

South Wales Long Distance Walkers Association

Minutes

Woodlands Field Centre, Pen y Garn, Pontypool– 20.10.13

Present:

David Morgan, John Cunnane, Gwyn Matthews, George Baugh, Rob Wilkinson, Cheryl Llewellyn, Joanne Johnstone, Claire Murray, John Tinelli, Trevor White, Angela Williams, John Roberts, Judith Fox, Jo Bidgood, Paul Bidgood, Huw James, Alan Warrington, Norma Lloyd, Sue Wells, Bruce Kennedy, Heather Holmes, Hugh Woodford, Jason Winney.

Apologies:

Rob Richardson, Gerry Jackson, Grae Yeandle, Jane Aggleton, John Aggleton, Ann Nixon, Alwyn Nixon, Andy Campbell, Rod Hollands, Terri Williams, Arny Williams.

2012 minutes reviewed and agreed.

Chairman's Report:

John outlined that it had been an excellent year with lots of nice walks laid on by the group members. The group was growing which was evidenced by the large turnout at the AGM. The social trips were seen as a real success for the group.

Treasurer's Report:

Rob Wilkinson produced the group's accounts. The accounts were still very healthy due to the income from the challenge walks.

The total income for the last financial year had been £5232 and the group had spent £4176. The balance is currently £4341.

Rob paid tribute to Gwyn Matthews for assisting him in his first year as treasurer.

Rob outlined that 5% of the challenge walk profits were to be given to a scout group in the Trehafod area to support young people in outside activities. Trehafod was chosen as it is the base for our successful Rhondda Rollercoaster walk.

Walks Secretary Report:

Claire Murray outlined that the previous year had been successful with many varied walks available.

The online walk planner was being used but some walk leaders were not putting enough detail on in time for publication to Strider.

Late changes meant that several other people had to be advised and it was requested that people put more detail on the walk planner in time for the deadline.

Claire stated that there were too few walk leaders. She made some suggestions to getting more.

- A. Lead old walks that are advertised on our extensive database.
- B. Be a joint leader with someone else.
- C. Lead an old challenge walk.

She also outlined that the group was very South East based and it would be preferable to push further west at times.

Jason Winney outlined that walks led further afield were not always well supported.

Election of Officers:

Chairman – John Cunnane

Proposer – David Morgan
Secunder – Trevor White

Secretary – David Morgan

Proposer – John Cunnane
Secunder – Claire Murray

Treasurer – Rob Wilkinson

Proposer – Heather Holmes
Secunder – Hugh Woodford

Walks Secretary – Claire Murray

Proposer – David Morgan
Secunder – Joanne Johnstone

Events Secretary – Jo Johnstone

Proposer – John Cunnane
Secunder – Trevor White

Group Challenge Events:

The WRD and RR were to continue due to their popularity.

The WRD date has already been booked for the 4th October 2014.

Some concerns regarding the lower numbers on the WRD, and David Morgan outlined that this might be because of the time of year. A lot of people chose October to go on holiday.

Hugh Woodford advised that WRD was on the same weekend as the Talybont Trial.

Consensus that event would remain on first Sat in October and other ways of advertising it explored. This would include approaching school and youth groups and sending flyers to other challenge events.

Valleys 100 Update:

David Morgan outlined that the event was effectively ready to go. He thanked the members present for committing themselves to the event.

He outlined that various jobs would be allocated soon and that Shirley Hume would be in contact with people in due course.

He outlined that the work would be split on a shift rotational basis due to the long hours of the event.

Some periods would be very busy, and Sat morning was identified as one such time.

Claire Murray advised that the marshals' walk was well advanced regarding planning and that there was to be a maximum of 55 entrants. Those entrants must have a qualifier to apply.

Proposal to amend subsidy receipt qualification:

Jo Johnstone outlined a proposal for sharing of group money at social weekend trips.

Currently, to receive a subsidy, a South Wales LDWA member had to be a member on the date of the previous AGM.

The committee had decided that the following should apply.

1. Be a member of the South Wales LDWA at the previous AGM AND
2. Lead a walk for the group OR
3. Help on a challenge event OR
4. Work on the South Wales LDWA committee on behalf of the group.

