *Strider*.

The Open Forum closed at 12.20

Executive Committee:

Chair	John Sparshatt	Executive Officers	John Batham
General Secretary	Philip Heneghan		Abigail Elrick
Treasurer	Ian Beveridge		Tim Glenn
Membership Secretary	Steph Carter		Paul Lawrence
Editor	Julie Welch		David Findel-Hawkins
Internet Officer	Simon Leck		Chris Hedley
		Minutes	Janet Chapman

The following members signed the Attendance Register:-

Barbara Appleby	David Appleby	Avril Allen	David Allen
Linda Ashwell	Penny Baldwin	Mark Beaumont	Michael Best
Jennifer Beveridge	Barbara Blatchford	Jean Bobker	Barry Boddy
Hazel Bound	Terry Bound	Andy Britton	Elizabeth Bryan
Mike Buckley	John Burgess	Joyce Burgess	Helen Cavanagh
Mike Childs	Janet Chubb	Fred Clapham	Norman Corrin
Peter Cowlyn	Carol Coyne	Tim Dawe	Richard Denby
Maureen Downes	Gloria Drury	Hilary Dyson	Peter Dyson
John Elrick	Isobel Falconer	Ken Falconer	Deidre Flegg
Lawrence Foe	Daphne Forrest	Peter Forrest	Alexander Gee
Michael Godfrey	Peter Grayson	Eileen Greenwood	Julia Greenwood
Peter Haslam	Tricia Hesford	Anushka Howell	Graeme Hall
Mary Hatcher	Paul Hatcher	Arthur Howcroft	Katie Hunt
Malcolm Hunt	David Jacques	Sir John Johnson	Alex King
Reg Kingston	Merrian Lancaster	Vivienne Lee	Elvira Lord
Jack Lord	Gwyn Matthews	Jerzy Matuszewski	Annette Merchant
Les Merchant	Bob Mills	Edith Moran	David Morgan
Jean Osborne	Steve Osborne	Brian Pitts	Jenny Reed
Tony Reed	Tony Rowley	Sandra Rushton	Ian Sage
Patricia Sage	Janet Sambrook	Geoff Saunders	Ann Sayer
Chris Seddon	Barbara Shelton	Steve Smith	Malcolm Stephenson
John Stewart	Christine Stockton	Michael Stone	Peter Toghil
Elaine Townson	Jane Varley	Mary Varley	Mike Varley
Ian Vickeridge	Guy Vowles	Suzanne Waldschmidt	Margaret Waller
Robert Waller	Caroline Wandless	Roger Wandless	Andy Ward
Ralph Warman	Madeleine Watson	Ray Watson	Wendy Watson
Nigel West	Hilary Whitlam	John Whitlam	John Widdowson
Sue Widdowson	Jill Wilkins	Susan Wilkinson	Tony Willey
Cyril Williams			

Signed:

.....
(John Sparshatt, Chair)

Date:

15th March 2015

Agenda Item 3

Financial Report

for the year ending 30th September 2014

The finances of the LDWA are in a reasonable place. A surplus of £5,551 was achieved compared to a small forecast deficit and to a deficit of £5,678 in the previous year. In the current year a similar outcome is expected with the caveat that this is dependent upon the trend in membership and the associated subscription income. Should there be no significant changes there is no need to consider an increase in subscriptions in the near future.

Three main areas account for the change compared to the previous year. Membership subscriptions increased by £8,193. There was a reduction of £9,510 in administration costs mostly down to a reduction in membership expenses – in a year when membership numbers have increased. This is a considerable achievement and reflects the work put in by the Membership Secretary and team. These positive changes were offset in part by an increase of £5,176 in *Strider* printing and postage costs, reflecting the higher print runs for increased membership and Royal Mail's higher postage rates.

LDWA's assets at the financial year end stood at £120,417. Included within this is the Santander Bond valued at £56,749, which has been rolled on for another year. The assets approximate to one year's membership subscriptions – 108% compared to 111% in 2013. In my opinion the assets should be kept at a level of at least a year's subscription income as a sensible minimum reserve to give some comfort that unforeseen eventualities can be faced, so no reduction of assets is planned.

And finally having taken over the Treasurer role part way through the year, I would like to thank the Committee members, and particularly the outgoing Treasurer, for their help and support.

Sandy Gee
Treasurer

**Report of the Directors and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 September 2014
for The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited**

The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited

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The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited

Company Information for the Year Ended 30th September 2014

DIRECTORS:	Mr J Sparshatt Mrs A Elrick Mr T Glenn Mr P Lawrence Mr J Batham Mr S Leck Mr P J Heneghan Ms J M Welch Mr D Findel-Hawkins Mr S Carter Mr A P Gee Mr J C W Hedley
SECRETARY:	Mr P J Heneghan
REGISTERED OFFICE:	Bellevue Princes Street Ulverston Cumbria LA12 7NB
REGISTERED NUMBER:	03719756 (England and Wales)
ACCOUNTANTS:	R F Miller & Co Chartered Accountants Bellevue, Princes Street Ulverston Cumbria LA12 7NB

The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited

Report of the Directors for the Year Ended 30th September 2014

The directors present their report with the financial statements of the company for the year ended 30th September 2014.

DIRECTORS

The directors shown below have held office during the whole of the period from 1st October 2013 to the date of this report.

Mr J Sparshatt
Mrs A Elrick
Mr T Glenn
Mr P Lawrence
Mr J Batham
Mr S Leck
Ms J M Welch
Mr D Findel-Hawkins
Mr S Carter

Other changes in directors holding office are as follows:

Mr I Beveridge - resigned 16 March 2014
Mr A P Gee - appointed 16 March 2014
Mr J C W Hedley - appointed 16 March 2014

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

.....
Mr P J Heneghan - Secretary

Date: 14 October 2014

The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 30th September 2014

	Notes	2014 £	2013 £
TURNOVER		123,274	115,876
Cost of sales		<u>58,795</u>	<u>53,701</u>
GROSS SURPLUS		64,479	62,175
Administrative expenses		<u>59,382</u>	<u>69,071</u>
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	2	5,097	(6,896)
Interest receivable and similar income		<u>821</u>	<u>1,727</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION		5,918	(5,169)
Tax on surplus/(deficit) on ordinary activities	3	<u>367</u>	<u>509</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR		<u><u>5,551</u></u>	<u><u>(5,678)</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited (Registered number: 03719756)

Balance Sheet 30th September 2014

	Notes	2014 £	2013 £
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks		1,440	1,087
Debtors	5	4,694	5,077
Investments	6	56,749	55,965
Cash at bank		<u>88,393</u>	<u>82,166</u>
		151,276	144,295
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	7	<u>30,859</u>	<u>29,429</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>120,417</u>	<u>114,866</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>120,417</u>	<u>114,866</u>
RESERVES			
Income and expenditure account	8	<u>120,417</u>	<u>114,866</u>
		<u>120,417</u>	<u>114,866</u>

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 30th September 2014.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 30th September 2014 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 14 October 2014 and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
Mr A P Gee - Director

.....
Mr J Sparshatt - Director

The notes form part of these financial statements

The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30th September 2014

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

Turnover

Turnover represents net invoiced sales of goods, excluding value added tax.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

2. OPERATING DEFICIT

The operating surplus (2013 - operating deficit) is stated after charging:

	2014	2013
	£	£
Directors' remuneration	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

3. TAXATION

Analysis of the tax charge

The tax charge on the deficit on ordinary activities for the year was as follows:

	2014	2013
	£	£
Current tax:		
UK corporation tax	367	510
Overprovision brought forward	-	(1)
Tax on surplus/(deficit) on ordinary activities	<u>367</u>	<u>509</u>

4. COMPANY STATUS

The company is a private company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each member is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the company in the event of liquidation.

5. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2014	2013
	£	£
Other debtors	160	1000
Prepayments and accrued income	4,534	4,077
	<u>4694</u>	<u>5,077</u>

6. CURRENT ASSET INVESTMENTS

	2014	2013
	£	£
Unlisted investments	56,749	55,965
	<u>56,749</u>	<u>55,965</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 30th September 2014

7. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2014	2013
	£	£
Tax	367	510
Accruals and deferred income	<u>30,492</u>	<u>28,919</u>
	<u>30,859</u>	<u>29,429</u>

8. RESERVES

	Income and expenditure account £
At 1st October 2013	114,866
Surplus for the year	<u>5,551</u>
At 30th September 2014	<u>120,417</u>

**Chartered Accountants' Report to the Board of Directors
on the Unaudited Financial Statements of
The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited**

In order to assist you to fulfil your duties under the Companies Act 2006, we have prepared for your approval the financial statements of The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited for the year ended 30th September 2014 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet and the related notes from the company's accounting records and from information and explanations you have given us.

As a practising member firm of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed at icaew.com/membershandbook.

This report is made solely to the Board of Directors of The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited, as a body, in accordance with our terms of engagement. Our work has been undertaken solely to prepare for your approval the financial statements of The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited and state those matters that we have agreed to state to the Board of Directors of The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited, as a body, in this report in accordance with AAF 2/10 as detailed at icaew.com/compilation. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and its Board of Directors, as a body, for our work or for this report.

It is your duty to ensure that The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited has kept adequate accounting records and to prepare statutory financial statements that give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and loss of The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited. You consider that The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited is exempt from the statutory audit requirement for the year.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit or a review of the financial statements of The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the statutory financial statements.

R F Miller & Co
Chartered Accountants
Bellevue
Princes Street
Ulverston
Cumbria
LA12 7NB

Date: 14 October 2014

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

**Detailed Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 30th September 2014
for The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited**

The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited

Detailed Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 30th September 2014

		2014		2013	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
TURNOVER	1		123,274		115,876
Cost of sales	2		<u>58,785</u>		<u>53,701</u>
GROSS SURPLUS			64,479		62,175
Administrative expenses	3	57,696		67,206	
Finance costs	4	<u>1,686</u>		<u>1,865</u>	
			<u>59,382</u>		<u>69,071</u>
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)			5,097		(6,896)
Finance income	5		<u>821</u>		<u>1,727</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION			<u>5,918</u>		<u>(5,169)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

The Long Distance Walkers Association Limited

Detailed Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 30th September 2014

	2014	2013
	£	£
1. TURNOVER		
Subscriptions - ordinary	111,577	103,384
Donations	1,270	1,785
Handbook royalties	1,130	879
Merchandising sales	1,962	2,702
Hillwalkers' Register	270	402
Commissions receivable	715	624
Handbook sales	5,331	4,909
Local Group Weekend Contributions	973	917
Track files	46	140
40th Anniversary Badges	-	134
	<u>123,274</u>	<u>115,876</u>
2. COST OF SALES		
Opening stock	1,087	665
Purchases - Merchandise	2,691	2,516
Purchases - Books	3,800	3,974
Strider costs - production	34,553	31,179
Strider costs - despatch	13,924	12,122
Strider costs - calendar	4,180	4,332
	<u>60,235</u>	<u>54,788</u>
Less:		
Closing stock	<u>1,440</u>	<u>1,087</u>
	<u>58,795</u>	<u>53,701</u>
3. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
Honoraria	3,000	3,000
Licences and insurance	7,889	7,710
Hillwalkers' Register expenses	2,452	2,021
Committee costs	10,106	9,664
Local group meetings	2,789	4,142
AGM	3,792	6,164
Membership	9,233	17,014
Website costs	15,197	13,363
Trade subscriptions	1,129	816
Accountancy	2,004	2,292
Donations	105	1,020
	<u>57,696</u>	<u>67,206</u>
4. FINANCE COSTS		
Bank charges	<u>1,686</u>	<u>1,865</u>
5. FINANCE INCOME		
Deposit account interest	<u>821</u>	<u>1,727</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

Agenda Item 5

Committee Reports

Chair's Report

As I come to the end of my three years as LDWA Chair, I believe I can hand over a thriving and growing organisation that maintains the original ethic of our founders that embodies promoting non-competitive walking in an organisation that is operated by volunteers without direct paid staff. This has only been possible with the enthusiastic and committed support of members across our association at all levels and I would like to express my thanks to all of you who have played your part. Like all membership organisations nowadays, the background in which we operate is challenging, with competition for people's leisure time from increasing numbers of web-based walking groups who do not use a national subscription model, as well as from other outdoor activities like cycling that have gained from recent British sporting success. In parallel, the standards expected of voluntary organisations rise ever higher and the technology we use more complex, while the scope of regulations and requirements from government and from permissioning bodies we deal with in putting on our events has grown, requiring volunteers with the right skills at both national and local levels. Our membership has aged and we have become dependent on ageing volunteers with sometimes only those who have retired having the time needed. If you read no further, please think about how you might get involved yourself or encourage others to do so, as many of the present contributors will not be able to continue for too long more and all are in need of more day-to-day helpers!

Over my three years as Chair, we can report progress in several key areas. Our paid membership had grown by the end of 2014 by almost 1000, or 12.5%, to almost 8500, the highest in the LDWA's history, and this has driven our finances that remain robust with a small surplus in the 2014 accounts of about £5,500 and reserves of over £120,000, enough to cover a year's outgoings, and despite encroaching inflation, this with no increase in subscriptions announced for about 10 years now, representing a substantial fall in real terms.

Numbers paying by direct debit increased following a campaign emphasising the higher workload involved in processing other payment methods. Once again members can substantially reduce the work by switching to direct debit if not already using this method, and if not by renewing promptly, as late payers both take up extra time for the volunteer membership team and cost money. If we are to continue with volunteers in this role longer term, the work has to be minimised. Outsourcing is not the preferred option: it would be much more costly, and real-time internet access to the latest online membership records might well be lost if a third-party system were used, making current services such as bulk emails and groups' membership information no longer be sustainable.

