

South Wales Long Distance Walkers Association

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Skype Meet Now videoconference Sunday 31st October 2021 19:00

Those attending: Andrew Clabon, Pete Lamont, Jill & Rob Richardson, Gerry Jackson, Jason Winney, David Morgan, Simon Pickering, Judith Fox, Tony Alcock, Sara Down, Cheryl Llewellyn, Guido & Nisha Szamocki, John Roberts, Shirley Hume, Phillip Jones, Norma Lloyd, Ferne Davies, Mike Batt, David Wheeler, Stuart Bain, Kathryn Gordon. Guests: Karen Pickersgill (representing LDWA NEC).

Apologies: Claire Murray, Grae Yeandle, Joanne Johnstone, Laura Turner, Angela Williams

1. Welcome from Jason.
2. Confirmation of 2020 AGM minutes and matters arising
 - Simon Pickering noted that the reference to a levy for entrants of Challenge Events to be donated to the NEC IT Fund was to be charged to non-LDWA members only. With that note, the minutes were accepted unanimously.
3. Guest speaker: Karen Pickersgill, Local Groups Officer, LDWA National Executive Committee (NEC)
 - Karen gave an overview of her role. She said since starting in the position in March 2021 she had concentrated on meeting groups and familiarising herself with their issues through attending their meetings, AGMs and social walks. A couple of issues she highlighted were: plans to introduce Health and Safety training for local groups; local groups role in promoting inclusivity and diversity (a topic to be featured at upcoming Local Groups weekend); and the LDWA's 50th anniversary in 2022 (including the Big Walk weekend on 18-19 June).
 - David Morgan asked for an update on the NEC's IT Fund in general, including requesting confirmation that the Challenge Fee levy was still NEC policy and, if so, details on how many local groups were making donations in this way. Karen said she would look into the matter and respond with an update.
4. Annual Report of the Committee
 - a. Chair's report – see South Wales Annual Report 2021
 - b. Secretary's report - see South Wales Annual Report 2021
 - c. Walk secretary's report - see South Wales Annual Report 2021

The reports were tabled followed by a short discussion. The reports were received unanimously.

5. Annual Statement of Accounts and Finance Report

See report. The accounts and report were tabled followed by a short discussion. The accounts and report were received unanimously.

6. Election of officers

The following nominations were received at the meeting:

- a. Chair - Jason Winney, proposed by Simon Pickering, seconded by Judith Fox
- b. Treasurer - Judith Fox, proposed by Jason Winney, seconded by Sara Down
- c. Group secretary - Simon Pickering, proposed by Sara Down, seconded Jason Winney
- d. Walks secretary - Sara Down, proposed by Judith Fox, seconded by Simon Pickering
- e. Challenge Walks Coordinator – Jamie Lewis, proposed by Simon Pickering, seconded by Tony Alock

All posts were elected unanimously.

7. Appoint independent examiner of accounts

- Gerry Jackson kindly agreed to examine the accounts.

8. Substantive motion/s:

- None received.

9. Charitable donations & LDWA IT fund.

- The Committee put forward a proposal for donations as follows: £225 to Wales Air Ambulance; £225 to Brecon Beacons MRT; £150 to LDWA IT fund based on AGM 2020 resolution that a Challenge event surcharge would be donated. There were 25 non-members on Three Circles, who paid £6 supplement i.e. £6 x 25 = £150).

The proposal was accepted unanimously.

10. AOB

- Chepstow Walking Festival: David Morgan outlined that he would like South Wales LDWA agreement and support to put Offa's Twisted Wye Kanter on in 2022 as part of the Chepstow Walking Festival. David said he was happy to organise the event, but wanted commitment from the group to organise/cater food for the event and volunteers to help on the day. There was general support for the idea, and it was agreed that confirmation of the ability to provide the requested support would be provided within 14 days.

- Rhondda Rollercoaster: Rob Richardson asked if there were plans to stage the Rhondda Rollercoaster in 2022. Simon Pickering said the Committee had decided not to hold it because the Challenge Walks Coordinator post was vacant (until this meeting) and the route had been damaged by a coal tip landslide, adding that the future staging of the event would be re-examined following Jamie Lewis' election as Challenge Walk Coordinator.

13. Close – the meeting closed at approx. 19:50.

Annual Report of the South Wales LDWA Committee 2021

Chair's report 2021

In my mind, with all that's gone on this year, we've had a really good year.

The clubs members have really worked hard to bring events and walks to fruition for us all to enjoy.

The Virtual 100 was a really good success, and thank you very much to the organizing committee and members for organizing and making it all work so well. We've had a lot of fun, either through participating, helping or just watching. The *Three Rings of Machen* was also an excellent success; especially given the weather, and thank you to everyone who helped out, not only on the day but with the recces, Marshals' walks, and planning. These events cannot go ahead without your help!!

The club has made a healthy contribution to the IT fund, putting South Wales LDWA up there with the effort to help with the modernization projects.

