

2005 RED ROPE AGM MINUTES - 24.9.05 - EDALE

Chairs: Colin Knowles, Andy Bateman

Apologies: Jenny Patient, Arthur Howarth, Uta Praekelt, Mark Wallis, Andy Bullivant, Dave Jefferies, Gerry Matthews, Ian Muir.

42 members present.

Minutes by Angela Benham & Pat Durrant

Minutes of 2004 AGM accepted.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

National Secretaries:

Janet Saunders and John Shears had shared this job until John resigned recently. Janet requested a co-secretary to help with writing up minutes etc.

Pat Durrant volunteered and meeting accepted.

Janet felt she had had a main role as a facilitator to the rest of the NC over the past year: she has organised the updating of the contact sheets for NC and Regional Contacts, revised the Membership forms to fit on one side A4, helped ensure the Trip Treasuring form was consistent on the web, worked with the IT officer to clarify the links between NC officers and their relevant sites on the Web, worked with the Publicity Officer to produce a baseline article, assisted Publicity officer in producing a Word poster that regions can modify locally as well as a flyer. She has also organised 3 NC meetings over the year.

FUTURE AIMS: To increase and maintain membership.

Treasurer's Report (Jenny Patient absent): (delivered by Humphrey Southall and a paper copy handed out)

The current account is down by £2500 from 2004.

This seems to be due to £1000 less in membership subscriptions, a re-distribution of the national funds to the regions (£900), an increase in the cost of publications, (£700) a rise in affiliation fees to the BMC (£750) and increased expenses of NC meetings (£200).

Suggestions to reduce costs were a) looking at disaffiliating from BMC b) sending some/all MIS electronically c) raise membership fees or income (by recruiting more members).

Discussion: this focussed around the suggestions outlined.

Various points were made regarding reducing the number of MIS mailings from 11 to 6 a year, the majority in support of this idea and also in the related idea of sending interim emailing along the lines of the Treasurer's proposal. Several speakers stated it would be a good idea to see which members would prefer to have the MIS always by email, to save even more postage.

There was also discussion regarding our affiliation to the BMC: several speakers, including Nikki Finch as BMC rep, made points stressing the benefit of the club's BMC affiliation. A question was raised regarding what other affiliations the club had – the answer being The Ramblers and the Open Spaces Society, neither of which was any significant cost.

A question was raised regarding whether an increase in subs was required.

FUTURE AIMS: NC will research and discuss the above options.

Trip Treasurer (Arthur Howarth absent so Humphrey Southall presented): (National Trips Report by Arthur, and The Treasurers' Report were handed out)

Reported bank balance is healthy at £41.64.
However, it is clear that transport costs are still very high (accommodation costs are surprisingly not a problem). He appealed to local trip treasurers to send clear accounts.

FUTURE AIMS: 4 national trips have already been organised for next year.

Contact & Information Secretary (Uta Praekelt absent):

Janet Saunders reported that Uta said she received only one or two enquiries a month.

Membership Secretary (Gill Platt):

Membership stands at 364. There have been some retirements, some lapses, and also a few people reviving their lapsed membership. Gill requested some patience and perseverance as she has moved house a couple of times this year. She also mentioned the cost of reminders in time and postage.

There was a suggestion that the membership is 'drifting down' bands (Charlie Fisher) as we do not recruit younger people – Colin Knowles wondered if we should have attractive rates to keep older members. It was also suggested that renewal reminders could be sent out by e-mail.

FUTURE AIMS: Ask IT rep to help with e-mail reminders.

Bulletin Editor (Anna Buehring):

2 Bulletins have been produced, and the results of the recent 'consumer satisfaction' survey are being analysed.

MIS Editor (Apologies for absence. No report).

IT Report (Dave Jefferies absent):

More than 75% of the membership now has web access.
Routine work has gone well.

FUTURE AIMS: To continue to refine and operate the system whereby relevant officers check their own information and updates and lets the IT officer know so he can put it on the web.

BMC Rep and Training Officer (Nikki Finch):

Nikki had attended one BMC meeting this year, and has stood in as Training Officer since February.

Re. Training: No enquiries but did some training with the children on the Roaches trip.

Ramblers' Association Link Person (Becky Bates):

No action. Becky is standing down. Post Vacant.

Publicity Officer (Jan Lancaster):

Some copies of Jan's written report were handed out.