We remain the leading organiser of endurance walking challenges at local level, and our flagship annual 100-mile walk continues to grow in interest, while our group walks attract good numbers. Our founders took a broad view in promoting distance walking and in that spirit our long distance paths information services can claim to be the UK market-leader in providing public information on the UK's growing network of documented trails, enabling us to reach out to an audience that might otherwise never discover the LDWA.

During my tenure, we have modernised our national constitution and following on that the groups' constitutions are being updated. We depend on our IT side online both in presenting the LDWA to both its members and the wider public and for our supporting systems that underpin all of our work. Substantial enhancements have been made in the online capabilities we provide with our membership services systems and in the software we use to promote LDPs, making this work more efficient and less burdensome to the volunteers and enabling helpers across the country to play a role using the internet. This helps us serve not only a membership that is substantially larger than even a few years ago, but also the large numbers of non-members that use our online services and whom we could not reach before the internet. We have also focused on improving our ability to communicate with members online at all levels, while recognising that many members involve themselves online with several groups.

The committee has been concerned to codify the risks we face across organisation and following work led by Gail Elrick a risk register is now in place and as a result we have started taking further action on managing those risks we can mitigate and where risks have a financial impact this is informing the ongoing assessment of the financial reserves level. Here perhaps the major concern is to provide continuity in key roles and people with the necessary expertise and experience as well as enough helpers. We have custody of members' and participants' personal information in providing our services, a responsibility we take seriously, and a fuller policy on privacy is being developed. Registration as a Data Controller is planned once we are satisfied all of our procedures and security measures meet the registration criteria. Finally, but not our least concern has been to report a basically safe operation and in the last 3 years no significant insurance claims were made, itself a testament to the high standards and tested procedures we use in our events. In 2014 we changed our insurance provider and took a 3-year arrangement that reduces exposure to rising costs, as well as adding a new cover for abuse.

Our two main methods of communication remain *Strider* (with members) and the website, but social media are growing in significance. Julie Welch continued to produce a lively, attractive and very well-read magazine that we know is regarded with affection by our members and she has emphasised the contributions of volunteers in line with our ethic, while seeding new initiatives in establishing an LDWA Twitter account to add to our Facebook presence. Although an option to read the magazine online is available, few use this exclusively, preferring the printed version. The LDWA calendar was again included with December *Strider* in 2014 and Nigel Barraclough is taking over this role as this was one of my personal tasks to assemble.

The internet has been transformative in society, enabling easy access to information, improving efficiency and linking people in a way our grandparents would have marvelled at. For small voluntary organisations like LDWA, a strong online presence enables us to 'punch above our weight' and in the last 15 years we have placed a great emphasis on developing our IT backbone, both improving our range and quality of information and services online, and in enabling our volunteers across Britain to work together using shared data and systems despite being widely scattered. For an organisation of our size I believe we have good quality systems but that we need to continue to invest as technology advances. Our online presence enables us to reach beyond our existing members to the wider public - since we began monitoring usage in 2009, visits to our family of websites have reached over 4 million, and visitors have viewed almost 20 million pages of information. We also know that our online reach is better in both gender balance at 60% male to 40% female and in its age range of users, with 33% under 45 years than is our paid membership, both very important factors in marketing LDWA to a wider

demographic. Usage is now levelling off, after a period of very rapid growth. Including the group and 100s templated sites, visits grew by almost 8% into 2014, averaging over 2700 visits daily and 10,600 page-views (2013: 8.4%; over 2,500; and over 11,000). The figures include increasing contributions from the templated sub-sites for groups' and 100s of about 18% of these totals (2013 16%).

We manage our IT side through an active and lively sub-group of the national committee, the Internet Sub-Committee (ISC) led by the Internet Officer and supported by our software contractor (MKH Computer Services), that decides priorities for new development work against an annual budget that the main committee increased in 2014. The main focus in 2014 was a major upgrade to the LDPs system to improve ease of use and speed up a number of key tasks. A significant trend in site use has been a fast growing use of mobile devices rather than desktops and laptops, with over a third of our usage now being on tablets and mobile phones. Going forward, a priority is to improve all our mobile users' experience by providing a 'mobile' version of the site that will be easier and clearer to use irrespective of platform, rather than investing in 'LDWA Apps' that while certainly useful serve only specific devices, such as Android or Apple products, and involve significant ongoing costs.

Our website is mainly public and free to use, consistent with our wider role as a National Governing Body promoting our activity to everyone. We have been looking at other acceptable ways to gain income from users of the online services, where because of the unique information we show, we are able to link customers for associated services to their providers, while we may gain no direct financial benefit either from use by non-members or from the resulting income to these service providers. We have done this successfully with Amazon for some years enabling our site users to buy a large range of maps and books without us holding stock. Many walking trips take people away from home, so involve them finding places to stay, and with the location-related information presented on our website we are uniquely placed to link walkers to suitably located accommodation. In 2014 we have added some 3800 online bookable places to stay so that these show in relation to LDPs, events and group walks locations. LDWA gains a small commission paid by the accommodation owner when customers book using these links, while the bookings are dealt with by a third party booking engine so involve no extra work for our volunteers. There is more detail in the LDPs report. In adding the booking service we have strengthened the site Terms and Conditions of use, in part to cover use of third party services including our relationship to social media providers.

In providing services, the LDWA becomes the custodian of users' sensitive and valuable personal information and we take this responsibility seriously: breaches may not only impact our members and customers but also affect our association's reputation and could even lead to prosecution. Online security is reviewed regularly by ISC and our contractor keeps a watching brief and makes changes as day-to-day issues are identified. More secure log-in processes are being looked at for admin users with key access to sensitive data, and while data access at national level is more easily controlled, at group and event level this remains a concern. On national policy and guidance, a fuller policy on Privacy and Data Protection has been developed, with a new committee member Chris Hedley leading the work and taking on the role of the nominated LDWA Data Protection Officer, with more detail in his Environmental Report. It is planned to register LDWA with the Information Commissioner after some upgrades to online Privacy Statements and to some processes. LDWA probably still meets the criteria for registration exemption, but registering demonstrates our commitment to data protection and the Data Protection Act must anyway be complied with.

Putting together the composite groups walks and events programmes in conjunction with groups' walks officers and event organisers is a vital ongoing task and both our Events and Groups Secretaries, David Findel-Hawkins and John Batham, have again done valuable work here. On the groups side, John also focused on the updating of the model constitution for groups once the changes approved to the national constitution agreed at last year's AGM were effected. It was decided after consultation with groups not to hold a representatives conference in the autumn of 2014, but this will be kept under review and groups' views and suggestions in this area would be welcome. David not only assembles the challenge events programmes but in so doing provides a lot of advice and help to organisers, helping to maintain high standards with events. We also list online events such as local walking festivals that can self-register simply by adding their festival's basic details and a weblink.

