

**LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION - BEDS BUCKS & NORTHANTS GROUP  
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 25TH JANUARY 2013  
AT 1 ABBEY WAY, BRADVILLE, MILTON KEYNES**

The meeting commenced at 7.54 pm.

**Present:** Gill Bunker (Newsletter), Norman Corrin, Dave Findel-Hawkins (Membership), Martin Lawson, Merrian Lancaster (Secretary/Website/Local Groups Rep), Ian Sage (Treasurer), Lynn Yorston (Equipment and Merchandising)

In Nigel's absence Norman chaired the meeting.

1. **Apologies:** Nigel Schofield (Chairman)  
Dee Brockway (Social Walks), Gordon Shaughnessy (Thursday Walks) (*Severe weather warnings*)
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting (11th October 2012) and Matters Arising**
  - (i) **Air Ambulance:** Proposed walk/talk. This had not been progressed and it was decided that a walk/visit to their offices was probably impractical. Norman will invite them to give a talk to BBN during the quiz planned for October, when there could be a fund-raising raffle;
  - (ii) **Donate a Gate:** Norman said that, although our cheque has been cashed, there had been no response yet from the Chiltern Society re the location of the gate donated by BBN.
  - (iii) Nothing further has been heard about the **damaged Greensand Ridge Bench**.

The Minutes were agreed to be a true record.

**3. Officers' Reports**

**(a) Chairman – Nigel Schofield**

Nigel could not attend the meeting but had forwarded his report:

**Big News, Big News** – 2013 is the 30th Anniversary of the founding of BBN within the LDWA. We owe a debt of thanks to the founder members and all who have served on the BBN Committee, the walk leaders and event marshals – without this volunteering the club would not be what it is today.

Thanks to Norman Corrin and Gill Bunker for organising the 2012 AGM and particular thanks to Norman for his 10 years as BBN Secretary. Welcome and thanks to Merrian Lancaster for taking on the Secretary role. With Merrian's agreement I will step down as Local Groups Representative and Merrian will take over.

I hope that you all had a good festive season and were able to get out and about and enjoy the Boxing Day Walk in and around Woburn.

Please support the forthcoming 30th anniversary events if you can, either a walk or, with a walk attached, a brewery visit, a boat trip on Grand Union Canal with meal, three 30 kilometre walks, one in each BBN county, The John Bunyan Trail over four days, Milton Keynes Boundary Walk over three days, a quiz and a 30 mile social walk led by Chris Bent. Details and dates in future editions of BBN Newsletters and Strider (April and August Edition). And to celebrate the anniversary we hope to give all BBN members a commemorative mug.

Our next event is the Chiltern Kanter on 3rd March starting from near Pitstone and the route will take the entrants past the BBN Founders' commemorative bench in Ivinghoe. The marshals' walk takes place on Sunday 24th February. Please contact Norman Corrin if you are able to help on the event and intend to do the Marshals Walk – thanks.

BBN will be in charge of Checkpoint 3 on the Devon 100 and if you are able to marshal please let Merrian know – 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 and Gordon will always love to hear from you to propose a walk.

I hope that you all have good walking this late winter and forthcoming spring and stay healthy. 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'.

**(b)(i) Outgoing Secretary – Norman Corrin**

Norman circulated his report:

Prior to the 2012 AGM I received the following:

The Voluntary & Community Action South Beds Newsletters for October 2012. At the post-AGM handover meeting with Merrian et al it was decided to no longer receive these.

Newsletters or email updates for the following groups:

Essex Herts: October 2012; Kent: December 2012 – passed to Gill; London: Autumn 2012; Surrey Group: September 2012 planning meeting; Thames Valley: Various items on their website forum.

New Members/Enquiries from Public

Pre- and post-AGM I received notification from the National Membership Secretary (or via Dave) of 20 new LDWA members who live within our group's area. I've phoned or contacted them all and emailed information packs and informed Dave for when/if they join BBN. In addition there has been one transfer (Dave Chesher) from BBN to Lincoln group. Jim Catchpole and Jill Green have also joined BBN.

