

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION - BEDS BUCKS & NORTHANTS GROUP
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 20TH JANUARY 2012
AT 1 ABBEY WAY, BRADVILLE, MILTON KEYNES

The meeting commenced at 7.50pm

Present: Gill Bunker, Norman Corrin (Secretary), Dave Findel-Hawkins, Merrian Lancaster, Martin Lawson, Ian Sage (Treasurer), Nigel Schofield (Chairman), Gordon Shaughnessy, Lynn Yorston

Nigel thanked all present for attending the meeting and thanked Gill for hosting the meeting.

1. Apologies: Dee Brockway

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (7th October 2011) and Matters Arising

The Minutes were approved as a true record with no matters arising.

Minutes of AGM (27th November 2011) and Matters Arising

The Minutes were approved as a true record. Various matters arising would be dealt with during the meeting.

3. Officers' Reports

(a) Chairman – Nigel Schofield

Nigel's report:

First of all a very happy new year to you all and thanks to everyone who attended the AGM last November – you are always welcome to the AGM – there is a walk before and then lunch if you wish. It is not all administration but we are required under our membership of LDWA to hold an AGM. It is your walking club, please support it, not only by attending the walks.

There is not a lot to say at the moment other than this is the big year and not just for HM Queen or The Olympics. LDWA celebrates its 40th Anniversary in 2012.

If you are able to volunteer on the London Games 100 marshals' walk please contact Lynn and Dave Yorston. If you are able to help on the main event please contact Merrian Lancaster about Checkpoint 3 or myself to be a driver or helper with the retirees' collection and delivery to the Western HQ at Windsor.

A first in 2012 for me was to attend the Thursday walk on 12th January – 33 walkers! And at the start it was my privilege to present John Nickerson with a commemorative salver that recorded his immense contribution to BBN and indirectly to the LDWA for organising 10 Shillington Shuffles, 10 Steppingley Steps and eight years as BBN Treasurer. This was a remarkable example of the volunteering ethic, and on behalf of everyone in BBN I offered him our congratulations.

I hope that you all have a good walking year and stay healthy.

As always your Committee and others work tirelessly on your behalf to organise events and arrange a very full social walks programme and Thursday programme. Dee will always love to hear from you to propose a walk.

Please think what you could do for BBN and not necessarily what the BBN can do for you, and don't forget 'to have a great day out on a walk with BBN'.

Walks since the last meeting (some of them)

- 9 October – 12 mile stroll through Kent fruit orchards, scrumping galore
- 16 October – Sidmouth Saunter (25.5) DEVON AND CORNWALL
- 23 October – Founders Challenge (26) LONDON
- 6 November – Shillington Shuffle Marshals' (26) BBN
- 12 November – Haworth and the Brontes (20) LDWA Local Groups Reps Weekend
- 27 November – BBN AGM
- 4 December – Royston (17) BBN
- 2 January – Stansted Stagger (25) ESSEX and HERTS

- 15 January – From the Dog House (9) BBN

Walks planned (some of them)

- 21 January – Welwyn North (12) CLOG
- 29 January – Hitchin (12) CLOG
- 3-4 February – Sidmouth SW Coastal path
- 5 February – Blandford St. Mary (16) DORSET
- 12 February – Marlow (12.5) BLACKHEATH RAMBLERS
- 26 February – Pick and Mix Marshal's (26) BBN
- 4 March – Pick and Mix Marshal
- 1 April – Cerne Abbas (30) DORSET
- 15 April – Escape from Sundon BBN
- 12 May – Rhondda Rollercoaster (26.5) SOUTH WALES

There were no questions following Nigel's report.

(b) Secretary – Norman Corrin

Norman's report:

I've received the following:

- The Voluntary & Community Action South Beds newsletters for December 2011
- Newsletters or email updates for the following groups:
Essex Herts: October 2011
Kent: December 2011
London: December 2011
Surrey: No more newsletters
Thames Valley: Various emails with photos from walks.

