

**LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION - BEDS BUCKS & NORTHANTS GROUP
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2012
AT 3 LODGE LANE, PRESTWOOD (TO BE APPROVED)**

The meeting commenced at 7.45 pm.

Present: Gill Bunker (Newsletter), Norman Corrin (Secretary), Dave Findel-Hawkins (Membership), Martin Lawson, Merrian Lancaster (Website), Ian Sage (Treasurer), Nigel Schofield (Chairman), Gordon Shaughnessy (Thursday Walks), Lynn Yorston (Equipment and Merchandising)

Nigel thanked Lynn for hosting the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

1. Apologies: Dee Brockway (Walks Programme)

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (18th May 2012) and Matters Arising

(i) Mike Hyland has completed the engraving of the new BBN cutlery.

(ii) Norman said that the 2013 AGM would be in Worcestershire.

The Minutes were approved as a true record. Prop: M Lancaster; Sec: L Yorston

3. Officers' Reports

(a) Chairman – Nigel Schofield

Nigel circulated his report:

A riddle for you: At the start there were 20 and a dog, 90 minutes later there were 21 and a dog, 240 minutes later there were 3 and no dog, 30 minutes later there were 4 and finally at 165 minutes later there were still 4, and five minutes after that there were 3 who enjoyed a slice of cake. Answers on a postcard please. (see below for a clue).

I hope that you have had a good summer of walking on holidays, with BBN, other local groups and the many challenge walks on offer. Congratulations to those who completed the Herts Stroller and White Cliffs Challenge, fantastic weather on both, and commiserations to those who did not.

The social walks programme for December 2012 to April 2013 has just been released by Dee Brockway. Twenty two walks (Thursday and Sunday), so thanks to all walk leaders and the Chiltern Kanter on 3 March 2013. If you can help out on the main event then the Marshals' walk is on Sunday 24 February – please contact Norman Corrin.

I had a mega August, Herts Stroller, Founders Marshals' and St Peters Way in a Day, good preparation for a week in the Bernese Oberland, based in Wengen. Highlight was

a 5272 feet of ascent to the top of the Shilthorn – 9744 feet, (no snow, so no James Bond) and 7136 feet of descent to Murren and Lauterbrunnen. I can thoroughly recommend this area for some good mountain walking, good food and fresh mountain air.

Martin Lawson is making progress on the location and routes for the 3 x 30 km walks for our 30th Anniversary next year, one in each BBN County. Martin ably and nobly led (after three hours of dry at the start) a very wet bunch of walkers on the Hartwell Hearts of Oak as the BBN Celebratory Walk for the 40th Year of LDWA. At the end came a slippery walk on the tree canopy walk in Salcey Forest for non-existent views. Lucky were the groups who did not choose 23 September for a celebration walk. Chris Bent will be leading a 30 mile 'social' for our 30th Anniversary on Saturday 22 June 2013. Do come if you can.

Please do your utmost to attend the BBN AGM and walk on 25 November starting from Cosgrove with a meal and then the AGM. It is your walking club and you need to be there to have a say in what goes on. If the Committee do not receive comments or feedback it is difficult to know if what we do is alright with you. Are we doing OK?

Don't forget 'Santa from Sandy' on 9 December where the rotund ho ho gentleman will be leading the walk. Will it be mince pies at the end or a poppadum?

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.

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

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'.

There were no questions following Nigel's report.

(b) Secretary – Norman Corrin

Norman circulated his report:

I've received the following:

The Voluntary & Community Action South Beds newsletters for June, August & October 2012.

Newsletters or email updates for the following groups:

Essex Herts: June 2012; Kent: August 2012; London: Summer 2012

Thames Valley: Various items on their website forum

If any committee members or group members wish to read them please contact me.

