

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION - BEDS BUCKS NORTHANTS GROUP
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY 23RD MAY 2024 - BY ZOOM

Present: 8 Françoise Bannister (Treasurer), Terry Brown, Gill Bunker (Secretary), Chris Burns, Roy Carter, Nick Emery, Sarah Feal (Chair), Mike Hyland

1.	Apologies: Pete Engledow, Sara Waldron	ACTION
2.	Minutes of Previous Committee Meeting (25th January 2024)	
	The Minutes were approved.	
	Matters Arising:	
	The opening of the new Lloyd's Bank Treasurer's Account to be ratified under the Treasurer's report. See item 3(iii).	
	Gill confirmed the Night Walk is now a day walk on 8th August, using the £195 credit with Bill's Coaches.	
	Terry said the list of contents of the First Aid Kits still needed to be updated. Sarah will produce a Word document (currently in PDF format) so this can be done.	Sarah/ Terry
	Gill had responded to the NEC with reference to their January emails regarding group walks/insurance requirements. The NEC later confirmed further clarification would be circulated. Nothing further has been received.	
	Greensand Ridge Benches: Terry will check the current position with Jon Balaam (Greensand Trust).	Terry
3.	Reports	
(i)	Chair - Sarah Feal	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah is now getting LDWA/NEC emails • She attended the National AGM on 17th March 2024 • Worked on the new model constitution with Gill and Terry • And supported Françoise with opening the Lloyd's Bank Treasurer's Account. 	
(ii)	Secretary/New Members - Gill Bunker	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday News circulated regularly • NEC Emails circulated/responded to as necessary • The issue with leaders' contact details not being displayed on the website on the day of the walk has now been fixed. Thank you to the LDWA IT Team • New members Details sent to Dee each week. • BBN membership as at 21st May 2024: Primary 504 + Associate 457 Total = 961 33 new Primary members since 25th January committee meeting. There are fewer Primary members, even with our new members. Norman as LDWA Membership Secretary has confirmed that, due to membership cancellations and non-renewals, this is a general trend across all groups. 	
	New Member Welcome - Dee Brockway	
	Nothing really to report to the meeting, save to say it continues to be a very worthwhile and I think appreciated exercise.	

(iii)	Treasurer – Francoise Bannister	
	<u>Lloyd’s Bank Treasurer’s Account</u>	
	Ratification of the committee’s agreement by email after the 25th January committee meeting regarding the opening of a new Lloyds Bank Treasurer’s Account:	
	1. A new 'Treasurer's Account' to be opened with Lloyds Bank. 2. The signatories of the new Account to be the 3 'Officers of the Group' (the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) currently Sarah Feal, Gill Bunker and Francoise Bannister. 3. Once opened, the balance on the Metro account be transferred across to the Lloyds account and the Metro account closed.	
	Agreed by all present.	
	If not already done, the Metro account now needs to be closed.	Pete/ Francoise
	Treasurer’s Report:	
	Bank account balance (13/05/2024): £5,515.88 Balance at beginning of financial year (1/10/2023): £4,707.51	
	<p>Summary</p> <p>Since the last committee meeting, a new bank account has been set up with Lloyd’s Bank. This is a 'Treasurer's Account' that provides us with free banking and the ability to add a second signatory to countersign online financial transactions. The signatories of the new Account are Sarah Feal (BBN Chair), Gill Bunker (BBN Secretary) and Francoise Bannister (BBN Treasurer). Dave Yorston has also agreed to take the role of Independent Examiner.</p> <p>Refunds have been made for last year’s cancelled night walk, and BBN challenge event route planners are now being paid £25, in addition to any travel expenses claimed for the day of the event.</p> <p>Financial decisions by Email since last 25th January committee meeting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Purchase by Terry of 6 XL badged BBN T Shirts for use at future challenge events as substitute Marshals’ T Shirts. Cost £74.95. 2. Use of Bill’s Coaches credit note £195 for rearranged day walk of the Knightley Way/Grafton Way and to ask for £5 payment from walkers. <p>Account summary</p> <p>The following figures are for the period 1/10/2023 to 13/05/2024</p>	