I normally provide a summary of the articles in the other groups' newsletters, however for this period due to dealing with entries for the Games 100 I've not read any of them and therefore have not summarised them.

One item I didn't send onto the group was the death of Ian Mcleod of Surrey Group. I didn't think many people knew him but it turns out Josephine Pettifer did. He was the visually impaired chap who we often saw on events.

New Members/Enquiries from Public

I've received notification from the national membership secretary of 21 new LDWA members who have fallen into our catchment area. I've phoned or emailed 4 of them with information packs about the group. I've not checked for this period which of them has joined BBN. So that's 17 to contact, some of whom may have already joined us on walks!

No members of the public have enquired about the LDWA. Therefore I've not emailed anyone with information about the Association and our group.

Event Entry Forms

I've emailed the following event entry forms or walk related information to the group:

Rhonda Rollercoaster

Other Matters

- Striders for December 2011 for local libraries have been sent to Nigel Schofield (Letchworth), Gill Bunker (Bedford), Christine Pendlebury and Ian Sage. I've still to send to Steve Clark for Northampton Library.
- The Black Discount scheme is no more.
- I've received a cheque for £5 from Mick Masucci. On speaking to his sister Gerri at Charles Francis's Thanksgiving Service she suggested we donate it to club funds and then to charity.
- Received a nice thank you letter from John and Judy after the presentation of the Silver Salver on the 12th January 2012.

Following Norman's report Merrian and Lynn confirmed that the Blacks discount was still available via the Ramblers, YHA and Girl Guides.

Nigel said he did not think it was necessary for Norman to précis the newsletters he received from other groups and suggested that Norman simply send a global email when he knew another group's newsletter was on their website, or alternatively forward any email he received with a newsletter attached. This was agreed. Merrian agreed to check which other local groups email their newsletter/place them on their website and will let Norman know.

There were no questions following Norman's report.

(c) Treasurer – Ian Sage

Ian said it had been a baptism by fire taking over as Treasurer, but that John Nickerson had been very helpful.

Savings account Ian said the savings account contained £2273.68 – nothing had been paid into this account since July 1993 when there was a balance of £1,094; the increase was entirely due to the interest added to the account. The last interest payment amounted to only £4.40 and Ian said he was looking to close this account. This was agreed.

Current account The total in the current account should be £3234.75 plus £597.70 making a total of £3832.45 but Ian cannot check this as he has no access to the account at present.

Santander (previously Alliance and Leicester) have not been very helpful and Ian proposed to open an account with National Westminster Bank. This was agreed

Ian said he is holding various cheques and cash (membership fees, £150 cheques in payment for Derbyshire weekend, merchandise from Shillington Shuffle, bounced cheque from Shillington Shuffle) which he will bank as soon as the new account is opened.

Ian proposed to open a National Westminster Bank plc Community Organisation Current Account which has a savings account attached. The necessary forms to open the account have been signed by Nigel and Norman (BBN cheque signatories are Ian, Nigel and Norman). This was agreed. Ian explained that as a condition of opening the account a resolution has to be agreed at the meeting. He read out the Resolution (see below):

Following the Treasurer's report it was proposed by Martin Lawson and seconded by Gordon Shaughnessy that the following Resolution be agreed by the Committee of the Beds Bucks & Northants group of the Long Distance Walkers Association with a view to opening a Community Organisation Account with the National Westminster Bank plc:

Resolution that the Group's bank account be changed to a Community Organisation Account with the National Westminster Bank plc

It was resolved that a banking relationship will be maintained with National Westminster Bank Plc (the Bank) in accordance with this Mandate and that:

- *the individuals identified as the Authorised Signatories may, in accordance with the Signing Rules, sign cheques and give instructions for Standing Orders, Direct Debits, electronic payments, banker's drafts and other payments on the Accounts even if it causes an Account to be overdrawn or exceed any limit*
- *any Authorised Signatory may give other instructions or requests for information to the Bank in relation to the Accounts; opening accounts with the same Signing Rules and Authorised Signatories; closing accounts; or other banking services or products*
- *the Bank may accept instructions that do not have an original written signature provided the Bank is satisfied that the instruction is genuine and subject to any other agreement the Bank may require for those instructions*

