

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION - BEDS BUCKS & NORTHANTS GROUP
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 18TH MAY 2012
AT 53 SHARPENHOE ROAD, BARTON-LE-CLAY

The meeting commenced at 7.50pm.

Present: Dee Brockway (Walks Programme), Gill Bunker (Newsletter), Norman Corrin (Secretary), Dave Findel-Hawkins (Membership), Merrian Lancaster (Website), Ian Sage (Treasurer), Nigel Schofield (Chairman), Gordon Shaughnessy (Thursday Walks), Lynn Yorston (Equipment and Merchandising)

Nigel thanked Dee for hosting the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

1. Apologies: Martin Lawson

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (20th January 2012) and Matters Arising

Ian advised that one of the figures in the Treasurer's Report was incorrect. The balance in the savings account was shown as £2273.68; the correct figure was £2203.68.

Dave said the correct figure for membership in his report should be 162.

Subject to these corrections, the Minutes were approved as a true record with no matters arising.

3. Officers' Reports

(a) Chairman – Nigel Schofield

Nigel circulated his report:

I hope that you are enjoying the walks run by BBN members and entering the odd event or two, despite the onset of early Autumn! Living where we do in the LDWA 'family' the walks on offer from BBN, Essex and Herts, London and Thames Valley give us all ample opportunity to enjoy our leisure pastime. Please do your utmost to support the walk leaders.

On behalf of everyone in BBN I would like to offer my congratulations to Lynn and Dave Yorston for the magnificent London Games 100 Marshals' event on the weekend of 5, 6 and 7th May. It was very much a BBN event with excellent turnout at all hours and in all weathers – very wet on early Sunday morning - to sweep, staff and close checkpoints. The London Group ran Chilworth CP and Surrey ran the breakfast stop, with others (Essex and Herts, Kent, Victoria Harriers, Thames Valley, Nidderdale, Bristol and West, Dorset, High Peak (thanks Colin) contributing at various CPs. Congratulations especially to the brave boys who had ice on car roofs for their gin and tonics at Staple Hill CP – It was quite cold and I was there!

Not forgetting of course the completers overall, with Richard Denby (Bristol and West) an inspiration to all, the magnificent three from BBN, Dave Findel-Hawkins, Brian Harwood and Martin Lawson and commiserations to the retirees, especially from BBN.

Only two weeks to the main event and even at this short notice if you are able to help on the main event please contact Merrian Lancaster about Checkpoint 3 or myself to be a driver or helper with the retirees' collection and delivery to the Western CP at Windsor. We can never have too many marshals.

Good luck from all in BBN to the BBNers on the main event, it may only be 10,000 feet or so of ascent but you will need your wits about you on navigation and see if you can time it so you finish by walking down to Windsor Castle from the bronze statue. Thanks to Gill Howe, Andrew Gilbertson and Martin Lawson for being in my team for collection of retirees.

Please support your walk leaders whenever you can. We have three walks organised by Martin Lawson for our 30th Anniversary next year and on 23 September this year Martin will lead Hearts of Oak as the BBN Celebratory Walk for the 40th Year of the LDWA. Norman in his report will give details of more proposed events for our 30th Anniversary, including a 30 mile 'social' led by Chris Bent.

If ever you fancy a visit to South Wales in early May then I can recommend the Rhondda Rollercoaster, an excellent route of 26.5 miles and a whopping 5,500 feet of ascent. Great views of the mining valleys (no slag heaps to be seen, all covered in stunted trees or wizened sward) and one spectacular view to the

South Wales Coast and across to Somerset or was it North Devon? Good support at the CPs and a first at Ton Pentre CP of smoked salmon sandwiches (brilliant), plus a very eclectic sandwich selection – how about cheddar cheese and marmalade? Nick Vanson had more than one of those!!!. And thanks to Nick for his company.

I will have a mega August: Herts Stroller, Founders Marshals' and St Peter's Way in a Day – hope to see you around.

I hope that you all have a good walking summer and stay healthy.

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'.

There were no questions following Nigel's report.

