

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION - BEDS BUCKS NORTHANTS GROUP

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2011

AT 3 LODGE LANE, PRESTWOOD, GREAT MISSENDEN

Present: Gill Bunker, Norman Corrin (Secretary), John Nickerson (Treasurer), Nigel Schofield (Chairman), Gordon Shaughnessy and Lynn Yorston

Nigel welcomed everyone and thanked Lynn for hosting the meeting.

1. Apologies: Dee Brockway, Steve Clark, Dave Findel-Hawkins, Merrian Lancaster, Ian Sage

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (20th May 2011) and Matters Arising

The Minutes were accepted as a true record. Prop: N Corrin, Sec: L Yorston.

Matters arising would be covered during the meeting.

3. Officers' Reports

(a) Chairman – Nigel Schofield

Nigel's report was circulated:

First of all it was very sad for all in BBN to hear that Charles Francis had after a long illness finally climbed the last stairway to join other LDWA members on high. As a fellow BBNer I found his company on a walk thought provoking and invigorating, he was so patient with my 'agricultural and land management' questions and of course a tremendous sense of humour and laugh. He will be missed. Thanks to the club members who attended the thanksgiving service on Monday 26 September, probably over 200 friends and relations at the service which reflected in no small measure his life and friendships. Should you be on a BBN walk and Clare is there please do your utmost to continue the BBN welcome and good craic.

And secondly I do hope that you have been able to enjoy this glorious September and early October sunshine for walking, whilst the summer was not too bad overall these last two weeks have been superb. As ever, thanks to the walk leaders who have taken us uphill and down country lanes in the three counties. 2013 will be our 30th Anniversary and there will be 3 x 30 mile Challenge Events, be ready to help and participate wherever you can. It is YOUR walking club and you would be surprised at the enjoyment yes I said enjoyment from being a marshal. The new Shillington Shuffle is on 13 November – help is always required.

A particular thank you to David (superman) FH for taking on the membership secretary role for the Committee, a vital task and I am sure that we will be better informed as to who is in and who is not in BBN! Not forgetting M who has revolutionised our website – a real professional job –thank you. Thanks to Kevin Lamming who has stood down from the Committee but will continue to help with the Newsletter production and despatch. Welcome to Ian Sage, co-opted to the Committee until the AGM. All BBNers are welcome to attend the AGM if they can.

I managed at long last to complete Offa's Dyke in mid – August from Llangollen to Prestatyn, mixed weather, and an extra 2 miles on days 1 and 2 to leave path and rejoin, B/Bs not plentiful. Am envious of those in BBN who complete the path in one go, I treated the three sections as a walking holiday, the pressure is off and no slogging on day after day.

The London Games 100 in 2012 – progress is good, BBN is managing 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, etc! Then please contact Norman or myself to see where you can help – thanks. Please note that if you want to walk the Marshals 100 you will need to be performing a key role on the main event and have a qualifying event. There is no automatic entry to the Marshals event which is run by Lynn and Dave Yorston.

As per The Chiltern Landmarks in 2005 I will be looking after transport for provisioning, retirees pick up, baggage van and RAYNET liaison for the London Games 100. I would welcome more drivers, but if you can only help at CP 3 that would be fantastic.

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.

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 (some of them)

- 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 (on one day a 11 miles Circuit of Mashonack National Reserve, Shelter Island, Long Island NY – no public footpaths!)
- 17 July – Fairlands Valley Ultra 50 KM (more like 32.5 miles!)
- 31 July – A walk around Chesham (21) BBN
- 10 – 13 August – Offa's Dyke (Llangollen to Prestatyn)
- 27 August – The Smugglers Trod (26) YORKSHIRE COAST
- 11 September – Chiltern Marathon (26.7)
- 25 September – A Stones Throw (19) BBN

Planned walks

- 16 October – Sidmouth Saunter (25.5) DEVON AND CORNWALL
- 23 October – Founders Challenge (26) LONDON
- 6 November – Shillington Shuffle Marshal's (26) BBN
- 12 November – Haworth and the Brontes (20?) LDWA Local Groups Reps Weekend
- 27 November – BBN AGM
- 4 December – Royston (17) BBN
- 11 December – Wenceslas from Winslow (10?) BBN
- 26 December – Boxing Day Bash (12?) BBN
- 2 January – Stansted Stagger (24) ESSEX and HERTS

There will be more.