- *the Customer will provide to the Bank a copy of its constitution and any amendment to the constitution, certified as correct by the Secretary*
- *this Mandate will continue until the Organisation gives the Bank a replacement mandate or the Organisation passes a resolution changing the Signing Rules and/or adding or removing an Authorised Signatory by completing and returning the Change of Signing Authority form in which case this Mandate will continue as amended.*

On taking a vote, the Resolution was agreed unanimously.
Norman handed Ian a copy of the BBN constitution for the Bank.

£300 loan from BBN to the Games Hundred Committee Ian said he had received an email from Kathy LoRaso concerning the £300 loan from BBN to the Games Hundred Committee and said he needed a copy of the 2010 accounts which would show this. Norman will give Ian a copy.

Planned expenditure Ian is not sure if Chris Bent has yet paid for the hostel accommodation for the Derbyshire weekend and will check.

£200 cheque received following the Housman Hundred Nigel enquired about the £200 cheque received from the Housman Hundred organisers. Ian said he did not think he had received it from Norman; Norman said he thought he had handed it to Ian following the AGM but Norman will check. It was proposed (Prop: Nigel, Sec: Gill) and agreed that the 18 people who helped on the BBN checkpoint should each receive £10 as a contribution to their petrol costs with the balance of £20 transferred to group funds.

Nigel thanked Ian for taking on this very important role within BBN and the Committee acknowledged the assistance provided by John Nickerson.

(d) Membership – Dave Findel-Hawkins

Dave said there are currently 158 members and to date 71 have paid for this year.

It was agreed that when Norman receives notification of a new LDWA member in the area, he will send out BBN membership details. If that LDWA member then joins BBN, Dave will now do the follow up contact, and let Norman have email contact details, etc.

After 31st March 2012 (the date by which membership subs are due) Dave will check all BBN members against the national LDWA membership list to make sure all BBN members are also LDWA members.

Nigel will then contact any BBB members who are not members of the LDWA.

(e) Social Walks – Dee Brockway

In Dee's absence Norman read out her report:

The BBN social walks programme for April to August 2012 is now complete. Thanks to Gill it is now on the LDWA website, meeting the deadline for inclusion in the next edition of Strider. Gordon is now co-ordinating the Thursday walks programme and I am grateful for his efforts. He sent me the usual full programme, two Thursday walks per month, in good time to allow us to meet the deadlines. Thanks to Gill and Merrian for the work involved with the BBN website.

Yet again the Sunday programme is full and varied. After deliberately leaving the weekends of The 100 Marshals, The 100 itself, and The Dovedale Dipper weekend (when Betty has organised accommodation for BBN members doing the event) free, we actually have a social walk on 12 of the 19 available weekends...that's not bad! Most are the usual walk leader volunteers, so I will be trying to recruit some new names for the next programme.

As always, I am now 'touting for business' for the September to December 2012 programme. November will, as ever, be filled with our challenge walk, the Sundon Saunter, and our AGM. No doubt (I hope), Santa will want his usual spot before Christmas, otherwise, all dates are free! I am asking volunteers to book their date with me (!!!) asap, with final details required by 10th May please.

On behalf of BBN and friends, I am co-ordinating a 4 day holiday on the IOW from 19th to 24th October, during which Jill Green, will lead the group around the 72 mile coastal path. Norman has already sent out the information via his email network and I will include a relevant article in our next newsletter.

As always, thank you to all walk volunteers.

(f) Merchandising / Equipment – Lynn Yorston

Lynn said that sales at the Shillington Shuffle amounted to £62.50 which had been passed to Ian.

