

South Wales Long Distance Walkers Association

Minutes

Rogerstone Welfare Ground – 25.10.14

Present:

David Morgan, Claire Murray, Rob Wilkinson, Bruce Kennedy, Susan Wells, Gwyn Matthews, Judith Fox, Byron Davies, John Tinelli, Jason Winney, Huw James, Simon Pickering, Jo Johnstone, Andrew Williams, Cheryl Llewellyn, John Aggleton, Jane Aggleton, Rob Richardson, Gerry Jackson, Ann Nixon, Iona Nixon, Alwyn Nixon, Andrew Clabon, Aranka Pratt

Apologies:

Mike Batt, John Cunnane, Heather Holmes, Hugh Woodford, Alan Warrington, Trevor White, Grae Yeandle, Rod Hollands, Angela Williams, Arny Williams, John Gwatkin, Charlie Harris

2014 minutes reviewed and agreed.

Chairman's Report:

John Cunnane could not make the AGM and has decided to stand down as chairman. He asked that the following was read to the AGM.

I'm delighted that Bruce would like to be the Group Chairman. And John likewise as Social Secretary.

Consequently I'd like to tender my resignation as Chairman as of the date of the Committee. I do not in future seek any Committee or other posts or any roles of an organisational nature with the Group.

It has been a pleasure and an honour to act in the capacity of Chair. It is heartening to see how the Group has grown so strong and flourishing in recent years.

There has been a large growth in active membership, a big increase in the number, frequency and range or types of Group walks, and a much higher attendance at social walks,

Also notable is a major increased participation in challenge events including mounting more than one challenge walk each year, including the Group's own Hundred in 2014, and offering support to other Hundreds.

As an ordinary Group member I will of course like other members continue to attend suitable Group social walks and where possible also offer walks for the Group programme.

Many thanks to yourself, all the Committee and the Group as a whole for your support during the last years and see you soon on a walk!

Regards,

John.

Treasurer's Report:

Rob Wilkinson produced the group's accounts. The accounts were still very healthy due to the income from the Where Ravens Dare challenge walk. The total income for the last financial year had been £2790 and the group had spent £2972. The balance is currently £4306.

Rob outlined that the Rhondda Rollercoaster is the major income producer for the group, and because it was mothballed in 2014 for the Valleys 100, he had been cautious with his expenditure until he had learned of what the group would receive from the V100.

The total spent on the two social trips was £1000 in 2014. The subsidy was smaller due to the insecurity of the income. The expectation for 2015 is that the subsidy for the social trips will increase in 2015.

Some money was held in T-shirt stock.

The WRD had made a profit of £581.

Rob also stated that helpers who worked on the annual 100 (East Lancs in 2015) would receive full expenses re petrol based on a car sharing policy. All members who attend the Christmas meal will receive a free drink.

Walks Secretary Report:

Claire Murray outlined that the previous year had been successful with many varied walks available.

The online walk planner was being used but some walk leaders were not putting enough detail on in time for publication to Strider. In future, if the required detail was not placed on the planner, then if after a phone call, the walk leader had not put that detail on the planner in time for publication to Strider, then the walk would be pulled.

Claire also pointed out that if members organised a walk, but that it was not published in Strider and the national LDWA website, then the walk would not be covered by the LDWA public liability insurance.

Claire pointed out that there had been some issues with the South Wales LDWA walks programme section not propagating quickly but that Jason Winney & Gerry Jackson (webmasters) were working on resolving this issue.

Facebook:

David Morgan outlined some statistics relating to the group's Facebook page.

We currently have 264 people following the activities of the group.

He said that the average views on a post was 170.
However, during the year there have been some notable highlights.

Exmoor Social Weekend – 466 views.
Valleys 100 video post – 1450 views.
Rod Hollands returning to HQ after 200 miles video – 1525 views.
V100 from a marshals' perspective – 1255 views.
Updates on Rod Hollands' progress on his 200 miles – 941 views.

The Facebook page was a success and worked well alongside our established website.

Election of Officers:

Chairman – Bruce Kennedy	Proposer – Claire Murray Secunder – Rob Wilkinson
Secretary – David Morgan	Proposer – John Tinelli Secunder – Bruce Kennedy
Treasurer – Rob Wilkinson	Proposer – David Morgan Secunder – Jo Johnstone
Walks Secretary – Claire Murray	Proposer – Sue Wells Secunder – Judith Fox
Social Secretary – John Tinelli	Proposer – Rob Wilkinson Secunder – Alwyn Nixon
Event Secretary - VACANT	

Group Challenge Events:

The WRD and RR were to continue due to their popularity.

The WRD date has already been booked for the 3rd October 2015.
An acceptance that the WRD was a smaller event than the RR and that we should accept and be happy with 120 / 150 entrants.

Gerry Jackson said that it might be a mistake to run the WRD for too long and that after a certain period of time, the event would naturally end giving the group an opportunity to create a new event.

Jo Johnstone asked if the time of year was an issue for the WRD and David Morgan said that several events in the autumn seemed to suffer in comparison to the events held in the spring. He said that the WRD was a viable event.

Taith Torfaen:

Bruce Kennedy outlined that Dorset Group were not going to run the Dorset Giant in 2016 as they are hosting the '100'.

He outlined the prospect of the group running the Taith Torfaen as a 'one off' event in 2016. It would be a 50 mile event based on a figure of eight route from Pontypool.

Bruce went on to say that the proposal to the group was to run the TT in early April and then the RR a month later, but that the WRD would be mothballed for a year.

