

MANCHESTER AND DISTRICT WALKERS (MR50)

COMMITTEE MEETING

7th June 2023, Mayfield Park

AGENDA AND REPORTS

Agenda item	Requested by
1. Welcome	OF/MVDZ
2. Apologies	ALL
3. Acceptance of April committee meeting minutes	ALL
4. Review of actions from last meeting	ALL
5. Pricing policy to be approved	TW
6. Christmas party	KR
7. Code of conduct	MVDZ
8. 20 year anniversary	MVDZ
9. A.O.B.	ALL
10. Date of the next Committee.	SK

Summary of actions from last meeting
ACTION 1: T SHIRTS 5 designs made and possible supplier lined up. OF and KR to take forward t-shirts designs/processes including asking members preference. Settled on 3 designs. KR/OF - Female fit to also be added. Should be available to be ordered by mid May. Competition open to win a t-shirt
ACTION 2: Ramblers website Ramblers website – needs looking into further but they are updating their system. Requested to add walks to the Rambler’s website - AE/LR to see about automating this system. Agreed to look at this later in the year once updates to the Ramblers system have been completed.
ACTION 3: Website AE/LR - Monthly reports to be published on the website MZ to add minutes to Facebook OF to add AGM minutes to website AE/LR - Need to adjust sign up system due to number of glitches at the moment
ACTION 4: Automatic email for non members signing up for walks including FAQs AE/LR to look into this or the possibility of using a system like Mailchimp.
ACTION 5: MAD MAD now biggest group in the area! MVDZ to put a message out about this when we reach 600 members.
ACTION 6: University social prescribing To look at possible links with university hiking group/joint walk – ideally reach out to younger members to lead AR contacted social prescriber there, but not yet heard back
ACTION 7: Pricing Policy Pricing surplus policy draft is ongoing Policy to be adapted to suits current needs – TW/KZ/MVDZ/OF to adapt, including making it a ‘discretionary £1 surplus’ AE/LR - to add note saying policy suspended until amended version is completed AL/TW to process refunds for New Years weekend – send email to get details, adding a deadline to provide information. Info gathered and payment in process.
ACTION 8: Badges Badges – now low on stock. Agreed that it would be a good idea to order more in the future. Possibility of having a ‘standard’ design as well as a special edition e.g. LGBTQ+ design. Charlotte is working on the new designs
ACTION 9: Meetup Meetup – TW to help AR to test walks on Meetup. Selective walks to be added as well as the monthly socials. Meetup – walks now added. Agreed it would be good to continue paying for this for now – shared costs with Weekend Walkers, now increased to £35 per 6 months.
ACTION 10: Walk Leader Diversity Agreed a buddy system may be a good idea to help improve the confidence of new walk leaders – volunteer mentors from within the group? MZ to message on FB

AR to let committee know when new walk leader to try get committee member attending KR to arrange social to discuss new walk leaders, anxieties etc
ACTION 11: Whatsapp Policy needed around best practice, guidelines and possible risks. OF to write policy and to add to website. Agreed it shouldn't be a live link on website – instead people to sign up and walk leaders to email everyone link.
ACTION 12: Data retention LD to delete walk sign up sheets once membership emails have been sent (approx 4 months). KR and TW/KZ to do the same for socials and weekends.
ACTION 13: Summer Party KR to look into booking Disley again and to arrange a date for the summer
ACTION 14: NYE Push to find someone to organize a NYE weekend
ACTION 15: Facebook membership OF/MVDZ/LD to check membership is up to date
ACTION 16: Social media KR to ask permission to use people's photos for social media posts
ACTION 17: Next Meeting SK to confirm next date for committee meeting (provisionally 7th June). Acknowledged that pubs are sometimes too noisy and to try find somewhere quieter.

REPORTS

Chair

Hi everyone,

We're halfway through the committee year and have had plenty of activities since the last committee meeting in April. First of all, we have seen the growth of the group in the last two years continue steadily, and a few weeks ago welcomed our 600th member to the group. This is thanks to all walk, social and weekend leaders, back markers, other helper-outs, and all of the committee for supporting the group. And no less to everyone joining our activities who keeps the group a welcoming and inclusive place.