Placed various adverts in various places – Big Issue in the North, Climb for Sept/Oct 2005.

The cost of advertising in Trail was too high to proceed with. Paid £20 to be on the web listings in the Morning Star.

Thanked Nicky Finch for producing a flyer and taking it to the Outdoor Show and putting it on BMC and Ramblers stands. Thanked Janet Saunders for writing an article which had been sent to Trail, but not published, and which has been circulated to regions to amend and use if they wish.

Posters had been produced in Word format and sent to regions so they could be amended and used locally.

Copy of the constitution had also been sent to Regions to go into the Red Book.

Enquiry inserted on the membership form about how they have heard of RR.

Producing the Handbook electronically is under discussion.

Jan is currently attempting to use Trade Union contacts to publicise RR.

FUTURE AIMS: Any ideas welcomed. Continue to support local membership recruitment. Jan said that the local phone call to welcome people and invite them along to walks etc was a key part of getting people to join.

Access & Conservation (David Chanter & Gerry Matthews):

Both absent. No report.

Charlie Fisher said he had spoken to Gerry and was putting himself forward as new Access and Conservation person on a ticket of putting into practise some suggestions he had made last year. Meeting accepted his offer.

Archivist (Andy Bateman):

Still has paper records at home but requested all to e-mail him with RR information as he is setting up an electronic archive.

Gear Coordinator & Hut Officer (Ian Muir absent):

A few requests for gear and its whereabouts had been received. He is still pursuing possible huts for RR to buy...

Alpine Activities Coordinator (Andy Phillips):

No report. Andy said he would give the job up if someone else wanted to do it. Andrew Worsley volunteered to take it on as a job-share with Andy P. Meeting accepted their offer.

NEW NATIONAL COMMITTEE:

National Secretaries	Janet Saunders/Pat Durrant
National Treasurer	Jenny Patient
National Trips Treasurer	Humphrey Southall
National Trips Secretary	Arthur Howarth
Contact & Info. Sec.	Uta Praekelt
Membership Sec.	Gill Platt
Bulletin Editor	Anna Buehring
MIS Editor	Mark Wallis
IT Officer	Dave Jeffries
BMC Rep	Nikki Finch
Mountaineering Council of Scotland	Vacant
Training Coordinator	Nikki Finch
Ramblers' Rep	Vacant
Publicity Officer	Jan Lancaster
Access & Conservation	Charlie Fisher
Archivist	Andy Bateman
Gear Coordinator	Ian Muir
Hut Officer	"
Alpine Activities Coordinator	Andrew Worsley

RESOLUTIONS

12 resolutions were tabled. The resolutions, debates and outcome are reported in the order that they were discussed at the meeting.

Motion 12. NC: Child Protection

There is increased and widespread public concern about child protection issues. While recent legislation imposes mandatory child protection procedures on statutory and voluntary organisations, clubs such as Red Rope are not yet subject to any statutory duty.

However, the National Committee believes that Red Rope should respond to the changes in public concern by clarifying its own position in relation to childcare and child protection issues. We think this can best be achieved by implementing the following changes to our constitution. Appropriate, matching changes can then be made to the trip organiser's pack and other club documents.

It is anticipated that this will not give rise to any change in current practice - we will just adopt a description of it which both more accurately represents what we do and makes clear the boundaries of responsibility for children in a way that conforms with current practice.

The National Committee moves to amend paragraph C) Trips 3) of the constitution to read (changes in CAPITALS):

3) Parents and carers are welcome to bring children on trips. Trip organisers WILL FACILITATE childcare ARRANGEMENTS in advance of the trip taking place, as far as it is possible, using the booking form as a basis for negotiation. All members should actively support child carers in a variety of ways. The level of this support will depend upon each trip's resources of accommodation and personnel. THE ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILDCARE REMAINS WITH THE PARENTS.

The paragraph currently reads:

3) Parents and carers are welcome to bring children on trips. Trip organisers should organise child-care in advance of the trip taking place, as far as it is possible, using the booking form as a basis for negotiation. All members should actively support child carers in a variety of ways. The level of this support will depend upon each trip's resources of accommodation and personnel.