He outlined the advantages of running the events in close proximity. Some left over food from the TT would be used on the RR.

He accepted that the group might view the close proximity as a disadvantage but that because RR was a big income for the group, that it was hoped that the membership would go with the proposal.

Rob Richardson questioned the need to run the events so close together and wondered whether it was too much to ask of volunteers.

David Morgan pointed out that the TT would only be run if people accepted now that they would be working on the creation of the event as opposed to just turning up when a small number of volunteers had done all the hard work. He also pointed out that the group could probably expect to receive help from Bristol & West / Cornwall & Devon LDWA groups because the TT would form part of the Southern Triple Challenge.

By a vote of 19 / 1 it was agreed that the group should organise both the TT and RR.

Volunteers were asked for:

- Gwyneth Littlejohn had already offered to look after entries.
- Sue & Bruce said they'd look after the marshals for the CP's.
- Normal Lloyd said she'd organise and buy food for the midway meal at 25 miles.
- Cheryl Llewellyn said she'd organise and buy food for the finish meal.
- Claire Murray said she'd organise and buy food for all of the identified checkpoints.

- Jason Winney said he'd look after the route description for the southern loop.
- David Morgan said he'd look after the route description for the northern loop.
- Rob Wilkinson & John Tinelli said they'd book the host venue and checkpoints.
- The computing would be organised by Huw James.
- Rob Wilkinson would look after Transport.
- Ann Nixon would look after merchandise.

Social Trips:

The group has planned to go to Pembrokeshire at the end of June 2015 and will be using Newport as a base.

A discussion took place as to whether the group would go to Church Stretton or Brighton in September 2015.

John Tinelli outlines that the South Downs were a beautiful area that he knew well and he would lead both walks.

He said that it was a 4 hour drive to Brighton.

The option of going to Church Stretton was explored and both Rob Wilkinson and Claire Murray outlined the opportunities.

It's a 2 hour drive.

There are 2 hostels in the Church Stretton area with plenty of opportunities to eat in the town centre.

There was also camping available.

Two people voted to go to Brighton with the remainder opting for Church Stretton.

Christmas Meal:

Several people have booked their meal for the Christmas walk. David asked people to contact him if they were coming but hadn't booked to date.

Next year, a prospect of walking from Llangynidir was being explored by Sue Wells.

Donation to Marie Curie:

Norma Lloyd asked the group to consider donating to Marie Curie. She is travelling to Tanzania in the New Year and in doing so is raising money for Marie Curie.

Rob Wilkinson outlined that normally the group donates 5% of our income from the challenge events.

The group agreed to donate £200 to Marie Curie. Rob Wilkinson outlined that this was not to be a precedent and that donations would depend on the group's income in the future.

Badge Design Competition:

Won by John Tinelli for both WRD and RR.

Due to limited numbers of WRD, it was decided that with a minimum of 250 badges to be ordered, it might not be wise.

250 badges would be ordered for the RR.

John Tinelli would now receive a cheque to pay him for one year's membership of the LDWA as a prize.

AOB:

Jo Johnstone - 100 Checkpoints:

Jo Johnstone updated the group on her responsibility for organising the '100' volunteers.

2015 is in East Lancs and she already has 9 volunteers and that if anyone else wished to join her team on the trip north, then they were to contact her.

In 2015, they would arrange their own accommodation for the Friday night, that they would then go to the start to wave the group members off on their 100 mile walk.

Then they would open up their checkpoint and once their responsibilities had ended, would sleep at the hall before returning to Walk HQ to welcome South Wales members back.

2016 would be in Dorset and she was committed to organising the 2017 volunteers for North Yorkshire.

Sue Wells - Backmarkers:

Sue Wells asked whether walk leaders should have back markers. She had noticed that some people spent all day supporting slower walkers at the rear but that others didn't take their turns.

Gwyn Matthews said that it was the responsibility of all walkers to check the walkers behind them, particularly at turns.

Bruce Kennedy said that it was nice to have different company at the rear of a group and that it was the responsibility for all to spend some time at the rear.

It was hoped that more people would spend more time at the rear and that some walk leaders would ask individuals to take a turn as a back marker.

Gerry Jackson - On-Line Shop:

Gerry Jackson asked if it was appropriate to keep the on-line shop open now

that the 100 was finished. It had been thought that we might make use of it on our website with our T-shirts.

It was accepted that we had no need for it anymore and Gerry would now close the account.

Claire Murray - T-Shirts:

Claire Murray said that she would order more T-shirts. They had been very popular on our challenge events. Ann Nixon offered to take on the role of looking after the wicking T-shirts.

John Tinelli - Social Secretary:

John Tinelli outlined how he was going to try and organise non walking nights out. This might include curry nights / bowling / quiz nights. More information to follow via the email address book.

Rob Wilkinson - Mid-week walking programme:

Rob Wilkinson asked if it was possible to organise a mid-week programme, particularly in the summer. Considered to be a good idea and Claire would modify the walk planner to enable this to take place.

Andrew Clabon – Thank-You:

Andrew outlined that 25 years ago he had been involved in organising a '100'. Then there had been a small committee. He had also been a committee member for the 2014 '100' and had noted that the work required had increased.

He wanted to recognise and thank David Morgan for his commitment to the group, for raising its profile and for the work he had undertaken when organising the Valleys 100.

Bruce Kennedy – Special Presentation:

Bruce presented Gwyn Matthews with a bespoke 1:25,000 map centred on his home address as a thank-you for his commitment and dedication to the group as a recent committee member.