

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION : BEDS BUCKS NORTHANTS GROUP
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2010
AT THE STAR AND GARTER PH, SILSOE

Present (29): Dee Brockway, Chris Burns, Gill Bunker, Steve Clark, Norman Corrin, David Findel-Hawkins, Phil Hastings, Malcolm Howse, Mike Hyland, Sandra Hyland, Merrian Lancaster, Paul Lawrence, John Ledger, John Nickerson, Judy Nickerson, Jane O'Dea, Roger O'Dea, Josephine Pettifer, Janet Presland, Roy Presland, Chris Ryder, Ian Sage, Nigel Schofield, Dave Sedgley, Gordon Shaughnessy, Peter Simon, Steve Smith, Dave Yorston, Lynn Yorston

Guests (2): Claudie Sedgley and Pearl Smith.

The meeting commenced at 2.15 p.m.

Nigel welcomed everyone and opened the meeting. He hoped that everyone had enjoyed the walk and the meal. He especially welcomed LDWA Chairman Paul Lawrence. Paul would be updating the meeting on the London 2012 Hundred (Item 11) and had also distributed a paper "LDWA National Update for BBN AGM".

1. Apologies

David Anderson, Karen Anderson, Peter Bearne, Lee Brimmer, Teresa Brown, Jackie Burnett, Eric Cartwright, David Chesher, Jan Chesher, John Chesher, John Davies, Sybil Davies, Sylvie Eames, Cliff Garnham, Jenny Greatbatch, Brian Harwood, Derek Jacob, Kevin Lamming, Brian Layton, Adrian Moody, Jim Morrison, Dave Norris, Marcus Rogers, Pat Sage, Colin Scargill, Veronica Scargill, Betty Sherry, Mooi Simon, Roger Skerman, Margaret Skerman, Lucy Tink, Ian Turnbull, and Terry Watson

2. Minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting and Matters Arising

Nigel said that items raised at the last AGM had been dealt with by the Committee during the year. He said these Minutes may appear lengthy but the group is required to file a full set of Minutes with the national LDWA.

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

Prop: Dave Yorston, Sec: Gordon Shaughnessy.

3. Officers' Reports

(a) Chairman – Nigel Schofield's report

Nigel summarised his report which had been circulated:

To all Members of LDWA BBN and guests

Welcome to the 2010 AGM. I hope that you all enjoyed the walk this morning and that those who had lunch here at The Star and Garter are suitably refreshed and content. I would like to thank Dee on your behalf for leading the walk this morning, Gill for organising the luncheon and to Norman for organising the AGM today.

Welcome to Paul Lawrence (LDWA Chairman) who will give an update on progress towards 2012, what has been achieved so far. BBN will be represented on the 2012 organising Committee and on the main event itself. BBN will be hosting Checkpoint 3 at Mottingham (18 miles) in Kent. All offers of help at this checkpoint please to Norman – thank you. If you have never marshalled or organised a challenge event before then this will be an ideal opportunity to put something back into BBN and LDWA in return for all the events that you have enjoyed. If you are not sure what is involved please ask Norman or myself or anyone who was at Checkpoint 1 on the Wessex 100 or Checkpoint 2 on the Heart of Scotland 100.

This is my fourth annual report to the BBN and looking back at the last twelve months pride of place must go to John and Judy Nickerson and Steve and Pearl Smith on their marriages. On behalf of BBN I extend everyone's wishes to them for a long, happy and healthy time together. As in previous years we have had another very full programme of walks and this year two weekends away – the Lake District and Derbyshire. Thanks from all who were able to attend to: John, Judy, David FH, Merrian, Chris Bent and Frances Craven - it amazes me once again how we fitted in the challenge events and social walks that were so ably organised and led by your fellow members. Reports on the challenge events and social walks will be presented later on the agenda. We in BBN owe an immense debt of gratitude to the organisers of the inaugural Pick and Mix (David, Lynn, Mike and Sandra). I have been given so many compliments from the participants on the day and since. What can we say about 10th and final Steppingley Step (record entry again! 331 - Where does John find them?) and their dependable support groups. Walkers and runners come from many parts for our challenge events due to the excellent organisation, route descriptions and sustenance. As ever if the usual suspects did not volunteer the events would not take place – we also assisted the London Group on the 2010 Founders Challenge and London Group assisted us on the Steppingley Step. There will be a successor to this event, the details of which are to be confirmed – watch this space.