Merrian asked if it was possible to get BBN wicking tops. Lynn said she had already looked into this, but had not been able to find any that could be heat pressed or embroidered. Dave and Merrian said the Irregulars had wicking tops with logos; they will check with the Irregulars and Lynn will then investigate further.

Merrian said she has various items that could be used on events, including tea cosies. Lynn asked that people let her have a list of BBN equipment they are holding, or items of their own which can be used for events.

A decision was made at the AGM to purchase metal cutlery from BBN funds; it was agreed that Lynn and Merrian would check prices and buy 100 each of knives, forks and spoons, at an estimated cost of £2 per 6 items.

(g) Website – Merrian Lancaster

Merrian said there had been some discussions at the BBN AGM regarding photographs on the website. She is now using the system provided by the LDWA – there is no cost and no limit to the number of photos that can be put on the website. Steve Clark has sent Merrian a lot of photos, but Merrian needs to go back to Steve to get further info about where and when some of the photos were taken.

Merrian confirmed that she could put track logs and Memory Map on the website but she was not sure if she could put on screen dumps. Merrian is checking with Simon Leck (LDWA Website & Internet) and will report back. She will also look into putting Google Earth up.

Merrian said she was also going to put LDWA mileage charts on the website as an excel sheet so that members could insert their individual mileages.

Merrian asked whether the constitution should go on the website - both Dave and Ian had needed to see it recently and had looked on the website for a copy. This was agreed.

Merrian said that pictures of BBN clothing still needed to go on the website. Steve had not got any pictures, so she would take photos at the Pick & Mix and then put them on the website.

Nigel thanked Merrian for her hard work and the continuing development of the BBN website.

(h) Newsletter – Gill Bunker

Gill said the next Newsletter is due in February, and the deadline is 31st January. Various people are sending items to be included. Gill will email Kevin Lamming regarding the printing.

(i) Local Group Representative – Nigel Schofield

Nigel had nothing to report and advised that he did not yet know the date of the next LGRs' meeting, but hoped it would not clash with the Sundon Saunter on 18th November.

(j) Other Committee Members

Gordon said there appeared to be some interest in 2 or 3 Thursday walks in the summer months being longer than 15 miles. Gordon said he is happy to talk to Thursday walkers and see if this is what people want. At the moment walks starts at 9.30am and are limited to 15 miles. Martin said that when he started the Thursday walks this was simply to avoid the busiest times for traffic on a weekday morning and afternoon. Gordon agreed to canvass Thursday walkers and report back.

4. Insurance Issues – Incident Reports

There were no matters to report.

Referring to the issue raised at the AGM that other LDWA groups did not appear to fill out a form at the start of a group walk with details of any non-LDWA members present, Merrian said she had referred this to John Batham who was going to pass it to the National Committee.

Gordon said that leaders should always count the number of walkers at the start.

5. Group Activities

(a) 2012 Games 100

Norman confirmed there are 525 paid up entries to date and the limit will probably be reached. Lynn said all plans are in hand for the marshals' walk. To date there are 45 walkers. Merrian confirmed there are 11 volunteers on the BBN CP on the main event but until she knew what food/drink they would be offering she could not say exactly how many would be needed.

(b) 2013 100 – Devon & Cornwall

Merrian has agreed to run the BBN CP on the main event. Marshals' Walk: Lynn and Dave are manning a CP at 80/90 miles and Mike and Sandra Hyland are manning a CP at about 70 miles

(c) Walking Festivals

Norman said the Bedfordshire Walking Festival will be held on 8th-16th September. Gordon will put a Thursday walk on the programme for that week as part of the Festival.

(d) LDWA 40th Anniversary 2012

Martin agreed to put on a 20 mile walk from Hartwell, Northants on 23rd September. It was noted that Gill needs to get details on the LDWA website by 28th January to ensure the walk is in the 40th anniversary listing in Strider.

(e) Herts Stroller Checkpoint 1 August 11/12 2012

It was agreed that BBN will man the first CP on the Herts Stroller – this will be the same barn as last time.

