

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION - BEDS BUCKS NORTHANTS GROUP

**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY 20TH MAY 2011**

AT 53 SHARPENHOE ROAD, BARTON-LE-CLAY

Present: Dee Brockway (Social Walks), Norman Corrin (Secretary), John Nickerson (Treasurer), Nigel Schofield (Chairman), Gordon Shaughnessy and Lynn Yorston

Nigel welcomed everyone and thanked Dee for hosting the meeting at Schloss Brockway (or should that be Uncle Toms Cabin?).

1. Apologies – Steve Clark, Kevin Lamming, Gill Bunker and Merrian Lancaster.

Norman advised the meeting that Kevin Lamming had tendered his resignation but would continue to assist with the production of the newsletter.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (28th January 2011) and Matters Arising

Lynn advised that the proposed social walk based on Bletchley Park would not go ahead for the moment. It was hoped that this could be re-arranged after the 2012 100 Challenge.

There would be no manufacture of benches for The Greensand Way.

The Minutes were approved with no other matters arising.

3. Officers' Reports

(a) Chairman – Nigel Schofield

Nigel's report was circulated:

I do hope that you have been able to enjoy the fantastic spring weather for walking, the two four day holiday weekends were superb and thanks to the walk leaders who have taken us uphill and down country lanes within the BBN area and other parts of the LDWA 'empire'.

On a personal note I was so 'chuffed' to complete the Wellington Boot on the weekend of 16/17 April (report in the next issue of the BBN Newsletter) and consequently the SW Triple Challenge. But of course my efforts are insignificant to those attempting and I am sure will complete the Housman 100. There will be a good number of BBN supporters at Checkpoint 1 (Amestry) to welcome you, clip your tally card, refresh you with food and drink and send you onto the wilds of Shropshire and Offa's Dyke (glorious in parts before and after Knighton). I understand that there will be other BBN stalwarts at checkpoints along the route who will also give a warm welcome, whatever the hour.

The London Games 100 in 2012 – BBN has control of Check Point 3 (Mottingham) and although there will be many BBNers on the event itself and BBN is well represented on the Event Committee we will always need more volunteers. If you have any skill, driving, first aid, cooking, tlc! Then please contact Norman or myself to see where you can help – thanks.

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.

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'.

Walks since the last meeting

- 30 January – Kathy's Birthday walk (12) CLOG
- 6 February – Coulsden Circular (17) Surrey Walking Club
- 13 February – Punchbowl Marathon (30) SURREY
- 20 February – Chiltern Kanter marshals' walk (solo)
- 27 February – Marshal on Chiltern Kanter
- 6 March – Guildford Circular (22) Surrey Walking Club (SWC)
- 11 – 18 March – Gomera (Canary Islands)
- 20 March - Sevenoaks Circular (30) KENT
- 27 March – Daffodil Dawdle (27) – NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK
- 3 April – Three Rs and Risborough Rollercoaster final reece (20) BBN and SWC
- 16/17 April – Wellington Boot (62.5) CORNWALL AND DEVON
- 29 April – 1 May – Isle of Purbeck (SWC)
- 8 May – Risborough Rollercoaster (SWC)
- 15 May – Newbury Circular Recee (20) LONDON

Planned Walks

- 22 May – The Three Rs (20) BBN
- 27 – 30 May – Marshalling at CP1 and CP5 on the Housman 100
- 5 June – Newbury Circular (20) LONDON
- 9 – 19 June – USA (hope to do some walking on the far end of Long Island NY)
- 6 – 11 July – Normandy (hope to do some coastal walks and La Suisse Normande)
- 10 – 13 August – Offa's Dyke (Llangollen to Prestatyn)
- 27 August – The Smugglers Trod (26) NORTH YORKSHIRE
- Mid September – walking in either Pembrokeshire or Northumberland

There will be more but very busy at the moment.

The text of Nigel's Chairman's Report is to be included in the Newsletter.
There were no questions following Nigel's report which was noted.