This year your Chairman has only led one social walk year from Princes Risborough. Only six souls on a glorious August day, so this will be offered again in 2011. It was as ever good to meet and greet new members and friends on the social and challenge walks that I was able to attend. I hope that you will enjoy the 2011 programme that Dee is co-ordinating for you. We will always need new leaders and new walks – have a chat with Dee and she will find you a 'free' Sunday or Thursday.

Repeated heartfelt congratulations to those who completed the Heart of Scotland 100 this year, the first timers – pity about the rain, commiseration to those who did not complete. If you were not aware John Nickerson completed his 25th 100 this year, a tremendous achievement and congratulations from all in BBN. And thank you to the BBNers who marshalled at Checkpoint 2, some of whom were novices, especially the Girl Guides. As I mentioned in my report last year until you see at first hand what the walkers/runners overcome and how some marshals stay awake all hours the 100 remains a mystery to many of us who including me cannot envisage walking a 100 miles. Besides quite a lot of social walks, two marshals challenges and about five or six other Challenges including the Dovedale Dipper, my major event for 2010 was the Dorset Giant in April, pleased to say I completed in a reasonable time and congratulations to those who completed and endured the rain in the late evening and wee hours. My walk report was in the June newsletter.

One of my appointments at the 2006 AGM was to be the LDWA local groups representative for BBN. Unfortunately I was unable to attend this year at Conwy Youth Hostel on 14 November due to a previous commitment i.e. The Steppingley Step – a much more worthy cause and could not possibly miss John Nickerson's finale.

I hope that Norman has or will distribute separately the Minutes for the Local Groups Meeting. One point of interest is the distribution to all LDWA Members a 2011 Calendar with the December edition of Strider – are all the photos by Steve Clark or is Steve Mr June? Norman's report will refer to other BBN events, awards and unfortunately the departure of three of our LDWA friends to the long distance path above. I represented BBN at Reg Chapman's funeral. Well over a 100 mourners attended and a tribute was made in behalf of LDWA by a member of the National Committee.

I would like to thank all Members of the Committee for their support in the last 12 months – they do the real work. And finally on behalf of all BBNers I wish to propose a vote of thanks to Norman for his support and enthusiasm as your Group Secretary and to Dee as Social Walks Secretary – we would be lost without them.

I look forward with everyone to an even better walking year in 2011. I am pleased to stand for re-election as your Chairman for 2011/2012 and if appointed would be honoured to be your Chairman and 'Challenge event gofer' for the ensuing year.

As always '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'.

Nigel emphasised the benefits of keeping in touch with other groups by helping on their events and reiterated his thanks to Norman for his work as Secretary and Dee for drawing up the walks programme

There were no questions following Nigel's report.

(b) Secretary - Norman Corrin's report

Norman read his report which had been circulated:

Ding Dong Merrily on High is a well known Christmas Carol but this year it could also refer to the two weddings of BBN members.

On a very hot Saturday in July Steve Smith asked Pearl Hamilton in his own words not mine to be his "awful wedded wife". There were a few BBN friends and many of Pearl's family there to share in their special day. The weather was superb as was the setting of the Anchor Hotel with sufficient room for all.

Three months later on October 14th surrounded by John and Judy's families and walking friends and with some prompting from the Vicar John Nickerson and Judy Wheeldon became Mr and Mrs Nickerson. If Steve and Pearl's wedding was the result of a whirlwind romance then John and Judy's was that of a leisurely breeze. I agree wholeheartedly with Nigel's comments in his speech about wishing them the best of happiness

A further high point of John's year was that he finished his 25th consecutive LDWA 100 at the Heart of Scotland 100. He completed this in 38 hrs 51 minutes accompanied by his good friend Paul Flynn. In October John said "I do" but when quizzed recently about ever doing another 100 he said "I don't"!

This was the first 100 ever held in Scotland and all the work that John Stewart had put in since he used his phrase "I have a dream" came to fruition. At 0958 417 walkers set off to the skirl of the pipes. BBN were at Checkpoint 2 in Kirkmichael Village Hall and ably marshalled by Lynn Yorston, a dozen or so group members and a band of helpers from the local Guiding group of Trefoil ensured the walkers were fed and watered quite comfortably. I thank you all particularly for making the long trek up north. Without helpers like you the LDWA would not be able to function. I hope you can persuade others to follow in your footsteps both walking and marshalling.

The 100 entrants were also treated to the sound of someone bellowing "Get out of the way, get out of the way". When they turned round they saw Steve Clark on a mountain bike racing up to the top of the hills to get some of his shots which were subsequently published in the August Strider. He was accompanied by Christine Pendlebury who supported her daughter Kathryn Ross on her first attempt at a 100 and she was amongst the last to finish. Ian Sage summed this achievement up in his article in the June newsletter as Kathryn is no longer Christine's daughter but Christine is now Kathryn's mother. Congratulations to Ian who completed his second 100 after some major surgery last year and also to Gordon Shaughnessy who completed his first 100 after being so close in 2009. When asked by Dave Findel-Hawkins at the finish if he wanted wine or beer he replied "Both!"

