

MANCHESTER AND DISTRICT WALKERS (MR50)

COMMITTEE MEETING

20 June 2024, 19.00 Online

AGENDA AND REPORTS

Agenda item	Requested by	Time
1. Welcome	MVDZ	
2. Apologies	OCF, KZ, TW, AE, CE	
3. Acceptance of minutes from February meeting. Vote to pass April minutes. CRT to put on FB.	All	
4. Update on Complaints	Confidential	
5. Group Behaviours and update from Ramblers	MVDZ	
6. Funding for women walk leader training	MVDZ	
7. Social Secretary Role	MVDZ	
8. Train tickets Yorkshire Dales explorer	MVDZ	
9. AGM planning - agree date/ committee next year (continuing/finding successors)/ volunteer to help Camilla in organising venue	CRT / MVDZ	
10. Emergency Cards	CRT	
11. Membership Renewals	AC	
12. Review of actions from the last meeting.	ALL	
13. AOB	ALL	

Summary of actions from last meeting	Update 19/06/2024
T-Shirts Update Action 1 – OCF to put out to group if anyone has a suggestion for a new provider	
Badges Sales Update Action 2- OCF to put out some communication for the launch of the badges to website / FB communications. Action 3 – SK has kindly volunteered to help with sales.	
Update on female walk leader training / other training Action 4: MVDZ to meet with Beth next week. Action 5 – ES/SK/JB to find a Saturday to put on a general walk leader navigation day. Action 6 - MVDZ to meet with Beth next week.	
20 th Anniversary Party update Action 7 - KR to ask venue about preloading drinks. Action 8 – ES/SK/JB/ All to look at putting on 20th anniversary themed walk (20 mile walk or 20 kilometre walk being options etc).	
Footpath maintenance / volunteering	
Member Stories for 20 th Anniversary Action 10 - 4 more member stories from the group for 20th anniversary to social media and website too. Stories from ppl who set up MAD. Action 11 - MDVZ to contact Weekend Walkers' chair.	
Use of WhatsApp communities as another communication channel Action 12 – ST to set up WhatsApp communities as an official mad channel.	
Sponsorship for FB/Instagram Action 13 CE to look at sponsorship/ target specific groups.	
Link to walking policy in sign up form. Action 14 – DP/AE/RP to look into the possibility for there to be a link to walking policy when signing up for walk on the form.	
Social media marketing on walk grading Action 15– ST /CE to do some social media marketing on what strenuous/moderate etc means.	
20 th anniversary flags. Action 16 - OCF to order a flag for 20th anniversary celebrations.	



REPORTS

Chair (Oli and Marieke)

Dear MAD Walkers,

Another great couple of months as regards the walks calendar with several weekends boasting 4 or 5 walks to choose from. The socials calendar has been equally busy and incredibly varied, as is the weekends away schedule, with us shortly to have a weekend in Bala to celebrate our 20th Anniversary.

We have had a collaborative hike with our pals from up the East Lancs Road – Liverpool's Fillyaboots and more joint walks have been proposed to other groups.

Our Dog Policy is now in effect with all dogs on lead at all times, for more details check the website. Thanks to those who provided feedback and opinion.

T shirts had a small absence due to a supplier going out of business, but these are almost ready for a relaunch - there's several designs available and will be available to members on a print on demand basis directly from our supplier. Same set up as before - we won't over order, and there's no financial risk to our group.

We have also been offered a small amount of free local train travel to celebrate some new hill-bound services, details to follow, with many thanks to Owain Roberts.

We are just past half way through the Committee year. If anyone has an interest in getting involved in 2024-2025 or wants to know more about it, speak to us informally, chat with any of the committee members, or attend a committee meeting to get a feel for how things run.

Happy hiking,
Oli and Marieke

Secretary (Camilla)

Thanks for Steven for showing interest in joining our next week. Any members are welcome to get in touch to join one of our meetings. We are looking at emergency cards in this meeting as a point for discussion as to whether these should be handed out to members and promoted from our side. Otherwise I'm starting to look at dates and organizational aspects for the AGM and succession planning.

Walks Co Ordinator (James, Ellie and Sarah)

Since the last report there have been 50 walks (30 Saturday, 14 Sunday, 6 Midweek) led or co-led by 34 walks leaders.

