

**Red Rope:
Minutes of NC Meeting
Saturday 1 st March 2014 Sheffield**

Present: Dave Doody (IT Officer), Dermot Mckibbin (Training) Sherry Macliver (National Treasurer), John Dickie (Trips treasurer), Adrian Jones (Nat. Sec.), Janet Saunders (Publicity), Steve Wright (Membership Sec.), Barbara Segal (Hut and Bristol/South-West), Don Kinnibrough (Ramblers & Campaigns officer), Sue Williams (Bristol Rep)

Item No	Minutes	Action
1	<p>Welcome, Introductions and appoint minutes taker Chair – John Dickie am, Dermot Mckibbin pm Minutes - Adrian</p>	
2	<p>Apologies for Absence Rebecca Bates (Nat Trips), Dave Symonds (Bulletin), Chris Drinkwater (BMC Rep).</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of last NC meeting November 2013 Birmingham The minutes of the last NC meeting were accepted, subject to corrections Hut fund donation to be removed from membership form Item 5c -cost of cancellations – to review again</p>	
4	<p>Matters Arising from previous minutes (unless on this Agenda) Barbara still to write an article on the RR Archives/Working Class Museum for the Bulletin.</p>	
5	<p>Reports from officers:</p>	
5a	<p>National Secretary Adrian J See below AGM 2014 and Constitution Update</p>	

5b	<p>National Treasurer (admin) Sherry Mc Sherry circulated a set of accounts to February 2014. Finances mostly as expected. Income to February 2014, is £4628, of which £4353 is membership. Expenditure £4747, of which £3015 is affiliations (BMC and Ramblers) and £430 to Greenett for the RR domain name and hosting and £475 is for website development, to be covered by part of the grant from savings RA affiliation charged at £160; although RA website says £55. In future we will pay just the £55.</p>	
5c	<p>National Trips Treasurer John Dickie (Written report) Both winter trips are expected to make a loss owing to banding. Has advised on discount shopping eg Aldi and filling cars to 4 Trips usually even out financially over the year but it is getting more difficult and they won't this year. Some members drop bands after retirement or moving to part time work and this affects trip finances. We now have a lot of members below E band so less money coming in. We have kept E band as low as possible - with early booking discount it is £11.70 for bed and food; a 'shift up' of some kind is needed. Trip charges to non members – E band +50% confirmed.</p>	
5d	<p>National Trips Secretary, Becky Bates Written Report All the Scottish trips are fully booked for this year with waiting lists. Glencoe, Skye and Elphin have all had 2 extra places added which is good news.</p> <p>John Dickie raised two queries from Eva Hughes who was due to attend the Scottish trip in Feb 2014 but could not, she asked an exception be made to the 'no refunds after a month before the trip' rule as she felt unable to go due to personal issues, the Committee felt the rule was a general one to which an exception should not be made and refused this request. Eva also wished the Committee to address the issue as to whether the club structure at local level is adequate. The Committee sent this back to Eva with a request to put her thoughts in writing and that the Committee would then deal with them.</p> <p>Plans for 2015 These trips have all been booked in response to requests and offers to organise so its looking healthy. February 14th - 20th Mill Cottage, Feshiebridge, Cairngorms April 4th - 10th, Scottish hut tbc. Balgowan is first choice but will look elsewhere if not bookable. May 23rd - 29th Corrie Bunkhouse, Arran</p>	Becky

	May 30th - June 5th Alex MacIntyre Memorial Hut, Glencoe	
5e	<p>Membership Steve W</p> <p>Data sheets updating membership were distributed. Current membership 305, roughly static. West Yorks now has a regional representative, Geoff. –Membership distribution is very similar to that previously reported.</p>	
5f	<p>Bulletin Editor Dave S written report</p> <p>Latest Bulletin ex printers had pages out of order; the printer corrected these. Extra copies printed for the Ramblers AGM in March</p>	Dave S
5g	<p>MIS Editor Mark Wallis</p> <p>Not present and nothing to report. Still some concern over occasional late MIS publication date.</p>	
5h	<p>IT Officer. David Doody.</p> <p>Nothing specific to report. Hopes to continue to service the new website as he has been doing on the existing.</p>	
5i	<p>Training Officer. Dermot Mckibbin</p> <p>Details of the training events that the BMC organize for clubs has appeared in the MIS. These courses are good value for money as the price includes the training as well as accommodation. All BMC courses are accessible for any Red Rope member regardless of where they live. (although in order to access MCOS training courses you either have to live in Scotland and be a member of an affiliated club or be an individual member of the MCOS).</p> <p>Following the AGM in September, has assessed the demand for a Red Rope first aid course, but this has been very limited. In view of the financial loss that the club suffered when we cancelled a planned first aid course last year, concludes that there is not enough demand within the club to run a first aid course. Club members can of course organise their attendance at either a BMC or MCOS First Aid Course.</p> <p>Has organised a navigation training course for the week-</p>	