Each annual LDWA 100, the flagship LDWA challenge event, is approved by the national committee and ongoing 100s are monitored with Gail Elrick coordinating the work until this AGM. The 2014 Valleys Hundred again saw a full field of nearly 500 entrants set off. The Marshals' walk early in May went well, but unfortunately the almost unprecedented local weather in late May had other ideas and did its best to make the main event one of the hardest ever with an unusually large number of retirees and some difficult decisions made once the slow rate of progress was apparent. As a past 100 organiser, I have great sympathy with the 100 teams when the weather intervenes after all their hard work and careful planning, and I and the national committee thank them for their perseverance and effective planning that enabled an orderly return of retirees. Future 100 events are now allocated until 2018, with the team preparing for the 2015 Red Rose 100 now in their busiest period with offers of help still welcome. The 100s Co-ordinator nationally also advises organising groups, while looking at common standards such as for risk assessments.

The UK has an unrivalled recreational asset in its world-class network of promoted long distance paths (LDPs). LDWA provides the most comprehensive free information service on the full UK LDPs network that is well used by members and the public who look for suitable trails to walk. By the end of 2014, some 1170 longer LDPs (15+ miles) were covered online, totalling 75,500 miles and 23 new routes added. The data underpinning the LDPs service is always evolving with new routes and publications while some older routes cease to be promoted. This involves far more work than any individual volunteer has available and the team doing this work has been concerned with continuity, particularly as two of us, Paul Lawrence and myself, retire from the National Committee at this AGM. We both plan to continue working off-committee, with Neil Rawlins who joined at national level in 2014, representing the workgroup. Resources still limit us to updating only the online data, where there remains a backlog with reviewing much of the older data, while producing a new printed Handbook is beyond our current capability. Registers and certificates are available to log both completions of National Trails and also, for the many peak-baggers, the various hill lists online, and these are both well-used, with an informative annual *Strider* Hillwalkers supplement and informal meets. A new register for the Lakeland peaks in the *Fellranger* book series has been added, with certificates funded by their publisher Cicerone. Alan Castle continued to maintain the online National Trails registers and David Purchase the Hillwalkers registers. In *Strider* there is an annual Hillwalkers supplement.

Access for walkers to paths and to open spaces remains a basic requirement, both for social walking, for trails and for events. As primarily a user body, LDWA is not a lead campaigner, nor does it have the paid research and lobbying staff and contacts to take a lead in putting the

walkers' case. Again in 2014, we have supported the lead lobbying organisations, who have paid staff for this work, such as the Ramblers in their campaigns for Government completion of the England Coast Path, Forestry access and National Trails management. On the Coast Path, progress was made in the autumn with the Government announcing it was bringing forward the completion of the Coast Path to 2020, by some 10 years, and later that it was adding some £5 million of extra funding to Natural England for this purpose. We will continue to monitor progress of this Path, where the access negotiations are much more complex, in providing a wider corridor, than with the Wales Coast Path, to ensure this commitment is honoured by governments. Natural England has also started reporting on progress with the revised management and funding set-up for the national trails and we attend these forums. The LDWA takes part in wider representative bodies: the Sport and Recreation Alliance (formerly CCPR) campaigns nationally on behalf of sports' governing bodies of which the LDWA is one, with Gail Elrick, and on access and economic issues, John Sparshatt, or Paul Lawrence representing the LDWA. Following publishing its 'Reconomics' research making the strong economic case for recreation, S&RA is now refocusing under its new Director on high level influencing, supported by relevant research. It is targeting a first-time Government commitment to develop a national strategy for outdoor recreation, that if established should benefit all recreational bodies, while addressing major social, health and economic costs of increasing inactivity. LDWA subscribes or affiliates to many kindred UK organisations, from the Ramblers to whose annual congress we send a delegate, to several major LDP associations and access bodies such as the John Muir Trust. More widely in Europe, we decided to again renew membership of the European Ramblers Association that oversees E-Routes, where the LDWA is the UK implementer.

Tim Glenn's merchandise operation has been ever-present, providing a range of logoed garments that promote the LDWA brand, plus Handbooks and other lines. Little stock volume is now held or space needed to support sales making the role easier to hand over once another member is interested. As a national committee our role is to provide the national level guidelines and administrative processes and systems that underpin the association. This can sometimes be difficult, tedious and time-consuming work. In so doing we hope that we have helped our local groups and events, but I know it may not have seemed like that at the time! I would like to mark my appreciation to those committee members who are leaving their present roles at this time: to Gail Elrick on 100s, Tim Glenn on Merchandise and Paul Lawrence on LDPs, and I wish them all well. Personally I have enjoyed the ideas and support of very many members over the years in what have been a number of satisfying roles, most recently as Chair. It is important that fresh ideas and new enthusiasm keep our national and group committees energised and it is welcome that two new faces, David Morgan and David Holland, will join our committee subject to election, while, unusually, members will be exercising their democratic right in electing my successor. I wish my successor well and I look forward to assisting the LDWA on its future journey. Members interested in getting involved with committee work are always very welcome and should speak to a current member to find out what the roles entail. Two key roles - Internet and Groups - become vacant next year.

John Sparshatt

General Secretary's Report

It is an appropriate time to thank the membership for a very positive response to my appeal for more voters to register for the election of the Chairman of the Association. In my opinion, it is essential for a healthy and democratic organisation to engage its membership in the process of managing its affairs.

I am also pleased to report that we have once again recruited two new people for election to positions on the Executive at this AGM. As recorded last year, the existing Committee members are hardworking, highly competent and dedicated, but the continuing virility of our Association depends on the renewal of the team by willing volunteers.

A lot of the work of the General Secretary is responding to requests for information and advice from members and others interested in walking. I would like to repeat my appreciation to the other Committee members in helping me fulfil this role.

Given your support, I look forward to continuing to serve the LDWA in my present function.

Phil Heneghan

Membership Report to the AGM for 2014

Firstly an apology: I am sorry, that due to holiday commitments I will not be in attendance at the 2015 AGM to present my membership report in person.

2014 Membership Statistics

Membership up 7%: At 2014 membership year end (30th September 2014) membership had increased by 524 members from 7468 in 2013, to 7992 in 2014.

Of this growth:

- 395 (5.3%) was down to securing more renewals than the previous year through earlier reminder letters, and for those on email repeated reminders
- 129 (1.7%) were additional new joiners compared with the previous year.

During 2014 membership year we welcomed 1558 brand new members, of which 887 (56.9%) were male, 455 (29.2%) were female, and 216 (13.9%) were family members. Of those joining as Individuals (1342 in total) 34% were female. This is a slight decrease from the 36.2% recorded in 2013,

Our 7992 2014 members were made up of 6614 Individual Members, 1225 Family Members, 26 Affiliate members, 104 International Members, 24 Complimentary Members, and 2 Honorary Members

How Members pay

Payment Method	All Paying Members		2014 Joiners	
	Number	%	Number	%
DD	4550	57.1	187	12.0
Card	2319	29.1	1289	82.7
Cheque	1098	13.8	82	5.3
Total	7967	100	1558	100

Once set up a Direct Debit saves about 3 minutes of the Membership Secretary's time over card and cheque renewals each year. While it sounds insignificant, multiply it up by 8000 members and it becomes 10 working weeks- every year!

