



MANCHESTER AND DISTRICT WALKERS (MR50)

COMMITTEE MEETING

11 December 2024, 19.00 Friends' Meeting House

AGENDA AND REPORTS

Agenda item	Requested by	Time
1. Welcome	ES	
2. Apologies	LE	
3. Acceptance of minutes of Manchester and District Walkers Constitution and standing orders for forthcoming committee	ES	
4. Acceptance of minutes from previous meeting.	All	
5. Housekeeping- allocation of duties, use of WhatsApp group, communication preferences and delegation of Facebook messenger and MAD (public) Facebook page and instagram enquiries.	ES	
6. Committee members on leave/away for extended period – process to let others know/manage duties (for those not in shared roles)		
7. Women's walk leader training navigation training date being sought for early 2025. Marieke and Ellie to organise. Funding already agreed from MAD budget and donation. Then ES/MVDZ to put on a walk leader training walk. ES - Idea to also do a navigation/walk ideas social – talk about routes/maps/navigation questions at a pub/bar (quiet enough to talk) in central Manchester. Walk leader training open to all. ES to ask Margaret about whether we can get funding/top-up from area funding.		
8. Women's/Men's only walks proposals by members to lead women's only walks to create safe spaces and for certain events e.g. international women's day. Also idea for men's only walks for men's mental health awareness week. Not to become a regular thing or spaces to criticize/spread hate – promote as safe spaces. ES to check with Margaret/area that this would be allowed		

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9. Young Ramblers weekend – SK/sub-committee to update/see if need any assistance		
10. Ramblers insurance – can only cover 2 activities at a walk, social or weekend e.g. walking and accommodation, or walking and travel organized, but not all three. We may be perceived as a travel/tour operator. Take note for socials and weekends. To add to weekend and socials organisers' guidance.		
11. Review of actions from the last meeting.	All	
12. AOB	ALL	

Summary of actions from last meeting	Update 11/12/2024
Action 1 – Update on complaints; OCF to check with Margaret Manning/ John Ireland how to minute confidential complaints as a deterrent to group.	Complete
Action 2- Women Walk leader training; Marieke to book part 2 of the walk leader training with the excess funding.	Discussed during meeting, reference minutes.
Action 3- Bothy Bags; Walk leader co-ordinators to speak to walk leader about carrying bothy bags.	Seems like an extreme requirement, also causes a logistical issue with transferring between walk leaders. There is no intention to make this a requirement when leading walks, not necessary for every walk. Not currently seen as a high priority of use for the funding. Closed.
Action 4 – Scrambles; Committee decided to put cap on number of people on scrambles. Walk co-ordinators to action this.	ACTION Automatic 20 person cap to be applied on the website when a scramble is uploaded.
Action 5 – Update on complaints; OCF to check with Margaret Manning/ John Ireland how to minute confidential complaints as a deterrent to group. Complete.	When minuting a confidential matter at a committee meeting, we should say ‘a confidential matter was discussed’ also mention whether the topic has been dealt with or passed up to Ramblers area. ACTION ES to check if we can minute this.
Action 6 – New volunteers; OCF tidy up post on website/ Facebook and for socials organisers registered as volunteer. Action 7 – webmasters to update submission form with tick box for socials to ask if registered as volunteer/ postcode to register as volunteer	Complete
Action 8 -Weekends Policy; OCF has changed the wording on the weekend policy. Complete.	Complete
Action 9: Young Ramblers Weekend; Sarah Kendall to look into organizing this/setting up a group of people to help with this. Sarah Kendall is in contact with Becca to discuss the National Young Ramblers Weekend and setting up a sub-committee	Discussed during meeting, reference minutes
Action 10- Women walk leader training (donation from CWU); Marieke to update Beth and get the training organized with women walk leader training. Marieke has booked first part of the training for 16th November with Beth Craigen. Oli Fearn has thanked CWU formally and invited them to MAD drinks.	Complete
Action 11- AGM; CRT/SK to find a venue for social after AGM. Action 12– ST to feature member roles for the committee on Instagram/FB Complete.	Complete
Action 13 – Yorkshire Dales Explorer Ticket Draw up a post on handing out 6 free tickets to do walk reccies on that specific line. Sam Towers has posted about this on FB. Charlie SB has taken tickets for his walk.	Complete