(b) Secretary – Norman Corrin

Norman circulated his report:

I've received the following:

The Voluntary & Community Action South Beds newsletters for December 2011 and Feb and April 2012.

Newsletters or email updates for the following groups:

Essex Herts: Feb 2012

Kent: April 2012

London: AGM 28th Feb 2012 minutes & the Spring 2012 newsletter

Surrey: Agenda for their Planning Meeting on Tuesday 15th May

Thames Valley: Various items on their website forum

If any committee members or group members wish to read these Newsletters/updates please contact me.

New Members/ Enquiries from Public

I've received notification from the National Membership Secretary of 22 new LDWA members who live within our groups' area. I've contacted all of them and sent information packs about the group.

I've also cleared the backlog of 17 new members from my last committee report in January. All have been contacted.

Three members of the public (one of them Deborah Newman) have enquired about the LDWA. I've emailed them with information about the association and BBN.

Event Entry Forms

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

Rhonda Rollercoaster

Sponsored Walk for Poppy Appeal by Royal British Legion from Sandy on 9th September

Calderdale Hike 14th April 2012

Walk with the Lions 21st April 2012

I also received flyers for NSPCC Blenheim Spring Walk 2012 on Saturday 21st April 2012

Bury St Edmunds Walk/Run/Cycle events on 10th June 2012 to raise money for Forces charities

Sundon Saunter 18th November 2012 – also emailed to other group secretaries

Email from Frances Craven about an incident with cattle on the Coventry Way

Petition about continuance of work on English Coastal Path

Other Matters

Received notification of LDWA National AGM on Sunday 4th March 2012.

Striders for April 2012 for local libraries have been sent to Nigel Schofield, Gill Bunker (for Bedford Library), Christine Pendlebury, Ian Sage, Steve Clark, Merrian (OU) and Gordon for Luton Library.

40th Anniversary badges have been received and handed out. A second batch has been ordered.

Invite from E&H to their 40th anniversary event which funnily is the same weekend as ours! Theirs is at Little Hadham. Loops of 5,10,15,20 or 26 miles with some musical entertainment.

I emailed the required documentation to John Batham the Local Groups Secretary following our November AGM. These are the AGM Minutes, a list of committee members and the Accounts.

I received an email from Dianne Sutton about the west expansion area in Milton Keynes affecting public rights of way. She's sent it onto the MK Ramblers.

25th Anniversary of the Greensand Ridge Walk on Sunday 22nd April 2012.

There were no questions following Norman's report. Several committee members commented they thought it a shame that most of the 40th anniversary events were being held on the same day. Nigel thanked Norman for his report

(c) Treasurer – Ian Sage

Ian confirmed that the Santander and National Savings accounts had been closed and that the National Westminster account was now up and running. All funds were currently in the National Westminster account, but Ian was looking to put approx £2,500 into an interest bearing account. He also confirmed that he had applied for online banking. He will report back on both the interest bearing account and online banking.

The last National Westminster statement date was 4th May 2012 and showed total funds of £6697.62.

Ian confirmed that he had some recent payments to be banked (membership fees, Sundon Saunter entry cheques) and there were various outstanding payments to be made: to Gordon and Norman (both reimbursement for stamps) and Lynn (reimbursement for update of first aid kits), the three £100 charity donations previously agreed (see item 9), and several £10 cheques for Housman Hundred marshals.

Ian said that the BBN Constitution stated that our financial year ends on 30th September in each year. He had, however, realised that the 2010 accounts ran (in error) from 1st October 2009 to 31st October 2010, i.e. covering a 13 month period. The following year then ran to 31st October 2011. To correct this, Ian proposed that the year end date for the 2012 financial year should move back to 30th September, although this will mean it will only cover an 11 period, for the current year only. This was agreed.

