

# South Wales Long Distance Walkers Association

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Rockfield Community Hall, Rockfield, Monmouth - Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023  
15:00

Those attending: Jamie Lewis, Henny Clare, Sara Down, Gerry Jackson, Mike Batt, Andy Thorpe, Sian Knight, Norma Lloyd, Angela Williams, Jason Winney, Simon Pickering, Enrique Santafe, Paul Mills, Cheryl Llewellyn

Apologies: Shirley Hume, Dave Morgan, Gill Morgan, Rob Richardson, Jill Richardson, Tony Alcock, Judith Fox, Kathryn Gordon, John Roberts, Laura Turner

1. Welcome from Jason.
2. Confirmation of 2022 AGM minutes and matters arising – the minutes were accepted unanimously.
3. Annual Report of the Committee
  - a. Chair's report – see South Wales Annual Report 2023
  - b. Secretary's report - see South Wales Annual Report 2023
  - c. Walk secretary's report - see South Wales Annual Report 2023
  - d. Challenge Walks Coordinator's report - see South Wales Annual Report 2023

The reports were tabled followed by short discussions.

4. Annual Statement of Accounts and Finance Report  
See report. The accounts and report were tabled followed by a short discussion.
5. Confirmation of Committee officers  
The following nominations were received by the closing date of 1 October 2023. As a single nomination was received for each position, there was no need for an election, with the meeting confirming the appointments.

Chair: Jason Winney (5<sup>th</sup> term)  
Proposer: Simon Pickering  
Seconder: Enrique Santafe

Treasurer: Enrique Santafe (2<sup>nd</sup> term)

Proposer: Jason Winney  
Secunder: Sara Down

Secretary: Simon Pickering (4<sup>th</sup> term)  
Proposer: Sara Down  
Secunder: Jason Winney

Walks Secretary: Sara Down (4<sup>th</sup> term)  
Proposer: Enrique Santafe  
Secunder: Simon Pickering

Challenge Walks Coordinator: Jamie Lewis (3<sup>rd</sup> term)  
Proposer: Jason Winney  
Secunder: Sara Down

6. Appoint independent examiner of accounts

- Gerry Jackson kindly agreed to examine the accounts. As Gerry had performed the role for a number of years, it was agreed that the Committee would seek a new person for the role during the year.

7. Substantive motion/s:

No substantive motions were submitted.

8. AOB

- Simon Pickering said following the resolution to temporarily suspend charitable donations to ensure sufficient funds were available to provide reasonable expenses to South Wales LDWA members volunteering at the 'Speyside Hundred' in 2024 a good level of funds had been built up to enable this.
- Social Media: Jamie Lewis encouraged people to share reports of walks and other activities on the group's Facebook page, as well as through WhatsApp.
- Simon Pickering reminded members to remember to keep an eye on the people immediately behind them on social walks to ensure no one became separated from the group.

9. Guest Speaker: Simon Pickering, In the Footsteps of Gerald and the Reverend

10. Close – the meeting closed at approx. 17:00.

Annual Report & Annual Statement of Accounts of the South Wales  
LDWA Committee 2023

Chair's report .....	p.2
Group secretary's report .....	p.3
Walk secretary's report .....	p.4
Challenge walks coordinator's report .....	p.5
South Wales LDWA Annual Statement of Accounts and Finance Report .....	p.6

## Chair's report 2023

I'm delighted to stand before you as the Chair of our walking club during this year's AGM. The past few years have been a journey of trials and tribulations for us, However, amidst the challenges, there's much to be thankful for and many people to acknowledge.

First and foremost, a heartfelt thank you goes out to Our Leaders, members and the committee, also thank you to the members who are undertaking the task of organizing our club's 50-mile Cymoedd Sir Fynwy challenge walk next year, and congratulations to Kathryn and Andy who led their first walk's this year.

Our club's unwavering dedication is truly commendable.

Our walk leaders and members have been the backbone of our club during these choppy years. Your hard work and unwavering commitment have been the driving force behind the club's success.

You've adapted to the changing circumstances, ensuring that our passion for walking remains undiminished.

The 40-year anniversary went very well with a lot of work and patience, given that we've waited a long time for our friends in the North to come and visit us.