Another BBN member who achieved notable success was our former Chairman Adrian Moody who became an International Master Walker at the Two Days HaervejsMarch in Viborg, Denmark on the weekend of June 26th/27th. In sweltering conditions Adrian completed two days of 40 km to complete the last of the founding members' series of eight events and thus earn his award. He was joined on this weekend event by Cliff Garnham, Dennis Jacobs and I. Unfortunately the occasion rapidly went from the sublime to the ridiculous when we retired to the nearest sports bar to watch England go out of the World Cup to Germany. Being in a bar full of Germans made it even worse.

Next year's trip abroad will be to the Castlebar 4 Days in County Mayo, Eire in June. Steve Clark, Marcus Rogers and I have been over there and can vouch for how good the event is.

As normal our social walks secretary Dee has excelled herself in producing a varied social walks programme and persuading several new members to lead social walks for the first time. She'll explain in greater detail about the programme.

Most of the group's socialising is done on walks but along with the weddings we had a few social events such as the Halloween Quiz walk in October plus Charles Francis and his band of Misfitz putting on another show at The Stables in June.

A regular highlight of the BBN Calendar is the August Bank Holiday weekend trip organised by John Nickerson. However with Judy having just had her knee operation John felt unable to go and Dave Findel-Hawkins and Merrian Lancaster very kindly stepped in and offered to lead. This they did most ably, in particular on the Saturday leading the group safely up and over Crinkle Craggs in very demanding weather conditions. I'm pleased to say the next two days were considerably easier and gave everyone a chance to see how a walky talky safety system works. Our thanks to them both for standing in at such short notice.

Merrian along with Kevin Lamming has also taken on the task of enabling printing of the BBN newsletter and her emailing this to group members has helped reduced costs. She has also made several suggestions for improving the BBN website and subject to AGM approval and a committee meeting is willing to have a go at enhancing it. We would like to thank Steve for all the hard work he has done over the past five years on the current website and hope that he continues to supply his excellent set of photographs.

The group has once again put on successful challenge events such as the new Pick & Mix in March ably organised by Dave & Lynn Yorston and Mike & Sandra Hyland and the 10th and final Steppingley Step organised by John Nickerson with a record number of entries of 331. The respective walk organisers will report in greater detail about the events but we have heard nothing but praise for their efforts, in particular the Pick & Mix which was an ideal way to introduce prospective new members to the LDWA.

A new venture for the group was a weekend away taking over a Youth Hostel in the Peak District in October. This saw 16 people turn up to take part in two days of glorious October walking. This was so successful that they are repeating the event in March next year.

On a more sombre note BBN bade farewell to Pauline Papworth in May and the LDWA nationally said adieu to Tom Sinclair, Ken Andrews and Reg Chapman. Our thoughts have been and continue to be with their families during these difficult times.

I'm sure I've forgotten many things but once again I'd like to thank all the committee members and group members who've helped out on various projects throughout the year. Without their efforts nothing would ever get done.

We have much to be proud of in 2010 and we have much to look forward to in 2011 such as the Housman 100 and the group's involvement in the London 2012 100.

I'm willing to stand as Secretary for another year if so elected by the group. However next year will be my last.

There were no questions following Norman's report. Nigel thanked Norman for his report and for his work as Secretary,

(c) Treasurer/Membership - John Nickerson's report

John circulated his report and the Audited Accounts, and summarised the main points:

As you can see from our audited accounts we have had a year which has resulted in a small loss (£159.15) with the current account standing at £2930.67 and the savings account at £2193.48, together totalling £5218.50. The group income from our challenge walks in the audited year was Steppingley Step (Nov 2009) £420.18, Pick and Mix (March 2010) £363.62. Thanks to the members (and some non-members) who made this possible, either by entering or helping on these events.

The Committee decided to make a loan to the 2012 100 committee of £300 to enable them to start the ball rolling for this event. This will be repaid after the event (we would have been in profit bar for this).

We did not make any donations in this audited year.

The cost of producing and distributing the newsletter has fallen again, and this year the costs were £180.58. This is due to two of our members (Merrian Lancaster and Kevin Lammings) liaising with our newsletter editor and getting the printing completed at work (officially) and themselves packing and posting. As stated at last year's AGM we will now only have three newsletters a year.

The website cost was about £35 this year, but current costs are still to be shown.

