



HEART OF ENGLAND – LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes for Committee Meeting 36 Via MS TEAMS internet engagement at 7.00 pm on 27/05/2026.

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
36	Meeting Leader Neil Bromley	
36.1	Introductions & apologies	
36.1.1	Neil Bromley.	
36.2	Approval of previous minutes 35 (22nd April 2026)	
36.2.2	Proposed by Graham Jones	
36.2.3	Seconded by Rupert Connolly	

36.3.	Matters arising (internal or external with Committee)	
36.3.1	Update on - 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 has investigated ways of developing our communications. Once he has recovered from his recent operation, he hopes to be able to send out regular bulletins to inform the membership of upcoming events.	

36.4	Chairs report (with deputy input)	NB
36.4.1	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 As yet, no-one has shown an interest in putting themselves forward.	To all HoE Members
36.4.3	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 The Committee are looking to find a suitable venue for our AGM in December, which will be centred in the Gloucestershire area. Perhaps Birdlip might be a popular choice? DH will ask this question in a forthcoming Email. If any members can think of another suitable venue, then please contact David Hood Heartofengland.secretary@ldwa.org.uk	

	Thank you Neil for the great work you are doing as Deputy Chairperson.	
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36.6	Treasurer's report	YC
36.6.1	The accounts as at 20/05/26.. Payments since the last committee meeting. £203.10 for the chippy tea for the marshals on HP100 – this will be recovered by claiming from the NEC. Paid - the invoice for table cloths £64.50 SO for storage £62.68 Receipts MMM £1,159.84 BCC £22.50 FM £20.00	

36.7	Group Secretary report	DH
36.7.1	Malvern Midsummer Marathon (MMM) preparations are in hand. Offers for help in martialling from HoE members are still welcome. Please do not make specific requests as most roles need to be allocated by the organisers. A marshal's walk has been provisionally set for the 10th June. We have a problem, in not securing the scout hut yet. Hopefully a solution is at hand. RC has secured an event phone which will mean all participants will contact this number rather than using the personal numbers of the event organisers. This phone should be available for our other events too.	
36.7.2	Birmingham Canal Canter (BCC) - (Aug) Again preparations are well advanced. We would like many more volunteers to help with this, especially from our members who live close to the event. There has been some re-routing of the event to accommodate the 30 mile version. This means that all checkpoints will be outdoor ones. Consideration will be made in the route description to indicate accessible toilets along the route.	
36.7.3	Hunny Pot 100 – Marshals (2nd to 4th 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.	
36.7.4	Hunny Pot 100 – A quick bit of feedback suggested that we felt that our group had run a successful and popular checkpoint. We had a large number of helpers (20) and this helped us to support the many participants who were struggling with the extreme heat.	
36.7.5	n.b. The heart of England group will be running a checkpoint on the Jurassic 100 next year. Please let the committee know if you would like to help. We will be running the checkpoint at Knowle village hall. This will be at 49.2 miles and will be open between 22:00, Saturday to 09:00 Sunday morning.	
36.7.6	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 Connolly has set up a web page, for this event, which can be accessed through the links on the HoE page of the Idwa website.	
36.7.7	David Hood sent out an email appealing for members to help marshal on events. Thankyou to all the members who got in touch. We had a strong response. Further offers will be gratefully received.	
36.7.8	RC now has access to full editing rights on the HoE website.	
36.7.9	If any members can suggest ways of improving the website then please contact Heartofengland.secretary@ldwa.org.uk	
36.7.10	The Jurrassic 100 :- See item 36.7.5	

36.7.11	Look at our website to see the latest photos.	
36.7.12	The Severn 100 (a provisional name) –has a separate committee to look after this event. It will be a HoE event and nearer the time, it will be requesting help from our HoE membership.	
36.7.13	The committee spent some time considering our commitment to hosting this 100 mile event in May 2029. “The Hundred” is an event which is held once a year. The LDWA National Executive Committee (the NEC) look for a regional group, each year to host a hundred event in their area. We currently have the chance to host in 2029.	
36.7.14	The committee, and membership, have been kept up to date with progress in organising the 100. Our chairperson asked to formalise the procedure of supporting the organisation process. He asked the committee three key questions. ONE – Does the committee support the idea of hosting the 100 event? The response was “Yes”. TWO – Do the committee support RC and DH to be the people who take the process forward? The response was again yes. It’s recognised that most of the process will be done separately from the HoE committee, but there will continue to be reporting to it. THREE – Where should the route cover? RC and DH have already secured, provisionally, a Head Quarter’s at Tewkesbury Academy. Other venues were contacted across Worcestershire and Gloucestershire but none have responded. Tewkesbury would lend itself well to a figure of eight route with the North Cotswolds being in the first loop and the Malvern Hills in the second loop. The committee has requested that alternatives might be considered including a route that would be purely in the Cotswolds. Our next committee meeting will spend time looking at the route, the committee, and hopefully the membership, would most like to do. We hope a lot of our Bristol and Gloucestershire members will want to help with this event. Those who might be interested of being part of the organising might like to Email Heartofengland.secretary@ldwa.org.uk to sound out their willingness to help.	

36.8	Membership Secretary report	MB
36.8.1	We hope that with the increased membership, we get greater participation from members being helpers on events.	Info
36.8.2		Info

36.9	Walk Secretary report	GJ
36.9.3	Watch out for two social walks that will cover two sections of the Heart of England Way. They will be circular and involve car parking as public transport looks difficult to incorporate. These now appear in the walks section of our webpage. Walks:- https://ldwa.org.uk/HeartOfEngland/E/0/our-walks.htm	DH

36.10	Equipment Officer report	RC
36.10.1	Nothing new to report	
36.10.2		

36.11	Data Protection Officer report	RR
36.11.1	<u>GDPR</u> HoE's GDPR declaration for 2024 was paused pending the issue of a new GDPR User Guide. However, the new version appears to have been comprehensively rewritten, and the NEC have been asked to provide a Word 'tracked changes' document to enable HoE to update its internal processes to match. In the meantime, the 2025 declaration will recommence on the basis of the old version. NEC have now asked for GDPR declarations to be submitted within 45 days and HoE's is long overdue. Audit statement from the Membership Secretary is required for completion of the HoE declaration – to be provided in one week. Thanks to all for the work done so far. Hopefully, HoE can move forward to a stable position in 2026. <u>Heart of Engand Forest</u> This event is being resurrected with the support of The Heart of England Forest charity. The charity has asked if it can use LDWA data to promote its work in newspapers and other media outlets. A revised privacy notice and 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 Gude 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.	All Members RC, RR RR RR

36.12	Any other business	
	Next meeting:- 22nd July 2026	