With summer outdoor weather, since the last committee meeting 3 weekends have taken place and a good many evening walks and walks further away in areas we don't usually visit have taken place. A big thanks to Waleed, Julian, Katherine and Shirley for leading their first walk with the group. As a committee we aim for one of us to be present at every new walk leader's walk, and if you are thinking of leading your first walk and would like someone to help with a recce or with planning the walk please get in touch and we will support you in this. On that note, we also have a walk leader conversation social in the pipeline where you can discuss what leading a walk is like and get top tips from experienced walk leaders.

A good many socials have also taken place in the last two months – keep your eyes peeled for the summer BBQ happening on 5th August. A massive thanks to Katie for organising this year's edition! A special thanks also to Alex for putting on a first committee walk – walking the Kinder Trespass route. We'll look into putting this on again so please come along for anything you want to discuss with the committee, or just for a lovely hike.

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Last but not least, you can now order your very own MADWalkers design t-shirt. A massive thanks to Charlotte for the impressive designs on the t-shirts! And thank you also to Oli and Katie for getting this organised, head to the website to order one of the various designs, colours and types to choose from.

See you on a walk soon,
Marieke
Co-chair Manchester and District Walkers

Secretary

I have been busy organizing walks, socials and weekends over the past 2 months. The Thorpe Cloud weekend was really successful, with everyone enjoying some sunny weather and beautiful scenery. Thank you to Katie for a great Alton Towers social afterwards too.

We are continuing to have plenty of interest in the group via Facebook, with several new people reporting back how much they have enjoyed their first walk.

The Greater Manchester area is in the process of co-ordinating some joint walks, including those promoting the GM Ringway and working with the National Trust to tie in a tour Castlefield Viaduct at the start of a walk.

Walks Co Ordinator -

Since the April report the group has delivered 44 more walks, the majority public transport based. The recent fine weather and multiple May bank holidays have been optimised by our leaders, thank you for all the walks you have led. Great to see so many options on the calendar to suit all tastes. Train strikes remain an issue, thanks to those leaders whose plans were yet again affected for offering alternatives or rearranging. Well done to Waleed, Julian, Katherine and Shirley on leading their first walks for the group.

In attempt to enhance collaboration with the university wellbeing service who promote our group to students, I'm in the process of trying to arrange a joint walk and presence at the welcome event for new students in September. Fingers crossed we can get something in the diary soon. Thanks to James Brett for sourcing 4 new pairs of radios for the group at a bargain price, walk leaders can contact me if they wish to make use of these.

An email update was sent to all recent walk leaders in April to summarise the work the committee are doing to support them and including some reminders of good practice on walks. We've posted a request for walks to be submitted at least 5 working days in advance where possible, to allow myself and the webmasters time to turn them around for our website during these busy times, as well as submitting requests for new walk start/meet/end locations prior to the walk submission. The usual reminder to walk leaders to let me know who your backmarkers are, via email walks@madwalkers.org.uk or a post in the Facebook members group, so they can be in with a chance of a prize at the AGM this year.

Membership Secretary -

As of 4th June, the current membership level is **601** in the real-time figure on the full list. Reaching in excess of 600 members is a great achievement for the group and is a testament to all the hard work that the volunteers put in to help retain and gain members.

Since the last report (dated 11st April 2023) **22 new members have joined** (19 are new to the Ramblers and 3 are new to the group). **26 members have left** in this reporting period (15 have lapsed, 9 have resigned and 2 have moved group).



Summary Dashboard - MR50 Mad Walkers (Manchester & District) Group



Figures are produced once a month at the end of the month so the dashboard only includes completed months and all figures refer to the amount at the end of the month unless stated otherwise.