As we look ahead, the return of our challenge walks is a cause for optimism for the future. It's a clear sign that we are emerging from a quieter period, but quietly evolving along the way.

The prospect of exploring new trails and creating more cherished memories together is an exciting one.

In conclusion, let us keep it simple yet heartfelt – thank you for your extraordinary efforts and dedication. A big round of applause goes to our incredible walk leaders and our dedicated members for your tireless support and contributions to our club's resilience.

With gratitude and anticipation, we stand united and ready to embark on the next chapter of our club's journey. Let's keep walking forward, one step at a time.

Thank you, and here's to many more memorable walks on the horizon.

Jason Winney, Chair, November 2023

### Group secretary's report 2023:

It has been another busy and enjoyable year for South Wales LDWA – our 40<sup>th</sup>! It was great to celebrate our history in a number of ways through the year culminating in our anniversary weekend in September. Walks on both Saturday and Sunday showcased some of our favourite locations in the Black Mountains and the Wye Valley, while we enjoyed a fine social evening in Abergavenny on the Saturday. A special highlight of the social evening was that Andrew Clabon and Gerry Jackson, attendees on our first ever walk and club stalwarts ever since, were able to join us. Our 40<sup>th</sup> year has also been marked by the publication of a special edition of our *Blether* newsletter that chronicles the events and people that have contributed to our group since its origins in the 1980s – thanks to editor Dave Morgan and to all the contributors for ensuring we have a lasting record of our past.

In terms of membership, as of 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023, we had 257 primary members (2022: 2057; 2021: 254; 2020: 258) and 451 associate members (2022: 414; 2021: 379; 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 39 new primary members join us since the beginning of last November.

Volunteering remains the lifeblood of ensuring our group, and the wider LDWA can operate. Many South Wales members support the group by leading social walks and/or helping on our Challenge Walks – thanks to you all, we are (literally) nothing without you.

South Wales has also continued to participate and support LDWA events at a national level - ensuring that we are contributing to its growth and health as well as learning from others and staying up to date with developments elsewhere. Sara Down was the group's official representative at the national AGM in Chester in March (which a number of other group members also attended in a personal capacity), while Sara and I also attended the NEC's Local Groups Weekend in Dorset in November. We also continued our proud tradition of supporting the LDWA's flagship Hundred event by running Checkpoint Two at Rubery on the Elephant, Bear and Bull in May – and next year we will be making the long journey up to Speyside!



*South Wales LDWA founder members Andrew Clabon (left) and Gerry Jackson (right) presented with portraits painted by fellow club member Tony Alcock at the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary social evening in September*

Simon Pickering, Secretary,  
November 2023

## Walk secretary's report 2023

It's been another really strong year for the South Wales' group. We've walked further, climbed higher and had more more of us out on the walks than last year. We've also had a better spread of leaders supporting our walks – thank you to each and every one of you. We absolutely could not do any of this with you. I hope we can continue with this mix of support into 2024.

Andrew Clabon  
Andy Thorpe  
Ange Williams  
David Morgan  
Henny Clare  
Jamie Lewis  
Jason Winney  
Kathryn Gordon

Laura Turner  
Mike Batt  
Norma Lloyd  
Rob & Jill Richardson  
Sara Down  
Shirley Hume  
Simon Pickering  
Tony Alcock

Our special thanks to the following people for leading us on miles and miles of walks.  
David Morgan - who has led us across 198 miles with 35, 860 feet  
Jason Winney - who has led us across 190 miles with 34,950 feet  
Mike Batt - who has led us across 126.5 miles with 17,670 feet, plus led the longest social walk in the South Wales group to date of 58 miles (or 60 miles if you have a Garmin device) and has also brought us the much revered Mini quality control 'paw of approval' walks that have proved incredibly popular.

Summary of stats (based on advertised details) to 14 Nov. 2023

- 46 walks (38 in 2022)
- 672 participants (481 in 2022)
- 15 walkers on average per walk (13.8 in 2022)
- 1000.5 miles (839.5 in 2022)
- 162,264 feet of ascent (149,650 in 2022) – that's 5.5 Everest's or 36.7 Ben Nevis'

I think we have a huge amount to celebrate with our walks this year and I'd love to see this momentum continue into next year.