Event Entry Forms/Walk Related Information

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

Chagford Challenge - Sunday 24th March 2013

Pendle Way in a Day - Saturday 6th July 2013

Miscellaneous

Post-AGM, Merrian, Gill, Dave and I met at Dave's house to discuss the handover from the old to the new and all went well. Gill is now the BBN birthday fairy. Dave will email me details of any new members falling into our group's catchment area and I'll contact them to say hello.

**(b)(ii) Secretary – Merrian Lancaster (including web stuff)**

Merrian circulated her report:

- Striders distributed.
- Received and responded to emails.
- News updates emailed to members – details on website.
- Added lots of photos to website.
- Recreated email distribution list.
- Still outstanding – dogs on walks
  - health and safety
  - campaign for national parks
  - Camel-Teign – marshals and checkpoint
  - backup for updating BBN website
  - AGM 2013 venue
  - BBN photo for emails
  - group membership issues, including problems with LDWA website
  - handover notes
  - BBN business cards
  - plastic plates
  - Portable Appliance Testing - certificate for netbook and printer
- General – encouraging members to use LDWA and BBN websites.

Arising from Merrian's report:

Beds Walking Festival: It was agreed that Norman will contact Roy Carter to see if he will act as liaison between The Beds Festival, the Greensand Ridge team and BBN.

Portable Appliance Testing – Lynn confirmed that several halls (including Barton-le-Clay and Steppingley Hall) were now stipulating as a condition of hire that all appliances taken in must be PAT certified. Merrian is waiting to hear if this is necessary for Chiltern Kanter venues.

Merrian said she was trying to encourage members to use the LDWA/BBN websites regularly as this would be a great advantage in getting information out to members quickly.

BBN Bulk emails. The LDWA have developed a procedure for local groups to send bulk emails. However, there are problems at national level where many members were marked as "lapsed" before the date their direct debit payment was due to be taken. This means that at present a bulk email list from the national membership database is not a reliable tool for contacting all current BBN members.

Merrian said that if/when the BBN bulk email is up and running it is possible to put a photo in the header. She had asked in December for suitable photos from members, ideally something that reflects all three counties, but so far had not received any. It was agreed to have a competition to encourage members to send in their photos.

**(c) Treasurer – Ian Sage**

Ian reported group funds as follows:

NatWest Accounts:

Balance as at 30/09/2012 (start of financial year)

Current	£2439.48	
Business Reserve	<u>£4000.07</u>	
Total		£6439.55

Balance as at 23/01/2013

Current	£2918.68	
Business Reserve	<u>£4000.49</u>	
Total		£6919.17

Cheques issued that have not been presented	None
Cheques to be issued (for tabards & aprons)	£186.24

Corrected balance £6732.93

In addition, Ian confirmed that at the meeting he had received £97 membership subs from Dave and there was an £11.15 expenses claim from Gill. Chiltern Kanter entry fees remain to be paid in. There were no other outgoings to be paid. The Sundon Saunter had made a surplus of £732.84.

A deposit of £90 had been paid for the Deepdale Weekend, but £200 had since been received from bookings.

Ian confirmed that the annual accounts had now been signed by Phil Friede.

Lynn asked whether it would be useful for Mike Hyland to have a paying-in book as he now does the entries for all the BBN events but Ian said it was helpful for payments to go via him so he could double-check them, and it was agreed to leave things as they are.

**(d) Membership – Dave Findel-Hawkins**

Dave read his report:

We have nine new members bringing the total to 169.

So far 83 have paid for 2013 and 29 have taken the opportunity to pay for multiple years.

We have 17 members who don't have email addresses and 22 others who have indicated on the National website that they don't wish to receive local emails.

We have 35 people (some of whom have already paid their BBN subscription) who have yet to pay their LDWA subscription for 2013.

Dave confirmed that a copy of the membership list is sent to all new members. On joining BBN the membership form states that members' details will be circulated so all members are aware of this.

**(e) Social Walks – Dee Brockway**

Dee was not present but had forwarded her report:

BBN is 30 years old this year and I really feel we are offering our members a fantastic programme of walks, many directly celebrating this special anniversary. It is the enthusiasm and dedication of our walk leaders that has made all this possible. I am constantly amazed by the variety of ideas I receive. We have a visit to a brewery (which includes the right food for the right ale), a group weekend away in a bunk house on the North Norfolk coastal path, a canal boat trip which includes a meal, a 30 mile walk and 3 separate 30km walks, one in each of our 3 counties. Coming up later in the year the celebrations continue with 2 x two-day weekends spent walking our local 80 mile Bunyan trail and a 3 day long weekend enjoying the Milton Keynes Boundary Walk.