Our BBN membership at £1 must be the lowest in the groups and I would like to continue with this for next year, as we have adequate resources.

Many thanks to our Auditor Barry Watson for his help again this year His reward is a usual a nice bottle of red wine.

Membership Report

Since the 2009 AGM 34 new members have joined us, but we had 28 members who did not rejoin. Our total membership as at 27th November 2010 is 150 (including 3 life members), an increase of 6.

Merrian asked when the subscription fee was due and John confirmed this was by the 31st March each year.

Nigel thanked John for his report,

(d) Social Walks Secretary – Dee Brockway's report

Dee read her report which she had also circulated:

I trust everyone can at least see of a copy of the Social Walks Report. I begin, like last year, by thanking all the leaders for offering to take us on a walk, providing me with the necessary details and spending, what I know, is a lot of time and energy, planning out, measuring and surveying their route before the big day! It may take a bit of time but I think all would agree it is a rewarding experience and it allows many fellow walkers to enjoy a great day out. We tolerate any mistakes (and we all make them) with support, if also mild amusement at times. If you have not yet led a walk please give it a thought. This year five new leaders did. My sincere thanks to Tim Dawe, Lucy, Jenny and Ian and Betty for really taking that extra big step! Our regular leaders are the backbone of our successful club with star prize awarded to Sylvie who led no less than four walks! Other reliable regulars included Dave FH, Peter B and Gordon who each devoted their time and effort to lead three walks this year. You all make this job very easy. John, of course, co-ordinated the Thursday programme. My thanks to him for the great job he always does.

At BBN we offer quantity and quality. Variety is the spice of life and we certainly have that. We have enjoyed not just excellent routes and scenery throughout our three counties but also the usual 'extras' including a group meal, quiz, and carol singing. Welcome visitors on our walks have included all types from Father Christmas to Scooby Doo to the Grim Reaper (and some lived to tell the tale!). Many walks have been enhanced with the leader providing interesting facts, from history to fantasy, about the area we are visiting. If you have not enjoyed local historian Dave Sedgley's walk around the Flitwick Moor area, you are missing a treat.

Right, now the formidable statistics. We offered a total of 46 social walks, not far short of an average one per week, 24 on a Thursday and 22 at the weekend. If you had chosen to do all of these you could have covered a total of 743 miles accompanied by an average of 16 friends on a Thursday and 15 at weekends. A point of interest, this is, in my experience, the first year our mid week programme has attracted more walkers than those on a Saturday or Sunday. You would have followed 28 different leaders and gone to all corners of Beds, Bucks and Northants. Santa, as always, attracted the most walkers, 30 in total, with a joint walk lead by Phil Hastings, along with our friends from Essex and Herts coming a close second with 28 walkers.

To the future. The programme for the first four months of 2011 is now finalised and published. After a desperate plea for leaders for between January and April I received such support that five welcome offers have been deferred to the May to August programme. That said, more volunteer leaders are welcomed and indeed encouraged for the remainder of the year. I realise that the final dates for the necessary information are a long time before the walk, but Strider and our own newsletter deadlines dictate this. Could I suggest any leaders book the date of their walk asap and I will advertise when the date final details are required. Yet again, many thanks to all and, if elected, I would be honoured to continue for a fifth year as social walks secretary.

