

South Wales Long Distance Walkers Association

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

St Michael's Centre, Abergavenny - Sunday 13th October 2024 15:00

Those attending: Jamie Lewis, Valmai Lewis, Henny Clare, Sara Down, Gerry Jackson, Mike Batt, Norma Lloyd, Jason Winney, Simon Pickering, Enrique Santafe, Paul Mills, Cheryl Llewellyn, Tony Alcock, Kathryn Gordon, Laura Turner, Andrew Clabon, Joanne Christensen, Steve Bowman,

Apologies: Dave Morgan, Gill Morgan, Shirley Hume, Judith Fox, John Roberts, Andy Thorpe

1. Welcome from Jason.
2. Annual talk: *Trekking and Tacking Period Poverty*, Helen Whitfield, Public Value Fellow, Cardiff University, and co-founder of Marigold Chain. Helen talked about the impact of trekking and tourism in the rural Himalayas, as well as talking about some of the humanitarian charity work she does in the region:

In April 2015 Nepal suffered a catastrophic earthquake measuring 8.1Ms (extreme), killing 9,000 people and injuring 22,000. Due to the scale of the earthquake and subsequent damage, Helen Whitfield and a school friend set up a 'go fund me' page which, 12 months later led to the setting up a charity called Marigold Chain, supporting a rural area in the Himalayas in Nepal.

3. Confirmation of 2023 AGM minutes and matters arising
– the minutes were accepted unanimously.
4. Annual Report of the Committee
 - a. Chair's report – see South Wales Annual Report 2024
 - b. Secretary's report - see South Wales Annual Report 2024
 - c. Walk secretary's report - see South Wales Annual Report 2024
 - d. Challenge Walks Coordinator's report - see South Wales Annual Report 2024

The reports were tabled followed by short discussions. Topics discussed included: expenses for running checkpoint's at LDWA Hundreds; and, improving recycling at Challenge Events.

5. Annual Statement of Accounts and Finance Report
See report. The accounts were tabled followed by a short discussion.
6. Election/Confirmation of Committee officers
The following nominations were received by the closing date of 12th September 2024. As a single nomination was received for each position, there was no need for an election and the positions were confirmed at the meeting.

Treasurer: Enrique Santafe (2nd term)

Proposer: Jason Winney

Secunder: Sara Down

Secretary: Simon Pickering (5th term)
Proposer: Enrique Santafe
Seconder: Jamie Lewis

Challenge Walks Coordinator: Jamie Lewis (3th term)
Proposer: Simon Pickering
Seconder: Jason Winney

There were no nominations received by the closing date for the posts of Chair and Walk Secretary, so nominations were accepted at the AGM. The following people accepted nominations at the meeting and were elected:

Chair: Jason Winney
Proposer: Simon Pickering
Seconder: Tony Alcock

Walk Secretary: Andrew Clabon
Proposer: Sara Down
Seconder: Paul Mills.

6. Appoint independent examiner of accounts

- Valmai Lewis agreed to undertake this role for a second year (having accepted post-AGM 2023). Andrew Clabon also agreed to review the accounts.

7. Special Business*

It was proposed that South Wales LDWA makes changes to its constitution to bring it into line with the Model Constitution for Local Groups as produced by the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the Long Distance Walkers Association (LDWA). Details of the new constitution including changes to the current constitution are outlined in the accompanying documents (Docs 1-3).

Proposer: Simon Pickering Seconder: Jason Winney.

The proposal was adopted unanimously.

8. Ordinary Business / Submitted Motions

- None received

9. AOB

- A brief discussion of upcoming walks/events and related items.

10. Close – the meeting closed at 17:18.

Differences between South Wales LDWA constitution and new model constitution Dec 2023

Summary of changes to current South Wales constitution (and/or where adopting the new model constitution requires a specific choice)