Discussion

Andy Bateman argued that this resolution on Child Protection was a response to the high public anxiety about abuse issues and we must ensure that the Club is safe for children and conforming to any legislation. Discussion points were made along the lines that this motion **must** be seen as a beginning towards a review of existing practise and putting in place a comprehensive policy on how children are cared for and their protection ensured on club activities. NC members and proposer of motion agreed that was the spirit of the motion.

The words "and carers" should be added to the last sentence for consistency. (added in italics)

MOTION CARRIED (nem con).

Amended Constitution Paragraph as passed will read:

Parents and carers are welcome to bring children on trips. Trip organisers WILL FACILITATE childcare ARRANGEMENTS in advance of the trip taking place, as far as it is possible, using

the booking form as a basis for negotiation. All members should actively support child carers in a variety of ways. The level of this support will depend upon each trip's resources of accommodation and personnel. THE ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILDCARE REMAINS WITH THE PARENTS AND CARERS.

Motion 1 – NC: Handbook

Whereas the Constitution of Red Rope, Section I. states:

a). The Club will produce a member's handbook, a Monthly Information Sheet (MIS) a periodical Bulletin ,a Trip Organisers Pack and a Guide for Regions.

Be it resolved that:

The words a members' handbook be eliminated.

Rationale: All the information that a member may require that would go into a Handbook is now on the web and accessible to all members. If anyone has no access to the internet, that information can be downloaded by another member and given to the new member.

Discussion:

This motion proposed that a separate handbook was not necessary, as all the items that would be in it were already available from the website. Jerzy and Richard Gore made points emphasising that although this may be true, there was a need for better organization of information for new members on the website to make it more easily accessible and visible.

Chair (C. Knowles) proposed this motion be referred back to NC to discuss. NC members and meeting agreed.

Motion 1 was Referred back to NC for discussion

Motion 11 – Bristol: Hut Price Index

This club believes that an Index of the cost of bed nights in huts rented out under the aegis of the BMC Huts list would be of benefit to all BMC affiliated clubs. The National Committee will approach the BMC to open discussions on how and when such an Index could be established.

Discussion:

This motion was regarding approaching the BMC on the subject of compiling and making available a national hut price index. C. Knowles stated that he had approached the Secretary of the BMC Hut panel already and been told that this was not practical for them to do. Motion was withdrawn.

Motion 11 was Withdrawn

Motion 7. Leicester: Hut-booking

It has come to the attention of Leicester Region Red Rope that some huts have banned Red Rope as an organisation from booking their huts. This is because of alleged behaviour by RR members. We need to discuss our response to this. We feel it may be necessary to restrict hut booking to named hut bookers but feel that the issue should be discussed within the club first as some other response may be more appropriate and we do not want to place restrictions on club activity unless it really is necessary.

Discussion:

National Secretary reported that two of the stories re. huts banning Red Rope were 20 years old . (Caseg Fraith and a Scottish Hut) One of these stories had never been proven and neither of these bans was still in operation. Leicester hut-booker could not provide information as to which hut in Wales had recently refused a Red Rope booking. Motion remitted to NC to monitor situation.

Motion 7: Remitted to NC to monitor. NC is to monitor any problems with booking huts and local hut bookers are asked to let NC know – via Arthur Howarth - of any problems.

Motions 2 & 3 Transport (3 was accepted as an amendment)

Motion 2. NC Motion: Transport

This AGM:

- a) notes that national and regional trips have, on the whole, been losing money on the transport part of trips
- b) calls on the NC to reduce the national rate for mileage paid to drivers in order to address this situation, without compromising the willingness of car owners to use their vehicles for trips
- c) further notes that regions are able to use an alternative rate to that set by the NC, if they wish to do so, thereby addressing potential transport losses.

Motion 3. Bristol: Transport

Submitted as Amendment to the NC Motion 2:

Delete b) and replace by:

- b) affirms that charges made to Band E members should notionally cover costs

Insert new c) and d):

- c) notes that the national mileage rate paid to drivers currently exceeds the mileage charge to Band E members by 0.5p

d) calls on the NC to address the situation outlined in clauses a) to c) by equalising the national mileage rate paid to drivers and the Band E mileage charge, without compromising the willingness of car owners to use their vehicles for trips

- e) as clause c) of original Motion

Discussion: (on both motions, Motion 3 first as an amendment to Motion 2)

C. Knowles argued for a 'benchmark banding' of Band E to 'notionally cover' transport costs.

The amendment (Motion 3) was voted on and CARRIED 14 to 11

Motion 2 as amended:

This AGM:

- a) notes that national and regional trips have, on the whole, been losing money on the transport part of trips
- b) **affirms that charges made to Band E members should notionally cover costs**
- c) notes that the national mileage rate paid to drivers currently exceeds the mileage charge to Band E members by 0.5p

d) calls on the NC to address the situation outlined in clauses a) to c) by equalising the national mileage rate paid to drivers and the Band E mileage charge, without compromising the willingness of car owners to use their vehicles for trips

e) further notes that regions are able to use an alternative rate to that set by the NC, if they wish to do so, thereby addressing potential transport losses.

