

South Wales Long Distance Walkers Association

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Rogerstone Welfare Hall 2nd November 2019 15:00

Those present: David Morgan, Jill Richardson, Rob Richardson, Tony Alcock, Laura Turner, Mike Warmington, Bill Lancashire, Shirley Hume, Jason Winney, Gill Morgan, Simon Pickering, Claire Murray, Gerry Jackson, Judith Fox, Cheryl Llewellyn.

1. Welcome from David Morgan.
2. Apologies received from: Andrew Clabon, John Roberts, Rod Hollands, Hugh & Heather Woodford, Sian Knight, Jo Johnstone, Alan Warrington, John Tinelli, Angela Williams.
3. Confirmation of 2018 AGM minutes and matters arising – the minutes were agreed and accepted. Proposed by Tony Alcock and seconded by Judith Fox.
4. Chair's report (DM) - see attached
5. Treasurer's report (JF) – In summary the group is in a good financial position, we rely on our successful challenge events for income. Funds have mainly been used for social weekends, subsidising those who helped on the Hadrian Hundred and hiring minibuses for linear walks, purchasing merchandise.
6. Walk secretary's report (SP) - Another good year of walks, walk programme reasonably healthy. Need 2 walks per month minimum & need more walk leaders. SP encouraged leaders to submit walk reports & photographs . LT asked whether a survey of member's location had been undertaken with a view to having more walks to the west of our region. SP said that the walk leaders we have tend to stick to the areas they know and where the majority of our active members reside i.e. South East Wales.
7. Challenge walk co-ordinator's report - see attached
8. Secretary's report - see attached
9. Election of officers – The following were elected unopposed:

Jason Winney - Chair

Rob Richardson – Group Secretary
Judith Fox – Treasurer
Simon Pickering – Walks Secretary

David Morgan (chair) and Ferne Davies (challenge walk co-ordinator) were thanked for their time on the committee.

10. Exchange Trip 2020 – RR reported that the weekend of 11/12th July has been chosen for the visit of the West Yorkshire group and will be based in Abergavenny.

DM & SP will lead walks on the Saturday, followed by an evening meal at a curry restaurant, all members are encouraged to attend. FD will lead a walk on Sunday morning.

11. Charitable donations – The annual donation to charities from club funds was discussed. It was decided to donate £200 each to:
Welsh Hearts (the leading heart charity in Wales for placing defibrillators in communities and delivering CPR and defibrillator training) on behalf of Alan Warrington.

Longtown Mountain Rescue Team on behalf of Gwyn Matthews.

12. Appoint independent examiner of accounts - Gerry Jackson kindly agreed to examine the group's accounts

13. The future of the LDWA website, a presentation by David Morgan – this was not available for presentation at the time of the AGM.

14. AOB – The main topic of discussion centred around the failure to appoint a new challenge walk co-ordinator. It was noted that challenge walks are our main source of income as well helping to maintain the good reputation of the group in the walking community.

JW offered to head a small organising sub-committee of himself, SP and MW for the 3 Circles of Machen, planned for the first week of October 2020. Several members have already pledged their support including DM, AC & CM.

TA offered Cornwall & Devon group accommodation over Y 100 Sir Fynwy weekend.

Social weekend 2020 – It was suggested that the group base a social weekend around a challenge walk, possibly Tour des Marches. The new committee will investigate.

GJ asked what the long term options for the group's website were. In response DM advised that the present arrangements were likely to continue until such time as a new LDWA website was developed. It was noted that we have no successor to GJ as our website administrator.

15. The meeting closed at 16:15.

Chair's Report: 2019

The last 12 months for our group have been successful. We have had many great walks in lovely locations and I am very grateful to those members who have committed themselves to being walk leaders. We're a walking club after all, and with no walk leaders there are no walks, so thanks very much indeed to them.

