

AGENDA: South Wales Long Distance Walkers Association

Annual General Meeting & Lecture 2025

St Michael's Centre, Abergavenny NP7 5UD, Saturday 29th Nov 2025

Attendees: Andrew Clabon, Celestine Crabbe, Dave Webster, David Morgan, Eddie Frayne, Enrique Santafe, Ferne Davies, Gerry Jackson, Gill Morgan, Henny Claire, Jamie Lewis, Jason Winney, Jess Bent (Heart of England group), John Roberts, Judith Fox, Kathryn Gordon, Louise Shaw (Heart of England group), Mike Batt, Norma Lloyd, Philippa Crocker, Rod Hollands, Sara Down, Sian Knight, Simon Pickering, Sue Webster, Tony Alcock, Andy Thorpe
Lew Sydenham

1. Welcome

2. Apologies: Paul Mills, Angela Williams, Ian Mudge, Laura Turner, Cheryl Llewellyn

3. Confirmation of 2024 AGM minutes and matters arising
 - Minutes were accepted unanimously
 - No Matters arising

4. Annual Report of the Committee
 - a. Chair's report
 - b. Secretary's report
 - c. Walk Secretary's report
 - d. Challenge Walks Coordinator's report

The committee members discussed their reports (see Annual Report).

5. Annual Statement of Accounts and Finance Report

Treasurer (Enrique Santafe - ES) outlined the accounts.

- David Morgan asked if the accounts included entry fees for the Cymoedd Sir Fynwy. ES reported that they didn't as they hadn't fallen into the group's 2025 financial year.

- Philippa Crocker asked if group should be looking to reduce balance of £8k. Following resulting discussion following two proposals were made and agreed.

Action: A donation of £500 to be made to the Longtown Mountain Rescue.

Action: ES to review annual expenditure in recent years to determine a suitable reserve funding level on which to consider future expenditure proposals.

- A discussion was held on the need for a register of group equipment. Andrew Clabon outlined he was in the process of compiling one.

6. Confirmation/Election of Committee officers

The following nominations were received by the closing date of 1st November 2025. As a single nomination was received for each position, there was no need for an election, with the nominees confirmed in post.

Treasurer: Enrique Santafe (3rd term)

Proposer: Simon Pickering

Secunder: Jason Winney

Walks Secretary: Andrew Clabon (2nd term)

Proposer: Jason Winney

Secunder: Simon Pickering

Ordinary Member (1): Philippa Crocker (1st term)

Proposer: Simon Pickering

Secunder: Jason Winney

Ordinary Member (2): Sara Down (1st term)

Proposer: Jason Winney

Secunder: Simon Pickering

Ordinary Member (3): David Morgan (1st term)

Proposer: Simon Pickering

Secunder: Jason Winney

There were no nominations received by the closing date for the following posts, so nominations were accepted at the AGM:

Chair: Jason Winney was proposed by Simon Pickering and seconded by Tony Alcock. Elected unanimously

Secretary: Simon Pickering was proposed by Andrew Clabon and seconded by Norma Lloyd. Elected unanimously.

Challenge Walks Coordinator: Philippa Crocker was nominated by Simon Pickering and seconded by Henny Clare. Elected unanimously (n.b. consequently Philippa stood down as an Ordinary Member.

7. Appoint independent examiner of accounts

Valmai Lewis was proposed as the independent examiner of the accounts by Jason Winney, seconded by Simon Pickering. Elected unanimously. Valmai was thanked for her efforts as independent examiner during 2025.

8. Special Business

- None

9. Ordinary Business / Submitted Motions

- None received.

10. AOB

- None

11. **Annual lecture:** "572" (i.e. Dave Morgan) gave a talk on his experiences of the Spine Race North Challenge 160.

Annual Report & Annual Accounts of the South Wales LDWA Committee
2025

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Chairs Report 2025

It's a pleasure to address you all as Chair at this year's AGM. Over the past year, our club has continued to move steadily forward—perhaps without major milestones, but with the same spirit of friendship, reliability, and enthusiasm that keeps everything running so well. My heartfelt thanks go to all our Leaders, members, and committee for the time and effort you continue to give. The walks programme has offered some great days out, with a good mix of routes and experiences, and even with the occasional gap, it's been fantastic to see such consistent participation and commitment.

Looking ahead, it's exciting to see preparations already in motion for the **2026 Cymoedd Sir Fynwy Challenge Walk**. It's always a huge undertaking, and my warm thanks go to David, Andrew and everyone else who's stepped up to help make it happen again. Events like this really show what can be achieved when enthusiasm and teamwork come together.

While 2025 may have been a year of keeping things steady, that steady progress is something to be proud of. It's a reflection of a strong, supportive community that enjoys walking together and makes the effort to keep the club thriving.

Thank you all for another successful year. Here's to a great year ahead—more trails, more adventures, and more shared moments in the hills.

Jason Winney

South Wales Chair



Group secretary's report 2025:

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 return of the ever popular The Gwyn Matthews' Rhondda Rollercoaster) and engaged in the wider world of the LDWA both as event participants and volunteer/supporters.

In terms of membership, as of 9th November 2025, we had 254 primary members (2024: 260; 2023: 257; 2022: 257) and 447 associate members (2024: 434; 2023: 451; 2022: 414). 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. The group again supported the LDWA's flagship Hundred event by helping run Checkpoint Twelve at Hollesley on the Flower of Suffolk Hundred in partnership with Kent LDWA. A number of other South Wales members also helped with the wider running of the event.