BBN_New
Profit And Loss Account
For the year ended 30 September 2024

				2024
				£
Income	Hannington Hike-2024		2,463.80	
	Knightley-Grafton-2024		35.00	
	Merchandising		3.00	
	Pick and Mix-2024		690.00	
	Steppingley Step-2023		<u>1,780.74</u>	
				<u>4,972.54</u>
				4,972.54
Expenses	AGM		(275.50)	
	Chiltern Kanter 2025		(169.00)	
	Chiltern Kanter-2023		(131.04)	
	Greensand Ridge Walk-2023		(79.04)	
	Hannington hike-2024		(912.27)	
	Knightley-Grafton-2024		(30.00)	
	Marshalling expenses		(141.08)	
	Merchandising		(225.00)	
	Miscellaneous		(163.53)	
	Night Walk-2023		(45.00)	
	Ruby Do-2023		(309.68)	
	Steppingley Step-2023		(1,520.61)	
	Wine and Mince Pie		(18.54)	
	Zoom licence		<u>(143.88)</u>	
				<u>(4,164.17)</u>
Net profit				<u><u>808.37</u></u>

BBN_New
Expenses: Miscellaneous
From 01/10/23 to 30/09/24

Date	Reference	N	Details	A	Expense	Income	Balance
01/10/23			Balance brought forward				0.00
02/02/24	PAY 000018		Sara Waldon Re First Aid		5.95		
02/02/24	PAY 000019		Sara Waldon Re First Aid		22.63		28.58
11/03/24	PAY 000020		David Findel Hawkins Re Coffee Pots		60.00		
11/03/24	PAY 000024		Teresa Brown Re T-Shirt		74.95		163.53
30/09/24			Trf to 'Profit and loss account: Brought forward'				<u>163.53</u>

BBN_New
Income: Merchandising
From 01/10/23 to 30/09/24

Date	Reference	N	Details	A	Expense	Income	Balance
01/10/23			Balance brought forward				0.00
22/04/24	REC 000019		Sara Waldon Re Badges			3.00	-3.00
30/09/24			Trf to 'Profit and loss account: Brought forward'				<u>-3.00</u>

BBN_New
Expenses: Merchandising
From 01/10/23 to 30/09/24

Date	Reference	N	Details	A	Expense	Income	Balance
01/10/23			Balance brought forward				0.00
29/12/23	PAY 000012		David Findel Hawkins Re Mugs		225.00		225.00
30/09/24			Trf to 'Profit and loss account: Brought forward'				<u>225.00</u>

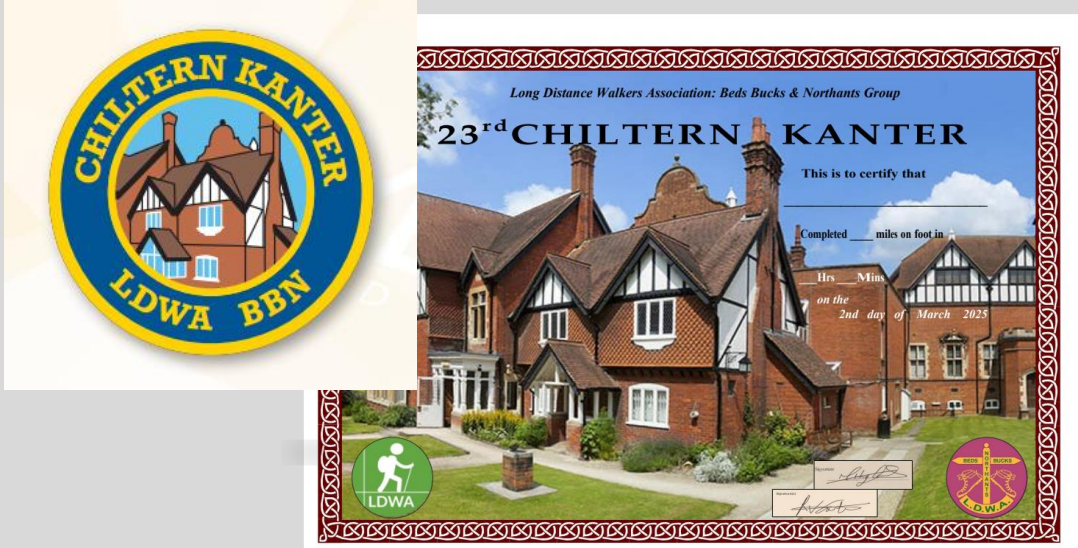
Francoise had noted that there was a difference in the way the payment (optional) to the NEC of the non-member entry fee differential was being made by the different event organisers. The Steppingley Step event differential was paid directly