Motion 2 was then voted on and CARRIED AS AMENDED.

Motions 4 & 5 Transport

Motion 4. Leicester: Transport

The National Committee should consider the implications of limiting reimbursement to drivers by not paying for more than 3 people per car (including the driver). We consider that this may lead to a fairer outcome than the present system but that the financial implications should be analysed before implementation.

Motion 5. Leicester: Transport

Clearer rules are required regarding mileage payments when drivers give lifts to people for part of the driver's journey. These rules should be clearly set out to avoid confusion.

Discussion:

Following debate concerning transport rules, both of these motions were **Remitted to NC for discussion and action.**

Motion 6. Leicester: Trip Payments - General Principle

Rules on trip payments should be consistently applied. Trip participants should not pressurise trip organisers or treasurers to bend the rules in individual cases. If the rules are thought to be unfair then the case should be argued at the AGM and relevant committee meetings.

Discussion:

A debate took place about consistency/flexibility in operating trip payment policy.

The MOTION was CARRIED but it was pointed out that trip organisers can use their judgement also.

Motions 8, 9 & 10 Overnight Charges

Motion 8. Sheffield: Overnight charges

This meeting proposes that the NC should investigate the charge made for trip accommodation and revise the overnight rates to ensure that they are in line with the realistic costs.

NC meeting in July had discussed and supported this motion.

Following the NC meeting the words

“of the accommodation we want to use” were added by Sheffield to be the complete motion for the AGM.

Motion 9. Bristol: Overnight charges

Amendment to the Sheffield Motion 8:

Delete the full stop and append the following text:

", and that they publish revised charges in the first national club

publication of 2006 or earlier."

Motion 10. Bristol: Overnight charges

This AGM affirms:

- 1) That the current charging structure for trips is based on a notional break-even rate set for Band E.
- 2) Proposes the following additional framework for calculating the accommodation element of the trip charge:
 - a) The charge must take into account that the occupancy of booked places in huts can never reach a rolling average of 100%.
 - b) That the overnight element of a given set of trip charges should be sustainable for three years
- 3) That the NC immediately applies this framework to produce a new set of overnight trip charges.

Discussion:

A discussion on funding costs for a variety of accommodation: Youth Hostels etc. This affects some regions especially when travel to mountain huts is prohibitive and nearer (but more expensive) accommodation is available. There was some dispute about average costs: Janet Saunders had done a survey of mountain huts in England & Wales and found an average of £5, Jerzy had also carried out a survey of huts used by Bristol and found costs to be rising. Points were made that there was regional diversity and that weekend trips could be more expensive per night than week-long trips.

Motion 9, Bristol's amendment to the Sheffield motion, calling for published revised charges in early 2006, was withdrawn.

Motion 10, Paragraph 3 - 'that the NC 'immediately' produce a new set of charges - was also withdrawn by Bristol.

Motions voted on:

Motion 8. Sheffield: Overnight charges

This meeting proposes that the NC should investigate the charge made for trip accommodation and revise the overnight rates to ensure that they are in line with the realistic costs of the accommodation we want to use.

CARRIED IN FULL

Motion 10. Bristol: Overnight charges

This AGM affirms:

- 1) That the current charging structure for trips is based on a notional break-even rate set for Band E.
- 2) Proposes the following additional framework for calculating the accommodation element of the trip charge:
 - a) The charge must take into account that the occupancy of booked places in huts can never reach a rolling average of 100%.
 - b) That the overnight element of a given set of trip charges should be sustainable for three years

CARRIED AS AMENDED.

AOB

Bristol have offered to host the National AGM in 2006 (C. Knowles).

(NB. Since the meeting this is now looking less likely, due to lack of a venue.)

*****Meeting closed 19.10*****