(b) Secretary - Norman Corrin

Norman's report was circulated:

I've received the following:

The Voluntary & Community Action South Beds newsletters for December 2010

Newsletters or email updates for the following groups

- Essex Herts: February 2011
- Kent: April 2011
- London: March 2011
- Surrey: Spring 2011
- Thames Valley: Periodic notifications of items on their forum and their AGM minutes for 16th January 2011

Where I've received them by email I've sent them onto the committee. Items of interest were as follows:

Essex & Herts

- Chairman's report which included the sad news about Hilary Brown but good news about attendance at the AGM which reached 34. Also a plea for an organiser for the Stansted Stagger to replace Pat and Brenda Ryan.
- Secretary's report which included news about the new Essex Herts Triple Challenge consisting of the Essex Walker, Herts Hobble and Blackwater Marathon.
- A report on 10 years of the Stansted Stagger by Brenda Ryan.
- The SuperVet Saunter which was a walk led by Dennis Jacobs round the Royal Veterinary College north of Potters Bar.
- An article about The Herts Hobble which will celebrate its 30th Anniversary in July this year and an extract from Strider 31 of December 1981 about the 1st Herts Hobble.
- Walks Secretary's notes and social walks programme including proposed Group Weekend on the Isle of Wight on 4th-6th November.
- Updates on the aforementioned Essex Herts Triple Challenge and the Eastern Triple Challenge which comprises the Herts Stroller, Winter Poppyline 50 and the Shotley 50.
- Minutes of the AGM held on Sunday 16th January 2011.
- Membership now stands at 131 which is a slight decrease.

Kent

- Details of Social Walks from April to August 2011 including their annual summer walk in France.
- Committee details and reminder about overdue subs (the things that unite us!) which are only £5 (their words, not mine).
- News of Kent Challenge Walks which are Sevenoaks Circular, Walk with the Smugglers and White Cliffs Challenge and details of Kent, Surrey and Sussex Triple Challenge.
- Various Hundred matters such as this year's Housman 100 and a very interesting article by Neil Higham the Kent Group treasurer about the 2012 100. He does quote a testimonial from our Lynn about the first 10 miles of the route which will surprise a lot of people due to the interest of it.
- Membership of Kent Group now stands at 124 up from 115.
- A picture of a frightened Jill Green rock climbing on one of Terry Griffiths' walking holidays in Spain.
- An article about Keith Warman receiving 2 awards from the group, one to mark the completion of his 20th 100 in Scotland and one to mark the 50th anniversary of the Bluebell Railway in Sussex.
- The retreat of the Government in their attempt to privatise the Forests.
- A picture of the new Kent Group Banner to be used on events and at checkpoints. I'm pleased to say it's in red.
- A plea for shorter social walks which are only going to be between 15-20 miles!
- A good article about Walkers and Runners and the fact that on some events runners are now forming 50 % of the field. What can be done is uncertain but it is causing problems as our events are for walkers after all.
- Plea for members to car share and save petrol as Kent is a large county.
- An account of the LDWA AGM which I also attended and I'd like to get a copy of the article.
- Details of the GreenSand Way walk in February which turned out to be quite an adventure.

London Group

- Details of the AGM held at the Coffee House on 22nd February. Attended by 18.
- Membership now stands at 490!!
- Various committee member reports and announcement of committee members standing down and new ones taking their place.
- Report on the Founders Challenge which was a great success and will be held again in 2011.
- Announcement that the 50th Tanners Marathon held in 2010 was the last.

- Suggestion from Margaret Romanski Social Walks Secretary about putting together a group of more experienced leaders to help anyone who wants to lead a walk for the first time.
- Plea for Founders Challenge Marshals.
- Reports on various social evenings.
- A shorter report on the LDWA AGM weekend. Not as many big words as in the Kent Group newsletter. More my style of report!
- Details of social walks programme and group weekends away of which they've four planned.

Surrey Group

- Welcome to new members.
- Articles and pictures on various social walks and the 2 Surrey Group events the Winter Tanners and Punchbowl.
- An article by a runner about looking after your feet which was quite comprehensive.
- Social Walks Programme.
- Some useful hints and phrases such as how to clean a Thermos Flask involving the use of egg shells and another one which is pouring whisky into socks which does wonders for your feet. Waste of a good spirit if you ask me!

