

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION - BEDS BUCKS NORTHANTS GROUP
DRAFT/ MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 21ST JANUARY 2015
AT 1 ABBEY WAY, BRADVILLE

The meeting commenced at 7.55pm

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

1. Apologies: None.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (25th September 2014) and Matters Arising

- Item 3(d) Wording on the BBN membership form/website: Merrian has not done this yet.
- Item 3(d) Issues regarding associate members: Dave has not raised this with the NEC as it has been superseded by the proposed changes to the local groups' constitution.
- Item 3(g) Alteration of wording on Website: Merrian has done this.
- Item 8(c) Sundon Saunter: Merrian has a report from Dave Sedgley.
- Item 10(c) Social walk forms: Merrian has been in touch with Gordon and Dee. Feedback is now coming by email.

The Minutes were approved. Prop: Lynn Yorston; Sec: Merrian Lancaster

3. Reports

(a) Chairman: Norman Corrin

Norman's report had been circulated before the meeting:

Thanks to Gill for hosting the meeting and welcome to Mary.

I've done the following:

- At last managed to sell some Tech T-shirts at the SS and the AGM. I've received instructions from PECO on how individuals can order the kit which I will pass onto Merrian for issuing in an update.
- Led the Chairman's New Year Circular Walk with Lunch on 4th January.
- **New Members/ Enquiries from Public**
Dave has notified me of 23 new LDWA members (since the beginning of October) who live within our group's catchments area. I've spoken to most and emailed all with an information pack.
- **LDWA**
 - I will be going to the National AGM.
 - Ref this in my Chairman's Chatter for the Spring newsletter I will be reminding members to use their proxy form....if they still have them!
 - Template for the Group Constitution. This has still to be sorted out.

Arising from Norman's report:

- Lynn said there are still several items of group clothing in stock which are on sale at a price where the group makes a small profit. Now we had the new group clothing, these items would probably not be easy to sell. She asked whether they could be sold off at the Chiltern Kanter at a reduced price. This was agreed. To be mentioned in Newsletter.

(b) Secretary: Merrian Lancaster

Merrian's report had been circulated before the meeting:

- 12 December 2014 Striders distributed; 3 spare. Chiltern Kanter?
- 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?
- NEC does not intend to produce LDWA business cards.
- Request approval to send 2014 AGM minutes and accounts to HQ.
- Walk leaders have been asked to send “walk report”, i.e. numbers, any non-LDWA, confirm walk leader, walk name etc., by email to Dee and Gordon. This replaces the walks form we have been using.
- Dave Yorston is developing Wendover Gap as an anytime walk.

Still outstanding

- BBN photo for emails.
- Handover notes.
- Food safety course.
- Response from NEC to Michael Mooney’s Health and Safety doc.
- Change wording on BBN membership form.
- Arrange meeting with Norman and Ian to discuss template for LDWA LG constitution.
- Set up generic email addresses for group walk input, LG rep, and possibly others.
- Request confirmation of scope of insurance policy regarding social walks.
- Request notification of NEC meetings.
- Request minutes of NEC meetings.

Arising from Merrian’s report:

- Spare Striders to be taken to Chiltern Kanter.
- Merrian hopes to do a food safety course.
- Agreed officer reports can go on BBN website.
- Agreed that the Minutes of the AGM can be sent to the NEC. Ian has the signed Accounts; he will scan and send a copy to Merrian to be sent with the Minutes.
- Lynn confirmed that Dave Y hoped to have the Wendover Gap set up as an Anytime Challenge by Easter.
- Scope of insurance policy regarding social walks: Merrian is looking for further clarification. Dave suggested contacting the insurers direct, rather than the NEC.
- Local group constitution template: Merrian had added her comments to the draft and circulated this to the committee. Merrian, Norman and Ian will meet to discuss and finalise BBN’s response to the NEC.

(c) Treasurer: Ian Sage

Ian had circulated a copy of the accounts (p.3) before the meeting:

- Ian confirmed he now had a copy of the group’s accounts signed by Phil Friede’s company.
- The accounts are running at a surplus - about £648. This is usual at this time of year as the figure includes the surplus from the SS autumn event and the banked entries for the Chiltern Kanter and From Here To There & Back. The surplus will reduce when the expenses for the CK are paid.
- Biggest expenditure is £223 for the tech tops – but this will be recovered as they are sold.
- Total funds £7162.69.
- We need to think of ways to use surplus funds. The AGM meal was subsidised, but this did not lead to a greater attendance. (Possibly due to the southerly location.) The subsidised meal is something that could be tried again at the 2015 AGM.

