



HEART OF ENGLAND – LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes for Committee Meeting Agenda 35 Via MS TEAMS internet engagement at 7.00 pm on 22/04/2026.

In attendance:

Chair – Position vacant

Neil Bromley (NB) Deputy Chair
Michael Buckley (MB) Membership Secretary
Robin Richmond (RR) Data Officer

David Hood (DH) Group Secretary
Rupert Connolly (RC) Property Officer
Yvonne Court (YC) Treasurer
Graham Jones (GJ) Walks Secretary

Apologies:-

Circulation

All above plus Group Membership (and via web site)

Item	Description	Action/Date
35	Meeting Leader Neil Bromley	
35.1	Introductions & apologies	
35.1.1	Neil Bromley.	
35.2	Approval of previous minutes 34 (25th February 2026)	
35.2.1		
35.2.2	Proposed by Graham Jones	
35.2.3	Seconded by Rupert Connolly	

35.3.	Matters arising (internal or external with Committee)	
35.3.1	This item has been addressed	
35.3.2	Following point 33.3.2 of the last meeting. (This relates to how we ensure members know about events that are going on in our area and how we can communicate this more effectively). GJ will look at producing a bulletin that will go out, by email, to our members. 87% of primary members receive national and local emails, and 76% receive associate emails. 89% of associate members receive associate emails. GDPR allows all members to be sent 'service' emails, e.g. AGM notice but this is not identified. RR to follow up with NEC. GJ has looked at the type pf bulletins issued by other groups. He has a plan to launch a bulletin in the next month. This might involve using WhatsApp.	Committee RR; GJ; MB
35.3.3	We now have the new members from the old Bristol and West group, included on our emailing lists. Section 35.4.2 shows the source of the new members.	DH; RR
35.3.4	This item has been addressed	

35.4	Chairs report (with deputy input)	NB
35.4.1	At the December AGM members were invited to express an interest in being the group Chair(person). Anybody interested in this should contact DH - Heartofengland.secretary@ldwa.org.uk	All members
35.4.2	Details of B&W transfers are: n.b. Table in appendix Source: NEC Data Analyst – 20/04/26t Using primary members only for comparison with a 2009 analysis, HoE membership has increased by 107% for the North, East, and West sub-areas of the original HoE area (199 --> 413). The distribution has changed from 40%, 34%, 26% to 35%, 35%, 30% respectively, i.e. more equal. Related to the current total HoE membership GL has added 185 members (39% increase) and BS has added 1147 members (31% increase) making 332 (170%) in total. Source: NEC Data Analyst – 12/04/26	
35.4.3	HoE now has a very stretched geographical area. We would love to see our members from each of, Gloucestershire, Bristol, Worcestershire, Coventry/Warwickshire and Birmingham contacting us to offer walks within their county. Contact David Hood at Heartofengland.secretary@ldwa.org.uk and he will put you in contact with our Walks Secretary, Graham Jones. However, whilst welcoming and supporting all new members to its area, HoE is aware that such a large increase may produce some difficulties in the north/south axis increasing from around 65 to 115 miles (nearly 80%) may not serve all members well.	
35.5	<u>NEC Engagement – HoE Representatives Report</u>	RR; GJ
35.5.1	Average LG's surplus is £1,259 and average balance is £7,721. HoE accounts show a surplus less than the average, and a balance after Challenge Event cancellation contingency in line with the average. One group mentioned holding a similar contingency. HoE is well placed to continue improving event quality and matching additional costs with increased revenues Despite NEC's commitment to consistency LGs now have to manage four different privacy statements and a complicated handing of ICE data for Social Walks. HoE continues to lobby NEC to explore available best practice and a return to earlier simplicity. The HoE Committee welcomes feedback from Marshals and Walk Leaders where NEC requirements impose unnecessary work All members are invited to add to the debate and raise any other items of interest that they may wish to have shared with the NEC by emailing the Chair at heartofengland.chair@ldwa.org.uk or by posting on the HoE WhatsApp Group. Feedback that is most likely to be of interest to members will also be posted here.	Info Info

35.6	Treasurer's report	YC
35.6.1	Interim accounts see appendix 35.13.1.	Info
35.6.2	The bank balance stands at £11,597.49 as at 20/04/26. Cash balance £68.95.	Info
35.6.3	Balance movement in the month includes: Debits for: Bank Charges £9.98	Info

	MMM £234.10 Group Expenses £127.52 (Social Walks £67.69, 4 weeks storage facility £59.83) Training £14.40 Hunnypot 100 £388.78 Credit SiEntries: MMM £670.67 BCC £605.00 FM £60.00 Unavailable Funds: Contingency for event failure £3,600.00. Funds available to for general HoE expenditure: £8,066.44	