The table above demonstrates an issue: new members tend to join and pay by card, yet we want them to pay by Direct Debit. We have investigated electronic Direct Debit (which would allow people to join by Direct Debit without having to post a form) without success. The only way to drive Direct Debit uptake may be to introduce a preferential membership rate for those paying by Direct Debit, which would reflect the less effort required in membership to process Direct Debit renewals.

Member Electronic communication Connectivity

Connectivity continues to rise. Just prior to 2014's AGM (in March 2014) 22.8% of members did not have an email address registered with the LDWA. November 2014 saw this figure fall to 19.5%.

This will continue to fall as over 99% of new members have internet addresses. email communication is cheap and easy, so aids membership costs and efficiency.

Membership Cost Savings

You will notice a significant reduction in membership costs in the 2014 accounts.

This is explained by:

- In 2013 the Nat Exec sanctioned a payment for paid staff's time handling membership workload. The current membership Secretary does not use additional staff so there is no such payment in 2014
- People joining in Oct and November no longer get sent August *Strider* (but they still get 4 *Striders* for their first subscription). This saves postage, and in 2014 will have saved in the region of £200 in postage and about £350 in *Strider* printing
- In 2013 reminder letters to non-renewing members were generated and sent by a printer at a cost of about £400. In 2014 the membership secretary self-printed and posted these letters at a cost of about £70
- The increasing use of internet communications (and the increasing proportion of members that have email addresses) are driving cost effective communication and generally reducing postage costs

These cost reductions are a significant factor in the LDWA being able to maintain its membership subscription at current rate for at least an additional year.

Looking Ahead.

While it is impossible to predict membership numbers until the renewal round is completed, at the time of writing (mid November 2014) new joiner numbers are looking healthy for 2015, so provided a similar number of renewals as 2014 can be achieved modest growth in membership numbers (in the order of 1-3%) is predicted for 2015.

Steph Carter (Membership Secretary) November 2014

Editor's Report

Main aims in the past year have been 1) to encourage the ethos of giving back by putting an emphasis on contributions of volunteers; and 2) to continue catering for the interests of more senior members while using the magazine to attract younger people and ensure they feel it worthwhile to renew their membership.

Many members, old-timers and newbies alike, have contributed in the past year – so many that it would be invidious to thank them all in person. That said, I would like to express my gratitude to Paul Lawrence and John Sparshatt for managing the continuous workload of News of LDPs, and to John Batham and Dave Findel-Hawkins for their work in producing Group News and Events Diary. Thank you, too, Walks Secretaries, for ensuring your programmes get to John on deadline.

Social media and Publicity: August 2014's *Strider* appeal for someone to grow the LDWA Twitter account @LDWA1 resulted in member Jane Williams coming forward. For those not familiar with Twitter, it consists of posting 'tweets' - comments, information and news to a length of not more than 140 characters, often with photos – and accumulating 'followers' – like-minded people who sign up to receive them. Twitter tends to be used by a younger demographic and since September 2014, Jane has succeeded in turning @LDWA1 from a relatively unvisited account with fewer than 100 followers to one whose numbers stand (as of mid-January 2015) at 468. So thank you, Jane, and also thank you John Sparshatt, who armed with his smartphone has valiantly grasped the nettle of this new method of spreading the word about the LDWA, particularly among younger people.

Julie Welch

Local Groups Report

If I am re-elected in March 2015 it will be the fifth and final year that I will be Local Groups Secretary. It's been a pleasure to work with so many members who share the aims of the Long Distance Walkers Association and support this great recreational hobby.

The primary responsibility in this post is to compile news and details of the local groups' social walks and various other activities for inclusion in *Strider*. This information is sent to Julie Welch for final editing and publication. If I get this wrong then you will end up in wrong places at wrong times!

Other work involves liaising with local group secretaries to provide advice and operate an exchange of information between them and the National Committee. An important but infrequent task is to consider the viability of new groups. In my tenure, Isle of Wight Group has been welcomed back after folding in the 90's and Lakeland Group has successfully metamorphosed out of Westmorland (and North Lancs) and Morecambe Bay (and Bowland). Old friend Nicky Wood is welcomed back as the new Secretary of Lakeland.

A more challenging issue has been in organising an annual local Groups representatives meeting. Traditionally, Secretaries or Group representatives have been invited to a one-day or weekend get-together to discuss items of interest to the Groups and also to enjoy a day's walking and, with the weekend format, two convivial evenings with the opportunity to harangue NEC members with walking or membership issues. A little less than 50% of our 43 Groups actively supported this event over the years and it has been criticised (in 2013) as being too similar to the composition of the AGM

weekend. Consequently, after a poll of the Groups, I decided not to organise this event in 2014. The NEC will reconsider the event early in 2015 and perhaps reintroduce it in the Autumn of this year.

The past year or so has also seen two major initiatives on constitutional matters of the Association. The Memorandum and Articles of the Association (also known as The National Constitution) were extensively revised by a sub-committee comprising myself, Ken Falconer and Geoff Saunders and the changes and additions recommended were accepted by our members at the AGM of 2014. You can find the updated document in "Useful Info" (then under Library in the drop down menu) on the LDWA website.

Subsequently, our Local Groups Model Constitution (which was formerly adopted following co-ordination by Avril Stapleton in 1999) has been updated by several on the NEC and particularly by the worthy efforts of Ken Falconer. A draft document was circulated to Group Secretaries in Autumn 2014 for comment and adoption. I should add that there is flexibility to amend and modify the document to meet the individual needs of the Groups. Several Groups have already (at early January 2015) sent in their "revised" Constitution for approval by the NEC.

My thanks go again to all the Webmasters, Secretaries and Walks Secretaries who have smoothed my passage through my years of office.

John Batham

Internet Officer's Report

In 2014 the Internet Sub Committee (ISC) comprised of John Sparshatt (LDWA Chair), Paul Lawrence (Long Distance Paths), Simon Leck (Internet Officer), Mark Hawker (Contractor) and Michael Headley (ISC Committee member). I'd like to thank Michael for all his effort this year. Michael is a key member of the Internet team and does a lot support work for me behind the scenes, making my role as Internet Officer possible.

ISC Spending

Each year the ISC is allocated a budget and the spending for the period 2013/2014 was in the region of £12,000 (ex VAT). The work undertaken during this period included, enhancements to Long Distance Paths, Membership system, and the Hillwalker and Trailwalker Registers. These improvements were deemed to be necessary to make life easier for the volunteers that look after the day to day running of the LDWA. Also included in this figure are the day to day running costs of the LDWA website, which includes software licenses and web hosting charges.

The Future

Both John Sparshatt and Paul Lawrence are stepping down from the National Committee; however they have agreed to remain on the ISC, as has Michael Headley. As a five year position this will be my final year as Internet Officer therefore I'd like to formally ask the LDWA membership at the AGM if anyone is willing to step forward and take over this post next year. Ideally it would be nice if someone came forward sooner rather than at the last minute so that some formal training can be undertaken and a seamless handover could occur.