Please keep the walks coming in, especially for Sundays, and, with summer here, midweek evenings. 50 is a lot of walks, but more are always welcome! Please also keep dropping us a note of back markers.

As always, trains are subject to last minute cancellations and rail strikes, but this may change after 04/05...or not. However, in some exciting news, the new Yorkshire Dales Explorer Service has started up! Every Saturday there will be 2 return services between Rochdale and Carlisle, calling at stations which include Manchester

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Victoria - Bolton - Blackburn - Clitheroe - Settle - Ribblesdale and Carlisle. This helps open up the Yorkshire Dales to public transport based walks.

Also, in other exciting public transport news, a new bus service started in April in Lancashire between Clitheroe and Horton in Ribblesdale that connects-up villages in the Forest of Bowland, which helps another area be reached.

Radios: we have five identical pairs to lend to walk leaders. If you believe any are not working as they should (e.g. short battery life) or have any other questions about them, please get in touch.

There is one pair of radios we have been unable to locate at the moment.

At the moment, to our knowledge, people who have radio sets are:

Set 1 - Sarah Kendall

Set 2 - Sam Towers

Set 3 - ?

Set 4 - Paul Moore

Set 5 - Steven O'Hare

If you have the unaccounted pair, don't worry, just let us know and hold on to the pair for now. Or if you are going on a walk/social, take it with you to pass onto a walk leader or to pass it onto a committee member.

Many thanks,

Ellie Schenk

James Brett

Sarah Kendall

Membership Secretary (Alice)

Membership Update

We've stayed stable in terms of membership numbers with 602 members currently compared to 605 in the last report which is good to see!

Facebook Members Group

I've completed an exercise to compare our facebook membership to those with a Ramblers membership.

There are obviously some difficulties matching names on facebook but even taking this into account, there was a large number (around 110 out of the 430 in the group) that don't seem to have an active membership!

I plan to make a post to allow a final chance to renew before removal but I'd also welcome any other ideas of how to re-engage these individuals & ensure that everyone who comes on walks/socials is a member.

Actions going forward

To remove the need for this annual facebook clear out, I'll also now be adding a task to remove any leavers from the facebook page straight away once their membership expires. This is in addition to the recently added action of a reminder email ahead of membership expiry and I hope to see us retain members as a result.

Treasurer (Alex)

Since the last Committee Meeting, two weekends have concluded, Shap and Robin Hood's Bay. Looking at the overall profit, (columns in white), for both weekends, we have a surplus of over £410. I will speak to the weekend organisers to start to arrange partial refunds for the people who attended.

Money is starting to come in for the new badges, just under £150.

Socials continue to perform well with all coming in exactly on target with no profit/loss.

There are multiple active weekends, all of which are currently sat in large profit but these are awaiting payments for accommodation. So even though the bank balance as of 18/06/2024 is sat at £9,765.89, if you remove the active weekends, the true balance is £5,049.39.