Certain figure from December 2021 to February 2022 may be high or lower than we would normally expect, this is due to The Ramblers changing supporter databases in this period which meant some membership function took a few months to resume normal operations

Active Members by Group

Year
FY 2023

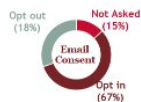
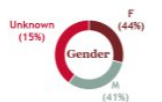
Member Status

Active

Month
May

Graphs showing Active members for month end May, FY 2023

561



Nation/Area/Group

Group

MR50 Mad Walkers (Manchester & District) Group

Members/Memberships

Members

Active + PP Members - Start of Month

596

New Members

14

Rejoiners

5

Transfers In

4

Leaver

-17

Transfers Out

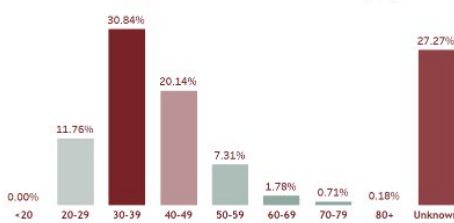
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Net Growth

6

Active + PP Members - End of Month

602

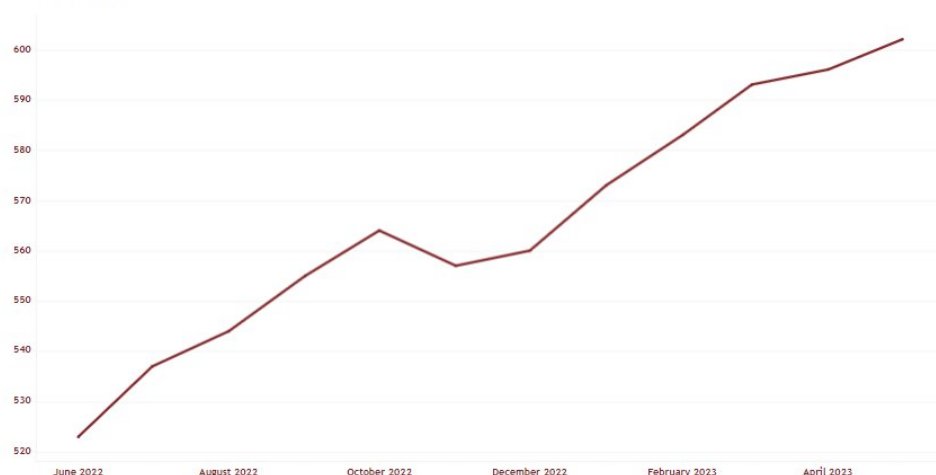


Member Changes in the last 12 months - Members

Graph Choice

Members

Figure from December 2021 to February 2022 may be high or lower than we would normally expect, this is due to The Ramblers changing supporter databases in this period which meant some membership function took a few months to resume normal operations



Area/Group/Nation

Group

MR50 Mad Walkers (Manchester & District) Group

Treasurer -

Another busy period for the MAD Bank Account. Summary, the bank balance stands at £4,952.74 as of Monday 5th June. When you take away future weekends/events, this gives a truer reflection of the accounts and we call this the Management Balance. This stands at £5,082.74 so looking really healthy overall. See below extract.

This period, we have invested in radios, £80 and First Aid Kits, £14.97. Normally we would use the funds that Ramblers HQ give us for items like this but because our "Self-Funded" Section of the account is doing so well, I thought I would use this money for the new equipment. A few new weekends have gone on the accounts, Claxby, Shap, Belfast and Chiltern.

Glenridding Weekend sounded like a success and this finished with a surplus of £10.30 which is ideal because we are wanting to move away from weekends making large profits. In this period, I arranged a number of refunds for the New Year Weekend. £10 per individual. Not everyone provided bank details but we were able to give back £260 bringing the profit to £167.74.

Yvonne organised a Easter Egg Social to raise money for MAD. This raised £24.50 which is really nice to see and can be put towards the new radios.

We've not had our Q3 Funding allocation from Ramblers HQ I have noticed writing this report, £158.08. I will chase the Area Treasurer to see what is happening. That will make the "Main" Section of the account look more healthier than £0.17.