Internet Workshop

Once again I'll be holding an Internet Workshop after the AGM, all are welcome. Come along to discuss your LDWA IT woes.

Simon Leck

Events

I'd first like to thank all Challenge walk organisers without whom we would not have the wide variety of events we have on offer throughout the year. I'm aware of a number of popular events that will not be taking place in 2015 as the current organisers are retiring. I'm pleased though that there will be at least four new events, organised by LDWA groups, to take their place.

Often on the forum I read complaints about events that don't provide this or that. By all means ask if something is being provided but don't take umbrage if it isn't. I wonder how many of those complaining help out at events, let alone organise one.

In 2014 there were a total of 180 events listed in our Events Calendar. This compares to 155 in 2013. Seven events in the 2014 calendar didn't take place for various reasons but I expect at least four to return in 2015. The other three were cancelled due to lack of entrants.

The increase from 2013 is not due to a sudden surge in new events but mainly due to old events reappearing in the listings or some that were listed under Walking Festivals being re-instated in the Challenge event category.

Of the 180, 72 were organised by LDWA local groups against 73 in 2013. If we discount cyclic events, we 'lost' Open to Offas, Winter Poppyline, Grasmere Fells Tarns & Gingerbread, and Rhondda Rollercoaster but gained Silverdale Circuit (twice) & Janet's Jubilee Jaunt. Of the 43 local groups, 37 put on at least one challenge event. Top of class this year are Lakeland with six, partly as a result of the amalgamation. East Yorkshire & Marches both promoted five challenge events including a 50 mile event.

Just behind in hosting four challenge events are Cornwall & Devon, Essex & Herts, Surrey and The Irregulars. The first three also included an event of 50 miles or more.

I must thank those local groups who maintain their own Challenge event details. It reduces my workload considerably.

Once again a number of events reached their entry limit. I know of at least 26 in 2014 but there were probably more, as not everyone tells me or updates the details themselves. If your event gets full then please update your entry on the website or ask me to do it.

Strider contains details of all the events in the next eight months that are on the website. That gives all events a chance of appearing in two issues of *Strider*. Some events still don't make any issues of *Strider* due to not getting details in before the deadline. For all the 2014 issues of *Strider*, I sent all event organisers a month's notice of the deadline date). I still had requests after this date.

Dave Findel-Hawkins

Hundreds – an update from the 100s Co-ordinator

This is my last year as 100s Co-ordinator. I took on the newly created job as a co-opted member of the National Committee in 2008, the aim of the job being to monitor progress and provide support to those Groups undertaking the arduous task of running the 100 mile event. Thank you to all the organisers of 100s for being, without fail, pleasant and helpful to me and for responding to my requests for information without complaint!

As I have said before, it seems to me that nearly every 100 seems to have some tag or event that identifies it. In the case of the **Valleys 100 (2014)** it will inevitably be the deluge. Even for South Wales the weather was incredibly wet and the organisers and entrants alike were faced with challenges arising from the protracted rainfall. Sadly only just over half the entrants finished (we have become accustomed to the figure being nearer $\frac{3}{4}$) but with good management on the part of the organisers and hard work by all the marshals and groups manning checkpoints, no major incidents occurred. Some tough decisions were also taken by the organisers, including disqualification of a few not carrying the complete kit and timing out of some walkers.

The Valleys 100 Organising Committee must also be commended for bringing the LDWA to a part of Wales seldom visited by walkers and for providing a big boost to local industry and tourism. They also used electronic monitoring/tracking of entrants which provided more accurate and faster transfer of data.

I hope some of you will revisit the area and take advantage of some of the paths and views that look very different when the rain stops.

Eyes now turn to **The Red Rose 100 in 2015** being run by the East Lancs. Group. Another 100 that has narrowly missed the need for a ballot, even closer this year!

The route planned is an anti-clockwise walk from the Anderton Outdoor Centre on the banks of the Rivington Reservoir. The route is a varied one with possibilities of views including Blackpool Tower and with breakfast at Slaidburn. Also on the route is Pendle Hill, famous for its association with witches! Hilary and her Team are working hard to complete the final details for the event.

The **Dorset Group** is organising the **Dorset 100 in 2016**, the first 100 to be delivered in Dorset. The area provides a surprising variety of walking opportunities, many parts seem to have hardly changed since Thomas Hardy published his novels and it contains rugged terrain as well as pretty villages. The event will start and finish in Broadwey, near Weymouth, and will be an anti-clockwise route bounded by Milton Abbas to the East, Evershot to the North, and Beaminster to the West. It will visit places of scenic, historical and archaeological interest such as Tolpuddle, Milton Abbas, Minterne, Pilsdon Pen, Eggardon Hill, Little Bredy and Portesham. Planning of the event is well advanced.

Moving north in **2017** the **100** is being hosted by **North Yorkshire Group** and following a route change will now be called the **North York Moors 100**. Progress on route development, booking of checkpoints etc. is proceeding to schedule. Interestingly the Organising Committee hopes to use Botton Village, part of the Camphill Trust, for the checkpoint on the Saturday and the community hopes to produce a special cheese for the event!

I am also pleased to announce that the **2018 100** will return south to the Kent Group. The event will be named the **Cinque Ports 100**. The Cinque Ports were the medieval confederation of English Channel Ports formed to furnish ships and men for the defence of England. The walk will link the (5) historic Cinque Ports of Hastings, Romney, Hythe and Dover with the Cinque Ports Ancient Towns of Winchelsea and Rye and the Cinque Port Limbs of Tenterden, Lydd, Folkestone and Deal. The Duke of York School in Dover has already been booked as the headquarters and a venue for the start is being sought in Hastings (transport will be arranged from the Duke of Kent School to Hastings, the walk will finish at the school).

Thinking ahead, we will be looking for a venue north of Watford for 2019. Perhaps groups would like to start thinking about it?

Gail Elrick

Long Distance Paths

The continuing volunteer long distance paths (LDP) team, led by Paul Lawrence and John Sparshatt, with Peter Grayson, Michael Headley, Neil Rawlins who joined the team in 2014, and David Kearns (librarian), assisted by Jeff Parr (new routes) and by Lynn Jackson (paid cottage worker), continues to maintain our extensive online database of UK LDPs.

By the end of 2014, some 1170 longer LDPs (15+ miles) were covered online, totalling 75,500 miles, excluding the full planned England Coast Path that will total some 2800 miles and is still in an early stage of development. Almost all of the relevant trails are now digitised, providing the mapping displays and trackfiles that are free to download for members. During the year, some 23 new paths were added online and reported in *Striders* adding about 1800 miles to the network - since the 2009 publication of our LDWA UK trails guidebook, the 2009 UK Trailwalker's Handbook, over 210 new routes have been added. (2013: 1140 paths; 73,000 miles, 30 new). The public online LDP service had about 4,200 page-views daily in 2014 (2013 4,400). Over 50% of all our users first enter the LDWA national website on a specific LDPs page following a web search.