Main & Self-funded account transactions 01/10/2023-30/09/2024			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 (01/10/2023)			316.33	7,116.08	7,432.41					
INCURRED										
Weekends	WK11	Claxby Weekend		-473.97	-473.97		-13.97	-13.97	60.00	-533.97
	WK12	Shap - 2024		541.82	541.82		151.82	151.82	2,230.00	-1,688.18
	WK13	Belfast Weekend		-2,603.04	-2,603.04		11.61	11.61	0.00	-2,603.04
	WK14	Chiltern Weekend		-181.70	-181.70		-358.70	-358.70	0.00	-181.70
	NY23	New Year 2023		696.51	696.51		44.37	44.37	1,015.00	-318.49
	WK15	Robin Hood's Bay Weekend		268.55	268.55		268.55	268.55	1,680.00	-1,411.45
	WK16	North Norfolk Coast		1,233.00	1,233.00		1,233.00	1,233.00	1,665.00	-432.00
	WK17	Gunernsey		220.50	220.50		220.50	220.50	1,137.00	-916.50
	WK18	Anglesey		652.00	652.00		652.00	652.00	800.00	-148.00
	WK21	Bullpot farm in Yorkshire Dales		190.00	190.00		190.00	190.00	240.00	-50.00
	WK23	Riga Weekend		1,300.00	1,300.00		1,300.00	1,300.00	1,300.00	0.00
	WK20	Bala Weekend		1,121.00	1,121.00		1,121.00	1,121.00	2,952.00	-1,831.00
Socials	AR23	Air raid shelter		-160.00	-160.00		0.00	0.00	90.00	-250.00
	HF24	House of Fu		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	279.00	-279.00
	Jan Pizza	Nellis Pizza		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	145.50	-145.50
	Kinder	Easter Social		17.00	17.00		17.00	17.00	17.00	0.00
	MK24	Karaoke		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	120.00	-120.00
	Roast	Sunday Roast Social		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	220.00	-220.00
	SW23	Santa Walk 2023		0.01	0.01		0.01	0.01	960.01	-960.00
Miscellaneous	Prize	AGM Prizes		-172.99	-172.99		-172.99	-172.99	0.00	-172.99
	BADGES24	Badges (2024 Onwards)		-195.21	-195.21		-195.21	-195.21	148.15	-343.36
	Error	Torbay - Incorrect Payment		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	42.00	-42.00
	BADGES	Badges (2020-24)		8.55	8.55		96.98	96.98	10.50	-1.95
Ramblers funds	RACH	Income from Ramblers	496.20		496.20	2,112.40		2,112.40	496.20	0.00
	AGM	AGM 2023 cost	-530.75		-530.75					



Communications And Social Media (Catherine and Sam)

On Instagram, through April and May we had a net gain of 77 followers, taking our total to 2326. The majority of our followers are still in the target age range with 48.7% age 25-34 and 36.2% age 35-44. The number of unique accounts reached was 1584. In this time we've shared 7 posts and 4 stories.

On Facebook, for the 90 days 20th March – 17th June we had a net gain of 39 followers, taking the total to 5383. Age demographic of followers is unchanged. Our reach over the 28 days was 9571. The posts on Facebook mirrored that on Instagram, though the posts were designed for Instagram as this audience has greater growth and is better suited for the target age.

For the Facebook members page, currently there are 447 members, which is similar to that at the last report (451). In the last 28 days there have been 66 posts, 144 comments and 841 reactions.

We do have 2 outstanding actions that come to mind. We received 2 member stories and hope to add our own, though any further submissions from the committee would be welcomed. I'd hope to start sharing these over the next couple of months. I'm also still looking to trial a WhatsApp group though haven't had the capacity to set this up yet.

Webmaster (Desi, Arthur and Rob)

Your trio of webmasters has done some great work in the last 2 months, despite all 3 of us being on holidays in the period. This proves once more that having a good work-life-balance is improving productivity.

Here's the actual list of changes:

- updating the message on walks to allow for assistance dogs and updating the dog policy (yes, again)
- walk booking forms updated with link to our guidelines and a tick box to confirm the signee agrees - this is an attempt to make people read and to point them to the right place. If nothing else this should increase the views of our policies index page (currently trending at 20-30 visits a month)
- home page has been updated with the new t-shirt store info (additional credits to Arthur, for arranging it)
- small bits and bobs on demand (keep them coming, James :D)

Best regards, Desi, Arthur and Rob

Weekends Co Ordinator

We are unable to attend the committee meeting on 20.06.2024. Our report is sent early & is correct as of 03.06.2024.

Many thanks to Enfys for organising the DIY weekend to Pembrokeshire and to Stephen and Sarah for organising the Yorkshire Three Peaks DIY weekend. Both went very well. Our Shap weekend also went well, with accommodation of various grades and prices available. This was an experiment that the committee approved, which we deem to have been successful.

There are 7 weekends on the calendar including the following in the next month or so:

- Robin Hood's Bay, 7 - 9 June, Mike Dent
- Guernsey, 21 - 24 June, Sarah Kendall and Stephen Jones
- Anglesey, 28 - 30 June, Katherine G
- Bullpot Farm, 5 - 7 July, Ellie Schenk and Joanna Wallens

There are still spaces on the Bullpot farm and Norfolk weekends. All other weekends are full or very nearly full.