

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION - BEDS BUCKS NORTHANTS GROUP
DRAFT/ MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2014
AT 9 HOLLINWELL CLOSE, BLETCHLEY

The meeting commenced at 7.50pm.

Present: Dee Brockway (Social Walks – part), Gill Bunker (Newsletter), Norman Corrin (Chairman), Dave Findel-Hawkins (Membership), Merrian Lancaster (Secretary/Website/Local Groups Rep), Alan Leadbetter, Ian Sage (Treasurer), Lynn Yorston (Equipment/ Merchandising)

1. **Apologies:** Gordon Shaughnessy (Thursday Walks)

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting (5th June 2014) and Matters Arising**

It was agreed that matters arising would be dealt with during the meeting.

The Minutes were approved. Prop: M Lancaster; Sec: D. Findel-Hawkins

3. **Reports**

(a) Chairman: Norman Corrin

Norman's report had been circulated before the meeting:

Thanks to Merrian for hosting the meeting.

I've done the following:

Obtained Information about Wicking/Tech T-shirts for BBN. Further details below.

Forwarded details of a 33 mile event organised by a Leighton Buzzard Runner Helen Crossland for inclusion in one of Merrian's updates.

New Members/ Enquiries from Public: Dave has notified me of 17 new LDWA members who live within our group's catchment's area and I've spoken to most and emailed all with an information pack.

Norman added that he had received the Valleys Hundred Report and a cheque for £200 from the Valleys Hundred organisers.

There appears to be a good response to the handing out of LDWA membership leaflets and BBN business cards when meeting other walkers.

(b) Secretary: Merrian Lancaster

Merrian's report had been circulated before the meeting:

- 15 August 2014 Striders distributed; 0 spare. Shall I ask if there are any spares?
- Received and responded to emails.
- Regular news updates put onto website and link emailed to members.
- Received officer reports for committee meeting – approval requested to publish on website.
- Have handed out several BBN business cards on walks and events. Does anyone need any?

Still outstanding

- BBN photo for emails
- Handover notes
- Food safety course
- Response from National Exec to Michael Mooney's Health and Safety doc.

All present confirmed they were happy for their reports to go on the BBN website, with the exception of the Statement of Income and Expenditure which Ian said needed to be updated as he had been handed further monies at the start of the meeting. It was very close to the year end when the final accounts would be available in any event.

Dee asked if all new members get the BBN email updates as soon as they join BBN; Dave said yes, but only if they indicate that they want these by ticking the box on the LDWA national database. Generally new members indicate yes (although initially they may say no, wanting to avoid spam).

Dee asked about putting photos on the BBN website. Merrian confirmed that only those with permission to access the LDWA website can do this. The easiest way for members to have their photos added is to send Merrian a memory stick/card or send a link to Flickr or similar.

(c) Treasurer: Ian Sage

Ian had circulated a copy of his report and accounts before the meeting:

- The summary will not be too different to the end of year accounts. Therefore we will make a loss this year which is good.
- I would like any outstanding invoices before 30th September so that they are paid this financial year.
- Will we be subsidising AGM meals and, if so, by how much?
- Any other ideas for spending group funds in the next financial year.
- The accounts need to be checked before the AGM.
- I am willing to stand as Treasurer for the next year.

Ian said he had been handed more money at the start of the meeting, so there would be some changes to the statement he had circulated and there would no longer be a loss to report. He confirmed that he would hold over some of these receipts as they relate to event(s) in the next financial year.

Ian confirmed that BBN finances are on an even keel and the group could look at ways of spending some of the money. One idea Ian had was to have a linear walk with coach travel one way – not free transport but subsidised, with some payment to be made by members to indicate commitment.

Ian confirmed the BBN year end is 30th September and he would be finalising and checking the accounts in time for the AGM.

As previously agreed, Ian will bring sufficient £10 notes in order to subsidise the meal of all BBN members who come to the AGM and stay for the whole meeting. The money will be paid at the end of the meeting. Lynn will let Ian know how many members have booked a meal.

Dee asked about the Deepdale Weekend expenditure and Ian confirmed the weekend had made a loss of £60.

£200 cheque received from the Valleys Hundred organisers: It was agreed to give £15 to each BBN checkpointer. Ian has the names from the Hundred Report.

(d) Membership: Dave Findel-Hawkins

Dave's report had been circulated before the meeting:

We currently have 183 members including our five free members.
Eighty two members still pay annually.
We have 8 new members since the last newsletter. New member since beginning of September have been credited with paying for 2015.
I've removed three members who haven't paid or replied to my emails/note with newsletter.
We still have eight members to pay for 2014.

Merrian said she would like approval to change the wording on the BBN membership form/website as new LDWA members often thought they were automatically also members of BBN. It was agreed that Merrian will change the wording to make the distinction clearer.