- Restricting participation in local group Committee/Meetings to Primary members only: 4.2, 5.5, 6.1, 6.11, 6.13
- Linked to above, allow associate members to participate in local group committee/meetings in certain circumstances: 5.6, 5.7, 6.14. Clause 5.7 includes the option for the Committee to be able to co-opt Associate Members to fill any vacancies which may arise – proposal is to adopt this change.
- Requirement that Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are separate individuals: 5.2
- Maximum number of people on Committee: 5.3 (proposal is to adopt recommended 10 from current 5)
- Removal of minimum number of committee meetings held each year (n.b. linked to explicitly allowing business via email): 5.10
- Requirement of four members for Committee meeting to be quorate: 5.10 (this number can be varied, but proposal is to adopt the recommendation of four).
- Committee business can be conducted by email: 5.11
- General meetings can be held online if required: 6.1
- Quorum for General meeting, recommends 12 with at least one officer: 6.2 (we currently have 12 with at least two officers. Proposal is to adopt the new model).
- Ability to appoint a Deputy Chair if Chair not present for a General Meeting: 6.3
- Date of AGM: 6.9 (new version suggests November, but up to individual groups. We are proposing to adopt November from current “between 01.09 and 31.10”.)
- AGM to include receipt of independent examiner’s report (in addition to Annual statement of accounts): 6.10
- Independent examiner of accounts shall not be a member of the committee: 6.10
- Submission deadline for AGM substantive motions set at 14 days prior (currently 4 weeks prior): 6.11
- Numbers needed to call EGM set at 10 (currently 12), timing to call meeting set at 28 days (currently 6 weeks): 6.13
- Requirement that payments (other than petty cash) are electronic and that there is a Finance sub-committee consisting of the Treasurer and two other committee members: 7.3, 7.4, 7.5
- Need to specify an accounting year (no recommended year, proposal is we retain current financial year of 1.10-30.9): 7.6.
- Deadline for proposing changes to constitution reduced from 8 weeks prior to 28 days prior to general meeting: 10.2

Minor changes (e.g. textual changes for clarity. Some clauses have more than one change, so are listed here (for minor change) as well as above) : 1.2, 2.1, 2.3, 4.1, 5.4, 5.8, 6.5, 6.7, 6.9, 6.12, 6.13, 9.2, 10.2.

Model Constitution for LDWA Local Groups

Wording in red may be altered (subject to NEC confirmation) to suit the requirements of individual groups; wording in black should not normally be altered.

Insert name here LOCAL GROUP OF THE LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

1. Name and Definition

1.1. This is the Constitution of the *insert name here* Local Group (the Group) of the Long Distance Walkers Association (LDWA).

1.2. The address of the Group shall be the address of the Secretary or such other address as may be agreed between the Group Secretary and the LDWA General Secretary.

1.3. If there is any inconsistency between this Local Group Constitution and the Constitution of the national Long Distance Walkers Association Limited, then the latter shall prevail.

2. Aims and Objectives

2.1. The Group aims to provide a local forum and focus for activities primarily within its catchment area, but not exclusively so, for all those who enjoy long distance walking.

2.2. The Group, being incorporated within the LDWA, shall seek to further the aims and objectives of the LDWA as defined in the Memorandum and Articles of the LDWA.

2.3. The Group shall adopt all relevant rules and policies of the LDWA and conduct itself in accordance with the Constitution and with any Bylaws which may be issued from time to time and with all reasonable directions of the LDWA National Executive Committee.

3. Powers

3.1. The Group has the power to collect and receive money and funds and to do all such other reasonable activities as are necessary to achieve the aims and objectives of this Constitution.

4. Membership

4.1. Membership shall consist of all members of the LDWA who opt to join the *insert name here* Group as primary members or who are allocated by default to *insert name here* as their local Group.

4.2. Associate membership is restricted to primary members of other LDWA local Groups who wish to be associated additionally with the *insert name here* Group.

4.3. No fee shall be levied for membership or associate membership of the Group, though the Group may charge for optional services for its primary and associate members.

4.4. All members of the Group shall be entitled to receive a copy of this Constitution on request.

5. Group Management Committee

5.1. The management of the Group shall be vested in a Group Management Committee (the Committee) consisting of Officers and Ordinary Committee Members which shall carry out its functions in a reasonable manner having regard to the aims and powers of the Group.

5.2. The Officers of the Group shall be a Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer. No person may hold more than one of these posts at the same time.

5.3. The Committee shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting of the Group and shall consist of the Officers and at least one Ordinary Member up to a maximum of **10** including the Officers.

5.4. All Members of the Committee shall retire at the Annual General Meeting, but shall be eligible for re-election. No member may serve as an Officer for more than 5 consecutive years in any individual post, except that if no other eligible candidate is available for election an Officer who is willing to do so may continue in post beyond that time subject to annual retirement as above.

5.5. Nominations for Officers and Ordinary Committee Members, who must be primary members of the Group, shall be received by the Secretary no later than 28 days before the Annual General Meeting. A nomination shall include the names of the proposer and seconder, who must also be primary members of the Group, and the nominee's agreement to stand. If there are any posts for which nominations have not been duly received, nominations may be taken at the Annual General Meeting.

