

South Wales Long Distance Walkers Association

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Machen Village Hall - 27th October 2018 - 3pm

Those present: Jason Winney, Rob & Jill Richardson, Judith Fox, Jo Johnstone, Claire Murray, Alan Warrington, Gerry Jackson, Cheryl Llewellyn, Simon Pickering, Andrew Clabon, Tony Alcock, Laura Turner, John Roberts, Eddie Ball, Gill & David Morgan, Ceri & Carlton James, Manjula Bray, Andy Rees, Joe Amagada.

1. Welcome from Claire.
2. Apologies received from Hugh & Heather Woodford, John Tinelli, Ange Williams, Shirley Hume, Heather & Michael Graz, Ferne Davies, Rod Hollands, Gemma Anfield, Norma Lloyd.
3. Confirmation of 2017 AGM minutes and matters arising – the minutes were agreed and accepted.
4. Chair's report – Claire thanked everyone for supporting her and also the committee members. She said it had been a difficult year for the group following the death of Gwyn Matthews and sent her condolences to Sue & Gwyn's family. She gave special thanks to Jason, who is stepping down as walks secretary, Norma for her cakes, Cheryl for help with the catering, everyone on the Kent 100 checkpoint, Gerry & Grae for helping with the website.
5. Treasurer's report – Judith summarised the financial report which everyone was given a copy of. The Rhondda Rollercoaster and OTWK generated a profit for the group and the finances are in good shape.
6. Walk Secretary's report – Jason thanked all the walk leaders for their support, especially Jamie & Jill for leading their first walks. Jason took the opportunity to advertise the Y 100 Sir Fynwy recce walks that will commence in 2019 before stepping down as walks secretary.
7. Challenge walks co-ordinators report – See attached from Ferne Davies
8. Group Secretary's report – See attached from Rob Richardson
9. Election of Officers – The following were elected unopposed:
Chair: David Morgan (Proposed by Shirley Hume, Seconded by John Tinelli)
Group secretary: Rob Richardson (Proposed by David Morgan, Seconded by Jill Richardson)
Treasurer: Judith Fox (Proposed by Rob Richardson, Seconded by Jill Richardson)
Walks secretary: Simon Pickering (Proposed by Mike Batt, Seconded by Tony Alcock)
Challenge walk coordinator: Ferne Davies (Proposed by Jason Winney, Seconded by Laura Turner).
Following their election Simon & David replaced Claire & Jason with immediate effect.

10. Social Trip Yorkshire 2019 – David outlined the proposed exchange weekend 30-31st March 2019 with West Yorkshire group hosting South Wales group. Two walks will be available on the Saturday – The 3 peaks, 24 miles and a 14/16 mile alternative with another 14/16 mile walk on Sunday.
11. Charitable Donations – It was agreed that a £200 would be donated to both Marie Curie and Welsh Air Ambulance in memory of Gwyn Matthews.
12. Merchandise – We are ordering wicking T shirts with a smaller Leekman motif to satisfy demand. However the traditional large motif T shirts will still be available. 100 Leekman mugs were ordered and 30 sold so far. It was suggested that we have long sleeve T shirts made available. Jason suggested enamel badges and would look for a supplier.
13. Walks grading system update – Following feedback it has been suggested that an extra 'band' be introduced between 3000-5000ft ascent. Laura suggested that the advertised pace of a walk was terrain and ascent dependant. Jo said that walkers from other groups felt discouraged from walking with the group as the walk would be too difficult. Anyone with doubts of their ability to complete a walk are encouraged to contact the walk leader for further details. Simon is going to ask walk leaders to include more details in the walk description to assist people with their decision. Tony pointed out that the grading system should discourage those people who are incapable of the completing the walk whilst encouraging those who are capable. Mike Batt is writing a proposal for changes to the system which the new committee will consider.
14. 2021 Checkpoint - The group have been in contact with the organising committee of the 2021 Trans Pennine 100 with regard to running a checkpoint. Ferne Davies has offered to act as co-ordinator and has asked for an indoor checkpoint between 60-80 miles. A show of hands indicated 6 people were interested in helping bearing in mind the event was so far in advance.
15. Appoint independent examiner of accounts - Gerry Jackson kindly agreed to examine the group's accounts.
16. AOB –A request for anyone to be social secretary was not answered, therefore John Tinelli will continue in this role.
Ferne Davies mentioned that she & Jill Richardson would be attending the LDWA local groups weekend in Kent in November and asked if there was anything people wanted her to discuss.

The meeting closed at 3.59p.m

CHALLENGE WALKS CO-ORDINATORS REPORT FOR 2018 AGM SAVE THE DATE!