Thames Valley

- They've become an affiliate of the HS2 Action Alliance which is campaigning against the proposed High Speed Rail link through the Chilterns.
- 23 attended their AGM on Sunday 16th January.
- Pat Endacott announced she was standing down and was succeeded by Martin Burnell.
- TV has a twitter account!
- The group will feature in the August Strider.
- Updates on the Oxon 40/20.
- Details of the 3 group weekends away.
- Details of the Xmas lunch for 2010 and 2011. Marshals who helped on the Oxon walks will be sponsored on this!
- There will be a Red Kite Kanter run by the group in October from the Henley YMCA using old Oxon routes.

New Members/ Enquiries from Public

I've received notification from the national membership secretary of 13 new LDWA members who have fallen into our catchment area.

I've phoned or emailed all of them with information packs about the group. I've not checked for this quarter which of them has joined BBN

2 LDWA members have transferred their memberships from other groups to BBN. Matt Fowler has transferred from Thames Valley to BBN and John Chesher's son David has transferred from Lincoln to BBN. I've emailed them both information packs.

8 member of the public have enquired about the LDWA and I've emailed them with information about the Association and our group.

Event Entry Forms

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

- Walk with the Lions Saturday 23rd April 2011
- Step out for Stroke – Tuesday 10th May
- Alwinton Round - Saturday 4th June 2011

- Tranquility Trail Challenge Saturday 25th June – Cancellation email
- Durham Dales Challenge Saturday 25th June 2011
- Malvern Midsummer Marathon Saturday 25th June 2011
- HS2 Protest Document
- Surrey Walking Club 100 miles Saturday and Sunday 2nd 3rd July 2011
- Hills and Dales Walk Saturday 10th September 2011
- Birmingham Canal Canter and Mini Canter Saturday 10th September 2011
- Website link for Mountain Trail Challenge Saturday 17th September 2011

Miscellaneous

Striders for April 2011 for local libraries have been sent to Nigel Schofield, John Nickerson, Steve Clark, Christine Pendlebury and Ian Sage.

LDWA Publicity posters, membership forms and Striders were sent to Dennis Jacobs for his son-in-law who organises the monthly Sandon Farmers Market in North Hertfordshire. This was held on the 16th April and had a sporting theme. I couldn't make it but Dennis did return the posters but all of the Striders had gone so someone must have been interested.

Farthingstone Fandango - AOB

I've sent a copy of the committee meeting minutes for 28th January to Brian Harwood.

I've removed the group from the email distribution list of the Greensand Ridgeway Committee meetings due to no-one being able to attend.

Dee and I appeared on the News of the World website partying in Trafalgar Square post the Royal Wedding. If you blinked you'd miss us!

Norman advised the meeting that Essex and Herts would be holding a walking weekend soon on the Isle of Wight hosted by Jill Green and that Bob and Rosemary Abrey at Essex and Herts were the people to contact.

There were no questions on the Secretary's report.

Nigel thanked Norman for his report and complimented him on all the work he does for the group.

(c) Treasurer / Membership - John Nickerson

John's report was circulated:

At 19 May 2011 our accounts stand as follows:

Current A/C

Last statement date 12 Nov 10 Credit £2903.67

Activity since this date to 19 May 11 results in Credit £3260.75

Savings A/C = £2199.28

Membership at 19 May 11 is 150 including 3 Life members and 15 new members since 2010 AGM.

(Note: At 1 April those members who had not paid were deleted from the list.)

John circulated a copy of the accounts and confirmed that the accounts were now virtually up to date, but there would always be a slight variance of credit up and down. There were 150 members at 19th May 2011, with 15 new members (balanced by a non-renewal from 15 members). At 30th November 2010 there were 164 members.

He said that group's finances were in a very healthy position and distributed a revised membership list with contact co-ordinates.

Nigel thanked John for his report.

(d) Social Walks – Dee Brockway

Dee read her report.