Changes to the Committee following the resignation of Kevin Lamming: It was confirmed that following discussion at the last meeting Ian Sage had been approached to ascertain if he would be interested in joining the Committee by way of co-option prior to ratification by members at the 2011 AGM. Ian subsequently advised the Group Secretary that after careful consideration he would be pleased to be co-opted onto the Committee. Gill commented that there had been some disquiet

amongst some members on procedure but the Chairman advised that the correct procedure had been followed for co-option and that all members of the Committee and officers would be nominated and elected (or not) at the AGM on 27 November 2011.

(b) Secretary - Norman Corrin

Norman's report was circulated:

I've received the following:

The Voluntary & Community Action South Beds newsletters for June 2011

Newsletters or email updates for the following groups

Essex Herts: June 2011

Kent: August 2011

London: June 201 and September 2011

Surrey: Summer 2011

Thames Valley:

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

Essex & Herts

- Chairman's Notes congratulating E&H Housman 100 finishers, in particular Jean Bowers, Michael Fletcher and Brian Harwood on completing their 10th 100. Welcome to new members and reports on Essex Walker Challenge and the news that The Blackwater Marathon and Stansted Stagger will now be organised by committee. News of a memorial walk for Mike Richards with some of his old friends from Maldon and Dengie Ramblers.
- Secretary's Notes covering similar matters as the Chairman's Notes but with additional items about the new E&H tabards, expenses for Marshals, information on St Peters Way in a Day, Blacks Discount Cards (the bane of my life!) and Merchandise
- An obituary of Hilary Brown by Ron
- A report on the 5th Essex Walker Challenge
- Information about the Isle of Wight Weekend in November
- A report by Dennis Jacobs on his trek of the Manaslu Circuit in Nepal in October 2010.
- Walks Secretaries Notes with thanks to Walk Leaders, Information about the Accident Book a short summary of the Social Walks and Challenge Walk Programme
- Social and Challenge Walks Programme as centrefold from Wednesday 15th June to Mon 2nd Jan 2012
- A report on The Housman 100
- Short article on the benefits of walking in the specific case of Jim Catchpole who did his 1st walk with the Colchester Ramblers at the age of 64 which was 10 miles. 4 years later he completed The Heart of Scotland 100. Steep learning curve!
- Article about the E&H checkpoint on the Housman 100.
- A Personal View of receiving, supporting and marshalling the Housman 100 by Bill Bowers.
- Swallow Hole reflections by Dennis Jacobs.
- A report on the Winter Poppyline 50 by Georgie Hogg.

Kent

- List of social walks Aug to Dec 2011
- Congratulations to a Kent Group member Wendy Thurrell who became a Centurion
- Welcome to new members
- News of Kent Challenge Walks
- Reports on Kent finishers on Housman Hundred
- Article about the Games 100
- News about Cinque Ports 100 being organised by Kent in 2016
- An article about the Walkers and Runners debate.

- Reports on various walks by Kent Group members including Jill Green's 70th Birthday walk which is this year not last year as I thought!
- Plans for a Hadrian Wall hike by Kent Group members

London Group

- Welcome to new members
- Update on social walks
- Information about the Founders Challenge on Sunday 23rd October and also for next year in 2012 which as we all know is the 40th anniversary of the LDWA
- An article about the LDWA Games 100 in 2012 which I put in our newsletter in June and a request for Marshals at the Eastern HQ
- A report on the recent social event at The Lemon Tree pub in London.
- A report on the Housman 100 weekend away. Guess what they started to run out of sugar.....
- A program of weekends away 24th -27th June 2011 in the Lake District and 9th to 11th July in the Isle of Wight
- Prom at a Prom which is an invite by Colin Saunders for anyone to join him at the BBC Promenade Concerts from 15th July to 10th September. Tickets for £5
- Social Walks programme which is split into Weekend Walks from 3rd July to 24th September and Summer Evening Walks from 29th June to 1st September
- Details of social events programme which includes a trip to the Houses of Parliament in November and the panto in January.
- Notice of the AGM on Feb 28th 2011
- Reports on the recent weekend away in the Isle of Wight in July 2011
- Details of future weekend away in Derbyshire.
- Details of social walks programme from 2nd October to 28th Jan 2012

Surrey Group

- Sad news about the death of Margaret Steer, widow of Chris Steer who along with Alan Blatchford founded the LDWA
- Photos from Janet Chapman ref the opening of the Hindhead Tunnel under the A3
- An email from Avril Stapleton about the planning meeting for the December 2011 to March 2012 social walks programme. They are short of walk leaders due to injuries or holiday and also running the Surrey Inns Kanter/Tanners/Punchbowl. Please note this meeting is being held in a pub!
- Reports on various social walks.
- An announcement that this will be the last ever Surrey Group newsletter due to lack of contributions.