35.7	Group Secretary report	DH
35.7.1	MMM preparations are in hand. Offers for help in martialling from HoE members will still be welcome. Please do not make specific requests as most roles have been allocated. A marshal's walk has been provisionally set for the 10th June.	
35.7.2	BCC - (Aug) Again preparations are well advanced. We would like many more volunteers to help with this, especially from our mrmbers who live close to the event.	
35.7.3	Hunny Pot 100 – Marshals (2 nd to 4 th of May). Thank you to those who have offered to help marshal on this. The marshals' walk has 10 out of the 44 participants from the HoE group. This demonstrates that we have a strong group who are prepared to support National events.	
	We will be communicating with all event volunteers to offer them a T-Shirt to show that they are HoE members.	
35.7.4	Hunny Pot 100 – Main Event (23 rd to 25 th of May). We have a lot of volunteers helping at our checkpoint, and many more HoE members are helping elsewhere on the event. Including a strong showing of participants as well, HoE are showing very strong support for this event.	
35.7.5	ACW (April) Thank you to the many HoE members who are helping with this.	
35.7.6	HoE Forest Marathon (FM) (Sept) - this is moving forward quickly. Please contact David Hood Heartofengland.secretary@ldwa.org.uk to volunteer as a marshal. Rupert Connelly has set up a web page, for this event, which can be accessed through the links on the HoE page of the Idwa website.	
35.7.7	Hunnypot 100 checkpoint - A whatsapp page has been set up to inform the helpers of what is happening.	
35.7.8	Neil Bromley, who is the HoE acting chair, can now be contacted on this Email:- heartofengland.chair@ldwa.org.uk	
35.7.9	RC should now have access to full editing rights on the HoE website.	
35.7.10	The Jurrassic 100 :- No new news.	
35.7.11	Look at our website to see the latest photos.	
35.7.12	Michael Jones has been in conversation with RC and is offering to organise a Bear and Bull 50 event.(BB50) :- No new news	
35.7.13	DH has sent our full AGM minutes to the NEC (sent 19 th Feb 2026)	
35.7.14	Severn 100 – A separate committee is looking after this event. It will be a HoE event and nearer the time, it will be requesting help from our HoE membership.	

35.8	Membership Secretary report	MB
35.8.1	528 members end of 2025 this has increased to 729 since Gloucestershire and Bristol members have joined. The source of the new members is shown in the table in the appendix. (Note: Data capture on different dates). We hope that with the increased membership, we get greater participation from members being helpers on events.	Info
35.8.2	Of the new members who have joined since Christmas, it seems that only 80% have opted to receive Emails. This is around 10%pts less than historic levels (see Section 35.3.2)	Info
	Thank you Mike Buckley for the work you are doing on this.	

	required media permissions have been submitted to the NEC for approval to allow the HoEF Charity to do this. Media permissions agreed. <u>Analysis of LDWA Membership Database for HoE's Use</u> The new version of the GDPR User Guide confirms that Local Groups should not download LDWA data to produce reports locally. Instead, they should request a report from the LDWA Data Analyst (dataanalyst@ldwa.org.uk) who will produce it from the LDWA's membership database. For the exact wording see Section 6 Data Accuracy of the Data Protection and Privacy Use Guide Nov 2025. HoE's view is that, for comparisons outside our area using the Data Analyst is OK. However, for HoE primary or associate member analysis, this process would seem to create an unwarranted delay due to availability of the analyst, refinement of request, and new questions arising. RR will prepare a request for a change in policy to be sent by the Deputy Chair. <u>LDWA Email Addresses</u> RR confirmed: • The benefits of LDWA mailbox licences: ○ Privacy for users ○ LDWA Professionalism ○ Transfer/preservation of the 'institutional memory' • Otherwise LDWA mailboxes are no different from private ones • Four FOC mailbox licences are available (secretary, chair, treasurer, and walks secretary) • Late change – option of three mailbox licences plus one Business Basic licence which allows for the 'institutional memory' to extend to documents, but not sharing of documents NEC have asked for responses from LGs to the options, but this was not discussed. RR will seek more information from the NEC on functionality, availability, costs, etc. Also, the benefits of the Business Basic licence.	RR
		RR

35.12	Any other business	
	There are two paid for places to do a food safety, on-line course. The committee will be approaching members to invite them to do this.	
	.	

35.13	Appendices	
Total		515 100%

Next meeting:- Wednesday 27th May 2026