LDWA BEDS/BUCKS/NORTHANTS GROUP
STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE
21st January 2015

	2015	2014
	£	£
INCOME		
MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS	35.00	220.00
DEEPDALE WEEKEND 2014	0.00	300.00
CHILTERN BREWERY WALK	0.00	103.50
MERCHANDISE	86.00	23.50
MISCELLANEOUS	0.00	5.00
VALLEYS 100 CONTRIBUTION	200.00	0.00
HERE TO THERE 2015	217.00	0.00
PICK N MIX 2014	0.00	866.00
INTEREST	0.26	1.59
CHILTERN KANTER 2015	473.00	0.00
STEPPINGLEY STEP 2013	0.00	1507.00
JOHN BUNYAN TRAIL WALKS	0.00	0.00
GREENSAND RIDGE EVENT	0.00	700.00
SHILLINGTON SHUFFLE 2014	1578.00	136.00
CAMEL TEIGN 100 CONTRIBUTION	0.00	175.00
DORSET WEEKEND 2015	250.00	0.00
	2839.26	4037.59
	2015	2014
	£	£
EXPENDITURE		
DONATIONS	0.00	150.00
QUIZ	0.00	128.81
PRINTING & POSTAGE	115.72	386.26
MERCHANDISE	223.30	0.00
AGM 2014	270.00	0.00
MISCELLANEOUS	12.75	66.95
VALLEYS 100 CONTRIBUTION	195.00	0.00
HERE TO THERE 2015	0.00	0.00
PICK N MIX 2014	0.00	543.63
CHRISTMAS WALK	20.58	46.15
EQUIPMENT	0.00	324.63
CHILTERN KANTER 2015	0.00	0.00
STEPPINGLEY STEP 2013	0.00	1216.97
SHILLINGTON SHUFFLE 2014	1228.12	0.00
JOHN BUNYAN TRAIL WALKS	0.00	90.00
DEEPDALE WEEKEND 2013	0.00	15.00
DEEPDALE WEEKEND 2014	0.00	360.00
CHILTERN BREWERY WALK	0.00	115.00
CAMEL TEIGN CONTRIBUTIONS	15.00	120.00
GREENSAND RIDGE EVENT	0.00	686.72
DORSET WEEKEND 2015	110.00	0.00
	2190.47	4250.12
INCOME	2839.26	
EXPENDITURE	2190.47	
SURPLUS(LOSS)	648.79	
30/09/14	6513.90	
BALANCE 17/01/15	7162.69	
REPRESENTED BY		
NatWest Current Account	3159.15	
NatWest Business Reserve Account	4003.54	
	7162.69	

(d) Membership: Dave Findel-Hawkins

Dave's report had been circulated before the meeting:

We currently have 187 members including our five free members.
We have 6 new members since the last newsletter. I have had two members inform me they are not renewing.
We still have five members to pay for 2014.
42 members have not yet paid for 2015.
We have five members who are no longer members of the LDWA. One hasn't paid for 2013, three have yet to pay for 2014 but one has paid up until end of 2017.

(e) Social Walks: Dee Brockway

Dee's report had been circulated before the meeting:

Not a huge amount has happened since my report to the AGM in November apart from my usual gentle persuasion, mostly via Merrian's round robin emails, to cajole members into leading a social walk for us. The diary for the April to August programme was very sparse indeed when I made my first emotional plea at the AGM but, as always, it is now full, fat and therefore healthy. We have only 5 weekends in the 4 month period when BBN is not offering either a challenge or a social walk.

Please allow me two small moans. With some notable exceptions, we still rely on the same people to lead a walk (or two or more) **every** year, whilst others, who are welcome and enjoy many of their fellow members efforts, never seem able to 'rise to the challenge". Please, please consider taking that first step, you will receive all the help and advice you need. My second little gripe (and I feel a little guilty as this is directed at the wonderful leaders who do make the effort), please can you get me your details by the requested date. I had to chase up over half the leaders this month.