5.6 If no nominations are received from Primary Members of the Group before the Annual General Meeting, applications may be invited from Associate members of the Group provided that the Associate member is not already a serving Committee Member of another Local Group

5.7. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt Primary **and Associate** Members to fill any vacancies which may arise.

5.8 The Committee shall have the power to appoint Sub-Committees and to determine their powers, terms of reference and voting rules. The Committee shall receive regular reports from any Sub-Committee established.

5.9. No fee shall be paid to any Committee Member or Sub-Committee Member for carrying out their Committee duties. They may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred.

5.10. All questions arising at a Committee meeting shall be decided by a majority of those present and voting. In the case of equal votes the Chair shall have a casting vote. **Four** members of the Committee of whom at least one must be an Officer are required to form a quorum.

5.11. By mutual consent of all Committee Members or all Sub-Committee Members, some or all of the business of the Committee or a Sub-Committee may be conducted by e-mail. In such case any questions arising shall be decided by a majority of all Committee or Sub-Committee Members voting and with abstentions being confirmed, and in the case of equal votes the Chair shall have a casting vote.

6. General Meetings.

6.1. All primary members of the Group, as defined in Section 4.1, shall be entitled to attend and vote at any General Meeting, Exceptionally, if a physical meeting cannot be arranged, a General Meeting may be held online, in which case the word “venue” in Sections 6.9 and 6.13 shall be interpreted to reflect this.

6.2. The quorum of a General Meeting shall be 12 persons. The quorum shall include at least one Officer of the Group.

6.3. In the absence of the Chair another Committee Member shall be appointed to act as Deputy Chair for the duration of the meeting. Any reference in Section 6 to the Chair shall apply equally to such Deputy Chair.

6.4. Business that is transacted at a General Meeting shall be deemed ordinary except that business concerning changes to the Constitution or changes to the structure of the Group and its relationship with the National Organisation shall be deemed special.

6.5. Ordinary business arising at a General Meeting shall be decided by a majority of those present and voting (abstentions not included). In the case of an equality of votes the Chair shall have a casting vote.

6.6. All special business shall require the assent of seventy-five per cent of those present and voting (abstentions not included) to be carried.

6.7. Any substantive motion adopted at a General Meeting shall become Group policy, subject to the provisions of Section 2.3.

6.8. Minutes shall be taken at all General Meetings and a copy of the minutes shall be supplied to the LDWA Local Groups Secretary no later than 45 days after the meeting.

6.9. The Committee shall convene an Annual General Meeting of the Group during November each year. The time and venue shall be notified to members through appropriate channels which shall include e-mail, the Group’s website and (provided publishing schedules permit) Strider at least 42 days before the date of the meeting.

6.10. The business of the Annual General Meeting shall include to:

- approve the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and any Extraordinary General Meeting that has occurred since the previous Annual General Meeting;
- receive the Annual Report of the Committee;
- receive the Annual Statement of Accounts and independent examiner’s report;
- elect the Officers and Ordinary Members of the Committee;
- appoint an independent examiner for the accounts, who shall not be a member of the Committee;
- discuss and consider any properly submitted motions.

6.11. Any substantive motion received for the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the Committee not less than 14 days before the meeting and shall include the names of the proposer and seconder who shall be primary members of the Group.

6.12. If there is not a quorum for an Annual General Meeting, or if the posts of Chair or Secretary or Treasurer cannot be filled, the meeting shall be adjourned and reconvened within 8 weeks, with members notified at least 21 days before the adjourned meeting. Publication of notice on the Group's website and by e-mail to those members who have consented to e-mail communication shall be deemed adequate notification. The National Executive Committee shall be informed of the situation. If at the adjourned meeting the quorum is not reached or the posts remain unfilled the dissolution procedure may be initiated in accordance with Section 9.2.

6.13. The Committee may at any time and shall on receiving a request from at least 10 primary members of the Group giving reasons for the request, and within 28 days of the request, call an Extraordinary General Meeting. The time, venue and business of the meeting shall be notified to members at least 14 days before the date of the meeting. Publication of notice on the Group's website and by e-mail to those members who have consented to e-mail communication shall be deemed adequate notification. If there is not a quorum for an Extraordinary General Meeting there shall be no obligation on the Committee to reconvene the meeting.