6. BBN Events

(a) Shillington Shuffle 2011 / Sundon Saunter 2012 / Steppingley Step 2013 – Lynn Yorston

Lynn's report:

Shillington Shuffle 2011

We had a great day out there. All went to plan and everyone enjoyed the whole event. We had 323 entries (2 under 18); 35 non-starters. Therefore 288 walkers out on the routes; 2 retired and 1 was timed out. We took an excess of funds amounting to £841.94. We made a £100 donation to Critical Care Unit of Bedford Hospital in memory of Sylvia Foster. We therefore hand over to the BBN group the surplus of £741.94. Tim Glenn has done a report for Strider.

Sundon Saunter 2012

Plans are in progress for this year's SS event – 18th November. The routes are outlined and the halls provisionally booked.

Steppingley Step 2013

Dave FH is already looking at the routes to work out the detour caused by the construction of the new Center Parc.

Nigel proposed a vote of thanks to all who had helped on the Shillington Shuffle and said it had been a great day - as he travelled back from the Local Groups Weekend the weather had got better and better and he had been very envious.

(b) Pick & Mix 2012 - Lynn Yorston

Lynn's report:

All plans are in hand and so far we have 55 entries. All staff have been secured but they don't know it yet!! We are NOT sharing the site with the football club this year which is a bonus.

Norman will email the entry form to other groups and Gill will include a copy with the February Newsletter.

(c) 30th Anniversary Events 2013

Martin will organise 3x30K social walks, one in each BBN county, one each month (August, September and October) with a 10K walk (within the AGM morning walk) to make the 100K challenge. Catch up walks will be allowed. A commemorative mug with the BBN logo/30th anniversary/100K (30+30+30+10) will be given to all who complete the 100K.

(d) Chiltern Kanter 2013 - Norman Corrin

Norman said he was waiting to hear from Goodrich Engineering regarding the use of their car park which will allow him to start the event from Pitstone. Mike Hyland has agreed to handle the entries. Anyone else who wishes to help should contact Norman.

7. Group Finances/Donations/Equipment

Three donations had been agreed at the AGM (Berkshire Oxon and Bucks Air Ambulance, Chiltern Society Donate a Gate, and Wendover Arm canal restoration) and as soon as Ian has opened the National Westminster account and has a cheque book he will sort this out, after reserving these amounts in the account.

8. Re-imburement of Expenses

(a) Petrol costs for committee members attending committee meetings

It was agreed not to pursue this proposal.

(b) Petrol costs for marshals on BBN challenge events

It was agreed the reimbursement of petrol costs would be left to the organising committee of any BBN challenge event. When people were asked to marshal (either orally or by email) they should be told that if they wanted to make a claim to cover travel costs it will be considered. Merrian is going to check the wording of the form Surrey Group use.

(c) Petrol costs for social walk leaders

It was agreed not to pursue this proposal.

9. Appointment of Auditor

This remains to be done.

Action: Ian Sage

10. Confirmation of Life Membership for John Nickerson

Norman said he had not emailed the committee following John's sudden resignation and now asked for retrospective approval of the giving of Life Membership.

Proposed: Norman (Seconded: Gill) and agreed unanimously.

11. Dogs on Walks

It was agreed that this was a decision to be left to the individual walk leader but that in future Dee/Gordon should ask everyone who offered to lead a walk whether dogs were welcome. "No Dogs" would then be included in the walk information where any leader specified that this should be the case. It was noted that the decision on dogs on walks was the sole decision of the walk leader and NOT any other participant on the walk.

12. AOB

The AGM will be held on Sunday 25th November 2012. The venue is to be confirmed.

Dates and Venues of Future Committee Meetings

Friday 18th May 2012 (Dee's) at 7.45 pm

Friday 28th September (Lynn's) at 7.45 pm

Update from Merrian following the committee meeting:

I've had the additional information from Steve about his photos.

Simon Leck says I can put up Memory Map screen dumps, as long as they can't be used to navigate.