	<p>to the NEC by the organisers. The Hannington Hike was to be paid by the Treasurer, although Françoise said she had not been asked to do this.</p> <p>The committee agreed that payments to the NEC representing the non-member differential should be made by the Treasurer from the BBN bank account. The Treasurer needs to be kept informed of financial matters and must be asked to make any necessary payments.</p> <p>Any donations made from the event entry income should also be made by the Treasurer from the BBN account. Such donations require the Committee's approval of the recipient (unless previous donations have been made, eg to The Air Ambulance), and approval of the amount suggested by the organiser. Any money collected on the day for charity could be added to the payment from the entry income.</p>	Alan/ Françoise
	We are very close to the date of the Pick & Mix, but need to confirm these decisions to Dave Yorston in readiness for the Shillington Shuffle in November.	Gill
(iv)	Challenge Walk - Co-Ordinator Mike Hyland	
	<p>Pick And Mix- entries close on the 29th May 2024. There are 116 entries as from 20th May.</p> <p>Shillington Shuffle:- Flyer is done, and is on websites (BBN and LDWA), is in Strider and on SiEntries in demo mode ready to go live on 1st September for LDWA members, then for all from 21st October.</p> <p>Chiltern Kanter:- Flyer is done, and is on websites (BBN and LDWA), will be in next issue of Strider and will also be put on SiEntries at the end of the month in demo mode to check out, will go live on the 1st Dec for LDWA members then for all from 2nd Jan 2025.</p>	
	Mike confirmed 120 Pick & Mix entries as at today.	
(v)	Social Walks - Sara Waldron	
	<p>It has been a very difficult quarter for me as walks secretary. A few people have really put themselves out to lead walks – some have put several on the calendar. In the main though we have had a significant drop off in the number of people willing to lead walks.</p> <p>I think some of it is due to the awful weather conditions we've experienced during the spring months – who wants to lead a tough mudder!! However now that conditions have improved, I've not seen a rise in offers.</p> <p>Interestingly there has been no apparent drop off in enthusiasm for attending walks. I'm continuing to mention leading to people during walks and there are a couple of people who I'm sure will put a date on the calendar in the next few weeks.</p> <p>Last year I sent an email to previous leaders – it really didn't get the response I was hoping for.</p> <p>I'm looking for new ideas please.</p>	
	Sara has confirmed she will be standing down as Walks Secretary at the AGM.	
	<p>Terry thought that not listing walks in Strider, and there being no deadline for leaders to agree a date to lead a walk, had possibly led to a loss of discipline in arranging walks.</p> <p>Chris thought the current system made it easier to put on a "pop up" walk.</p>	
	It was suggested that we email previous leaders again; and offer to "buddy up" with prospective new leaders. Terry would like to see a list of previous walk leaders.	Sara/ Gill
(vi)	Merchandising - Pete Engledow	
	It was agreed to delete this as an agenda item as BBN merchandise is now purchased individually online through the PECO website.	Gill