Well that's all done! The BBN social walks programme up to the end of this year, 2011 is now complete! I sent Gill the finished result for August to December last week, she has spotted my deliberate errors, corrected them, and input the programme onto the website. Strider will take the information from the site for publication in their next, August 2011 edition. As you probably all know, we had a little hiccup with publication of our February BBN newsletter; in-so-much as it went out for distribution minus the walks programme. Thanks to Merrian, and all concerned for emailing or posting to all members, a separate copy. To avoid repetition of our mistake, I will email the programme to Steve C. and ask him to include it as an integral part of the newsletter, rather than as an insert.

I haven't worked out all the statistics yet, you have to wait until the AGM for that exciting information, but I think I can say, with some certainty, that the number of walks we have been able to offer this year, has, in simple numbers of events, surpassed my other years 'in charge'. At least 3 new leaders Michael Mooney, Teresa Brown and Chris Burns have already very successfully led their first walks this year and there are a couple more new names to come. Following another of Phil Hastings' excellent joint walks with our neighbours Essex and Herts, Paul and Suzanne Flynn will help to strengthen our ties and friendships with another group, Thames Valley, when they lead a joint walk from Stone, near Aylesbury in September. Even partners of regular walks leaders, i.e. Dave Norris (Sylvie's other half) have been cajoled into the act and, by the sound of his walk title, he may include tea and biscuits for us all! November and December will be filled, in part, by the usual regular events, namely the AGM walk, Shillington Shuffle (marshals and the main event) and that man in red and white, Santa Claus, who insists on testing out our festive vocal chords every December. Watch out also for another Chris Dent's Boxing Day special, to blow away the Christmas cobwebs. and/or the extra pounds.

I am happily now accepting offers to lead walks for our next programme, January to April 2012. As always please book a slot asap and provide the usual final details by 10th September please.

So, absolutely lots to look forward to: over to our members for their next set of ideas and offers.

Nigel thanked Dee for her report and said that the group was in debt to her for the walk programme that everyone in BBN enjoyed. There was always a need for walk leaders new and not so new.

(e) Merchandising/Equipment - Lynn Yorston

Merchandising

Lynn advised the meeting that there was nothing to report on merchandising and that the garments available had yet to be uploaded onto the BBN website.

Equipment

Lynn advised the meeting that the following equipment had been purchased from the approved sum of £150.00: Berco Boiler, 2 large catering tea pots, 1 smaller tea pot, 9 large plastic jugs and 3 kettles. It was agreed that this equipment could be used by any club member but MUST be returned to the location from where it was collected and clean.

(f) Website – Merrian Lancaster

Norman confirmed that the BBN website was 'live' and that there would be a generic email address on the LDWA National website e.g. secretary@.....

Gordon proposed and it was agreed to co-opt David Findel-Hawkins onto the Committee to act as Membership Secretary until the AGM in November.

(g) Newsletter - Steve Clark

Norman advised that the next issue of the BBN newsletter would be towards the end of July and that the deadline for items was 22nd June.

(h) Local Group Representative – Nigel Schofield

Nigel said he had nothing to report.

(Note: The Chairman acting as clerk: Subsequent to this Committee meeting the date of the LDWA Local Groups Meeting in 2011 has once again been arranged on the weekend of our November Challenge. As I did not attend last year I think that it would be best if we were represented. I will go and please may I do the marshals' walk on the weekend before?)

(i) Other Committee Members

No item was raised for discussion.

4. Insurance Issues – Incident Reports

Norman passed on advice from the National Committee in that anyone organising a walking holiday (weekend or longer) should not be responsible for both travel/transport and accommodation. If you were not ATOL or ABTA then there would be problems in the event of an accident or claim by a third party. The best would be for all participants to organise their own travel and accommodation unless it was more economical to do group travel.

5. Group Activities

(a) Social Events

There were no positive suggestions at the moment but a proposal was made to put on a walk followed by an 'event' All proposals considered folks!

(b) 2011 Hundred CP – Norman Corrin

Norman advised the Committee that he would send out notes for CP1 at Amestry to all helpers.

(c) 2012 Hundred

Norman confirmed that there would be an article in August Strider. Still need volunteers for CP3, other duties on the event and the Marshals' event.