Thames Valley

- Various matters on the website.

New Members/ Enquiries from Public

I've received notification from the national membership secretary of 14 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 period which of them has joined BBN.

1 LDWA member John Borland has transferred from Surrey to BBN. Gary Upstone joined after Steve Smith's Stinging Nettle Walk (aka The Kingfishers Way).

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

Since 13th August I've modified the BBN information pack for new LDWA members to include a letter explaining about discounts and a copy of the Blacks Discount Card order form so they can order the card themselves.

Event Entry Forms

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

London Fire Brigade Chiltern Challenge Walk Sunday 4th Sept 2011

Hills and Dales 10th September

Hike against Cruelty to Kids in the Cotswolds Saturday 24th Sept 2011

Nomination forms for election to the LDWA national committee for 2012 – 2013

Eastbourne Marathon (aka 7 Sisters) on Saturday 22nd October 2011 via Avril Stapleton of Surrey Group

John O'Gaunt Challenge Walk Saturday 22nd October 2011

Items from the national committee meeting in July ref Data Access and Strider for the LDWA 40th Anniversary in 2012

Other Matters

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

Corby Walking Festival in May 2012 – Same weekend as Marshals 100

Dogs on Walks – problems with a dog on a recent social walk.

Latest Local Groups Website Template instructions sent to Merrian Lancaster and other committee members on 21st June 2011.

Confirmation from Jean Bowers the E&H Secretary that the 2nd Essex Herts Stroller will be held on the 11th/12 August 2012.

I sent a card to Graham Busch and Jill for their wedding on the 26th June.

The forwarding email address for Secretary BBN has now been set to bbn@ldwa.org.uk

I emailed the group about the death of Margaret Steer, widow of Chris Steer, who was one of the original LDWA founder members.

I attended the funeral of Rita Howse wife of Malcolm Howse at Olney Church on Thursday 14th July and the thanksgiving service for Charles Francis on Monday 26th September in Woburn Church. There was a good turnout from BBN to remember Charles.

I emailed Guy Vowles to say we have no objection to him forming a Cotswolds Group as the two places he mentioned, Chipping Norton and Banbury, are more in the Thames Valley Catchment Area than ours. However from what I've heard he's not having a lot of joy with the other 2 groups, Heart of England and Bristol and West.

I sent an 80th Birthday Card to Roy Presland having picked up a few signatures at the Housman 100 and other walks.

I received a letter from Mick Masucci saying he's going through his old contacts and a £5 cheque for his BBN membership.

I've emailed Jean Bowers of E&H with information about LDWA business cards and group banners.

I gave Roy Carter some LDWA membership forms, old Striders and copies of our August – December Social Walks programme to promote on the 2 day walk at the end of the Beds Walk Festival.

Do we want to start sending out BBN membership lists again? DFH & M have raised this and with Mooi emailing me ref Clare Francis address it makes it easier for the members. Also if I'm away it means members have access.

Nigel thanked Norman for his very detailed report.

Dogs on walks: There was some discussion regarding dogs on walks following the unacceptable behaviour of a dog owner on a recent social walk. It was confirmed there was no wish to ban dogs on our walks and it was agreed that it remains entirely at the discretion of the walk leader to decide whether walkers with dogs are welcome on that walk. It was proposed that any walker wanting to bring a dog on walk **MUST** contact the leader beforehand. This is to be confirmed at the AGM, and included on the walks programme and on the website.

Membership List: It was agreed that we would not send an up-to-date membership list out to all members, but Dave Findel-Hawkins would be requested to send a list by email only to any member who requested a copy. Members should contact Dave directly. It was noted that the membership list sent out to members should not contain addresses where we had been asked not make them public.

Norman said he had heard nothing further regarding the proposal for a new Cotswold Group and John said he understood it was to be discussed at the forthcoming LGRs meeting.

(c) Treasurer - John Nickerson

John's report was circulated:

At 06 Oct 2011 our accounts stand as follows:

Current A/C

Last statement date 15 Aug 11 Credit £3418.82

Activity since this date to 06 Oct 11 results in:

Income £3362.13

Expenditure £3004.67

Savings A/C = £2199.28

John said there had only been minor changes since the last meeting. The accounting year had ended on 30th September and he was about to get the accounts audited in readiness for the AGM.

Nigel thanked John for his report.