6.14 Provided that there is a quorum of Primary Members in accordance with clause 6.2, those Primary Members present may by a majority vote agree to allow any Associate Members attending an Annual, Ordinary or Extraordinary General Meeting to speak and vote on any or all substantive motions

7. Finance.

7.1. All monies raised by and on behalf of the Group shall be applied in the furtherance of the objectives of the Group.

7.2. The Treasurer shall keep proper financial accounts, shall keep the Committee regularly informed as to the financial position of the Group, and shall report the annual accounts to the Annual General Meeting. The Treasurer shall ensure that the accounts are authorised by the independent examiner. A copy of the accounts shall be supplied to the LDWA Treasurer no later than 45 days after the Annual General Meeting.

7.3. The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining a correct bank account in the name of the Group. All monies received shall be paid into the Bank and all payments other than petty cash payments shall be made by appropriate form of electronic transmission authorised by the Treasurer and one or other of two members of the Finance Sub-committee. The Finance Sub-committee will consist of the Treasurer and two other committee members (The Authorised Committee Members).

7.4 If it is not possible to register the Treasurer and the Authorised Committee Members with the bank immediately after appointment as signatories, then the existing signatories registered with the Bank may be elected by the committee to the Finance Sub-committee and be authorised to continue approving payments. The Existing Signatories must be primary members of the Group.

7.5 Every effort must be made to register the Treasurer and the Authorised Committee Members with the Bank as soon as possible. Once, this registration has been completed, the previously authorised Signatories will cease to be members of the Finance Sub-committee and cease to have any powers to approve any payments.

7.6. The accounting year shall be from **insert relevant date** to **insert relevant date**.

8. Property.

8.1. A nominated Group Member shall maintain a list of the property of the Group.

9. Dissolution.

9.1. The Group may be wound up voluntarily, as an item of business with proper notice being given, at a General Meeting on the vote of seventy-five percent of those members present and voting (abstentions not included). The National Executive Committee must receive notice of any such meeting.

9.2. If, under clause 6.12, an adjourned Annual General Meeting fails to be quorate or if the posts of Chair or Secretary or Treasurer remain unfilled then the National Executive Committee in consultation with the remaining Officers and Committee Members of the Group shall call a Special Meeting of members to determine the future of the Group. Should it be deemed that the Group is no longer viable then the Group may be wound up.

9.3. In the event of the Group being wound up all assets shall be disposed of for the furtherance of long distance walking in a manner to be decided in consultation with the LDWA National Executive Committee.

10. Amendments to the Constitution.

10.1. This Constitution may be amended, subject to prior approval by the National Executive Committee of the LDWA, at any General Meeting of the Group, with the approval of seventy five per cent of members present and voting (abstentions not included).

10.2. Any proposal for such amendments must be delivered in writing or by e-mail to the Secretary of the Group not less than 28 days before the Annual General Meeting of the Group at which it is to be discussed, or included with the request for an Extraordinary General Meeting as in clause 6.13.

SOUTH WALES LOCAL GROUP OF THE LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

1. Name and Definition

1.1. This is the Constitution of the **South Wales** Local Group (the Group) of the Long Distance Walkers Association (LDWA).

1.2. The address of the Group shall be the address of the Secretary or such other address as may be agreed between the Group Secretary and the LDWA General Secretary.

1.3. If there is any inconsistency between this Local Group Constitution and the Constitution of the national Long Distance Walkers Association Limited, then the latter shall prevail.

2. Aims and Objectives

2.1. The Group aims to provide a local forum and focus for activities primarily within its catchment area, but not exclusively so, for all those who enjoy long distance walking.

2.2. The Group, being incorporated within the LDWA, shall seek to further the aims and objectives of the LDWA as defined in the Memorandum and Articles of the LDWA.

2.3. The Group shall adopt all relevant rules and policies of the LDWA and conduct itself in accordance with the Constitution and with any Bylaws which may be issued from time to time and with all reasonable directions of the LDWA National Executive Committee.

3. Powers

3.1. The Group has the power to collect and receive money and funds and to do all such other reasonable activities as are necessary to achieve the aims and objectives of this Constitution.

4. Membership

4.1. Membership shall consist of all members of the LDWA who opt to join the **South Wales** Group as primary members or who are allocated by default to **South Wales** as their local Group.

4.2. Associate membership is restricted to primary members of other LDWA local Groups who wish to be associated additionally with the **South Wales** Group.