Strider continues with a regular LDPs News feature with similar material online. We answer LDPs queries from our members and the public, and process updates and new routes sent in by route promoters who recognise that our LDPs resource is well used by the public, as well as by members.

The time that the present LDPs team has available is only enough to cover the ongoing adding of new routes and updates that we hear about or are sent in, but does not extend to a more structured updating of the bulk of the older material online and in the Handbook that has not been updated since the Handbook research and so it is becoming out-dated.

The Handbook continued to sell remarkably well with LDWA itself selling around a book a day and Amazon sells similar numbers, while it is still in local bookshops. It remains after 5 years among the top 40 books in its class on Amazon. The second reprint of the Handbook in 2013 has less than a year's stock left. The Handbook RRP base price was increased to £20 from £18.95 and the LDWA members' discounted price price by £1.00 to £14.95 in April 2014.

The LDPs maintenance website was upgraded in 2014 and so any additional volunteers will be trained on the new system. Further volunteer help would be much welcomed in this area. The LDPs pages include over 700 external weblinks that over time become superceded and these were individually audited and amended or replaced to ensure users still get directed to useful linked pages. About 1000 different LDPs publications (trail guides) are offered for sale online,

along with 1060 OS maps, without any stock being held by LDWA, by using our associate sales link with Amazon. In 2014 (calendar) these sales rose by 19% to almost £13,000, generating £755 of commission on 1650 items after only 3 returns (calendar 2013: up 10%, £10,800, £650, 1550, 1). The information on OS maps was also updated against the OS lists, with many new editions and sales links added, to ensure the latest maps supplied.

As mentioned in the Chair's report we have added some 3800 online-bookable accommodations to the LDWA site, for which we get booking commission. The aim was to add third-party information that LDWA would not itself need to maintain, exploiting the facilities already on the site to show location-based information. These bookable accommodations are quality assured annually by VisitEngland and Visit Wales and carry the relevant grading and we are licensed to use their data. Members are invited to make use of this booking facility when their walks involve trips away and to mention it to friends. Bookings for say families or in self-catering can generate significant commission. The site also lists, with a free website entry, many hostels and other budget group accommodation, so that in total some 4500 accommodations, as well as over 90 walking holiday and trails services companies, are shown on the website related to walking routes and events.

Useful publicity for the LDWA and its LDPs service was gained in 2014 when John Sparshatt took part in the Ramblers BBC Radio 4 regular programme with Clare Balding in a feature on the Dales Way.

Paul Lawrence and John Sparshatt, January 2015

LDWA Merchandise Report

Leading question, after 18 years as LDWA Merchandise Officer: Have I stayed in the role too long? Obvious answer: Yes, of course, I have! However, I know my business, members appear to be content with the products and standards of service, whilst I have continued to enjoy the work. Even if I say it myself, LDWA merchandise is currently a highly competent and comprehensive operation that enhances our organisation. It is a fact that only a small profit is generated, year on year, but that increases significantly when the Handbook sales and direct debit discount vouchers are incorporated. It is worth remembering, though, that the Long Distance Walkers Association is a service and not a business, which also applies to merchandise. People are treated like members rather than customers and I will leave no stone unturned in a bid to achieve complete satisfaction. Delivering a Handbook personally to a Berlin based member in time for Christmas 2014 may seem extreme, even for me, but as it happened I was in the area. Naturally, that prompts a second question: True or false? Honest answer: True!

In thinking about the mechanics of running our merchandise operation, whilst playing devil's advocate, if someone asked me to outline the key to success for the coming years, I would say the following: 1. Do nothing random or rash with the current model. 2. Do not expect vast sales or profits as, for a host of reasons, those days are probably behind us. 3. Provide an exceptional, reliable, uncompromising level of service that reflects well on the Long Distance Walkers Association and promotes us as one of the world's great collectives. 4. Do not attempt to over emphasise the job role whilst serving on our national committee, as the merchandise operation has limited priority, and to some extent rightly so. 5. Exhibit what the LDWA has always been renowned for: Enthusiasm, a duty of care and relentless passion. 2014 has been another steady term for sales, comparing well with recent years, once again producing requests from across the range, justifying its diversity, whilst offering something for everyone. In my opinion, our approach is just right at the moment and requires little or no alteration, which is why the 2015 April Strider has, in essence, the same mail order form as the previous issue. That also applies to the web shop, which has benefited considerably from Michael Headley's skilled and highly attentive updating

exercise during 2014 and will again in 2015, I feel sure, helping to satisfy members and boost revenue. For a breakdown of this year's relevant merchandise figures, please see the LDWA Treasurer's 2015 annual general meeting report.

LDWA rules of tenure decree that I now stand down from my position on the National Committee, but unless completely distracted, I would wish for two more years taking care of the merchandise operation. However, I can say, and without trepidation, that would be enough. I am very grateful indeed to everyone who has supported me up to this point. Please carry on doing so.

Thank you. **Tim Glenn**

Environmental Report

Following Steph Carter's very able work on the Environment in the recent past, environmental issues did not feature much in 2014.

The most frequent type of issue raised concerned planning applications for unsightly development close to long distance footpaths. We have responded by saying that the LDWA is not a campaigning organisation and does not comment as a national entity on individual proposals. However, it is up to local Groups to comment if they wish to do so.

Other topics included:

- State of footpaths and stiles, which were referred to the local groups
- Help with student projects, which was politely refused

Comments would be welcome on what else the LDWA should be doing on environmental matters. I wish to use the next year to develop contacts with other similar bodies, such as the Ramblers, to share the load in developing our environmental policy.

Data protection

The major issue taken on this year was to develop a Privacy and Data Protection Policy for the Association. In summary, I found:

1. The central records of the Association are kept well and responsibly and reflect the huge amount of work done by many volunteers in the past.
2. I am concerned about the information held by individual event organisers and how we control that.

I have aimed to produce a simple and combined data protection policy and privacy statement both for the website and for general use. This has been written to take account of people who do not use computers, email or the website. It has been designed to minimise bureaucracy but to deliver our legal obligations. The policy will be agreed by the NEC at the meeting of 31 January and will be presented to members at the AGM.

We will need to issue an addendum on Data Protection to the Guidelines for Challenge Events relating to data protection. Following the AGM, we will have to contact all Challenge Walk Organisers and Local Groups. Some forms will have to be revised to conform to the Data Protection Act.

Once all the procedures in place, we propose to register the Association with the Information Commissioners Office under the Data Protection Act. This is likely to take place towards the middle of the year.

Christopher Hedley, Environment Officer, LDWA

Agenda Item 6

NOMINATIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following nominations have been received for Principal and Executive Officers.

Chair:

Gail Elrick Proposed by Ann Sayer, seconded by Paul Lawrence

Tim Glenn Proposed by Dave Green, seconded by Kate Farrell

General Secretary:

Phil Heneghan Proposed by Paul Hopkins, seconded by Clare Staff.