BBN Social Walks Report Nov 2009 – Nov 2010

DATE	WALK	LEADER	DISTANCE (MILES)	NUMBER OF WALKERS
Sun 22 Nov	AGM Harrold Walk	Norman Corrin	9	21
Thurs 26 Nov	Northants Villages 2	Frank & Shirley Row	15	26
Thurs 3 Dec	Another Ouse Valley Amble	David Findel-Hawkins	15	16
Sun 13 Dec	The Santa Claws Safari	Norman Corrin	15	30
Thurs 17 Dec	Down the River	Sylvie Eames	15	17
Sat 26 Dec	Scouting Around	Frances Craven & Chris Bent	14	16
Thurs 7 Jan	Another January MK Round	Judy Wheeldon	15	12
Sun 10 Jan	With Northampton Ramblers	Frank & Shirley Row	18	8
Thurs 28 Jan	John's Birthday Walk	John Nickerson	15	18
Sun 31 Jan	More Two Moors & A Little Moor	Dave Sedgley	20	24
Thurs 11 Feb	A North of Bedford Round	Brian Harwood	15	23
Sun 14 Feb	End of the Chilterns	Peter Simon	18	11
Thurs 25 Feb	A Walk from Ashridge	John Davies	16	13
Thurs 11 March	The Salome Wood Wander	Peter Bearne	15	12
Sun 21 March	Icknield or Ridgeway?	Gordon Shaughnessy	20	21
Thurs 25 March	Milton Keynes "County Top"	David Findel-Hawkins	15	18
Sun 28 March	Far North Northamptonshire	Tim Dawe	15	5
Thurs 8 April	Pilgrims Progress Part 3	Brian Graves	15	21
Sun 11 April	Tale of Two Counties	Frances Craven & Chris Bent	18	11
Sun 18 April	Litlington Loop	Phil Hastings	19	28
Thurs 22 April	A Bit of a Chase	Roger Storey	15	12
Thurs 6 May	The Brickyards Walk	Colin Scargill	15	16
Sun 9 May	Buckingham Bash	Sylvie Eames	15	13
Thurs 20 May	Not the Windmill...	Judy Wheeldon	15	16
Sun 23 May	Wheathampstead & Whitwell ...	Lucy Tink	20	21
Thurs 10 June	The 3rd Marston Meander	Derek Jacob	15	14
Thurs 24 June	The Bozeat Bash	Adrian Moody	16	14
Sun 4 July	Woburn Wander	Sylvie Eames	15	10
Thurs 8 July	To the Dog and Back	Roger & Margaret Skerman	15	18
Sun 11 July	Over Wendover	Peter Simon	19	16
Thurs 22 July	Stopsley Saunter 2	Gordon Shaughnessy	15	18
Sun 25 July	Ducks, Ducks and more Ducks....	Steve Clark	18	15
Sun 1 Aug	South of Bedford	Gordon Shaughnessy	20	13
Thurs 5 Aug	Eastern Flank of John Bunyan...	Brian Graves	15	20
Sun 8 Aug	Not a Pancake Race	Jenny Greatbatch & Ian Turnbull	20	15
Thurs 19 Aug	Top of Bedford Borough	David Findel-Hawkins	15	15
Sun 22 Aug	Risborough Roundabout	Nigel Schofield	18	7
Thurs 9 Sept	Gallop to Gravenhurst	Colin Scargill	16	19
Sun 12 Sept	A Little Leg of London Loop	Betty Sherry	21	6
Thurs 23 Sept	By Canal and Roade	Roger Story	16	13
Sun 3 Oct	East of Oundle	Peter Bearne	16	6
Thurs 7 Oct	Frank's 1st for BBN	Frank Riley	15	14
Sun 10 Oct	Wendover Winding Route	Sylvie Eames	15	10
Thurs 21 Oct	Jurassic Canal Walk	Peter Bearne	15	8
Sun 31 Oct	Halloween Hobble + Quiz	Norman Corrin	11	18
Thurs 11 Nov	Wander the Downs Markyate	Roger Skerman	15	9

The Incredible and Exciting Statistics.

Number of social walks – Thursdays-24 Weekends-22. **Total 46**

Number of social walk leaders – **28**

Average social walk length Thursdays-15.2mils Weekends 17.3mils

Average number attending each social walk Thursdays-16 walkers Weekends-15 walkers.

Total miles walked Thursdays-364 mls Weekends- 379mils **Total 743mils**

Total number on all social walks – **715** (obviously the same folk walked more than once!)

Dee confirmed that Brian Harwood's walk on Thursday 25th November was not included in this year's statistics because of the short time before the AGM; it would be included in next year's report.

There were no questions following Dee's report, and Nigel thanked her for her hard work for the group.

(e) Merchandising Secretary - Lynn Yorston's report

Lynn read her report:

We have replenished our stocks to include T-shirts & sweatshirts at a cost of £187.93 inclusive. These have a printed logo instead of the embroidered one previously used.

We have already sold some of these new items and hope to encourage more interest by adding pictures of our garments to the web page.

Sales for this past financial year total £122.00.

6 of our BB&N badges were given free of charge to the Trefoil ladies who helped us at our checkpoint on the Heart of Scotland 100.

We have brought along the whole of our stock as held at this point in time. If anyone would like to make a purchase, we will be 'open for business' at the end of this meeting.

This concludes the merchandising report.

We are willing to continue looking after the merchandise.

(f) Equipment – Lynn Yorston's report

Lynn read her report:

The broken toaster has been replaced.

We have purchased 8 No. 'BEWARE - WALKERS' road signs for use at dangerous crossings on events. These had proved useful on the Pick & Mix.

Norman has purchased and now holds 2 No. 'FOUL WEATHER' type clipboards.

According to our list, Norman holds our electric tea urn. However, when we came to use it last, it seemed to be only a large, elderly coffee percolator which was not fit for the purpose. We would therefore like to propose that the group purchases a new electric water boiler and that Norman would keep it in place of the old percolator. Having investigated the possibilities, we can find a 30 litre Burco catering boiler for between £150 and £200 inclusive.