4.3. No fee shall be levied for membership or associate membership of the Group, though the Group may charge for optional services for its primary and associate members.

4.4. All members of the Group shall be entitled to receive a copy of this Constitution on request.

5. Group Management Committee

5.1. The management of the Group shall be vested in a Group Management Committee (the Committee) consisting of Officers and Ordinary Committee Members which shall carry out its functions in a reasonable manner having regard to the aims and powers of the Group.

5.2. The Officers of the Group shall be a Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer. No person may hold more than one of these posts at the same time.

5.3. The Committee shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting of the Group and shall consist of the Officers and at least one Ordinary Member up to a maximum of **10** including the Officers.

5.4. All Members of the Committee shall retire at the Annual General Meeting, but shall be eligible for re-election. No member may serve as an Officer for more than 5 consecutive years in any individual post, except that if no other eligible candidate is available for election an Officer who is willing to do so may continue in post beyond that time subject to annual retirement as above.

5.5. Nominations for Officers and Ordinary Committee Members, who must be primary members of the Group, shall be received by the Secretary no later than 28 days before the Annual General Meeting. A nomination shall include the names of the proposer and seconder, who must also be primary members of the Group, and the nominee's agreement to stand. If there are any posts for which nominations have not been duly received, nominations may be taken at the Annual General Meeting.

5.6 If no nominations are received from Primary Members of the Group before the Annual General Meeting, applications may be invited from Associate members of the Group provided that the Associate member is not already a serving Committee Member of another Local Group

5.7. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt Primary **and Associate** Members to fill any vacancies which may arise.

5.8 The Committee shall have the power to appoint Sub-Committees and to determine their powers, terms of reference and voting rules. The Committee shall receive regular reports from any Sub-Committee established.

5.9. No fee shall be paid to any Committee Member or Sub-Committee Member for carrying out their Committee duties. They may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred.

5.10. All questions arising at a Committee meeting shall be decided by a majority of those present and voting. In the case of equal votes the Chair shall have a casting vote. **Four** members of the Committee of whom at least one must be an Officer are required to form a quorum.

5.11. By mutual consent of all Committee Members or all Sub-Committee Members, some or all of the business of the Committee or a Sub-Committee may be conducted by e-mail. In such case any questions arising shall be decided by a majority of all Committee or Sub-Committee Members voting and with abstentions being confirmed, and in the case of equal votes the Chair shall have a casting vote.

6. General Meetings.

6.1. All primary members of the Group, as defined in Section 4.1, shall be entitled to attend and vote at any General Meeting, Exceptionally, if a physical meeting cannot be arranged, a General Meeting may be held online, in which case the word "venue" in Sections 6.9 and 6.13 shall be interpreted to reflect this.

6.2. The quorum of a General Meeting shall be **12** persons. The quorum shall include at least one Officer of the Group.

6.3. In the absence of the Chair another Committee Member shall be appointed to act as Deputy Chair for the duration of the meeting. Any reference in Section 6 to the Chair shall apply equally to such Deputy Chair.

6.4. Business that is transacted at a General Meeting shall be deemed ordinary except that business concerning changes to the Constitution or changes to the structure of the Group and its relationship with the National Organisation shall be deemed special.

6.5. Ordinary business arising at a General Meeting shall be decided by a majority of those present and voting (abstentions not included). In the case of an equality of votes the Chair shall have a casting vote.

6.6. All special business shall require the assent of seventy-five per cent of those present and voting (abstentions not included) to be carried.

6.7. Any substantive motion adopted at a General Meeting shall become Group policy, subject to the provisions of Section 2.3.

6.8. Minutes shall be taken at all General Meetings and a copy of the minutes shall be supplied to the LDWA Local Groups Secretary no later than 45 days after the meeting.

6.9. The Committee shall convene an Annual General Meeting of the Group **during November** each year. The time and venue shall be notified to members through appropriate channels which shall include e-mail, the Group's website and (provided publishing schedules permit) Strider at least 42 days before the date of the meeting.

6.10. The business of the Annual General Meeting shall include to:

- approve the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and any Extraordinary General Meeting that has occurred since the previous Annual General Meeting;
- receive the Annual Report of the Committee;
- receive the Annual Statement of Accounts and independent examiner's report;
- elect the Officers and Ordinary Members of the Committee;
- appoint an independent examiner for the accounts, who shall not be a member of the Committee;
- discuss and consider any properly submitted motions.