We've had some great walks this year, the quality is more important than frequency, and they've been frequent enough to look forward to the next one, not long after the last. I'd like to say thank you to Ange, Mike, Sara, Andrew, Dave and Simon for their walks this year, the walks have been really good and well thought out, a lot of work goes into putting on a new walk, and the club certainly recognizes the efforts made. Great news that Kathryn and Ange completed their first 50's this year, well done to you both and thank you to Andrew for leading the 50 too!!

The quarterly newsletter is a great way to show everyone what we're up to, thank you to Dave Morgan for organizing and taking the time to publish it, again, without members' submissions it can't go ahead! And of course, our club keeps the whole dynamo thing running in us all! The LDWA means something to each of us, to me it's an important part of my life and I'm sure it for you too.

I'm really pleased to see that there is a good attendance to the AGM, it's such an important date in the diary, I know it's not everyone's cup of tea, but coming along to the AGM means that you are pumping lifeblood into the club when it needs it most. Whatever 2022 brings, they won't stop us walking, and I'm sure that leaders and members will come up with more radical routes and ideas to keep things ticking along just nicely. I'm please to say that we're starting to organize the *Three Rings of Monmouth*, it is early days, but time surely flies and we'll soon be back to reccing and sorting out who's doing what before we know it.

So a massive thank you to all of you for your support, and i look forward to seeing you on the Christmas walk on the 4th December.

Jason Winney, Chair, October 2021

Group secretary's report 2021:

It has been another successful year for the South Wales group, with the highlight for me being the return of Challenge Events in which we successfully held both the *Virtual Y 100 Sir Fynwy* and the *Three Circles of Machen*. Both were truly team efforts, so thank you to everyone involved.

Group numbers remained similar to last year, a good result given the disruption placed on us all by Covid. As of 20th October 2021, we had 254 primary members (2020: 258) and 379 associate members (2020: 376). Those figures may indicate that membership is fairly static, but of course they include lots of new members replacing those who leave us for one reason or another - we have seen 44 new primary members join us since last October.

There have been five South Wales committee meetings, as well as some additional planning meetings for *Three Circles*. All of these were held virtually, something that

was introduced in 2020 and continues to be a successful way of managing a geographically management group.

The South Wales group also continued its proud tradition of supporting LDWA events at a national level. Under unique and difficult circumstances we organised a successful 'virtual' Hundred, thanks to the hard work over a number of years of a dedicated committee – take a 'virtual' bow Dave Morgan, Shirley Hume, Andrew Clabon, Gerry Jackson, Alwyn Nixon, Rob Richardson, Jason Winney, Simon Pickering and Gwyneth Littlejohn (who joined us from the Bristol & West Group). In addition, Stuart Bain continued to give sterling service to the LDWA's National Executive Committee (NEC) as its Environment, Risk and Data Protection Officer. Stuart led much of the work in ensuring the LDWA was able to respond to, and keep walking whenever possible, throughout the Covid crisis.

The coming year looks set to be another busy and interesting one, when hopefully Covid will be behind us. It is, of course, the 50th anniversary of the LDWA and we look forward to joining in the celebrations to mark that milestone.

My sincere thanks to my fellow committee members for their support and to all others that have continued to support the group.

Simon Pickering, Secretary, October 2021.

Walk secretary's report 2021

I feel that this year's report is a build on last year's. The Covid pandemic continued to throw challenges our way at the beginning of the year, but it does feel like we are slowly and surely returning to familiar patterns.

Since the last AGM we've run 22 social walks, 1 Marshall's walk, 1 Challenge event (where we could finally meet as a group, face to face) and the hugely successful, virtual Y 100 Sir Fynwy Challenge. Further walks are also scheduled up to and beyond the end of the year. This feels really positive and shows that we are getting back on track with providing regular walks for the group.

I want to extend special thanks to everyone who has led (or who will soon lead) a walk for us: Simon Pickering, Jason Winney, Mike Batt, Tony Alcock, Andrew Clabon, Dave Morgan, Justin Speake, Ange Williams, Shirley Hume. I'm so grateful for your support throughout this year. It's wonderful to see a few new names on this list with people stepping forward to lead. We would welcome (and encourage) anyone who would like to try their hand at leading a walk; we can provide support from the more experienced leaders and help with recce', please feel free to get in touch to discuss anything that you might like to put on.

We've been able to move away from the stricter Covid measures where risk assessments and pre-booking were required for every walk to a more flexible approach. Risk assessments are no longer required for social walks and leaders can decide if they would like people to pre-book their place, or just turn up on the day. This seems to be working well.

I'm conscious we haven't put as many photos online as we have in the past. If anyone does take photos on a walk and are happy for them to be shared with the group, please let me know, there are a couple of ways to send them over so that I can share them on the website.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all on forthcoming walks over the next weeks and months.

I came across this quote the other day and it felt very appropriate for our group...

If you think you've peaked, find a new mountain.

Sara Down, Walk Secretary, October 2021.