We assume that all other equipment is in serviceable order as no one has reported to the contrary.

We have prepared a comprehensive list of equipment but rely on the person detailed on it to be holder of that item. If things change, PLEASE let us know. If anyone needs a copy of this list, please contact us.

Merrian referred to the plastic sheeting used on the Chiltern Landmarks 100 and asked whether this could be lent out to other groups. Lynn explained that this was thin protective sheeting and that it could only be used once. She confirmed that this sheeting had been used over the years and that there was some left but if offered to other groups it would diminish BBN's own supply. Lynn confirmed that the thicker plastic sheeting used for the Steppingley Step was also being stored by them.

Nigel thanked Lynn for her work, and hubby Dave for his support,

(g) Webmaster -Steve Clark's report

Steve confirmed he would be standing down as webmaster. There was little to report but he had enjoyed setting up and running the website. There was one outstanding bill to be paid which he would send to John. A vote of thanks was proposed by Nigel and recorded to Steve for his work on the website and there was a round of appreciative applause.

(h) Newsletter -Steve Clark's report

Steve said he had enjoyed producing the Newsletter over the last year and was willing to continue if no-one else wanted to take over. He asked for articles to be contributed in plenty of time before each Newsletter deadline,

Nigel thanked Steve for his work and explained that articles need not just be about group walks but could be about holidays, travelling, recipes, jokes; in fact anything that would be of interest to fellow walkers.

(i) Local Groups Representative – Nigel Schofield's report

Nigel said he had been unable to attend the recent meeting of the LGRs as this clashed with the Steppingley Step and he felt his first commitment was to help on the group event. The Minutes of the meeting had been sent to each local groups and Norman had emailed them on to BBN members.

Merrian said that any group member could attend LGR meetings and Nigel confirmed he had asked if any other BBN members wanted to attend but no-one had come forward, possibly because of the location of this year's meeting (Conwy).

4. Election of Officers

Norman took over conduct of the meeting for the election of the Chairman.

Nigel was unanimously re-elected (Prop: Norman Corrin; Sec: Lynn Yorston).

Nigel thanked the meeting for its confidence in him and said he would do his best for the group in coming year. He said the position of Chairman was not onerous; he saw himself more as a co-ordinator.

In the absence of any other nominations, the following officers and committee were elected unanimously and the 2011 committee is therefore:

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| (a) Chairman | Nigel Schofield Prop: Norman Corrin, Sec: Lynn Yorston |
| (b) Secretary | Norman Corrin Prop: Nigel Schofield, Sec: Roy Presland |
| (c) Treasurer/Membership | John Nickerson Prop: Merrian Lancaster, Sec: Dave Sedgley |
| (d) Social Walks Secretary | Dee Brockway Prop: Merrian Lancaster, Sec: Malcolm Howse |
| (e) Committee Members | Steve Clark, Gill Bunker, Gordon Shaughnessy, Lynn Yorston
Kevin Lamming, Merrian Lancaster |
| (f) Committee members appointed to specific roles: | |
| (i) Merchandising/Equipment | Lynn Yorston Prop: Merrian Lancaster, Sec: Mike Hyland |
| (ii) Webmaster | Merrian Lancaster Prop: Norman Corrin, Sec: Dave Yorston |
| (iii) Newsletter | Steve Clark Prop: Nigel Schofield, Sec: Merrian Lancaster |
| (iv) Local Groups Representative | Nigel Schofield Prop: Dave Yorston, Sec: Merrian Lancaster |
| (v) Minute Secretary | Gill Bunker Prop: Merrian Lancaster, Sec: Norman Corrin |
| (vi) Cheque Signatories | John Nickerson, Nigel Schofield, Norman Corrin
Prop: Janet Presland, Sec: Malcolm Howse |

5. Subscriptions for 2011

Nigel and John confirmed that, as mentioned in the Treasurer's report, the subscription for 2011 would remain at £1, but the issue of subscriptions would be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

6. Group Finances/Donations

Nigel said that the group had a surplus of £5,000. In the past the group had made various donations and he thought that £1,000 of these funds could be given to worthy causes. Essex Herts had recently made a donation to the Air Ambulance and Nigel suggested BBN might like to do something similar. Norman asked whether the "worthy cause" should be one within our three counties and Nigel replied that he thought it should. Janet Presland mentioned the Warwickshire and Northampton Air Ambulance Service.