The programme for April to August is complete, and as usual contains the usual two Thursday walks each month and at least two weekend social walk. Thanks to Gordon for co-ordinating the Thursday programme and to Gill and Merrian for proof reading and, I am sure, correcting my silly mistakes, and for inputting the information onto the web, from which the information will be extracted for inclusion in Strider.

As always, I am now starting on the programme for the final four months of our anniversary year, from September to December. Let's make this special year go out with a bang. Please contact me asap to book a date to lead a walk, with the usual final details required by 10th May please.

**(f) Thursday Walks – Gordon Shaughnessy**

Gordon was not present but it was noted that the next Thursday programme had been finalised. Martin said he had wanted to talk to Gordon about slotting in an extra Thursday walk (23rd May). In view of the imminent Strider download, Martin gave the walk information to Gill to input and said he would contact Gordon asap for his OK.

**(g) Merchandising/Equipment – Lynn Yorston**

**Merchandise**

We have revised the stock list following sales at Sundon Saunter and at the AGM.

I have looked into 'wicking T-shirts with no result. Logo mugs are still on hold.

Lynn confirmed that she had contacted several companies for prices for wicking T-shirts with no success as they were just not interested in a small order. Ian said he would check who had produced his running club's clothing.

**Equipment**

We are now proud owners of 12 tabards and 12 aprons with our logo printed on. These will be available for use at checkpoints. They look very good.

I have updated the equipment list and it is now ready for Merrian to add to the webpage. We still have not located the old folding chairs – I will try once more then write them off.

If anyone else has any input, please let me know.

Ian may be able to obtain some large office flasks that are no longer needed.

**(h) Website – Merrian Lancaster**

Already covered under Merrian's Secretary's report.

**(i) Newsletter – Gill Bunker**

Gill said the next Newsletter would be sent out in February. She would include all officers' reports but not the Minutes as whole as they take up too many pages. The Minutes are available on the website, but she will put a note in the Newsletter saying that a copy of the Minutes can be sent to any member who would like one.

**(j) Local Group Representative – Merrian Lancaster**

Merrian confirmed that she would be attending the next meeting in November. The Sundon Saunter was being held on 3rd November and the LGRs' meeting two weeks later, so there was no clash. Various issues had come out of the last LGRs meeting which would be dealt with later in the meeting or were being followed up.

**(k) Other Committee Members**

Martin had nothing to report.

**4. Auditing of Accounts**

The audited accounts have been signed by Phil Friede and are being retained by Ian.

**5. Change to Cheque Signatories**

It was agreed that it would be helpful for Merrian to become a cheque signatory, along with the existing signatories (Ian, Nigel and Norman). Ian gave Merrian the necessary form to complete. It was agreed that Merrian would complete the form in readiness for the next committee meeting, when the necessary Resolution will be passed.

**6. Minutes of AGM and Matters Arising**

The Minutes of the AGM were approved with no matters arising.

**7. Matters Arising from LGRs' Meeting**

**Dogs on Walks** This was an issue that had come out at the LGR's meeting but now appears to have been clarified following a report from LDWA insurers Perkins Slade. Dogs on walks do not affect the insurance cover in any way but incidents caused by dogs are not covered by the LDWA insurance policy. Therefore it is important that dog owners are aware of this and have their own Pet Owners Liability Insurance cover in place. The decision whether dogs are permitted on an LDWA walk is up to the leader, so a leader may stipulate No Dogs Please, although Assistance dogs are allowed on all suitable walks.

Dave said definitive advice was coming from the National Committee with hopefully a standard form of wording to be included on our walks programmes, event information and with the introductory pack sent to new members.

**8. Insurance Issues – Incident Reports**

There were no matters to report.

**9. Group Activities**

- (a) 2013 100:** CP3 - a "barn" at Candra – Merrian confirmed she has 10 helpers, but needs 12. Basic food, need to take some equipment, including water carriers.
- (b) 2014 100:** Wales - a marquee outside the Bryn Ffynnon Hotel.
- (c) 2015 100:** East Lancs.
- (d) 2016 100:** Dorset - BBN have offered to do an early CP.