6.11. Any substantive motion received for the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted to the Committee not less than 14 days before the meeting and shall include the names of the proposer and seconder who shall be primary members of the Group.

6.12. If there is not a quorum for an Annual General Meeting, or if the posts of Chair or Secretary or Treasurer cannot be filled, the meeting shall be adjourned and reconvened within 8 weeks, with members notified at least 21 days before the adjourned meeting. Publication of notice on the Group's website and by e-mail to those members who have consented to e-mail communication shall be deemed adequate notification. The National Executive Committee shall be informed of the situation. If at the adjourned meeting the quorum is not reached or the posts remain unfilled the dissolution procedure may be initiated in accordance with Section 9.2.

6.13. The Committee may at any time and shall on receiving a request from at least 10 primary members of the Group giving reasons for the request, and within 28 days of the request, call an Extraordinary General Meeting. The time, venue and business of the meeting shall be notified to members at least 14 days before the date of the meeting. Publication of notice on the Group's website and by e-mail to those members who have consented to e-mail communication shall be

deemed adequate notification. If there is not a quorum for an Extraordinary General Meeting there shall be no obligation on the Committee to reconvene the meeting.

6.14 Provided that there is a quorum of Primary Members in accordance with clause 6.2, those Primary Members present may by a majority vote agree to allow any Associate Members attending an Annual, Ordinary or Extraordinary General Meeting to speak and vote on any or all substantive motions

7. Finance.

7.1. All monies raised by and on behalf of the Group shall be applied in the furtherance of the objectives of the Group.

7.2. The Treasurer shall keep proper financial accounts, shall keep the Committee regularly informed as to the financial position of the Group, and shall report the annual accounts to the Annual General Meeting. The Treasurer shall ensure that the accounts are authorised by the independent examiner. A copy of the accounts shall be supplied to the LDWA Treasurer no later than 45 days after the Annual General Meeting.

7.3. The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining a correct bank account in the name of the Group. All monies received shall be paid into the Bank and all payments other than petty cash payments shall be made by appropriate form of electronic transmission authorised by the Treasurer and one or other of two members of the Finance Sub-committee. The Finance Sub-committee will consist of the Treasurer and two other committee members (The Authorised Committee Members).

7.4 If it is not possible to register the Treasurer and the Authorised Committee Members with the bank immediately after appointment as signatories, then the existing signatories registered with the Bank may be elected by the committee to the Finance Sub-committee and be authorised to continue approving payments. The Existing Signatories must be primary members of the Group.

7.5 Every effort must be made to register the Treasurer and the Authorised Committee Members with the Bank as soon as possible. Once, this registration has been completed, the previously authorised Signatories will cease to be members of the Finance Sub-committee and cease to have any powers to approve any payments.

7.6. The accounting year shall be from **01 October to 31 September**.

8. Property.

8.1. A nominated Group Member shall maintain a list of the property of the Group.

9. Dissolution.

9.1. The Group may be wound up voluntarily, as an item of business with proper notice being given, at a General Meeting on the vote of seventy-five percent of those members present and voting (abstentions not included). The National Executive Committee must receive notice of any such meeting.

9.2. If, under clause 6.12, an adjourned Annual General Meeting fails to be quorate or if the posts of Chair or Secretary or Treasurer remain unfilled then the National Executive Committee in consultation with the remaining Officers and Committee Members of the Group shall call a Special Meeting of members to determine the future of the Group. Should it be deemed that the Group is no longer viable then the Group may be wound up.

9.3. In the event of the Group being wound up all assets shall be disposed of for the furtherance of long distance walking in a manner to be decided in consultation with the LDWA National Executive Committee.

10. Amendments to the Constitution.

10.1. This Constitution may be amended, subject to prior approval by the National Executive Committee of the LDWA, at any General Meeting of the Group, with the approval of seventy five per cent of members present and voting (abstentions not included).

10.2. Any proposal for such amendments must be delivered in writing or by e-mail to the Secretary of the Group not less than 28 days before the Annual General Meeting of the Group at which it is to be discussed, or included with the request for an Extraordinary General Meeting as in clause 6.13.

Annual Report & Annual Accounts of the South Wales LDWA Committee 2024

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 Accounts 2023-24	p.6

Chair's report 2024

It's an absolute privilege to address you all as Chair at this year's AGM. Reflecting on the past year, it's clear that we've seen some nice growth with new leaders and some interesting walks, dedication, and success, and there is much to celebrate and many to thank.