Membership – Dave Findel-Hawkins

Dave was unable to attend but had reported to Norman. Norman circulated the up-to-date membership list. It was noted that the paid up membership was a healthy 154. Dave had discovered on cross-referencing the BBN list with the LDWA membership list that there were some people on the list who are not members of the LDWA. It was agreed that Dave would pass the details of these people to Nigel and Nigel will write to them with clarification that all members of any local LDWA group needed to be a paid up Member of the National LDWA. At £13 it remained excellent value and there were benefits from being a national member.

Nigel proposed a vote of thanks - which was agreed - to Dave for sorting out the membership. Nigel asked whether there was any follow up of the new LDWA members in the BBN areas who Norman had phoned or emailed, and Norman said no, not at this time.

(d) Social Walks – Dee Brockway

Dee was unable to attend but had sent her report to Norman.

The programme for December to April was the usual full programme; it had now been finalised and had been downloaded for Strider and sent to Steve for the Newsletter. Dee is now ready for offers to lead walks from April onwards.

Nigel thanked Dee for her hard work and thanked all members who had volunteered to lead walks.

(e) Merchandising/Equipment - Lynn Yorston

Merchandising - Lynn read her report:

There is nothing to report as we have not been anywhere to sell anything. We do have the SS and the AGM coming up so hope to make a few sales then.

Equipment - Lynn read her report:

All seems to be in order. PLEASE let us know if any equipment changes its site of storage. If anyone needs a copy of the list, please contact us.

(f) Website – Merrian Lancaster

Merrian was unable to attend but had sent her report to Norman,

She was keeping the website up-to-date with help from Gill.

Merrian had the idea to put maps of walks on the website but had realised this had OS copyright implications so had not pursued it.

Simon Leck had asked that all local groups adopt a new standard template for their websites – Essex Herts have done this already. The content of the website would be exactly the same; it would simply have different headers and footers. Merrian will be sorting this as soon as she can.

Steve had raised a point with Norman about Flickr. Steve had sent Merrian a large amount of photos - too many to go on the website. For the cost of £15 per year we could get an unlimited number of photos on the site. Gordon felt there could be too many photos if new photos were simply added; and said it would be ideal if Flickr could be used as a managing tool. Could photos be automatically deleted after a certain time or after a certain number were showing? It was agreed that we did not want a lot of out-of-date photos on the website and that roughly two years was ample time for photos to be on the website as this would cover all our challenge events. It was agreed the issue would be referred to Merrian for her thoughts and advice and a decision could be made at the AGM or the next committee meeting.

Nigel thanked Merrian for her work on the website, which was now bearing fruit.

(g) Newsletter - Steve Clark

Steve could not be present and had reported to Norman. All is in hand for the next issue; the deadline is 12th October.

Steve has indicated that he wishes to stand down as Newsletter Editor. It was agreed that a note would be put in the Newsletter asking for a volunteer to take on the Newsletter.

Gill raised the idea of having a monthly email “Update” – to be used in conjunction with the Newsletter – to get news out to members more speedily.

The Committee regretfully accepted that Steve would not seek re-appointment at the AGM and Nigel proposed and it was agreed to give a vote of thanks to Steve for his excellent contributions to BBN as the Newsletter editor and the way the document had steadily improved during his tenure.

(h) Local Group Representative – Nigel Schofield

Nigel said he would be attending the LGRs meeting and would report back at the AGM. Again, the meeting clashed with the BBN November event, but he hoped do the marshals' walk for the Shillington Shuffle the previous week.

(i) Other Committee Members

No further items were raised.

4. Insurance Issues – Incident Reports

There were no insurance issues to report.

5. Group Activities

(a) Social Events

There had been no social events, and no further ideas had been forthcoming.

(b) 2012 London Hundred - Norman Corrin

Norman advised that the entries for the Hundred would be opening on 16 October 2011 for a period of 5 weeks. He had received many requests for entry forms. There will be an item about the event in December 2011 Strider.

2012 100 Marshals' Event – Lynn Yorston

A great response as usual with over 50% of helpers from BBN and all jobs are now assigned. All checkpoints are booked, signed and settled. We are now looking at the finer details and will contact all the Checkpoint Managers by the end of the year with our intentions regarding supplies, transport etc

Do please ensure you put your entry form in to Norman if you intend to walk the main event.

I intend to use the Pick & Mix as a hand-over place for non-perishable supplies and instructions. If this does not suit some-one, then I will sort out another venue to meet up to discuss these details.

Merchandise for the two events is also with us. We have made initial enquiries and artwork is being sorted as we speak. We hope to have the order sheet on the 100 web page in January. Anyone helping will be able to order a 'marshal' garment which is planned to arrive in time to wear for the marshal walk.