**10. BBN Events**

- (a) Chiltern Kanter – 3rd March 2013 Norman Corrin's report:**

The date for The Chiltern Kanter is Sunday 3rd March 2013 with the marshals' walk on the previous Sunday 24th February. All 3 routes have been recced and the grid reference sheets (without answers!) uploaded onto the website along with a map showing the location of Goodrich Engineering and Pitstone Memorial Hall

Mike Hyland and I have a meeting at Goodrich Engineering on Friday 1st February with Mr Tony Craddock, the Security Officer, to discuss car parking arrangements. Parking at Pitstone Memorial Hall is for event marshals only, no entrants.

All routes walk past the BBN Founders Memorial Bench just after the start.

The long and medium routes go to CP 1 at Whipsnade Village Hall (via Dunstable Tree Cathedral). From Whipsnade the long route goes to Studham and Little Gaddesden then to CP 2 at the Bridgewater Monument. It then continues via Aldbury to CP 3 at the Scout Hut in Longfield Road, Tring returning along the Wendover Arm (passing Bridge 4 with the BBN plaque) and Wilstone Reservoir to Pitstone Memorial Hall.

From Whipsnade the medium route goes directly to CP 2 at the Bridgewater Monument and then via Aldbury back to Pitstone Memorial Hall. The short route from Pitstone goes via Ivinghoe Beacon to CP 1 at Dagnall (short route only) and CP 2 at Bridgewater Monument and then via Aldbury back to Pitstone Memorial Hall.

Currently I have 20 marshals but would like a few more, say 5. I don't have anyone to cover Dagnall on the short route.

Badges have been ordered and Christine Pendlebury has modified the certificates slightly from 2011 as all routes go to the Bridgewater Monument.

Norman said a problem had recently arisen in that the CP at the Monument is on National Trust land and the NT have asked for a payment of 80p (originally £1) for each walker taking part. Gill said that Nigel had reported back after a recent LGRs' meeting where another group had to pay to have a checkpoint in a picnic area, though there was no charge for using the footpaths. Several NT members present were dismayed at the amount of the charge per person and wondered whether NT members would also be charged. There is little scope for moving the CP at short notice as all distances go via the Monument but not by the same route. Norman will go back to the NT to see if there is any possibility of a reduction in the charge.

He has 82 entries to date.

#### **(b) The SS Events– Lynn Yorston**

##### **Sundon Saunter 2012**

The walk was a resounding success. We had to close entries and could not take any 'on the day' walkers. After covering all our expenses and making a donation of £150 (over £60 from tea box) to BOB Air Ambulance, we made an excess of £732.84.

The feedback was brilliant – The route went down well with paths that had not been used before and wonderful views. The checkpoint staff were great and the food was said to be very good. We send a big thank you to all who helped.

The marshals' walk on Sunday 4th November was VERY wet. 18 people turned out and all were so very pleased to reach our impromptu checkpoints manned by DFH & M. Many thanks to them both.

5 others (including DFH & M) went out on different days to complete the routes.

##### **Steppingley Step 2013**

We have secured the hall at Barton for November 3rd 2013. This date had also been confirmed as OK for the extra parking at the Arnold Academy. We have visited and booked both Steppingley Village Hall and Pulloxhill Church Hall. We have approached the Scouts at Harlington but await their response. Thanks to his early work, DFH has the route well in hand.

##### **The Triple Challenge**

We have drawn up a list of those who would be eligible for the award on completion of the SS in 2013. There are 135 names on this list. We now need to work on the designs for the badges and certificates. It has previously been agreed that there will not be any further charge to the walkers for this award.