Having checked the position, Ian confirmed that, because of the level of our finances, we did not need to appoint an accredited auditor to audit our accounts, The LDWA Constitution itself does not require an auditor, just that its accounts are checked. Phil Friede, a BBN member with his own accountancy business, had agreed to ask one of his staff to check the BBN accounts. Ian confirmed that in fact anyone could check such club accounts; they do not have to be an accountant/auditor. This was agreed

Nigel thanked Ian for his report and his hard work, and Ian confirmed he now felt in control of the group's finances,

(d) Membership – Dave Findel-Hawkins

Dave said there were currently 155 members, with 12 new members since the last Committee meeting. Dave circulated a list of those who had not renewed. Five people have confirmed they will not be renewing their membership and Dave has removed them from the membership list and from Norman's email list. Six members remain to pay. A "last chance" reminder will be sent with the June Newsletter.

Dave said that a sizable number of members were asking to pay for more than one year and he asked for the committee's views on this, suggesting a payment of £5 for a 5 year period. This was agreed to be a good idea, but it was decided to refer it to the AGM, as any new method of payment would, in any event,

not take effect until the end of the year. It was agreed there would be no refund for those leaving the LDWA before the 5 years expired.

Nigel mentioned that Dave was going to let him have a list of any BBN members who are not members of the LDWA. Dave confirmed that, having checked, this was not a significant problem and no action was needed.

Dee was concerned that three walk leaders have not renewed their BBN membership.

(e) 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 is now complete! I sent Gill the finished result for our August to December social walks last Sunday, and she will (or maybe now even already has) input them onto the web. Strider will take the information from the site for publication in the August 2012 edition, and of course the programme will appear in our own BBN Newsletter.

As always I have lots of kind folk to thank. Not least Gill for her unending patience, checking for my mistakes and inputting it all onto the web and Gordon for taking the reins and sorting out the Thursday programme. Being still in the ranks of the great (or maybe it's not so great) employed, I do not often meet all our mid-week walkers but rely on Gordon to do a first class job. The early arrival of his Thursday walk list serves to make me stir my stumps and get cracking to meet my own deadline! Again, with the exception of December, we have two Thursday walks per month.

Just two weeks ago our programme looked a little bare, compared to our usual bumper package. Not so now! After my final plea, as always, the BBN walk leaders rallied to the cause to produce a great 4-month programme including 14 weekend walks. A new leader, Roy Carter, has offered two walks including, for the 3rd successive year, a BBN Boxing day walk. Courtesy of Phil Hastings, we have another joint walk with our friends from Essex and Herts and Martin Lawson is taking the helm for our contribution to the LDWA 40th anniversary walks in September. Peter Hamson also becomes a new walks leader, Santa is again back to practise for his big day and we have a shorter walk before our AGM. Along with the regular leaders, my thanks to you all.

I am happily now accepting offers to lead walks for our next programme, January to April 2013. 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 great ideas and offers.

Many thanks.

Dee said she was needed to know any 2013 dates which she should avoid when drafting the next walks programme; most of the dates/events discussed remain to be confirmed.

Nigel thanked Dee for her report and her persuasive powers (all that Waitrose training?)

(f) Thursday Walks – Gordon Shaughnessy

Gordon said Dee had already covered most things that needed mentioning.

Gordon said he had put out feelers regarding a few longer Thursday walks, but as these would need to be during the summer months, it was too late for this year's programme. He would include some longer walks on the programme for summer 2013. He confirmed he had a full programme of walks up to the end of 2012, but was just missing a second walk in December. This would be the Thursday before Christmas, but Gordon said if there was demand for a walk that week one could be put on at short notice.

Nigel asked whether Gordon found it easy to get walk leaders for the Thursday walks, and Gordon confirmed there was no problem; there may even be more leaders on Thursdays than Sundays.

(g) Merchandising/Equipment – Lynn Yorston

Lynn said she and Merrian had purchased the cutlery as agreed at the last meeting. Mike Hyland is currently engraving each individual item with "BBN".

Lynn said she had checked all the first aid kits, replaced all out-of-date items and bought some items she thought would be more useful for walkers.

(Lynn's note following the meeting: I said I had replaced everything that was 'out-of-date'. I should have said that this did not include bandages. I really could see no reason to replace these. So the triangular 'sling' type bandages and the stretch ones were NOT replaced. All plasters, eye wash etc have been updated.)