Norman is to send out a reminder that helpers on the marshals' event are responsible for submitting their own entry forms for the main event.

(c) 2013 Hundred CP – Devon and Cornwall – Lynn Yorston

Lynn has heard nothing further at the moment. Still CP 3.

(d) Bedford Walking Festival – Norman Corrin

Norman reported that this had gone very well. The Greensand Ridge Walk (led by Roy Carter of BBN) had about 20 on both days and Derek Jacob's Thursday walk had 6 Festival walkers.

Norman said he believed the Festival would go ahead next year. Thanks are due to the two walk leaders, Derek Jacob and Roy Carter.

(e) LDWA 40th Anniversary 2012 – Norman Corrin

All groups have been asked to put on special events for the LDWA's 40th anniversary. Further details will come from the National Committee and it will be included as an agenda item for the AGM.

(f) Herts Stroller Checkpoint 1 - August 11th/12th 2012

Norman has received an email from Georgie Hogg and has agreed that BBN will run a CP again - further details to follow.

6. BBN Events

(a) Shillington Shuffle 2011 – Lynn Yorston

Barton Village Hall's new kitchen is not as special as we were led to believe but is more than workable.

John has supplied a cheque for payment of the halls.

Badges are in manufacture and should be with us next week and the certificates are ready to print.

Routes are in the final stage of update and will be on the web two weeks before the event. Dave FH & Merrian have staffed the event. Entries are drifting in and cheques handed to John. Thanks go to the team. We have 83 entries already.

The marshals' walk will be held on SUNDAY 6th November starting at 08.00, not on the Saturday as advertised.

We have advertised the TRIPLE CHALLENGE of consecutive completions of the three events. I have produced an enlarged version of both the badge and the certificate to use as publicity. We will not do anything else for the Triple until the end of 2012.

(b) Pick & Mix 2012 – Lynn Yorston

We have booked the school premises for 4th March 2012.

The new 12 mile route is written and now needs to be checked.

The previous 12 mile route has been cropped to 8 miles and also needs to be checked.

Entry forms are already in circulation and we have 6 entries already.

We will be sending out a plea for help at the AGM.

The marshals' walk is on Sunday 26th February.

(c) 30th Anniversary Events

It is proposed to organise 3 x 30 mile challenge events in July, August and September of 2013, one in each county. Details are yet to be finalised, but initial suggestions are : the Aylesbury Ring, the Nene Valley Kanter and parts of the Shillington Shuffle and Steppingley Step.

(d) Chiltern Kanter 2013

Norman confirmed he is looking for a new venue. He is hoping to use Pitstone village hall, but this is dependent upon finding adequate car parking. He is currently waiting to hear whether he can use nearby industrial premises.

7. Group Finances/Donations/Equipment – Norman Corrin

Norman confirmed that two donations had been agreed - Donate a Gate (a new kissing gate for the Chiltern Society) and the Wendover Arm (a 'brick' on a bridge on the Wendover Arm Canal).

Norman thought it would be a good idea to tie these donations in with the LDWA's 40th anniversary or BBN's 30th anniversary, and this was agreed.

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8. AOB

(a) AGM

(i) AGM Walk – Lynn Yorston

The walk is from Magnolia Park Sports & Social club directly off the A4128 from High Wycombe. It is even shown on the Ordinance Survey maps !!– GR SU 865951 - Post code is HP14 4LA

AND THERE NO STILES on the walk.

We will have access to the car park from 08.30 and will return to the clubhouse in time for a carvery. Please book with Dave as soon as possible as there are only 30 places for the meal. The bar will open for all. Real Ales are usually stocked. The AGM will be held in their meeting room from 14.00

(ii) AGM Agenda - Norman had prepared an agenda for the AGM which was agreed, subject to a couple of minor changes. Norman is to put an item in the Newsletter asking people to consider joining the committee.

(b) John said Norman should put in an expenses claim for attending the National AGM as BBN's representative and reporting back, and this was agreed.

(c) John said that he and Judy had been planning a group weekend in the Mendips for the August Bank Holiday w/e 2012 - but as Betty Sherry was organising a YHA /Dovedale Dipper weekend at the being of August, they had decided drop the Mendips weekend. John confirmed they had decided not to organise any more weekends.

Nigel thanked John on behalf of the group for the many excellent weekends he and Judy had organised for the group.

Nigel thanked everyone for attending the meeting and thanked Lynn for her hospitality.

The meeting closed at 9.12 pm.

Dates for future committee meetings will be decided following the AGM.