**(b) 30th Anniversary Events**

**(i) Doghouse – Sunday 6th January – Norman Corrin**

Norman said there had been 15 on the walk and 14 for the lunch (including Norman's brother);

**(ii) Canal Boat Trip - Sunday 18th August - Norman Corrin**

Norman said the trip is booked with Grebe Canal Cruises. It will be a 2 hour trip with a meal on the "Countess" narrowboat, with bar. The initial plan to have a 3 course dinner has now been scrapped as there was disagreement over the amount of the subsidy and some present felt it was too expensive without a larger subsidy from group funds. Norman then mentioned a Fish and Chip Supper at £18 per head which those present agreed was a much better idea. It was agreed to charge members £10 for the trip, the balance to come from group funds;

**(iii) Chiltern Brewery Trip – Saturday 18th May – John Davies**

John had confirmed this is now finalised. A 10 mile walk to the Brewery, the tour and a 4 mile flat walk back. The cost is £11.50 and a £5 deposit will be payable on booking. A deposit of £105 has been paid from group funds and this will be recouped from deposits on booking. John has done an item for the Newsletter.

**(iv) 30mile walk – Saturday 22nd June – Chris Bent**

**(v) 80ish mile Bunyan Trail over 4 days Saturday 31st August/Sunday 1st September and Saturday 7th September/Sunday 8th September**

We are still waiting to hear from the Beds Festival organisers regarding the start/finishing point for each day's walk. They are organising the transport; we are supplying leaders. To date we have leaders for three days: Derek Jacob, Eric Cartwright and Therese & Daniel Jamin.

**(vi) Quiz – October– Norman Corrin**

Norman plans to book Paradise Hall at Newton Longville and invite the Air Ambulance people to give a talk, in which case we will organise a raffle for their funds.

**(vii) 3 x 30km group walks**

1. **Beds - Sunday 30th June** – Sue Leonard

2. **Bucks - Saturday 27 July** - Dave and Lynn Yorston

Dave has already devised a circular route from our house and has walked it out twice. Everyone will be invited to stay for tea and snacks in our back garden, weather permitting, afterwards. They might also have the opportunity to visit 'Malt, the Brewery' which is located at the end of our road.

3. **Northants - Sunday 22 September** - Martin Lawson

**(viii) Milton Keynes Boundary Walk – Saturday 19th, Sunday 20th, Monday 21st October**

Sylvie Eames, Steve Clark, Gill Bunker

**(ix) Commemorative Mugs:** – Lynn said sourcing the mugs had proved more difficult than she had anticipated. She could not get the BBN colour. The cost would be £25 plus p&p plus £2 per mug for one colour and £2.50 per mug for two colours. During the discussion it became evident that some present were not happy with the idea of a mug. A lanyard pen or key ring with the BBN logo were other ideas. Lynn agreed to check out the full range of items that can have logos and report back.

*After the meeting had finished Norman had a bag with a logo which, as modelled by Norman, was agreed to be a good idea.*

**(c) Pick & Mix 2014**

Lynn and Dave will contact the Great Missenden School by the end of March.

**10. AOB**

**(i) Health & Safety Issues**

A discussion document "*Health and Safety for group walks and events*" has been prepared for BBN by Michael Mooney. Merrian had circulated this to committee members prior to the meeting and had also drawn attention to Ken Falconer's "*Showing the Way*" document on the national website. Gordon had indicated in a telephone call prior to the meeting that he felt this was an extremely important issue. It was agreed that as Michael had already done a lot of work Merrian would ask him for any detailed comments he had on the "*Showing the Way*" document, suggesting he could perhaps bounce ideas off Brian Harwood. Any comments could then be considered at our next meeting/referred to the National Committee. It was agreed that these are important issues which members need to be aware of, but we do not want to deter folk from offering to lead our walks.

**(ii) Runners on Events – Lynn Yorston**

Just a note re on-line entries. We have looked at the entry list for the Punchbowl which closed entries before the end of 2012. There are only 58 out of 250 declaring LDWA membership. We now seem to be putting on events for runners and excluding our own members. There has to be a way to allow our walkers to get access to our events.

It was agreed that many runners probably see LDWA events as better value than some running events. Dave said that perhaps the event would not have been full if runners had not entered and it was not possible to know how many had been runners. Ian said that the Punchbowl was very tight time-wise for walkers and therefore perhaps not so popular for walkers. Merrian mentioned a northern event that filled with runners. It was agreed by all present that if you want to take part in an event you need to get your entry in asap.

The meeting closed at 10.28 pm.

The next committee meeting will take place on Thursday 16th May 2013 at Merrian's  
9 Hollinwell Close, Bletchley, MK3 7TW