We had a successful social weekend in West Yorkshire. We were hosted magnificently by the West Yorkshire LDWA and I know that all of those who attended enjoyed the variety of walks that were offered. We will now look forward to hosting West Yorkshire in July and we have some lovely walks planned already. All members are encouraged to meet our Yorkshire friends and to come to meal afterwards that will take place in Abergavenny.

The group had a very successful outing on Hadrian's Hundred. All who either walked the marshals' walk or in the tricky conditions on the main event successfully completed thus demonstrating the pedigree of walkers in this group. We must also give great thanks and recognise those South Wales members who travelled to Northumbria to run the Cowshill Checkpoint. If there are no volunteers on the annual LDWA flagship event, then those of us who enjoy walking it will have to find something else to do to satisfy our masochistic needs!

I'd like to pay tribute to the committee members with whom I have worked for the last 12 months. They have worked so hard on behalf of us all. Rob as our secretary has continued to keep on top of our group's admin, maintained the walk register for us all, sent out reminder emails for the walks, and also taken on the Facebook page as the sole administrator.

Ferne has overseen the creation of a new challenge event called the Tri-Circles as well as ensuring that our established event, the Gwyn Matthews Rhondda Rollercoaster (and our group's main source of income that facilitates our activities) attracted new members as well as delivering once again for our established followers.

Simon has overseen a change to the walks grading system that is designed to help members decide on which walks are most suited to their abilities as well as ensuring that our walks programme is healthy by encouraging walk leaders to provide walks in a variety of locations.

Judith has looked after our accounts and ensured that we do have sufficient funds to enable us to have the social weekends, the travelling expenses when helping on the annual 100 and to pay for the minibuses that facilitate linear walks. She's also paid our bills with admirable efficiency and sourced new merchandise for the group.

So, finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support in the last 12 months whilst I have been the Chair and for the support and assistance for 8 of the last 9 years that I have been a committee member of the South Wales LDWA. It has been a privilege to serve the group during that time and it's been fabulous to see the South Wales LDWA become the group that it is now; a group that is welcoming, supportive and inspiring.

This group was created in 1983 and 26 years later it's heartening to see that two of our original founders are still active with the group too. There is hope for all of us who love being associated with the green T-Shirt and arguably the greatest logo in the LDWA in Leekie!!

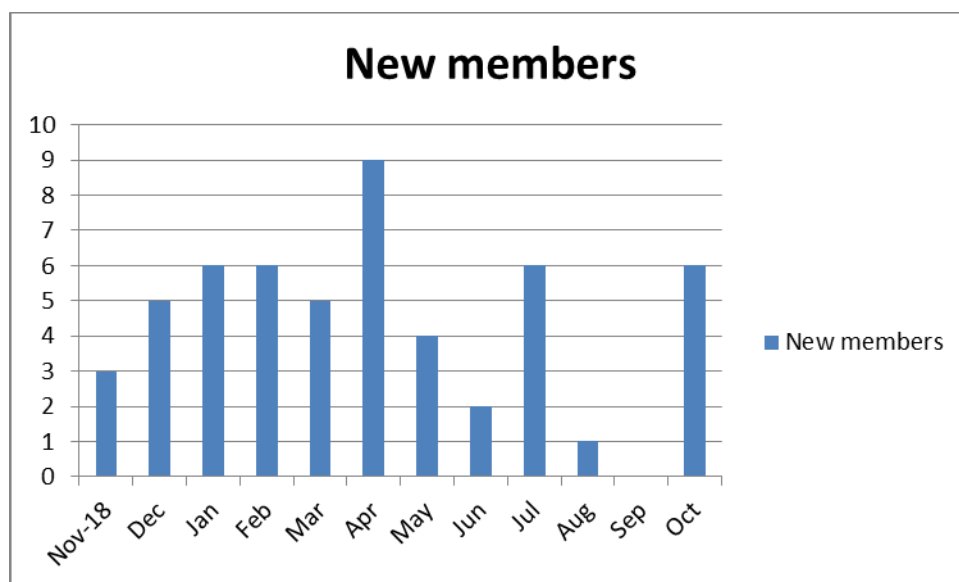
I want to take this opportunity to wish the new committee the very best of luck as the group moves forward. I sincerely hope that it can continue to encourage local members to volunteer, to persuade members to take on some of the work that ensures the group exists whether that is by leading walks or by coordinating the group's challenge walks, to hopefully continue putting on those challenge events that are highly regarded by members and non-members alike, to maintain a walks database that is the envy of other LDWA groups, to maintain a social media presence which has proved so successful in presenting the group to the wider walking community and thus grow from strength to strength. The South Wales group is viewed positively by other association members; they love seeing the group's presence on the annual 100 mile walk whether that is from a large contingent of members wearing green as entrants or by visiting whichever checkpoint the group is enthusiastically hosting. I hope that the group can maintain the level of engagement that it currently has with the remainder of the LDWA.