There are two Challenge Walks in 2019 open for participants to enter:

- **Sunday 27th January 2019 - Offa's Twisted Wye Kanter**

- **Saturday 11th May 2019 - Gwyn Mathews' Rhondda Rollercoaster**

Please can you put the 11th May 2019 in your diary and consider whether you are available to volunteer to support the event. A formal request for volunteers will be sent out nearer the time.

Offa's Twisted Wye Kanter:

The 2018 event was very successful, despite a last-minute enforced change of routes. Thankyou to everyone who volunteered & a special thankyou to Dave Morgan who saved the day with his forward planning & Jason Winney who quickly updated the website with the revised routes.

The 2019 event is an LDWA member only event - £7.00. Currently 90 participants registered to take part.

Routes (26m, 22m, 20m, 16m, 12.5m) will be the original 2018 routes that were not used this year due to tree felling operations by Natural Resources Wales.

Gwyn Mathews' Rhondda Rollercoaster:

The 2018 event was another successful Challenge Walk for the group, not least because of the brilliant team of volunteers who gave up a significant amount of their time to run the event. I thank each & everyone of you and look forward 'to having another go at organising' this year. I promise there will be enough water jugs at each venue & chairs for the outdoor checkpoint! Special thanks to Eddie Ball for checking the routes this year.

The Rhondda Rollercoaster has been re-named in memory of Gwyn Matthews who, as most of you know, was intimately involved in the creation of the event. On our group's behalf, I sent a photo of the revised SiEntries web page to Gwyn's son & daughter & received a lovely thank you, in which they expressed how much it means to them to have the event named after their Dad. A lasting legacy as they put it.

Henceforth, the Gwyn Matthews' Rhondda Rollercoaster (GMRR) & marshals walks will be memorial walks for Gwyn.

Once again, we are operating the GMRR 2019 with a price differential strategy that is designed to encourage new members to join the LDWA. This year the differential from member / non-member is £16.00. (LDWA membership £15).

Currently 22 participants are registered to take part, 18 for the 26m & 4 for the 16m, of which there is a fairly even split in the applications of members & non-members.

Marshals walks (please refer to our SW walks programme for details):

16-mile marshals walk is on Wednesday 20th March 2019

26-mile marshals walk is on Saturday 6th April 2019

I should like to express my thanks to Gerry for supporting me in getting my head around the intricacies of our website & for stepping in when matters stalled - let's just say I'm getting there slowly!

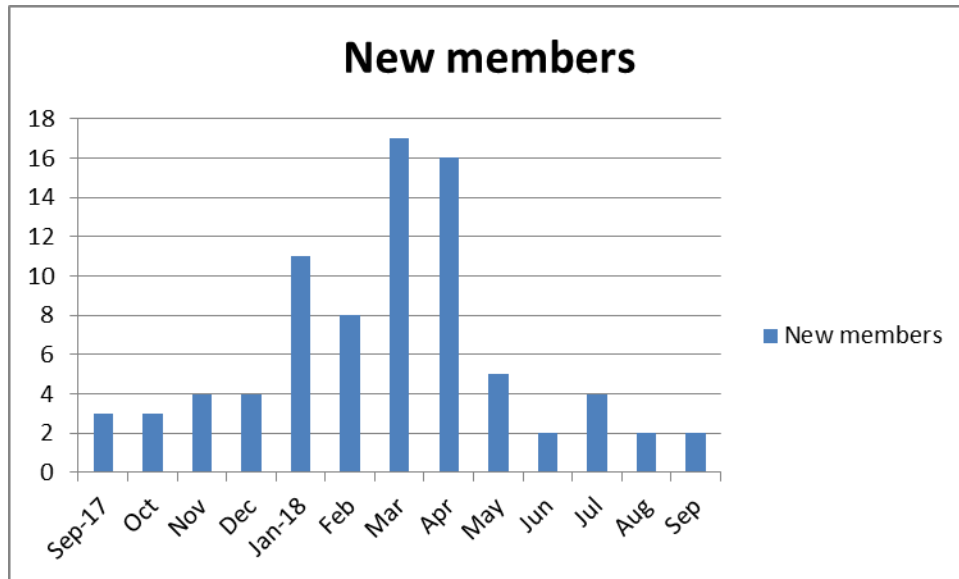
Merchandise:

For the two events, as an experiment, a green Leekie T-shirt with a smaller logo at shoulder height will be for sale. Along with the super mugs that Dave sourced earlier in the year.

Ferne Davies - Challenge Walks Co-ordinator

Secretary's report:

As of mid-October we had 290 primary members and 318 associate members. 81 new primary members have joined since September 2017. The monthly distribution is shown in this graph:



The increase in joining rate between January & April is most likely due to the pricing structure of the Rollercoaster.

Please note the increase in membership fees for 2019 to £15 (individual) & £22.50 (family).

Thank you to the rest of the committee for their hard work and support in what has, at times been a rather sad and difficult year.

Rob Richardson – Group Secretary