Complete.	
Action 14 - In Case of Emergency Cards. CRT to put out a post on putting emergency cards on phone. Ongoing.	ACTION LE to put a post on facebook
Action 15 – Update on female walk leader training / other training ES/SK/JB to find a Saturday to put on a general walk leader navigation day. To arrange after women’s navigation training. Ongoing	Discussed in the meeting, reference the minutes.
Action 16 - Footpath maintenance / volunteering; Marieke to put the walk co-ordinators in touch with footpath officers. Ongoing. Get update from Ed Cooper/Joanna Wallens.	ACTION ES to get the update from Ed and Joanna and put the walk coordinators in touch with footpath officers. We also discussed volunteering opportunities for tree planting with ES.
Action 17 – Member Stories for 20th Anniversary ST to look for 4 more member stories from the group for 20th anniversary to social media and website too. ST has two contributions from the wider group plus one for herself. Several committee members have now also volunteered (Marieke and Ellie). Ongoing	ACTION to refresh the member stories which are currently on the website.
Action 18– Use of WhatsApp communities as another communication channel ST to set up WhatsApp communities as an official mad channel. To close down as an action.	Closed
Action 19 – Safeguarding signposting on website. Desi to add signposting on safeguarding on website. Complete	Now shut down

REPORTS - Some reports are missing due to short timeline between joining the committee and having the first meeting.

Chair (Ellie)

My first month in the role has seen me attend the Grater Manchester and High Peak AGM on Saturday 30th November. It was interesting to meet members/officers from other groups and hear about things happening in the wider area.

Some points from the Area AGM were:

- GM Ringway – Andrew would like someone to take over the social media/communications side of the route. He is very busy and although this may not take up a lot of time, it needs some time given to it and some skills in creating and sharing content to promote the route. If anyone is interested, they can contact me (chair@madwalkers.org.uk) or get in touch with info@gmringway.org

More information can be found here: <https://www.gmringway.org/get-involved/>

- Proposal to update the Ramblers Articles to reflect Gender neutrality:

Updating of Ramblers Articles of Association for Gender Neutrality

“This General Council asks the Board of Trustees to prepare special motions to a future General Council to update the main body of the Ramblers Articles of Association so that the document is fully gender neutral.”

- Many of you will have noticed the Ramblers WALK magazine only came in an online version last month as a trial run. What did you think of this? Many at the Area AGM preferred having the paper version, or at least, the choice to have a paper version or online version, or have an online version that is downloadable and comes with extra content e.g. videos, links
- This New Year’s Day, The Ramblers Association is 90! Woo! And we have been round for just over 1/5 of that period!

More information can be found here: <https://walk.ramblers.org.uk/90-years-of-the-ramblers/>

*There is a winter photo competition – “**miles of smiles**’ to share your happiest rambling shots – with a chance to win a two night hotel break for two! Deadline is 10 January 2025

I know we have a lot of smiles on pictures of our walks (some may be with gritted teeth as hail rains down, but it is still a smile) so there may be a winning shot there!

Part 1 of the Women’s Walk Leader Training on 16th November was a success and thoroughly enjoyed, with confidence and skills gained! Navigation Training (open to all) is in the works for early next year so keep an eye out for that.

I look forward to being your Chair this year and keeping things moving forward, one step at a time (let’s see how many walking puns I can get in this year!)

Ellie

Secretary (Lottie)

Not much to report yet, just had my handover with Camilla and set up the first meeting for the 11th December. The intention is to go through the agenda and reports in the first meeting for any of the new committee

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members who aren't familiar with this.

Walks Co Ordinator (Mike)

Membership Secretary (James)

I received a handover from Alice Cleary on 25/11/24 and have access to the Mailchimp account. I already had access to the walk sign up sheets. Alice requested to Ramblers that they transfer access to the Membership Insight Hub to me, I have since send them an email myself but I have only had the automated acknowledgement of receipt. Without access it will be hard to perform my role.

MAD Stats – not available

Treasurer (Natalie)

Social Secretary (Chip)

Communications And Social Media (Katie and Ed)

Webmaster (Desi and Rob)

Weekends Co Ordinator (Miranda)