2012 100 Marshals' Event - Lynn Yorston

Lynn was pleased to report that the Marshals' event was coming together very well and good all round progress had been made.

(d) 2013 Hundred CP – Devon and Cornwall – Norman Corrin

No update other than BBN are still at CP3.

(e) Bedford Walking Festival – Norman Corrin

Norman was pleased to confirm that BBN would put on a walk on Thursday 8th September as part of the Festival and that Colin Scargill may be the leader. Start is at Marston Vale Country Park. Please take part if you can on this alternative Thursday walk.

There would also be a two day walk to complete The Greensand Way as part of the Festival.

With regard to the offer by Barry Ingram of assistance with a walk on the Greensand Ridge Trail Norman confirmed that this was not part of the Festival and could be any time of year. It was agreed that Norman will follow this up with Barry, provisionally to walk the route over two consecutive days on one of the last two weekends of September 2011.

6. BBN Events

(a) Chiltern Kanter – Sunday 27th February 2011 - Norman Corrin

Due to the clash with the Winter Poppyline 50 the numbers were down by 24 from 192 to 168. This was better than expected. I've done the results for the June newsletter complete with results for the marshals walk. Everyone seemed to enjoy it despite the bad weather but there were a few retirements.

I've set out the statistics below:

Route	Pre-entered	Non-Starters	Entries on Day	Total	Retirements
Long	69	9	25	85	10
Medium	29	3	24	50	-
Short	<u>26</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	124	18	62	168	10

I've calculated we made a surplus of £387.71 but I am awaiting confirmation from John.

I'm willing to organise again in 2013 when I hope to find another venue just like I did this year but didn't. It will revert back to the first weekend in March even if there is a clash with the national AGM!

(b) Shillington Shuffle

This event is under sound 'management' and progressing well, 3 routes of 26, 17 and 12 miles, Sunday 13th November with the Marshals' walk on Sunday 6th November – fireworks? More information and entry form in the July Newsletter. This will be the first of a triple challenge in three years.

(c) Pick & Mix – Lynn Yorston

Lynn reported that all was on course for the 2012 Pick and Mix – date to be confirmed but either 26th February or 4th March, there will be a new 12, 6 and 5 mile route.

(d) 30th Anniversary

Norman advised that there were two possible 30 mile challenges for our 30th Anniversary; the Nene Valley Kanter and all or part of the Aylesbury Ring. This would leave Bedfordshire to provide a 30 mile walk to make the unique 3 x 30 triple challenge.

(Note: The Chairman after this meeting acting as clerk thought of adding Shillington Shuffle to part of Steppingly Step as in a figure of 8 with two legs of 15 miles.)

7. Group Finances/Donations/Equipment

Norman's report:

Suggestions for donations are so far

- Donate a gate form from The Chiltern Society which DFH sent me
- Dave Findel-Hawkins and Merrian Lancaster have sent me a form about the Wendover Arm Trust which has commissioned new traditional style attractive wooden footbridges to go over the Arm near Whitehouse. We can help sponsor the canal restoration work and in return have a plaque permanently fixed to one of the bridges displaying the groups' name.
- Dave Findel-Hawkins suggested we erect a gate to celebrate either the LDWA's 40th Anniversary or BBN's 30th Anniversary.
- A donation to the Greensand Ridge Trail as it was their 25th Anniversary year.
- Logo engraved on the paving stone at Wordsworth Daffodil Gardens in Lake District.

According to last committee meeting minutes this was to be held over until the Chiltern Kanter had been held. As we made a surplus can we decide which one of these to go ahead with or should we postpone it pending any request for additional loans for the LDWA Game 100 in 2102?

Norman suggested that the Group might like to consider a donation or two donations of £250 to support one new kissing gate to the Chiltern Society (with due recognition to BBN – LDWA) and perhaps a 'brick' on a bridge on the Wendover Arm Canal.

8. AOB

None

Nigel thanked everyone for attending and thanked Dee for her hospitality.

The meeting closed at 10.15 pm.

Dates for future committee meetings:

Friday 7th October 2011 - Lynn's - 3 Lodge Lane, Great Missenden