Lynn has also been given 50 melamine cups and saucers (and has bought a couple of boxes to store them in) and about 30 blue plastic plates, disposable but washable, which will last for a few events.

Lynn confirmed that she will wait until after the Hundred to update the list of where all items of BBN equipment are being stored.

(h) Website – Merrian Lancaster

Merrian said she continued to post photos sent by Steve Clark but no fun ones have been received from anyone yet. Dee asked how to send photos, and Merrian said the easiest way was via a memory stick, which she would then return.

Merrian said that she had been advised by several members of a problem with walk details disappearing from Future Events on the BBN website too soon, so that anybody looking on the morning of a walk for information found that the walk had already disappeared. This has now been sorted by Simon Leck, LDWA National Committee IT, and the system had been changed so that "today's" walk remained displayed, as well as future walks, on the Future Events section of all local groups' sites.

It was confirmed that Merrian could put BBN Minutes on the website as soon as they were typed up, but that they must be called draft Minutes until approved at a subsequent Committee meeting.

Ian commented that when the Newsletter was put on the website committee members' addresses were displayed. It was agreed there was no need for committee members' addresses to be included in the Newsletter, and it was agreed that these would be deleted. Just phone and email contact details will be shown. Norman's address, as Group Secretary, will still be shown.

Nigel thanked Merrian for her hard work and the continuing development of the BBN website.

(i) Newsletter – Gill Bunker

Gill said the next Newsletter was due in June, and would be sent out slightly later in the month so the Hundred results can be included. She had several items already, and will contact Kevin Lamming regarding printing. Dave will provide final subscription reminders to be sent to those who have not renewed yet.

(j) Local Group Representative – Nigel Schofield

Nigel confirmed that the next LGRs' meeting is to be held on 18th November (the same day as the Sundon Saunter) at Ironbridge (Coalport YHA).

(k) Other Committee Members

None

4. Appointment of Auditor

Already discussed under the Treasurer's Report.

5. Insurance Issues – Incident Reports

There were no matters to report.

6. Group Activities

(a) 2012 London 100

The Marshals' 100 – Lynn Yorston

Lynn read her report:

Been there – done that - and got the T-shirt !!

A massive thanks to all who helped on what was an absolute success. Everything went to plan – well - just about anyway.

The walkers all went to the correct HQ – eventually.

The coach arrived at Windsor once Martin Lawson had redirected it from the petrol station.

Once they arrived in London the passengers didn't have to walk too far to get to the Harriers once Dave had retrieved the coach from a busy junction !!

All the people who said they would help turned up on time and at the right place - some with a little help over the phone.

We didn't lose anyone – for very long.

We had no reported injuries or incidents.

The only big scare was when we went to collect the van and they said – 'what van?'. All was sorted within the hour – no problem.

The helpers list seemed to be a shortened copy of BB&N membership list !! A massive thanks to all who turned out for us. Everyone was where I had asked them be, at the time I had said..... Sweep teams, checkpoint staff, closing marshals, body bus – all did exactly as was asked of them. All the planning would have been of no use if our friends had not delivered.

THANK YOU

Our congratulations go to all who set off. Well done to all who finished. Special congratulations go to Richard Denby who arrived with 45 minutes to spare. Those who did not complete still deserve the admiration of us who stayed behind.

Dave has prepared the results and a few photos for the web page. A full report will be posted very soon.

Thanks again. And good luck to all who are taking part in the main event.

Nigel thanked Dave and Lynn on behalf of BBN for their excellent work and organisation of the marshals' event, and said that BBN had done itself proud.

(b) Herts Stroller Checkpoint 11th/12th August 2012

Norman confirmed he was co-ordinating the BBN CP. This is the CP 1, and will be in the same barn as previously. Norman will put a request for helpers in the June Newsletter.

(c) Bedfordshire Walking Festival 2012

It was confirmed that the BBN Thursday walk on 13th September has been included in the festival programme.