Back to the many positives. We have one of the most extensive social walk programmes of any of the LDWA groups, both in quantity and, in my opinion, quality and diversity. With the permission of the committee I have included two walks outside our 3 counties area. In September the group is offering, what I am sure will be, a fantastic weekend of walking, staying in a youth hostel in Dorset. Many thanks to John Chesher for securing the accommodation and preparing to lead three walks and to Gill for organising the bookings. I think we have only 3 places left.

As I write, I now await details of one final weekend walk to complete the April to August programme. I hope by the time of this meeting I will have forwarded the completed list to Gill and Merrian. My thanks in advance to both ladies for proof reading and correcting my silly mistakes, and for inputting the information onto the web, from which the information will be extracted for inclusion in The Strider.

As always, I am now starting on the programme for the final 4 months of the year, from September to December 2015. Please contact me asap to book a date to lead a walk, with the usual final details required by 10th May please.

Merrian wondered how productive it was to ask for volunteers by email – whether walk leaders, checkpointers, etc. She found she got a better response by asking on walks. Merrian suggests taking a list of available dates on group walks and asking for volunteers during one of the breaks. Dee said regular leaders tended to respond to emails, new leaders less so.

Mary said it may be a confidence issue for a new leader. She would be more than happy to help someone who needed "their hand holding". Some people do not like walking alone which might put them off offering to lead a walk.

Norman confirmed that he would be leading the group walk on Sunday 1st February which Chris Bent and Frances Craven are unable to lead.

Litton Cheney Weekend 11th/12th September 2015 – Gill Bunker

The weekend has proved popular – 21 places of 22 taken. Total cost £440 with £110 deposit already paid by BBN. Cost of £25 per person for the weekend's accommodation payable with booking (most monies already received). 21X£25 = £525. Surplus will provide tea/coffee/beer etc for weekend.

(f) Merchandising/Equipment: Lynn Yorston

Lynn said she had not submitted a report beforehand as she'd had nothing to report.

It had already been agreed that older merchandise stock would be sold off at the CK at a reduced price.

The missing 5/6 chairs had turned up in Sylvie's garage and had been added to the Equipment List which was now up-to-date.

Merrian asked whether the group would be prepared to loan equipment to other groups/individuals. This was agreed in principal. Merrian said that each year's Hundred organisers seemed to buy equipment etc that previous Hundred organisers had already bought. Could BBN equipment be offered? This was agreed but with the provisos that:

- It couldn't be arranged at short notice. Items may have to be handed over well before the event as cars travelling to the Hundred were often already full.
- There would have to be an acceptable plan for the return of the equipment.
- The equipment wasn't needed for a BBN event in the meantime.

(g) Website: Merrian Lancaster

Merrian's report had been circulated before the meeting:

- Gill & I have added lots of photos.
- 4 rolling headers have been created.
- The base colour has been changed to near-ish BBN maroon.

It was agreed the rolling headers were impressive. Merrian will add more.

(h) Newsletter: Gill Bunker

Gill's report had been circulated before the meeting:

Items needed for Spring Newsletter by 31st January – hopefully the Newsletter will then be ready by the second week of February.

(i) Local Group Representative: Alan Leadbetter

Merrian has let the Local Groups Secretary, John Batham, know that Alan will be our representative. Dave (as NEC member) said there were no current plans for an LGR meeting, but one may be arranged at a later date to discuss the local groups constitution template.

(j) Other Committee Members: Mary Knight

Mary said she had nothing to add.

4. Insurance Issues – Incident Reports

No incidents have been reported.

5. LDWA

(a) LDWA AGM 2015: Sunday 15th March

Ian and Pat, Pearl and Steve Smith, Norman, Merrian, and Brian Layton plan to attend. Dave will be there as an NEC member.

(b) Template for Group Constitution

Merrian, Norman and Ian will arrange a date to meet to discuss the changes.

It was confirmed that the new constitution does not allow local groups to charge a membership fee "No fee shall be levied for membership of the group, though the group may charge for optional services for its members". It was agreed that BBN provide a newsletter, programme of walks, etc.

6. LDWA 100s – Norman Corrin

Norman's report had been circulated before the meeting:

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

We are on Checkpoint 2 at Feniscliffe Church Hall 16 miles. We are open Saturday at 1315 and close at 1830. So far we have 14 helpers. We have been asked to provide clippers and a laptop so far. I have other details about the checkpoint. The food will be delivered.

Barbara Shelton has emailed asking if a few of us can turn up at 10 to help the elderly caretaker with protective floor covering and setting out of tables and chairs.