New Members/Enquiries from Public

I've received notification from the national membership secretary of 18 new LDWA members who live within our group's area and have emailed them all information packs. I've also emailed the information onto Dave for when/if they join BBN. In addition there have been 3 transfers from other groups to BBN. 1 each from Kent, London & Wessex. There has been 1 transfer out from BBN to Surrey, Peter Lockyer. There has been 1 transfer out from BBN to Nidderdale, Christine Pendlebury. 7 members of the public have enquired about the LDWA. I've emailed them with information about the association and BBN.

Event Entry Forms/ Walk Related Information

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

Daily Telegraph 50 Great Coastal Walks 19th & 20th May 2012

18th Alwinton Round 9th June 2012

100 km walk for blind veterans 9th and 10th June 2012

10th Hills and Dales Walks 8th September 2012

Birmingham Canal Canter 15th September 2012

The Centurions Annual 100 miles walk on 22nd/23rd September 2012

Miscellaneous

Striders for August 2012 for local libraries have been sent to Nigel Schofield, Gill Bunker (for Bedford Library), Ian Sage, Steve Clark, Merrian (OU) and Gordon for Luton Library.

2 batches of 40th Anniversary badges have been received and handed out.

Greensand Ridge committee meeting minutes June 2012 have been received.

I emailed Douglas Robinson from London Group information about installing kissing gates as they have surplus funds which they wish to use.

I received a letter from the Air Ambulance for Berks/Oxon/Bucks thanking us for our donation and asking if we would appreciate a talk from one of their representatives.

I am not crying wolf as I did in 2010 but next year will be my last as Secretary. But to be quite honest if any other committee member or group member wishes to take the job on I will be more than happy to step down this year.

Regarding the proposed talk by the Air Ambulance, it was agreed that a walk that included a visit to their offices (thought to be near High Wycombe) would be the best way to take this forward.

Nigel thanked Norman for his report

(c) Treasurer – Ian Sage

Ian said there had been little activity since the last meeting.
The balance of group funds as at 30th September:

Current Account	£2,439.48	
Business Reserve	<u>£4,000.07</u>	
Total	£6,439.55	
Cheques issued but not presented to	£20.00	(2x£10 Housman 100 cheques to marshals)
Cheques to be issued	<u>£0.00</u>	
Corrected balance at 30.09.12	<u>£6,419.55</u>	

At the meeting Ian wrote cheques for Norman (postage) and Gill (Newsletter postage), Nigel (LGRs' meeting), and received membership monies (£21) and Sundon Saunter entries (£400).

Ian had done some research on interest bearing accounts but, in view of the current low interest rates and the fact that some of these funds may be put towards BBN's 30th anniversary events next year, it was agreed to leave the money in the existing reserve account at least for the next 12 months.

Ian said he would now be sending the accounts to Phil Friede to check ready for presentation to the AGM.

Nigel thanked Ian for his report and his hard work.

(d) Membership – Dave Findel-Hawkins

Since the last meeting we have the following new members:
Yvette Etchell, Dave Jones, Alan Leadbetter, Peter Sinfield and family, and David Tassell. Norman Smith has rejoined.

The following have not renewed and therefore have been removed from the list:
Graham Crowe, Ron Mills, Eugene Stratton.

The three other members who had not paid by the last meeting have now paid. One of those who had been removed before the last meeting has now paid and has therefore been reinserted. Christine Pendlebury has changed groups to Nidderdale but as she has paid to the end of the year I have left her on the current list.

Total membership is therefore up three to 159.

Dave confirmed that he would email the membership list to anyone who wanted a copy.

(e) Social Walks – Dee Brockway

THURSDAY NIGHT? OH NO! I thought it was Friday night.....sorry, sorry, sorry. I am not coming back until Friday morning. Still, I don't think I am very important. The Jan to April walk programme is all sorted.

If there is discussion about the post for next year, if no-one else is forthcoming, I am happy to continue for another year if no-one else has a burning desire to do it.

(f) Thursday Walks – Gordon Shaughnessy

Gordon said the Thursday walks continue to average 15-20 walkers. There have been two a month with plenty of leaders.