Steve Clark mentioned Reamie who had walked the Steppingley Step pulling a tyre to raise money and asked whether a donation could be made to her charity, Earthwatch.

Norman and Nigel both suggested that if any members knew of a particular kissing gate or stile which needed repair something like this could also be considered. Dave Findel-Hawkins said that the Chiltern Society accepted donations for repairs to stiles and gates.

Dee suggested buying multi media maps that the group could share.

Nigel confirmed that any suggestions would be considered at the next Committee meeting and then ideas would be listed in the next Newsletter for feedback from the membership.

7. Appointment of Auditor

John confirmed that Barry Watson was willing to continue as Auditor and this was agreed.

8. BBN Challenge Events

(a) Pick and Mix : Dave Yorston

Dave read his report:

As reported in the newsletter, this event was a great success. We seemed to have picked the only warm, dry Sunday in the whole of the Spring 2010. We had lots of good feedback from many of those who took part. One couple even continued to walk out an extra route once we had closed up for the evening!!

We had 205 people out walking any combination of the 5 routes that were on offer. The shortest length completed was 5 miles and the longest was 39 miles. We counted 21 different combinations of mileages covered that day. Two people actually managed to complete all 5 routes – Dave F-H and Paul Scrivener. Maybe we will have to try harder next time, if we are asked to do it!! An extra route may just foil their record.

May we send out a very big thank you to all who helped us.

We would be happy to hold this event again in 2012 if the committee would like us to.

Nigel thanked Dave and Lynn and Mike and Sandra for organising the event and said many walkers had spoken to him praising the event,

(b) Steppingley Step : John Nickerson

John said that the recent Steppingley Step was his last. He had been overwhelmed by the number of pre-entries; there were usually 200 walkers in total this year there had been 230 pre-entries which had meant a rapid re-think of the catering arrangements. He has asked for assistance with the transport of

equipment and food and everybody had rallied round and helped. Everything had run as normal on the day; John thanked the people who had helped for many years. There had been one accident; a lady who had fallen and Norman had taken her to Bedford Hospital where she had six stitches in her leg. Next year Dave Yorston and Dave Sedgley would be looking to carry on the event, possibly with a different format and differing routes alternating routes from year to year. John said it has been good working with BBN on the event through the years and he wished the new organisers all the best and said he was sure members would help in the future in the same way.

Nigel thanked John for all his hard work in the interest of long distance walking and told the meeting that a garden rose had been presented to John at the Steppingley Step to thank him for all his work; the rose was called Double Delight and should bloom in BBN colours and those present at Barton village Hall had given a round of thunderous applause.

There as a round of appreciative applause for John.

(c) Chiltern Kanter: Norman Corrin

Norman read his report:

Chiltern Kanter Sunday 27th February 2011

The route will be the same as for 2005 going up to the Bridgewater Monument. There will be 3 distances of 26, 18 and 13 miles. The 13 miles has been walked out with Gill and is currently awaiting checking by Mike et al.

The halls have been booked for the 27th February

This has been brought forward from the normal slot of the first weekend in March due to it clashing with the national AGM. However I've subsequently found out that it is now clashing with the re-arranged Winter Poppyline 50.

The price will remain the same as for 2009.

The marshals' walk is on Saturday the 19th February. If anyone is going to challenge events please can they let me know so that entry forms can be taken.

Requests for helpers have gone out in the October newsletter. Anyone interested in helping on the day please contact me.

Nigel thanked Norman for his report and his continued efforts in organising this Kanter.

9. Heart of Scotland 100 (2010) – Lynn Yorston

Lynn said everyone had a great time on the CP – the local Trefoil Guiders (retired Girl Guide leaders) had helped make the sandwiches. She thanked everyone who had helped and said the CP looked fantastic. Lynn had taken miniature roses to decorate the tables and these had been given to the Guiders as a thank you and had been much appreciated.

Nigel thanked Lynn for all her work and thanked all other BBNers who helped on the Scottish Hundred.

10. Housman 100 (2011) – Norman Corrin

Norman read his report:

On next year's Housman 100 BBN are on Checkpoint 1 the details of which are as follows:

It's a sheltered wayside forestry clearing at School Wood SO 481768. Opening hours are from 1130 to 1700. The reason it's so long an opening time is due to there being starts at 1000, 1200 and 1400.

We will do this as a group on our own and are not combining with any one else. So with its location there will be short periods of very intense activity but over very quickly. This will then give group members the chance to follow friends and family round or to help out on other checkpoints.

To man this checkpoint I estimate that we will need 20 people and provisionally I've had offers of assistance from 16 so we're nearly there.