So, in summary, good luck in the future and I wish you all the very best of luck.

Secretary's report 2019:

As of end of October we had 292 (290) primary members and 376 (318) associate members (2018 in parentheses)

53 (81) new primary members have joined since October 2018. The monthly distribution is shown in this graph:



Emails: The total number of emails sent out this year to members is 73.

It is my intention to step down from the role of secretary at the next AGM.

Rob

CHALLENGE WALK CO-ORDINATORS REPORT FOR 2019 AGM

Our South Wales group successfully ran three Challenge Walks this year.

The Offa's Twisted Wye Kanter in January, the Gwyn Matthew's Rhondda Rollercoaster in May and the Three Circles of Crickhowell/Tri Clych O Crughywel in October.

Each Challenge walk was particular & peculiar to itself.

You may recall that the **Offa's Twisted Wye Kanter** was run as a pilot, 'members only' event, and as far as we are aware was the first ever LDWA members only event. The strategy worked, with 20 entrants from several different geographic locations joining the LDWA in order to take part. Moving forward, the challenge for the

various local groups continues to be, how to interest new members into becoming active LDWA group members.

The **Gwyn Matthew's Rhondda Rollercoaster** was organised as a memorial walk in memory of Gwyn. A special day for our group & for the many rambling colleagues, friends & family that joined us on the top of Tylor's Town Tip, where Gwyn had asked to have his ashes scattered. The day was blessed with near perfect walking weather & will remain in our memories for years to come.

With the GMRR we once again operated a price differential strategy, designed to encourage new members to join the LDWA. The strategy is simple to implement & each year contributes to new membership figures.

The **Three Circles of Crickhowell** was a different form of organisation, one that tested both Andrew & I at times as we worked our way through the operational demands of the challenge. It was Year 1 of our groups new 'Welsh Triple Challenge'. Year 2 is likely to be held in the Machen area and Year 3 in the Monmouth area.

The event was a success not least because of Andrew's original vision for a social walk in the Crickhowell area & his superb route choices, which were subsequently developed into the challenge walk routes. Andrew is also the groups 'star' when it comes to Pacer and checkpoint organisation; he led the team for the whole event time, with quiet purposefulness, never once losing his sense of humour. Thank you. I am also pleased to report that the catering organisation resulted in no wasted food.

In summary, the 2019 Challenge walks have all been very successful events, as the comments from participants on the days and on social media demonstrate.

One obvious fact is that our South Wales LDWA group could not offer challenge events if members did not give up significant amounts of their time to organise and run the events. The willing, good natured & hardworking teamwork displayed at each event is a pleasure to be part of and together with the support shown for cake donations greatly supported me in my role.

I am stepping down from the Challenge Walk Co-ordinator role and would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone of you for your time, donations, teamwork & friendship. A special thankyou to Gerry who over the past two years has guided me through the website demands, not once making me feel stupid.

I leave you with a simple question that requires some debate.

How do we as a group move forward and continue to offer quality Challenge Events both for our own enjoyment and that of the wider LDWA membership?

Ferne Davies 1/11/2019