Gordon said that one of the September walks he led had been part of the Beds Walking Festival and 4 or 5 new people had come. At the end of the walk he had been offered a tip by one of the walkers which he had found embarrassing, but it transpired that the walks festival leaflet had indicated a tip could be offered if the walk had been enjoyed.

There appears to be a growing problem of walkers going off in front of the leader on group walks.

It was agreed to put a Thursday walk on the Beds Festival programme next year. Gordon said that Yvette Burnell of Thames Valley contacts him when arranging their midweek programme to avoid any clash.

(g) Merchandising/Equipment – Lynn Yorston

Merchandise: There have been no sales since the last meeting.

Equipment: I have circulated an equipment list and have had good feedback from everyone. We seem to have lost some tea towels and maybe 1 water carrier. If anyone else has any input, please let me know.

Lynn is trying to trace 7 fold up chairs. Norman to contact Sylvie Eames to see if she still has them.

It was agreed not to purchase any more tea towels as most people take their own when checkpointing.

It was agreed that Lynn would look into the purchase of BBN aprons/tabards.

(h) Website – Merrian Lancaster

Merrian had little to report but it was noted that the website pictures were being looked at and the routes of walks done were popular – people could see where they had been.

It was noted that Rachel Martin had offered to set up BBN on Facebook, but those present were not sure how this would work and the benefits for the group. It was confirmed that the LDWA is on Facebook. Gill to check with Rachel and Nigel will

ask for the benefits of Local Groups being on Facebook to be discussed at the next LGRs' meeting.

Nigel thanked Merrian for her work on the website.

(i) Newsletter – Gill Bunker

Gill said the Newsletter was almost ready and would be sent out when the minutes of this meeting were done. She has sufficient contributions.

(j) Local Group Representative – Nigel Schofield

Nigel confirmed he would be attending the next LGRs meeting in Coalport on 16th/17th/18th November (same weekend at Sundon Saunter) and would report back at the AGM.

Lynn asked Nigel to raise the fact that certain LDWA walks were only accepting online entries – this appears to exclude walkers who do not have access to a computer or who do not wish to make online payments. It was agreed that this is a valid issue and Nigel will ask for this to be discussed.

(k) Other Committee Members

Martin had nothing to report.

Nigel commented that there is often a lot of talk about the Hundred – he feels that the Hundred should not dominate the LDWA.

4. Auditor

This had already been discussed under the Treasurer's Report.

5. Insurance Issues – Incident Reports

There were no matters to report.

Merrian said that she and Dave walked a lot with other groups and BBN still appear to be the only group collecting names of non-members at the start of a walk. Nigel said he would ask for this to be added to the agenda for the LGRs meeting. Gordon said it was not onerous collecting this information. He did it on all the walks he went on and posted the form to the leader of any walks he was unable to attend.

6. Group Activities

(a) **2013 100** – Merrian confirmed that we will be at CP3 - a “barn” at Candra – serving cold bite size food and possibly hot drinks. Water containers are needed. Confusingly, as entrants must carry a mug, cups for hot and cold drinks are being supplied.

(b) **2014 100** – Merrian confirmed this will be a tent outside the Bryn Ffynnon Hotel.

7. AGM 25th November 2012 – Navigation Inn, Cosgrove

Norman said this was all in hand – he has walked out the morning walks. Gill has the menus for the Newsletter. The menus will also be at the Sundon Saunter and

emailed to everyone. Meal choices need to be with the landlord by 22nd November.

Norman had produced a draft Agenda and this was discussed and amendments agreed. This can be put on the website/newsletter with the wording: "This is the provisional agenda for the AGM - should any member have any item they wish to put forward for discussion - please contact Norman."

8. BBN Events

(a) Sundon Saunter 18th November 2012 – Lynn Yorston

Plans are in progress for this year's SS event. The routes are done apart from the last minute revisions.