(vii)	Equipment - Dave Findel-Hawkins	
	It was agreed Equipment would remain on the agenda in case equipment needs replacing/new items purchased.	
(viii)	Website & Social Media - Gill Bunker	
	Website: Kept updated with news, photos from group walks and events, challenge event info/route descriptions/finishing times etc. Facebook: 359 members. WhatsApp: 28 members (both as at 21st May).	
	References to BBN Twitter account to be deleted.	Gill
(ix)	Local Groups Rep - Pete Engleow See AOB item (ii).	
(x)	Walks Database - Terry Brown	
	Since taking over as Walks Database GPX files inputter I've added seven files to the database. I aim to be more proactive in getting hold of the files from now on.	Terry
	It is also possible to include a walk report with the GPX file. Terry will look into this	Terry
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4.	LDWA Matters	
(i)	Insurance Issues – Incident Reports There have been no reportable incidents.	
(ii)	New Constitution	
	Sarah said she, together with Gill and Terry, had been through the wording of the LDWA new model constitution and had agreed a draft which she had circulated to the committee on 27th March. There were no further comments. Sarah will now submit the draft to the NEC Local Groups Secretary for approval. It will then go to the October committee meeting, thereafter to the membership, and to the AGM for agreement.	Sarah
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5.	LDWA Hundreds – Mary Knight	
	(i) 2024 Speyside Mary plus team of 11 at CP4 Ballcorach, 26 miles. (ii) 2025 Flower of Suffolk Organisation well advanced	
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6.	BBN Challenge Events	
(i)	Generic Risk Assessment - Terry Brown Terry will progress.	Terry
(ii)	Hannington Hike 2024 (3rd March 2024) Alan Leadbetter	
	Changing to two routes 15.5 & 26.5 miles. I changed the route a little bit to take them through Little Harrowden, Orlingbury and Pytchley to CP1 Broughton, then taking both routes off to CP2 Hannington. Then the short route headed back to the OG's Sportsfield and the finish. The long route went via Walgrave, Old and Scaldwell to CP3 Holcot, from there the route went through Overstone, Sywell and Mears Ashby to the finish at OG's Sportsfield. The marshals' walk didn't get off to a good start, as the original date Sunday 11th Feb clashed with the Winter Poppyline, so with the marshals doing or helping on the Winter Poppyline event I decide to cancel the marshals' walk until later in the month Thursday 22nd Feb, with 6 people due to the walk. On the day the weather was very stormy, and it was decided to postpone it again until the following week, when the walk was final checked.	

	<p>244 entered and 214 made it on the day, 151 on the long route and 63 on the short route. 3 people retired making 211 completed their chosen route. The rain in the weeks before made condition very wet and muddy.</p> <p>Of the 214 entries 117 were male and 97 females, there were 158 walker and 56 runners. The average age was 55 with the oldest being 79 and the youngest being 28.</p> <p>Thank you to all the marshals - without their help the event could not happen</p> <p><u>Car parking:</u> Mike Hyland, Phil Vidler, Gordon Shaughnessy, Martin Lawson</p> <p><u>HQ at start:</u> Dave Findel-Hawkins, Merrian Lancaster, Graham Missing, Lynn Yorston</p> <p><u>HQ Kitchen:</u> Karen Earwicker, Liz Sheffield, Phil Vidler, Ros Flynn, Mark Leadbetter, Angela Standcumbe, Caitlin Leadbetter and Olivia Leadbetter</p> <p><u>Checkpoint One:</u> Gill Bunker, Dave Yorston, Rob Struthers, Anne Addison, Sophie Butler, Phil Vidler, and Andy Hoddle</p> <p><u>Checkpoint Two:</u> Mary Knight, Dennis Knight, Bob Leadbetter, Mike Hyland, Chris Burns, Roy Carter, and Steve Clark</p> <p><u>Checkpoint Three:</u> Terry Brown, Francoise Bannister, Frank Hodgson, Gordon Shaughnessy, Val Thompson, Sara Waldron, and Linda Dawes</p> <p>I have to thank my family members Ros Flynn, Bob Leadbetter, Mark Leadbetter, Angela Standcumbe, Caitilin Leadbetter, and Olivia Leadbetter for helping out on the day.</p> <p><u>Accounts:</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Income:</u> SiEntries £2,463.80 Total: £2,463.80</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Expenditures:</u> Hall Hire: £617.00 Certificates: £72.00 Food: £574.32 Van Hire and fuel: £186.00 Non-member difference to NEC £175 Total: £1,626.32 Surplus of £837.48</p>	
(iii)	Pick & Mix 2024 (2nd June 2024) Lynn & Dave Yorston	
	<p>All routes have been checked and are ready to be published.</p> <p>DFH has prepared the GPX files to be published at the same time.</p> <p>All staff have been contacted with details of their duties.</p> <p>The schools have been contacted re parking.</p> <p>We will be having a fund raising table for The Air Ambulance.</p> <p>There will be mainly some walking books and some handmade hats for sale.</p> <p>All in all everything looks great. We just need the walkers !</p>	
(iv)	Shillington Shuffle 2024 (17th November 2024) Dave Findel-Hawkins (Lead)	
	All in hand. Dave has not reported any problems.	
(v)	Chiltern Kanter 2025 (2nd March 2025) Roy Carter	
	<p>The next Chiltern Kanter has been set for Sunday 2nd March 2025.</p> <p>Headquarters for the Kanter has been arranged at Pitstone Memorial Hall and a 50% deposit paid to hire the venue. Ideas to use the stately home of Ashridge House have been dropped. Instead I've booked the main Village Hall in Wigginton</p>	