There were no objections from the membership and this will now apply when considering subsidy payments in the future.

Foreign Trip & Social Trip:

Rob Wilkinson proposed that a way of spending some of the money accrued would be by organising a foreign trip.

He outlined that his idea would be to provide an opportunity for the group members to travel abroad and receive a subsidy of perhaps £50.

He outlined two locations to consider; Zakopane in Poland and Majorca.

He stated that he would be considering 2015 and that the trip would be out of the main season.

John Roberts supported Rob's position stating that it was a good idea in principle. He stated that the subsidy would go some way to supporting transport costs. He suggested that Germany was an alternative location to consider.

George Baugh stated that Majorca would not provide as much walking as Zakopane.

Hugh Woodford suggested that Portugal would be an option, particularly as ex South Wales member, Terry Ames had a villa there and arranged walking holidays.

Claire Murray suggested that a social trip in the UK was more inclusive and could be based on a location where there was a challenge walk on the Saturday and then something else could be done on the Sunday.

A vote was taken on the two ideas, and there was overwhelming support for the social trip in the UK.

A second social trip in June to augment the one in September was chosen as a possible time.

Jo Johnstone outlined that the group was going to be travelling to Bala in Sept 2014.

Badge Design Competition:

David Morgan asked the group to create badges for the two successful challenge events; the Rhondda Rollercoaster and the Where Ravens Dare. The two events were now embedded in the walking calendar and were without badges and several enquiries had been made by entrants. David asked group members to design the badges in a maximum of three colours that would reflect the ethos of the events and submit them to him via email.

He would then hide the identity of the creators from other committee members who would then choose the best design.

The winner of each badge design would win a year's free LDWA membership paid for by the South Wales LDWA!

AOB:

David Morgan outlined that Gerry Jackson had contacted him regarding the website. David summarised Gerry's email that is documented below.

'We've renewed our account and domain name (southwalesldwa.org) with our registrar and server provider, Awardspace, for 2 years at a cost of £107, this will expire in December 2015 (for some reason I don't understand paying for 2 years bought us 2 years and 2 months - I haven't queried this for obvious reasons).

2. I would like to handover responsibility for the web-site to someone else, so please regard this as a years notice to do this at the 2014 AGM.

3. I don't anticipate that my replacement would want to carry on using the approach I've taken as there would be quite a steep learning curve. Therefore over the last 18 months or so I've sporadically looked at different programs for generating a web-site, a couple of cheap commercial ones and a free one, as well as using the LDWA 100 template for the Valleys 100 web-site. The conclusion I've come to is that the best way forward is to transfer our web-site to the LDWA template but retain our walks database and photograph galleries on our current server as I don't think we could easily transfer them to the LDWA server. Experience with the Valleys 100 web-site shows that we can easily link between the LDWA and our server e.g. for the forum, shop and route display.

4. So, over the next few months I will gradually transfer pages from our site to the LDWA template. Some old ones may as well be left permanently on the old site. To this end I've already arranged with Simon Leck & Mark Hawker of the LDWA to have access to the LDWA template.'

David also outlined that Alun Jones had expressed a desire to step down from looking after the group database that contained an archive of group walks and photographs. The assembled members were asked if anyone would be willing to take on the role as webmaster.

No-one volunteered and David outlined that if nobody came forward, then the website would disappear.

Jo Johnstone outlined that the South Wales group were committed to running the 44 mile checkpoint at the Red Roses 100 in East Lancashire. The cp was at Bolton by Bowland. It is an inside cp and the volunteers would be able to sleep in the hall prior to opening, thus saving volunteers the added cost of finding accommodation.

Claire Murray outlined that she had been looking at sourcing wicking T-shirts with Leekman logo. She could get them from a company called Easytees for £5.50-£6.

A short discussion followed regarding funding and consideration will be given by the committee to funding one T-shirt per active member.

John Tinelli asked about Valleys 100 clothing. David Morgan outlined that the clothing is to be sold at cost price and that members will in all likelihood need to buy their own garments.

The Christmas meal for Dec 2013 was mentioned and Jason will send David the menu from the pub ASAP and this will be circulated via email asking for orders to be made in advance of the day.