Merrian also raised the question of what to do about associated members and LDWA members who are in our catchment area but not members of BBN? Currently we don't do anything for them. Should we do a mailing to all non-BBN members telling them about BBN? Dave said there are about 100 such people. Norman said he makes contact with all new LDWA members in the BBN area with further information about our group and explaining that you have to opt into BBN by paying £1. It was decided that no further action needed to be taken regarding non-BBN members. There was then some discussion about LDWA members who enter BBN in the "Associated Member" box on the LDWA database. At present these associated members are not getting BBN emails. As we are not sure what is the best thing to do Dave said he will raise this issue at the next Executive Meeting to get further guidance.

Merrian also asked that any committee member on a group walk etc take a would-be member's £1 membership fee with a note of their LDWA number and let Dave know that payment has been made. The £1 could be passed direct to Ian or handed to Dave at a later date.

(e) Social Walks: Dee Brockway

Dee's report had been circulated before the meeting:

The programme for January to April 2015 is complete, and I am delighted to report it includes 11 weekend social walks. With the addition of our Challenge Walk Chiltern Kanter, BBN are providing walkers with exciting walking on 3 week-ends each month. Unfortunately, despite my usual gentle powers of persuasion, there seems to be a lack of new walk leaders willing to lead for their first time. Any possible fledgling walk leaders out there, please consider 'taking the plunge' and 'giving it a go.' I am only too willing to help in any way I can and you could put out a request for other BBNers in your area to help recce your walk. We all make mistakes on our walks (ask those who followed me out of the village where I lived on my recent walk!), no-one will mind.

After discussion amongst the committee we have included a walk on 26th April 2015 in Derbyshire to celebrate the 50th anniversary of The Pennine Way and have our, now regular, annual walk and New Year meal on 4th January 2015.

As always, thanks to Gordon for co-ordinating the Thursday programme and to Gill and Merrian for proof-reading and, I am sure, correcting my inevitable mistakes, and for inputting the information onto the web, from which the information will be extracted for inclusion in The Strider and our Autumn newsletter.

I am now starting on the programme for May to August 2015. Please contact me asap to book a date to lead the walk, with the usual final details required by 10th January please. If I do not stand, or I am not re-elected, at the AGM in November I will pass on the information to my successor.

Dee confirmed that there were two walks on the 1st March 2015 – the CK marshals' walk and a social walk led by Christine Bramley – Christine had asked for this date, and has since confirmed she is happy for her walk to be the same day as the marshals' walk.

Norman will include a plea for new walk leaders in the coming Newsletter.

(f) Merchandising/Equipment: Lynn Yorston

Lynn's report had been circulated before the meeting:

Merchandise: Nothing to report.

Equipment:

We now have 2 new folding tables. These are a lot more substantial than the old square card tables that we have been using. Maybe we could recycle the old ones.

The group table cover now has a selection of badges on it – please let me have any spare ones that are relevant to our group and I will add them.

I have updated the equipment list for Merrian to publish on the website.

Lynn confirmed that the equipment list had been checked and could go on the BBN website.

Tech T-Shirts: Norman Corrin

I contacted PECO and the cost of setting up a SSS badge for use on the right breast will be £30 inc VAT. The table below shows the cost for each type of shirt available. The long sleeves are not available in burgundy:

	£ (inc VAT) BBN badge only	£ (inc VAT) BBN badge & SSS badge
Burgundy T-Shirt (Short sleeve only)	7.06	10.06
Long Sleeve T-Shirt JC002 in Black or White	9.80	12.80
Long Sleeve T-Shirt (GD121 Mens/GD171 Womens) in Black, Red, Navy, Royal or White	10.38	13.38
Long Sleeve T-Shirt (GD121 Mens/GD171 Womens) in Black, Red, Navy, Royal or White	10.38	13.38
Delivery between £10 & £15	18	18
BBN badge set up		30
SS badge set up		30

Norman confirmed that there is no minimum order and it was agreed that the group will pay the set up costs for the badges. It was agreed to go ahead with the purchase of the shirts. Initially Norman will ask PECO to do the badge set up. 15 people have already indicated an interest; Norman will check with each of them to see if they still want one (in view of the colour availability – the long sleeve shirt is not available in burgundy) – and then place an order which allows us to have a few in stock. Navy, red and royal were the selected colours for the long sleeve shirt.

(g) Website: Merrian Lancaster

Merrian's report:

Gill & I have added lots of photos.

Merrian confirmed she would alter the wording on the home page to be more specific about the difference between LDWA/BBN membership.

(h) Newsletter: Gill Bunker

Gill's report had been circulated before the meeting:

The deadline for the Autumn Newsletter is the end of September. I don't have very much for this one (two items so far) – this is always the most disheartening time as the September/October (now Autumn) issue has always been the thinnest. So if any of you have time to write a para or two that I can put in – that would be most welcome.

(i) Local Group Representative: Merrian Lancaster

Nothing to report.

(j) Other Committee Members: Gordon Shaughnessy/Martin Lawson/Alan Leadbetter

Alan said he would be talking about his proposed new event under item 8.

4. Insurance Issues – Incident Reports

No incidents have been reported.

5. LDWA

(a) LDWA AGM 2015: Sunday 15th March 2015

It was confirmed that full details will be in the December Strider. Dave and Merrian and Ian and Pat will be attending.