Firstly, a special thank you to our committed Leaders, members, and committee for their continued hard work. A big round of applause for those organizing the 50-mile Cymoedd Sir Fynwy challenge walk—it's no small feat! I'd also like to congratulate Sian, Philippa, Judith and Paul for leading their first walks this year for South Wales.

It's moments like these that highlight the strength of our club's community. Every member, walk leader, and volunteer has played a part in keeping us moving forward with enthusiasm and purpose.

Last year's 40th anniversary celebration was a wonderful highlight. The hard work and patience in welcoming our friends from the North paid off beautifully, and it's those shared experiences that truly bind us together.

Looking ahead, the return of our challenge walks signals a bright and dynamic future. We've been steadily growing, and I'm excited about the new adventures and cherished memories awaiting us on the trails ahead.

As I conclude, I want to express my deepest appreciation to all of you for your unwavering support and passion. Let's keep pushing forward with the same enthusiasm and togetherness that defines our club.

Here's to more walks, new trails, and countless memories waiting to be made.

Thank you for your dedication, and here's to many more miles together.

Jason Winney

South Wales Chair

Group secretary's report 2024:

I'm pleased to be able to report on another busy and enjoyable year for South Wales LDWA. We've again had an excellent programme of social walks, organised a successful challenge event (the inaugural Cymoedd Sir Fynwy) and engaged in the wider world of the LDWA both as event participants and volunteer/supporters.

In terms of membership, as of 24th September 2023, we had 260 primary members (2023: 257; 2022: 257; 2021: 254) and 434 associate members (2023: 451; 2022: 414; 2021: 379). 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 50 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. The group again supported the LDWA's flagship Hundred event by running Checkpoint Three at Cromdale on the Speyside Hundred – a long trip for those involved, so a big thank you to you all.

At this year's AGM, we are proposing the adoption of a new constitution for the Group, based on the Model Constitution developed by LDWA's National Executive Committee. The new constitution is consistent with its predecessor with several of its changes designed to introduce greater flexibility reflecting changes such as the evolution of electronic communications in recent years.



As ever, 2024 has provided South Wales members with plenty of opportunities for long walk walks and good conversations!

Simon Pickering, Secretary

Walk secretary's report 2024

We've had several new leaders complete their first walk with us towards the end of this year. Thank you to each of you and hope we'll see more walks from you next year.

To both new and long serving walk leaders – thank you for another year of incredible walks. Walk leaders this year include:

Andrew Clabon	Andy Thorne	David Morgan
Henny Clare	Jason Winney	Judith Fox
Mike Batt	Paul Mills	Philippa Crocker
Sian Knight	Simon Pickering	Tony Alcock

Our stats highlight a familiar set of names, and for another year we extend particular thanks to the following people who continue to lead us further and higher across the Welsh countryside.

Jason Winney 213.5 miles with 40,443 feet of accumulated ascent

David Morgan 160.5 miles with 29,424 feet of accumulated ascent

Mike Batt 149.5 miles with 22,420 feet of accumulated ascent

Summary of stats (based on advertised details) to 20th September 2024

	2024	2023	2022
No of walks	36	46	38
Total participants	469	672	481
Average participants	15	15	13.8
Miles	786.5	1000.5	839.5
Ascent	137,337	162,264	149,659

* Figures do not include Marshalls walks or event route recceing

For those interested in random comparisons, this year we've walked further than the following national trails:

The Blue Trail: Length: 701 miles | Location: Hungary

Europe's oldest recreational long trail was designated in 1938 as Kektura. Now dubbed the National Blue Trail, the trek stretches between Irottko Mountain on the border of Austria to the border of Slovakia, where it ends in the village of Hollohaz.

Transpanama Trail: Length: 700 miles | Location: Panama

In 2011, one man set off to hike across Panama, creating a new trail that includes 48 miles of canoeing. His route is now the TransPanama Trail for those brave enough to push through the same jungle journey. The trail runs the entire length of the country from Costa Rica to Colombia and visits both the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea.

And we've climbed the equivalent of 102 Ben Nevis or 126 Snowdons or 140 Scafell Pikes.

Don't forget to take a look back across our walks on Flickr: [South Wales LDWA's albums | Flickr](#)

Sara Down, Walk Secretary, 2024

Challenge walks coordinator's report 2024

2024 had a number of firsts for challenge walks in South Wales. A new 50-mile event was born, the group used electronic GPS trackers to monitor entrants' progress/safety, and we ran a 'participant feedback' poll for the first time to see if/how we can improve for future events.