Sara Down, Walk Secretary, November 2023

## Challenge walks coordinator's report 2023

Challenge walks continue to form an important part of the makeup for the South Wales LDWA as a means of giving back to the walking community, a way to introduce new walkers to the group, and importantly, as a source of income for the group.

In the 2023 period, we have hosted two fantastic challenge events.

April saw the group host the 5th incarnation of the Offa's Twisted Wye Kanter. This popular event offered a mix of 4 distances, and for the first time, a wheelchair friendly route. 114 people entered one of the 4 routes and we had a completion rate of 96%. Credit to David Morgan and the volunteer team who planned and delivered this fantastic event.

Barely a month went by and we were at it again. This time it was the long awaited return of the Gwyn Matthew's Rhondda Rollercoaster. The Rollercoaster has been on hold for several years due to covid and a landslide on an iconic section of the route, but a bit of route re-jigging and we were back in action. In all 187 entrants braved one of the two available routes with 166 completing.

The finances from the Rollercoaster show what an impact these events have, with the event generating a profit of nearly £3,000. The use of the card machine at events is also proving its worth by making sales of merchandise easier for entrants. It is also worth noting that advertising the event via social media channels has proved a great way to boost the numbers of entrants and reach people who might not otherwise have heard of the LDWA.

Looking ahead to next year we have another exciting event on the calendar. The Cymoedd Sir Fynwy challenge is a 50 mile epic (with a 30 mile option), based out of Abergavenny and taking in sections of the cancelled Y 100 Sir Fynwy and the Valleys 100 route of 2014. Once again this is spearheaded by David Morgan and organisation is already at an advanced stage with HQ and checkpoints booked, and half the entry slots already filled.

There are also plans in the pipeline for a possible 4th '3rd Circle' event to be held later in the year. Watch this space...

Despite the successes of the challenge walks programme, there are still challenges to be overcome. The committee are aware of the financial burden of volunteering at events and therefore will offer where possible a gratuity payment to volunteers in addition to any expenses covering catering outlay. The committee are also discussing how events are scheduled, this will be to ensure there is enough time between successive challenge events and other major events to avoid 'volunteer fatigue', ensuring we get a good turnout to support our events.

Finally, as challenge walks coordinator can I once again offer my thanks to all those volunteers who selflessly give their time and effort to making our challenge events so special. The feedback we get from entrants is overwhelmingly positive and we should all be proud of the great events we put together. Diolch!

Jamie Lewis, Challenge Walks Coordinator, November 2023

## South Wales LDWA Annual Statement of Accounts and Finance Report

The finances of the group are in a healthy state, with a closing balance of £6,871.40 in the bank on the 30th September.

We hosted two very successful challenge events, both of which generated substantial profits for the group.(OTWK made £1,015.68 profit and Rhonda Roller Coaster made £2,822.73 profit).

The largest expenditures during the year was on 40th Anniversary celebrations. We were also able to financially support marshals' from the group who assisted at the EBB100 earlier in the year as well as provides subsidies for our challenge events.

Opening balance 1st Oct 2022	£3,212.03	Revenue	£7,031.70
Closing Balance 30th Sept 2023	£6,871.40	Expenditure	<b>-£3,372.33</b>
Balance Increase	£3,659.37	Profit	£3,659.37

### Revenue

SI entries RRC	£3,658.52
SI entries OTWK	£1,656.54
EBB 100	£500.00
40th Leekies	£389.29
40th Meal contribution	£170.00
Merchandise	£357.35
TRANS-PENNINE 100	£300.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£7,031.70</b>

### Expenditure

Events subsidy	<b>-£70.00</b>
40th Anniversary	<b>-£639.97</b>
AGM expenses	<b>-£177.00</b>
Caldicot printing	<b>-£587.40</b>
Events expenses	<b>-£1,449.86</b>
Merchandise	<b>-£319.20</b>
Xmas 2022 meal	<b>-£88.90</b>
Cheques	<b>-£40.00</b>
<b>TOTAL Spend</b>	<b>-£3,372.33</b>

Note: OTWK and RRC subsidies and some EBB100 expenses not paid yet

Enrique Santafo, Treasurer, November 2023