Roy Carter will lead a 2 day walk of the Greensand Ridge on 15th/16th September.

(d) LDWA 40th Anniversary 2012

Martin Lawson will lead the BBN anniversary walk, Hartwell Hearts of Oak, on Sunday 23rd September.

The first 25 anniversary badges have been distributed, and more are now on order.

(e) 2013 100 – Devon & Cornwall

Merrian and Dave are co-ordinating CP3 on the main event.

Lynn and Dave are running a CP on the marshals' walk at about 80 miles.

(f) 2014 Hundred - Wales

Merrian and Dave are co-ordinating the BBN CP, and have expressed interest in CP4 – which will be a tent outside the Bryn Ffynnon Hotel. Lynn and Nigel would prefer an indoor CP.

7. AGM - 25th November 2012 - Navigation Inn, Cosgrove
Norman confirmed he has booked a room at the Navigation Inn. He is currently checking whether meals need to be booked in advance; if so Gill would collect the bookings.

8. BBN Events

(a) Pick & Mix 2012

Lynn said entries had been down this year and the weather had been awful for most of the day. However, the event had made an excess of funds, and they were happy to run it again in 2014.

(b) Sundon Saunter 2012

Lynn said Dave Sedgley has prepared the route description.

She and Dave have visited all the proposed CP sites and are happy with all of them (Barton Hall, Sundon Village Hall, Eversholt Cricket Pavilion, Harlington Scout Hut) but Lynn thinks there is a problem with the CP currently proposed to be inside the Queens Head P.H. at Tebworth, which serves the long route only. Amongst other things, Lynn has concerns about the amount of space and the serving of food and drinks in a p.h. There is a village hall at Tebworth but this is carpeted and does not welcome walkers. A van or tent in either the p.h. or village hall car park is an option, although they would prefer not to use a tent. Lynn will make enquiries about hiring a van which can be used as the CP; a van is needed in any event to shift equipment to Barton.

(c) 30th Anniversary Events

Norman outlined the current proposed programme of events, emphasising that these were very early plans:

- Canal Boat Trip: A summer walk followed by a canal trip from Cheddington, with buffet and drinks. It was agreed that BBN would subsidise the cost of the boat, but people would pay for their own food/drink. (*Organiser: Norman*)
- Brewery Trip: A walk followed by a visit to the Chiltern Brewery (Wendover) and/or Tring Brewery. (*Organiser: Norman/John Davies*)
- Quiz - Walk and Quiz in October or November (*Organiser: Norman*)
- Doghouse - Walk and meal at the Doghouse P.H. in early January (*Organiser: Norman*)
- 3 x 30km group walks - one in each county (*Organiser: Martin Lawson*)
- 30 mile group walk in July from Whittlebury, with a possible BBQ afterwards. (If so, BBN could pay for the hall.) (*Organiser: Chris Bent*)

(d) Chiltern Kanter 2013

Norman confirmed he had had heard nothing from Goodrich Engineering at Pitstone regarding the use of their car park, so it looks as though the CK will be based again in Tring. The event date remains to be finalised. The marshals' walk will be held on the last weekend of February 2013.

9. Donations

Chiltern Society Donate a Gate/Wendover Arm Canal/Berks Oxon & Bucks Air Ambulance
Ian wrote out three cheques for £100 each in respect of the donation agreed to each charity at the AGM/previous committee meeting. Norman will forward the cheques to the relevant charity.

10. AOB

As it is BBN's 30th anniversary year in 2013, Norman suggested offering to host the National AGM in our area, and suggested Tring. If this offer is accepted, the Chiltern Kanter would have to be put back a week as the dates would clash. Norman said a lot of BBN members have never been to a National AGM and this would be the ideal opportunity for them to do so. Norman will contact the National Committee.

Date and Venue of Next Committee Meeting

The date of the next committee meeting has been changed.
It will now be held on Thursday 11th October 2012 at 7.45pm at Lynn's

(The previous date was Friday 28th September.)

The meeting closed at 10.02pm