	<p>end of 13/14 June, Nant Peris in Snowdonia. Dermot is the organiser. 10 places have been booked at £10 per night. A female outdoor instructor has been booked via Lupine Outdoor Adventure. The overall cost of the trainer is going to be £352 and following discussion with the Treasurer a flat rate contribution of £15 has been agreed, being the extra charge for all participants to reflect the cost of the training. An application will be made to the BMC for a grant to towards the cost of the training and any shortfall will come out of the RR training budget.</p> <p>Writing two articles for the current bulletin, and in the process of writing a further report on subsidized training.</p> <p>A paper detailing the RR training policy and procedure was tabled by Dermot for consideration.</p> <p>³⁵₁₇ The club will try to encourage outdoor qualification take up by the membership</p> <p>³⁵₁₇ Within budget, RR will fund RR members who wish to attend a MCOS or BMC 2 day course. The funding would treat the actual cost of the training as E band Training will be subsidised for all, subsidy banding portioned but up to a limit of £50; limit of 1No subsidy per person per year for external courses;</p> <p>³⁵₁₇ This funding availability will be advertised in MIS</p> <p>³⁵₁₇ Will attempt to obtain copies of the new outdoor awards leaflet and circulate via Bulletin</p> <p>³⁵₁₇ Clarify whether the 3 new outdoor awards will be eligible for awards from the New Leaders Fund</p> <p>³⁵₁₇ The club pays, as budget permits, the registration fee for all club members who register for an outdoor award with the Mountain Training Association, irrespective of banding.</p> <p>³⁵₁₇ Club to pay attendance at the annual BMC novices training weekend at PYB. (£50)</p> <p>³⁵₁₇ Written report not required.</p>	Dermot
5j	<p>BMC</p> <p>Colin Knowles as the Representative from the BMC SW Area attends the BMC National Council and has reported back to the NC as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Subs. Subs will increase by £1.50 per head from January 2015. 2. Life membership. raised at the meeting by Colin, and 	

	<p>the idea was passed to the BMC Finance Committee for further consideration.</p> <p>3. Clubs representation. The Clubs Committee no longer requires a very formal approach (i.e. elections) to gain representation on it. If the Red Rope National Committee were to put forward a keen volunteer who would like to play a role on the Clubs Committee then that application would be most welcome Sherry volunteered and will contact Chair</p> <p>Training course funding – Training will be subsidised for all, subsidy banding portioned but up to a limit of £50; limit of 1No subsidy per person per year for external courses; written report not required.</p>	
5k	<p>Publicity. Janet Has drafted a RR 'business card', will circulate for approval before printing.</p>	Janet
5l	<p>Ramblers / Campaigns Report Don K</p> <p>The Ramblers Association AGM 2014 will take place in Liverpool, at the Adelphi Hotel over the last weekend in March (Saturday 29th March - Sunday 30th March). Adrian, Dave S and Don to attend and cover the RR stand. No motions to the AGM from RR this year.</p>	Don
5m	<p>Gear Coordinator Adrian O'C Not present and no report. John Dickie still to inspect it and get rid of worn/no longer safe items</p>	John D
5o	<p>Regional Reps Sue Williams (Bristol Rep) attended. Offered the organise the catering for the AGM which is gratefully accepted</p>	

<p>6</p>	<p>Web development Committee Written report (Colin Knowles) The web site is http://dev.redrope.org.uk/. and the user login is redrope-member.</p> <p>Currently Janet, Steve, Colin have the Editor login. The member login is redrope.member/vegetarian. Colin is gradually tidying things up so that at least the site hangs together in a simple way. His task is focussed on technical aspects such as ensuring that the menus point to the right pages, that tables are correctly set up, that the CSS is fine-tuned towards our needs and to ensure that editors have the documentation they need to get going.</p> <p>So the National Committee now need to provide some content writers, then to get the site live. Content to comprise a contact table, regions, trips, the hut, and a members log in section for Bulletins, MIS, meeting minutes; each NC officer to provide text to support their tab. Janet agreed to email the Regional Contacts to ask for editing assistance</p>	<p>Web team/Colin Knowles</p> <p>Janet</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>LMC /Hut. The LMC has set up the Cae Ysgubor Hut Management Committee as agreed as part of the Hut Sharing Agreement. Peter Kos, attended the first meeting November 2013 as the RR representative, and has taken up this role of RR Hut Committee member. LMC have raised hut fees to £7/night without informing RR with a notice period, as the Hut Agreement requires. Peter to take this up with the LMC and insist the Agreement be complied with. Easter trip income to Cae Ysgubor wont now cover costs, and a cross subsidy from club funds was agreed on this occasion only to cover. Members attending a national or regional weekend booking currently pay a nightly trip charge of 0.8 times the current RR nightly trip charge, but it was suggested this should be raised to 0.9 but not decided. We should have a single contact with the LMC hut booker. Barbara happy to deal with all bookings for regional/national trips (as well as individual bed nights), taking into account the guidelines about which regions have priority, as agreed in 2012 These will need to be revised annually, with regions who'd already had a booking going to the bottom of the list. Also agreed that payments need to go through a Red Rope account, partly due to the complexities of banding and partly so that we have a clear national record of how our charges for the LMC hut are working out Sherry to provide</p>	<p>Barbara</p>