Main & Self-funded account transactions 01/10/2022-30/09/2023			Profit/Loss in this Financial Year			Profit/Loss Overall (since 01.10.2018)			Cashflow Totals in this Financial Year	
Event	Ref	Description	Main	Self funded	Total	Main	Self funded	Total	Income	Expense
Opening Balance (01/10/2022)			107.16	7,423.71	7,530.87					
INCURRED										
Weekends	WK09	Beverley Weekend		-203.30	-203.30		69.40	69.40	0.00	-203.30
	WK0423	Glenridding Weekend		80.30	80.30		10.30	10.30	675.00	-594.70
	WK11	Claxby Weekend		-50.00	-50.00		-50.00	-50.00	0.00	-50.00
	NY22	Bamburgh - New Year 2022-23		-1,440.26	-1,440.26		167.74	167.74	2,970.00	-4,410.26
	WK12	Shap - 2024		-950.00	-950.00		-950.00	-950.00	0.00	-950.00
	WK13	Belfast Weekend		1,140.00	1,140.00		1,140.00	1,140.00	1,140.00	0.00
	WK14	Chiltern Weekend		-270.00	-270.00		-270.00	-270.00	0.00	-270.00
Socials	CZ22	Chester Zoo		-154.00	-154.00		0.00	0.00	154.00	-308.00
	CANAL23	Canal Boat Social		0.04	0.04		0.04	0.04	170.00	-169.96
	XMAS22	XMAS DO 2023		-213.00	-213.00		-213.00	-213.00	750.00	-963.00
	KINDER23	Easter Walk		24.50	24.50		24.50	24.50	24.50	0.00
Miscellaneous	BADGES	MAD Walkers Badges		88.50	88.50		70.43	70.43	103.70	-15.20
	PB23	Social Media Advertising		-195.00	-195.00		-195.00	-195.00	0.00	-195.00
	EQUIP	Equipment		-94.97	-94.97		-212.95	-212.95	0.00	-94.97
	Tshirts	Tshirts		-34.00	-34.00		-34.00	-34.00	0.00	-34.00
	PR22	AGM Prizes 2022		-199.95	-199.95	-199.95		-199.95	0.00	-199.95
Ramblers funds	RACH	Income from Ramblers	316.16		316.16	1,300.04		1,300.04	316.16	0.00
	AGM	AGM 2022 cost	-353.15		-353.15	-700.65		-700.65	0.00	-353.15
	Meetup	Meetup Subs	-70.00		-70.00	-70.00		-70.00	0.00	-70.00
Closing Balance - Overall										
			0.17	4,952.57	4,952.74				6,303.36	-8,881.49



Social Secretary

Social calendar still healthy with some first time social hosts stepping up.

Summer BBQ is confirmed with places to go on sale mid-June so we can confirm final numbers to the venue by mid-July.

Need to make a decision on Christmas Party - do we want this to be December or January?

Communications And Social Media

Still struggling to find so much time for this but am keeping things ticking over. Social media is still a strong source of new members according to anecdotal evidence.

Webmaster

Since the last committee meeting we have seen a big increase in interest in scrambling walks as we can see more looking at the information page for it. As for the stability of the site - we have experienced some issues with the booking forms. We are now regularly checking these to try and get on top of this. There have been some problems with committee members emails not getting through to some gmail and hotmail accounts. This has been raised with our email provider to see if they can help resolve this.

Weekends Co Ordinator

Many thanks to Sarah for organising the Thorpe Cloud DIY weekend which was universally enjoyed. Thank you also to Mike for organising a brilliant DIY weekend to Fort William, including booking Scotland's two annual days of sun. Our Glenridding weekend also seemed to go well. There are 10 weekends on the calendar including the following in the next couple of months:

- DIY Llyn Peninsula camping, 16-18 June, Jack Swait
- DIY Braemar, Cairngorms, 13-18 July, Miranda Phillips
- DIY Borrowdale glamping/camping, 18-20 August, Catherine Elliott
- DIY Edinburgh, 25-28 August, Maike Dent

Many thanks to all weekend organisers.

However, the major news is that Graham Holmes has organised a MAD ski trip to Sauze D'Oulx, Italy on 7-14 January 2024. Many thanks to Graham who has put an enormous amount of work into it in a short timeframe. Payments made are covered by ATOL, of which we now have a detailed knowledge. The widely held view of the committee is that of delight that is an official MAD weekend.

As part of general GDPR housekeeping, we have emailed all weekend organisers reminding them to delete any personal data collected whilst organising weekends.

Please can all members ensure they respond to emails from weekend organisers promptly and transfer money by the set deadlines.