The halls are all sorted and the menus are done. Merrian is sorting the CP staff. I will wait to see the entry numbers before compiling a shopping list. We seem to be up to about 100 entries and I have some cheques (£400) to pass to Ian.

The Marshals' walk will be on Sunday 4th November. We will start at 08.00 from the playing field near the Barton Hall, as usual. Please contact Dave Yorston if you need any other information. Also, please let him know if you are joining us on this walk.

The badge and certificate were handed round and admired.

It was noted that the marshals' walk is the same day as a BBN social walk. Lynn said that the marshals' walk is now on a Sunday as both Mike and Sandra work on Saturdays. If any marshal is unable to walk on the marshals' walk they can do the walk at any time.

Nigel thanked everyone involved with the event for their efforts.

(b) BBN 30th Anniversary Events:

- i. **Canal Boat Trip** – Norman said he has been in contact with Grebe Canal Cruises. Their calendar for next year is not available yet – various options were available and it was agreed to have a walk in June in the Chilterns followed by a 3 hour evening cruise with meal from Pitstone to Marsworth and back. The cost is £20 per person but it was agreed there may be scope for the trip to be subsidised from group funds;
- ii. **Brewery Trip** – John Davies has been looking into a walk including/finishing with a tour of the Chiltern Brewery, Terrick, nr Wendover. This will be on a Saturday as the Brewery does not do tours on a Sunday;
- iii. Lynn also mentioned a new brewery opening in Prestwood – the **Malt Brewery** – and it was agreed a visit could be included on walk later in the year;
- iv. **Quiz** – October 2013 Norman said this would be in October, when there was not so much on. He will book Paradise Hall at Newton Longville;
- v. **Doghouse** – 6th January 2013. A **New Year walk and lunch**;
- vi. **3 x 30km group walks** - Martin said he had no dates yet but the walks would be in three different months next summer, June, July and

- September. Martin will lead in Northants, Sue Leonard in Beds and Dave Y/Mike Hyland in Bucks;
- vii. **30 mile walk** led by Chris Bent from Whittlebury 22nd June (*Revised date*);
 - viii. **Commemorative Mug** – after some discussion it was agreed we will look into giving a BBN commemorative mug to all BBN members rather than just to completers of the 3x30km group walks. Lynn will check suppliers/prices, etc;
 - ix. **Walking MK Boundary Walk** – October 2013. Sylvie Eames is co-ordinating walking the Boundary Walk over 3 days in October – the walks to be led by Sylvie, Steve Clark and Gill B.

(c) Chiltern Kanter 3rd March 2013 – Norman Corrin

Norman confirmed the event will be from a new venue at Pitstone Memorial Hall with parking at Goodrich Engineering 7 minutes' walk away, and three distances of 26/18/13½ miles. The routes should all be sorted by the end of the year. Norman still needs to sort out a CP near Tring. The marshals' walk will be on Sunday 24th February.

9. Group Finances/Donations/Equipment

(i) Donate a Gate – The Chiltern Society

Norman sent the agreed £100 donation to the Chiltern Society – they then indicated that a gate plus installation costs £250 in total. It was agreed to donate a further £150. Prop: N Schofield; Sec: L Yorston. The gate plaques are standard, and will show the group's name but not the logo. Norman has indicated the preferred location for the BBN gate is on the Chiltern Way.

(ii) Wendover Arm Canal

Norman sent the £100 donation but they have indicated that a small brick is £50 and a large one £150. It was agreed to donate a further £50. Prop: G Shaughnessy; Sec: M Lancaster. The brick will be on Bridge 4 near Tring and will show the BBN name and logo.

(iii) One of the BBN benches on the Greensand Ridge is broken. Norman confirmed he is following this up.

10. AOB

(i) Steppingley Step 2013

Dave F-H is working on the route and will report to the SS committee directly after the Sundon Saunter.

(ii) Pick & Mix 2014

Lynn said she and Dave will start planning this early next year.

The meeting closed at 9.56 pm.

The date and venue of the next committee meeting will be arranged following the AGM.