	<p>Barbara with paying-in book</p> <p>The bids from the regions for the 2015 weekends are required soonest. If the first three on the agreed list order dont take up, it will be passed on down to the next .</p>	
8	<p>AGM 2014. 26-28 September 2014, at the Brecon Bunkhouse, Talgarth, Brecon, Powys LD3 0EG www.brecon-bunkhouse.co.uk.</p> <p>It was also agreed the AGM would again be Sunday morning as per recent AGMs as it works well.</p> <p>Sue Williams Bristol/SW Region) agreed to coordinate all catering for the weekend Barbara to organise drinks</p> <p>Booking form; Adrian to draft. Sherry to take the bookings as last year</p>	<p>Sue</p> <p>Adrian</p>
8	<p>Assistance Dogs on trips and walks</p> <p>At the request of Jan Lancaster (dog trainer) the matter of guide dogs under training on trips and day walks was discussed.</p> <p>NC agreed there is certainly no wish, as such, to discourage owners bringing their dogs. But the NC decided against making a blanket rule, and believes this can only be decided on a trip by trip basis. If an owner wants to bring their dog along they should inform the trip organiser early on. The trip organiser will then ascertain (probably by email) during trip planning, if anyone of the group has a strong objection to a dog coming along. If no one raises any objection then the dog is welcome and can come. And it is anticipated that even when someone does have nominal reservations, they can often be overcome eg by reassurances it is well behaved etc. It was agreed that this would apply to all dogs, with the exception of assistance dogs with a disabled owner, for whom RR would obviously try to make suitable arrangements.</p> <p>RR also has to bear in mind that some huts have a specific rule on dogs, and that in others the accommodation is unsuitable (such as no separate lounge - only sit-in kitchen and sleeping accommodation). These would of course over ride any feelings of the group.</p>	20

10	<p>BMC grants for clubs</p> <p>Dermot reminded the meeting that the BMC do continue to offer grants for members club's websites; equipment; and for mountain training. We should try and take advantage of these</p> <p>Have already had a website grant 2 years ago, but no harm in requesting another, eg to support a members area of the website or perhaps on line subscription payments</p> <p>Sherry proposed putting in an equipment grant request for group shelters for regions and will action.</p>	Dermot Janet Sherry
12	<p>How to use up the club funds</p> <p>There is currently £13k in the club fund. Its use to further recruitment and publicity was discussed, eg advertisement in the 'Trail' magazine or funding a web based 'Meetup' site. Or to fund a new membership database. Further thoughts for next NC.</p>	
9	<p>Trip Organisers Pack</p> <p>Still work in progress. Have edited in comments from Sherry and Barbara and have made a few minor changes in response to comments from National Trip organisers.</p> <p>It now looks very messy so sending it back to Dave D to take out all the deletions</p> <p>Consider National/Regional trips distinction</p>	John/Becky
11	<p>Constitution Update</p> <p>Steve /Barbara have made a start on tidying up the constitution. Two draft documents circulated at the meeting, one containing the constitution and one which contains policies. and have added all the changes agreed at AGMs in recent years,</p> <p>The only thing that is now missing is the latest policy on trip charges for non-members, which will need an AGM vote. The NC broadly agreed the new format.</p> <p>The working group will now suggest some changes in wording and structure aimed at clarifying the content, for approval at the June NC meeting, after which the new document can be presented to the 2014 AGM.</p>	Steve/Barbara
12	<p>Banding Revisions</p> <p>Circulated a draft 5 band proposal for comment, but not far enough advanced for decisions to be made. Work in progress. To be completed for the 2014 AGM</p>	Steve/ /Sherry/Don

13	<p>Any other business. Via John Dickie, Simon Skerrit (organiser of Scottish Feb half-term trip), raised the issue of member Julian Noble 's behaviour on the trip and wanted it raised with NC. Simon said that Julian was rude and impolite to his fellow trippers when they warned him he was walking dangerously close to a cornice. Simon also said that Julian used a toilet with a 'do not use' sign on it, and proceeded to be over-assertive to the point of rudeness with a hut member (not Red Roper) who remonstrated with him about this.</p> <p>NC appointed a sub committee, John D and Janet, to review this.</p>	John/Janet
14	<p>Next NC Meeting 12pm Sunday 29th June Navigation Inn, Wilford Road, Nottingham. Nottingham members are invited</p>	all
14	<p>November NC Meeting Saturday 22nd November 2014 Provisionally Leicester</p> <p>Feb/March 2015 provisionally London – central, cheap venue to be sought</p>	Barbara