for the day. The idea being to loop the medium 18 mile route and 26 mile long route from there. The short route will pass through there also. There is a departure from having Ivinghoe Beacon as the focus for all walking routes and instead focus all routes past the Natural History Museum in Tring. The museum would become the feature on our Certificates and Badges. What do you think??



All Roy's proposals were agreed.

Roy

(vi) Three Counties Tread Anytime Challenge (Joe Leonard)

Terry said she would be seeing Joe the following evening; she will get an update from him and report back.
Dave Findel-Hawkins proposes to start checking the route description on his return from the Speyside Hundred.

Terry

7. BBN Group Events

(i) BBN Holiday to Ilfracombe Roy Carter

The BBN holiday this year has been arranged at the Imperial Hotel in Ilfracombe for the weekend of Friday 30th August to Monday 2nd September 2024. It is the weekend that follows the August Bank Holiday. I have reserved 19 places at the hotel through Alfa Travel and 17 places have been booked, **2 places remain open to book**. More rooms could be found at the hotel or members could book other accommodation elsewhere in Ilfracombe and still come on the BBN Holiday. A programme of walks is currently being prepared. The all-day walks on Saturday & Sunday will be circular/linear? on the South West Coast Path and Friday & Monday walks will likely be on Exmoor and Quantock Hills.

Roy confirmed he had paid the deposit for the remaining room.

Roy

Gill to advertise in the TN. The two available places are a twin or double room.

Gill

8. Financial Matters/Projects/Donations

(i) Travel expenses

Francoise confirmed that two payments of £25 had been made to the route planners of the Steppingley Step 2023 and the Hannington Hike 2024.

	Terry to update the notes on travel expenses on the website to include reference to the £25 payment.	Terry
(ii)	Greensand Ridge Benches See item 2 Matters Arising.	
9.	AGM 2024 Sunday 24th November 2024 Alan Leadbetter	
	This year's AGM will be held on Sunday 24-11-2024 at Lavendon Village Hall, the meal will be at The Green Man, High Street, Lavendon. I have booked 24 places to start at 12.30 prompt. The morning walk will start from the village hall at 9.00am and will be approx. 8 miles. We have the hall from 12.00 until 16.00 We will need to pre order meals by 17-11-2024 and the menu will be available sometime in September, meals can be ordered by emailing Alan Leadbetter before the 17-11-2024.	
	It was agreed the usual £10 contribution towards the cost of the lunch would be made to members who attend the AGM.	Francoise
10.	AOB	
(i)	LDWA Proposal to purchase a Field Kitchen (Martyn Greaves Fund)	
	The proposal had been circulated to the committee and BBN event organisers before the meeting. It was agreed that BBN would not use a field kitchen. Gill to respond to the NEC.	Gill
(ii)	Future of the Local Groups Weekend	
	No local group having offered to host the 2024 LG weekend, the NEC have asked: (i) Refrain from holding a Local Group Representatives Weekend in 2024? (ii) Introduce bi-monthly meetings with Local Group Officers via Zoom?	
	The committee agreed Zoom meetings would be preferable, but suggest they be quarterly rather than bi-monthly. Gill to respond to the NEC.	Gill
11	Date of next committee meetings:	
.	Thursday 10th October 2024	