According to the checkpoint leaflet Marches Group will be supplying their pergola as shelter which will then go onto CP12. We will be supplying only basic food and drink.

If anyone is interested in seeing what the LDWA's Blue Riband event is like then please contact me and do come and help. As I've said on countless occasions for other events being on the other side of the desk is great fun and particularly in the case of the 100 considerably less painful! If you're lucky Steve Clark might even take your photo!

11. London 2012 100 - Lynn Yorston/Paul Lawrence

Lynn said that BBN had requested CP3 at Mottingham which is due south of Greenwich and about 18 miles into the event. The CP is not actually in what is thought of as London and is very easy to get to.

Paul Lawrence said he was grateful for opportunity to address and update the group. He said there were three themes to the 100: the Olympic Games, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the 40th anniversary of the LDWA. Five groups were organising the event and each group had supplied a £300 loan to cover such things as deposits for halls and early expenses. BBN are presently involved via Norman (entries), Nigel (transport, collection of retirees/Raynet) and Dave and Lynn (sorting checkpoints and organisation of marshals' walk). The route is currently being checked, including by Dave FH and Merrian and Dave Yorston and Mike Hyland.

Paul said that the basics were in place, about three-quarters of the checkpoints were sorted for the main event and (as it is linear event) the two HQs. All are on offer or have already been booked. 90% of the marshals' walk CP have been sorted

The first few miles of the walk are not on rights of way (the land is owned by British Waterways and there is some parkland) but no major problems are expected with the route.

Help is still needed, including importantly a co-ordinator for first aid; Lynn said she had the name of someone who might be prepared to do this.

The market for tents/portaloos is becoming very tight for 2012 because of the many events taking place in London and Paul asked if anyone knew of any other sources of these items.

Nigel thanked Paul for the update and stressed that this Hundred is a going event and will take place. Norman said that surprisingly the event would contain less walking on tarmac than the Heart of Scotland Hundred as, even when in London, it went through parks, woods and by waterside before going into open country.

2012 100 Marshals' Event : Lynn Yorston

Lynn read her report:

Dave and I are tasked with the organisation of this event.

We have located and booked both Eastern HQ and Western HQ.

All bar three checkpoints and the Breakfast stop have also been booked. These outstanding sites have been earmarked and the negotiations are in progress. However, the booking of these is not within our remit as they will have to mirror the main event.

We have started to assign our checkpoint managers and other critical staff - i.e. sweep teams, closing marshals etc.

We send a big thank you to all of you who have already been assigned jobs. If anyone else out there would like to add their names to our volunteer list, please see us at the end of this meeting or send us a message asap.

Note: Nigel and Norman will share check point closing marshal duties.

Many thanks.

Reference was then made to the **Update from the National Committee** which Paul had circulated prior to the meeting:

- (a) Dee was pleased to note there was new local group in Scotland.
- (b) In response to a number of questions concerning the use of the Amazon website Paul confirmed that this was offered as a service to members but the LDWA would receive commission on any items purchased (this refers to all items purchased from Amazon, not just maps etc). Members can access the Amazon website directly via a link from the LDWA website.

12. 30th Anniversary Celebrations – Norman Corrin

Norman said ideas were being sought on how the group should celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2013. He suggested:

- (i) A 70 mile event based on the John Bunyan Trail, or
 - (ii) 3 x 30 mile events, one in each of the 3 counties.
- He asked that members pass on any their own ideas to the Committee.

13. Group Activities – Weekends – Social Events

Norman confirmed that following the success of the Peak District weekend Chris and Frances were putting on another group weekend in Derbyshire on the 26th/27th March. He said places are limited and the weekend is already filling up fast

Norman said he would think about another quiz nearer the time.

Dee said the weekend in Castlebar could turn out to be costly in view of the problems with the Irish economy.

Nigel said that the Committee were always willing to consider any social event – ideas should be passed on to any Committee member.

14. AOB

- (i) Steve Clark asked whether he still needed to supply address labels for the Newsletter to Merrian and Kevin and it was confirmed that, no, Merrian would liaise directly with John for up-to-date addresses for each issue,
- (ii) John Nickerson said that he was planning another BBN weekend in the Cotswolds over the August Bank Holiday weekend 2011 based in the Stroud area. There would be more information in the next Newsletter.
- (iii) Ian Sage has a video of the White Rose Hundred if anyone would like it as he can no longer play it. Dave Findel-Hawkins said he could convert this to a DVD if required.
- (iv) Dee said that accommodation in the Ludlow area appeared to be increasing in price over the Hundred weekend and may become scarce. Dave Sedgley said there was also a three day orienteering event on that weekend.

Nigel thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 3.32pm