The Cymoedd Sir Fynwy 50, and its little sibling the CSF30, were held on the 13th and 14th of April. The route combined sections of the 100 Sir Fynwy and part of the Valley's 100 and it was a tough one: Of the 178 entrants on both courses, only 121 made it over the finish line! However, the feedback from the entrants (even those that did not complete) was overwhelmingly positive, with many stating they would tackle the course again (once the blisters healed). The event also had a little drama with some entrants helping rescue a stranded group of Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) participants and we got to witness first-hand the value of trackers in remote mountainous areas as HQ control noted some entrants going badly off course and were able to guide them back on course.

The CSF50 also held an important role for the wider LDWA, being one of the few qualifying events for the annual 100 held in the south west area of Britain. A marshals' event for the CSF50 was held after the main event allowing a good number of the group to confirm the feedback from entrants on both the toughness and beauty of the route.

It wasn't just completing the event that was a gruelling task, its organisation was 12 months in the planning for a committee of 6, spearheaded by the event originator, David Morgan, and with no less than 52 volunteers helping out across the weekend to feed, water, marshal, congratulate and commiserate the entrants. Gratitude and credit has to go to each and every person involved.

Looking ahead to next year an old friend will be visiting – the Gwyn Matthews' Rhondda Rollercoaster. Planning is already at an advanced stage with venues booked, digital entry on SI up and running, Strider adverts places and a first call for volunteers out. The event already had 35 entrants by mid-September and we expect entries to go fast over the next few months. This will be boosted once we start digitally advertising the event amongst local hiking and running groups. Many of the South Wales groups have already volunteered to support us at the event, but we need more to help run the event safely and provide the entrant experience we are renowned for, so if you are at a loose end on Saturday 10th of May 2025...

There will of course be marshals' walks for the 26 and 16 mile Rollercoaster so no-one misses out on the 'fun'. We will also be trying to focus on waste reduction at next year's Rollercoaster, particularly food waste and recyclables – the sight of so many black bags post CSF50 was a little heart breaking and I know we can do better.

Beyond the Rollercoaster, we will be looking to identify a pipeline of events for 2025 and 2026 so we can plan ahead. If anyone has any suggestions for challenge walks they think might work, please come see me. Other than that, all that remains is for me once again to pass on my gratitude to everyone who helps us plan and stage successful events – we are very highly regarded by entrants and the wider LDWA and without our outstanding volunteers, none of it would be possible. Thank you.

Peace, love and happy hiking,

Jamie Lewis, Challenge Walks Coordinator

South Wales LDWA Annual Accounts 2023-24

Data from Bank	
Opening balance 1st Oct 2023	£6,871.40
Closing Balance 30th September 2024	£5,036.79
Balance change	-£1,834.61

Reconciliation	
Revenue	£8,085.25
Expenditure	-£9,919.86
Balance change	-£1,834.61

Revenue	
SI entries CSF24	£7,112.04
Anonymous donation	£141.90
Merchandise	£194.51
NEC REFUND, Sara Down place AGM	£170.00
NEC GRANT, FoodSafetyHygiene	£154.80
SI entries RRC25	£312.00
TOTAL INCOME	£8,085.25

Expenditure	
RRC23 subsidy	-£180.00
RRC23 expenses	-£83.84
OTWK23 subsidy	-£100.00
40th Anniversary frames	-£50.00
AwardspaceIntSerPr	-£94.57
EBB100 EXPENSES	-£308.50
SW AGM23 Hall hire & cakes	-£31.87
Local Groups weekend	-£100.00
Toasters, pots and bins	-£165.19
Xmas 2023 drinks, chocolates & cakes	-£131.05
CSF24 expenses	-£5,823.59
Postal services	-£5.30
40th Anniversary Hall	-£80.00
Flickr renewal	-£65.88
New Mobile Phone	-£24.99
SaraDownAGM2024	-£170.00
FoodSafetyHygiene	-£154.80
Giraffe Internatio (buffs purchase)	-£380.88
Caldicot T-shirts Invoice3721	-£360.00
Various equipment	-£198.97
Website domain	-£9.64
Speyside 100 Marshals subsidies	-£1,175.80
Thank you for Welsh flag	-£54.99
The road less travel, bus hire	-£170.00
TOTAL Spend	-£9,919.86