Treasurer:

Alexander Gee Proposed by Jimmy Smith, seconded by Aileen Baldwin.

Membership Secretary:

Steph Carter Proposed by A. Price, seconded by R. Wandless.

Editor:

Julie Welch Proposed by John Bullen, seconded by David Walsh.

Internet Officer:

Simon Leck Proposed by Tim Glenn, seconded by Steph Carter.

Executive Officers (6 vacancies):

John Batham Proposed by Elaine Dee, seconded by Ann Bell.

David Morgan Proposed by Claire Murray, seconded by Robert Wilkinson.

Neil Rawlins Proposed by Paul Lawrence, seconded by John Sparshatt.

David Holland Proposed by Hazel Bound, seconded by Annette Merchant.

David Findel-Hawkins Proposed by Jill Green, seconded by Jim Catchpole.

Chris Hedley Proposed by Douglas Robinson, seconded by Abigail Elrick

BACKGROUND DETAILS OF COMMITTEE NOMINEES

Committee nominees have provided the following brief details of their backgrounds and interests.

Abigail Elrick Work record is in the public sector, focus schools. Final job Head Asset Management, responsibility for managing large capital programme. Learnt importance of consulting with users, about managing teams, dealing with change.

Walking. Discovered long distance walking first with the Surrey Walking Club (LDWA affiliate, am still involved with running social walks), then in 1985 joined the LDWA, involved mainly in challenge events/100s. Helped organise two 100s. From 2008 member NEC, 100s Coordinator plus risk register. **LDWA future.** Organisation currently healthy **BUT** we need procedures to manage change, get younger members/women involved and tackle processes showing signs of strain.

My undertaking. To work with the Committee and the membership to safeguard the future of our beloved organisation.

Tim Glenn Conscientiousness, competence, communication, confidence, common sense, creativity and commitment are the critical axioms I have successfully exercised for over a quarter of a century when working with the LDWA National Committee, on behalf of its membership. If elected, those principles will continue, in earnest. Respecting tradition, whilst embracing new, carefully thought out ideas that offer inclusion and opportunity amidst our perpetual aim, to further the interests of those who enjoy long distance walking, is paramount. Feeling assured that I understand the LDWA member as well as anyone on the planet, I believe my time has come to lead this organisation.

Philip Heneghan I have completed three years as General Secretary and the LDWA has survived. I am willing to undertake a further year in the service of the Association if re-elected.

Alexander (Sandy) Gee. I began my role as Treasurer for the LDWA in March 2014, and I have enjoyed completing the Annual Accounts and working with others towards further improving our processes. I would welcome the opportunity to continue in this role. I am a qualified accountant and have worked in accounting and auditing in a number of roles over the last 30 years. Since 1995 I have been in financial services and I am currently in risk management in a banking group. Apart from the LDWA, my interests include cycling, running, Leicester City, music, and beer.

Steph Carter. I am the current membership secretary, and have seen a 7% growth in membership in 2014 (which has in part been down to active management of renewals - with numerous reminders to non-renewers), with a significant saving in membership costs contributing positively to LDWA finances. I have managed to walk the Yorkshire Wolds Way, the Isle of Man and Menorca Coastal paths, and the Two Moors Way this year. Outside the LDWA I am interested in most sports, and an occasional theatre visit.

Julie Welch I'm a full-time author and journalist who has been an LDWA member since 1996. As well as being current editor of *Strider*, which I enjoy enormously and welcome the chance to give back to the LDWA, I am Sports Editor of www.high50, and contributor to the Daily Express and Guardian. My hobbies are running, walking with the LDWA, reading, and following Spurs.

Simon Leck My fourth year as Internet Officer for the LDWA has been equally interesting and challenging, and I am quite happy to put my name forward for a fifth term in this role. I'm an active member of the LDWA and lead walks for both the Irregulars and the North Yorkshire Group. My interests other than walking include computing, electronic mapping, GPS technology and travel

John Batham Four years as Local Groups Secretary and I think I have continued to do a good job in getting walks and Group data from our website to the Editor – Julie – in their initial edit mode. I enjoy walking with East Yorks Group (of which I am also secretary) and other Groups principally in the north. I joined LDWA somewhat late; I like to help out on Challenge walks although some of my challenged joints don't much enjoy the exertions of Events now! I hope to be elected to continue this role.

David Findel-Hawkins Having been a member of the NEC for the last two years with responsibility for Challenge Events I'm happy to put my name forward once again. I have been an LDWA member since 1981, and enjoy all aspects of walking. I have taken part in most of the currently run Challenge events, have been on social walks with 41 of the LDWA Groups, and have led walks for BBN, Anytime, Anywhere and the Irregulars. I am on three of the Hillwalkers Registers, and reached Bronze level on the National Trails Register having completed 7 National Trails. For the last eight years I have helped on Hundreds checkpoints. I am on the BBN committee as their Membership Secretary.

Christopher Hedley Keen walker and current LDWA Environment Officer. I developed the Association Data Protection Policy during the last year. Good knowledge of dealing with Government Environmental/ Planning issues, with board-level company and charity experience. Visiting professor at University College, London. Want to help find more ways of making the LDWA more effective in the next year.

David Morgan I've been a member of the LDWA since 1994 and a member of the South Wales Group since 2000. I'm seeking election for the position of the National 100's Coordinator. I've been a supporter of the 100 mile event since 1995. I've successfully completed 13 100 mile events, but have also experienced failure due to injury or not being appropriately prepared. I've had the privilege of being allowed to organise the 2014 Valleys 100 and believe that my combined experience as an entrant and an organiser will enable me to serve our association appropriately in the role of coordinator.

Neil Rawlins I have been a keen long distance walker for many years, completing a number of long distance walks, including 10 National trails, and have almost completed walking all of the county tops of England and Wales. I have walked extensively in England, Scotland and Wales. For most of 2014 I have assisted Paul Lawrence updating and compiling the relevant web pages pertaining to the LDPs of the UK on the LDWA website. I work for a catering distribution company, where I manage a team of 25 people.

David Holland Joined LDWA in 1996. First walk was Cornwall & Devon Christmas walk. the rest as they say is history. 400 challenge walks. Treasurer of Exmoor 100. Organiser of Camel-Teign 100, and led many walks. Working about half a week. No intention of ever giving up. Have more time to give to LDWA, an organisation which has given me endless hours of pleasure and pain. Am standing for Publicity Officer. Currently vacant. How we present ourselves to an ever changing world will define our future. It is a deceptively complex problem led by our need to consider where we actually want to go.

'FREECYCLE' DESK AT AGM

FOLLOWING on from last year's success when £300 was donated to the Ramblers National Trails Campaign the LDWA will again be hosting a 'Freecycle' event at the Sutton Scotney AGM. BRING along your old maps, walking boots, compasses and other bits and pieces which you no longer want. Remember your rubbish may be somebody else's treasure. Donate as much as you want for anything you like. The 'Freecycle' will be available on the Friday evening during registration and again early on Sunday morning before the AGM. All proceeds will go to a suitable related Charity.