(b) 2016 - Dorset.

We are at Checkpoint 1 at Crossways. It is now an indoor checkpoint. As with Red Rose we've been asked to provide a laptop which we will be doing.

(c) 2017 - Crosses 100 – North York Moors

We've been offered a Checkpoint at 28 miles which is a Bunkhouse in Rosedale.

(d) 2018 – Kent. No information yet.

2015 – Red Rose 100 - East Lancashire: Merrian will look at Fenniscliffe Church Hall when Dave does the Marshals' Walk and report back. Lynn and Dave and Norman will be at the hall early to help set up. Norman will see if he can get the 'menu' and equipment for the CP so we can raise queries early.

2017 - Crosses 100 – North York Moors: The CP has not been accepted yet.

7. BBN Challenge Events

(a) Shillington Shuffle 2014 – Merrian Lancaster (on behalf of Gordon Shaughnessy)

Merrian suggested and it was agreed that a brief report of the event plus a list of the helpers be included in the Newsletter.

(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.
- I went to Safran Power Systems on Tuesday 20th January to speak to them about the arrangements for car parking on the day. All OK.
- HQ is at Pitstone Memorial Hall. Checkpoints are all booked at Whipsnade, Little Gaddesden and Tring Scout Hut. Checkpoint information has been updated.
- We have 74 entries as at today.
- I will be asking for marshals in an update to Merrian. I currently have 22.

Norman confirmed that the CK routes will be on the BBN website shortly,

Norman will see if he can sort waterproof tallies in time for the event.

(c) From Here to There & Back – Alan Leadbetter

Alan's report had been circulated before the meeting:

The first draft for the route descriptions have been written, just waiting for them to be checked. The short/medium routes are to be checked by Mike. Merrian/Dave said they will check the long route. Have not yet received any offers of help yet.

Alan confirmed that Graham Bayes has now offered to help with the catering. Marshals are still needed. The marshals' walk is on 21st June. Not sure exactly how many entries to date – Ian confirmed £217 banked, so approximately 30 entries.

Lynn will send Alan a copy of her "shopping list" for him to refer to when planning the food.

(d) Sundon Saunter – Merrian Lancaster (on behalf of Dave Sedgley)

Merrian reported that the SS committee had tried to persuade Dave S to reduce the number of CPs from 4 to 3. Dave has responded that he does not think 3 CPs are practical for the current routes, but this is something he will consider in the future. Dave has booked all the checkpoints. He is looking to bypass the 5 stiles near the start. Dave has checked most of the routes; they are nearly ready to be checked by others.

Lynn confirmed the HQ is booked and parking is agreed at The Academy.

8. Donations/Projects

No donations or projects at moment.

Ian suggested buying a waterproof gazebo which could be used outside event HQs for taking off boots. Merrian said she has a gazebo which could be trialled to see if this was practical.

Lynn said BBN still has two tents which have not been used for a while. Do we want to keep them?

Norman suggested a bulk buy of blue plastic overshoes for use on events. Lynn said the Brewery where Dave works has a "Shoe Cover Machine". Could BBN buy one?

9. AOB

- **Santa needs a new suit:** This was agreed. Norman will see what is available.
- **First Aid Course:** Merrian said Dorset Group (2016 100) had asked whether any BBN members are first aiders. Would first aid training be a good idea? Ian said he was a first aider for his running club and that there were "first aid for sports clubs" courses. Merrian will look into what is available.
- **Entry fee cheques:** This has been dealt with and Mike Hyland can now pay entry fees directly into the BBN account.
- **Online entries:** The SS committee would like to use online entries - but would still accept postal entries. Merrian will report back.
- **Transport for From a Castle to a Park:** Norman has a quote from Bill's Minibus in Milton Keynes for his 2nd August linear walk. It was agreed to book a 35 seater at a cost of £160. Walkers to be charged £5 each.
[NB Agreed via email after meeting that total cost of transport will be paid from group funds.]
- **Next meetings:** Dates were agreed as Thursday 4th June 2015 at Lynn's, and Thursday 24th September at Merrian's.
- **AGM 2015: Sunday 29th November:** Northants preferred. Alan will check availability of Holcot/Broughton village halls/pubs and report back.
- **Santa's New Suit Walk:** Sunday 13th December 2015

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

Next meetings:

Thursday 4th June 2015 – Lynn's

Thursday 24th September – Merrian's