6. LDWA 100s

(a) 2015 – Red Rose 100 - East Lancashire: Norman Corrin

We are on Checkpoint 2 at Feniscliffe Church Hall 16 miles, Saturday 23rd May open 13.00 to 1830. I've received further information which I'll mention at the meeting.

Norman confirmed he will be CP manager. Lynn confirmed she and Dave will be at the BBN checkpoint on the main event

(b) 2016 - Dorset: Norman Corrin

BBN are at Checkpoint 1 at Crossways. It is now an indoor checkpoint but no further information yet. Lynn confirmed that she and Dave will be running 2 checkpoints on the Marshals' event and will probably not be on the main event.

c) 2017 - Crosses 100 – North Yorkshire: Norman Corrin

Norman said he had heard nothing further. Merrian said some groups already have checkpoints allocated. Norman will follow up.

7. BBN AGM - Sunday 30th November 2014

(a) Arrangements: Lynn Yorston

The AGM is being held at Naphill Village Hall and we will be eating at The Wheel pub which is directly opposite. The walk will be approx. 9 miles starting at 09.00. We can park at the village hall but should be aware of the football match that may take place during the later morning. Food menus will be published on the website nearer the day and will also be at the Shillington Shuffle. Please come and find me with your order or phone/email. Last requests will be on Friday 28th November. Access to the hall is from 12.00.

It was agreed to have a "Freesale" again as last year.
Lynn will bring catering items for the meeting.

Change to the AGM reporting period: Ian reminded committee members that it had previously been agreed that as the BBN financial year runs from 1st October to 30th September in each year the reporting period for all officers' reports should also be for this 12 month period.

The AGM agenda should include a "Proposal to Accept the Accounts".
Ian said that any reference to "auditing" the accounts should be deleted as they have be "checked".

Alan will check with Martin whether he wants to stand for re-election to the committee.

AGM Agenda to be included in the Autumn Newsletter. Dave asked whether there is a deadline for officers' reports to be submitted?

8. BBN Challenge Events

(a) Shillington Shuffle 2014 – Gordon Shaughnessy

As Gordon could not attend, Lynn reported that all was in hand in readiness for the event. Dave Yorston has the medium and short routes to proof. The long route is ready. Lynn and Merrian are finalising catering arrangements/checkpoint staff etc.

(b) Chiltern Kanter 2015 – Norman Corrin

Norman's report had been circulated before the meeting:

The date is Sunday 8th March 2015. The marshals' walk is the previous Sunday. There are 3 distances of 26, 18 and 13 miles. The routes are the same as in 2013. The clues have been changed. HQ is at Pitstone Memorial Hall. Safran Power Systems (replaced Goodrich Engineering) have confirmed we can use their car park. Checkpoints will be at Whipsnade, Little Gaddesden and the Scout Hut in Tring. All venues bar Tring Scout Hut have been booked. The Tring Scout Hut Caretaker has changed and I've left the new one a message. The certificate design will be an amended version of the 2007 certificate which showed Pitstone Windmill and the Ivinghoe range of hills.

(c) Sundon Saunter 2015 – Merrian Lancaster/Lynn Yorston

Lynn confirmed that Dave Sedgley is organising the route and booking two of the checkpoints. The route will be available for checking in the new year. Merrian will liaise with Dave S re the checkpoint bookings he has made.

(d) New Event – Alan Leadbetter

Alan outlined his plan for a new challenge event "From Here to There and Back". 26, 18 and 12 mile routes from Wellingborough on Sunday 5th July 2015. The routes are planned, the start venue and two cp halls are available. It was agreed initially to limit entry to 150. Mike Hyland to be asked if he is willing to do the entries. Lynn will pass useful information on to Alan. Marshals' walk to be on Sunday 21st June. Alan needs help with the catering.

9. Donations

It was agreed to refer this to the AGM and ask the membership for their ideas.

10. AOB

(a) Greensand Ridge Walk

Merrian said she has asked Nigel for a report for the meeting but had not heard from him. Gill said he had written a report for the Newsletter.

(b) Wendover Gap: Lynn Yorston

Dave Yorston has considered doing the Wendover Gap as an anytime challenge. He will have to check the routes first and add questions to validate the completion. Should he start with only the long route and see how popular it is or shall we look at all 3. It can then be published on our website for people to download and walk as they wish. They should then contact Dave with their completed questions so that he can send a certificate and badge – we still have plenty. The group may like to make a small charge for this.

It was agreed that it would be an excellent idea to have the Wendover Gap as a BBN Anytime Challenge. It was agreed there would be no charge to walkers to save admin costs to the group – walkers could download the routes from the BBN website – but would be asked to send an sae if they wanted a badge and certificate. To help keep the routes updated walkers would be asked to report back any problems/changes.

(c) Social walk forms – Dave Findel-Hawkins

Dave raised this as there are often no non-LDWA members to be listed on the forms – and the current system of posting out and posting back the forms may not be the best use of BBN finances and time. In Gordon's absence (as he is the committee member dealing with this and may want to comment), it was agreed to trial sending the form to walk leaders by email with the walk leader then reporting back by email.

(d) Next committee meeting

To be agreed following the AGM.

The meeting closed at 10.05 pm