I look forward to seeing, talking and walking with many of you in the year ahead!

Simon Pickering, Secretary



Walk Secretary's report 2025

A new role for me and one that has taken a little bit of getting used to. Thank you to all of you who have supplied me with a list of attendees (mainly to ensure we are covered by the LDWA insurance), a gpx file or a selection of photographs. These allow me to register the walk as completed on the national website and expand the South Wales walks database for the future.

A little nag from me. I think it is the responsibility of the walk leader to at least provide me a list of the attendees. That has not always happened. Could all future leaders please supply me with the names.

Photographs and gpx files can be supplied by anyone. Please send to me via email.

Without walk leaders the group would not function. So a big thank you to the following:

Jason Winney (13 walks, 320 miles and 60,800 feet of ascent)

Mike Batt (9 walks, 236 miles and 42,500 feet of ascent)

Simon Pickering (6 walks, 92 miles and 16,900 feet of ascent)

Norma Lloyd

Enrique Santafe

Angela Williams

Henny Clare

Dave Morgan

John Roberts

Jamie Lewis

Laura Turner

Tony Alcock

And one other

A few stats starting with the last AGM walk and finishing with last weekend's Caerphilly walk.

We have had 41 walks compared with 36 last year.

We have walked 923 miles compared with 787 last year

We have climbed 168,000 feet compared with 137,000 last year

Last year's figures are from 2023 AGM to 20 September 2024. The increase in the above figures will partly be due to the fact the AGM is later this year

Two last items:

1. Please keep adding walks to the programme. As I've said above without walks the group doesn't function.
2. If you have never led a walk and fancy doing so then please do so. The more leaders we have the better. Have a chat with me if you feel it is a little daunting.

Andrew Clabon, Walk Secretary



Challenge walks coordinator report 2025

Are you seated comfortably? Good, then I shall begin...

2025 saw the return of the much-loved Rhondda Rollercoaster, which now seems to be locked in a comfortable biennial spiral with the Cymoedd Sir Fynwy 50 in our challenge walks calendar. Although the walks themselves (and many of the faces entering) are familiar, the routes and the organisation behind putting the event on are ever changing – this year it was the 16ml route that had a little crisis following the very late loss of our Trealaw checkpoint.

The Rollercoaster sold out way before the event, and a reserve list system had to be put in place for those without a space. Sadly however we had quite a high no-show rate on the day with only 180 of 250 people starting. Although this doesn't impact us financially, it does pose a problem with possible over-catering and not being able to offer spaces to people who could have walked the event. The event however was a great success, both financially and in terms of the feedback we received off participants.

As part of the event, we again sought feedback from entrants and marshals to see how we might improve the event, and a lessons learned document has been circulated to the committee to guide future events.

One learning picked up from a previous event was in how we handle waste, and we are very pleased to say the Rhondda Rollercoaster this year had virtually no landfill waste. Thanks to our volunteers and entrants we managed to separate out our recyclable and food waste. The RR also implemented some other environmental mitigations; this is important as environment and climate change have a detrimental effect our hiking – we only have to consider how the Rollercoaster itself has been impacted over the last few years by storm damage in the forests, landslides after heavy rains and unseasonably early grass fires to see the impact the environment has on us.

Looking ahead, preparations are well underway for next years Cymoedd Sir Fynwy event. Dave Morgan is driving this forward with a committee of helpers and has added a 20ml option to the already popular 30ml and 50ml routes. Billed as the LDWA's toughest 50 (and those of us who have walked it wouldn't disagree), it already has 150 entrants, most of whom are from other LDWA groups, proving what an important event this already is in the LDWA calendar.

This will be my final report as CWC and I am hoping to find time to do some actual walking and lead some group walks in the coming year. I will however continue to support our group and whoever succeeds me in delivering challenge events – I still see challenge events as critical to bringing the LDWA groups together and bringing new faces into the fold.

All that remains is to thank each and every one of you who have supported me as CWC to put on the marvellous events we host. It really couldn't be done without you all. Diolch yn fawr.

Peace, love and happy hiking!
Jamie Lewis, Challenge walks coordinator

South Wales LDWA Annual Accounts 2024-25

Below are our annual accounts for 2024-25. These have been reviewed and accepted by the independent examiner.

| Data from Bank | | Reconciliation | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|
| Opening balance 1st Oct 2024 | £5,036.79 | Revenue | £6,217.42 |
| | | | - |
| Closing Balance 30th September 2025 | £7,967.59 | Expenditure | £3,286.62 |
| Balance change | £2,930.80 | Balance change | £2,930.80 |

Revenue

| | |
|---|-----------|
| SI entries RRC25 | £4,687.28 |
| Merchandise sales | £345.14 |
| Xmas 2024 meal, members contributions | £185.00 |
| Speyside 100, CP contribution from NEC | £500.00 |
| Flower of Suffolk 100, CP contribution from NEC | £500.00 |

TOTAL INCOME £6,217.42

Expenditure

| | |
|--|------------|
| RRC25 expenses | -£1,654.55 |
| SW AGM2024 Hall hire & cakes | -£84.66 |
| Donation to Marigold Chain Charity | -£50.00 |
| Xmas 2024 meal, drinks, chocolates & cakes | -£606.50 |
| Awardspace annual subscription | -£90.92 |
| FLICKR subscription paid via Gerry | -£59.99 |
| Flower of Suffolk 100 marshal subsidies | -£740.00 |

TOTAL Spend -£3,286.62