

**Red Rope:
Minutes of NC Meeting held in Leicester 3rd March 2012**

Present: Dave Doody (IT Officer), Steve Wright (Membership Sec.), Sherry MacLiver (National Treasurer), Janet Saunders (Coventry and Warks./), Adrian Jones (Nat. Sec.), Don Kinnibrugh (Ramblers & Campaigns officer), Rebecca Bates (Nat Trips); John Dickie (Trip Treasurer), Shelagh Clarke (London Red Rope Rep),

Item No	Minutes	Action
1	Welcome, Introductions and appoint minutes taker Chair - John Dickie. Minutes - Adrian	
2	Apologies for Absence Chris Drinkwater (BMC Rep.), David Symonds (Bulletin Editor), Barbara Segal (Bristol/South-West), Mike Hargarden Training officer.	
3	Minutes of NC meeting Birmingham 26 November 2011 The minutes of the last NC meeting were accepted.	
4	Matters Arising from previous minutes (unless on this Agenda) Update trip organisers pack, Becky. Will do for June NC. Regional contacts update – done Cost of Bulletin, Dave S. No action so far 1 st aid course Mike Hargarden. Organised, see below. Hut meeting - Actioned AGM booking . Actioned, 28/29 September. East Anglia, new regional group. No action so far.	
5	Reports from officers:	

<p>National Secretary Adrian J See below AGM</p>	
<p>National Treasurer (admin) Sherry Mc Sherry circulated a set of accounts for November - February 2012</p> <p>Current Accounts Income slightly less than expenditure but have paid BMC affiliation, our most significant annual expenditure, and deposit for AGM Membership subscriptions £4213 compared with £5147 this time last year. £1000 transferred from national trip funds to national funds. MIS expense remain a concern.</p> <p>AGM Accounts Still await Gills food invoice invoice.</p> <p>Regional Accounts – have made contact with all regions but not yet issued guidelines.</p> <p>Regional Subsidy – claimed by West Midlands.</p> <p>BMC Affiliation – January membership figure was low.</p> <p>Defunct regions – no response from Nick Kempe.</p> <p>Trip Treasurer Form – trialled over a number of trips and to be digitalized by Bristol and SW.</p> <p>Ramblers Holidays – have registered with ‘Ramblers Partnership’ – need link on website and to publicise it.</p> <p>Training Budget – to discuss allocation of traing subsidies, £200 is available for this.</p>	<p>Sherry</p> <p>Bristol/SW</p> <p>Dave D</p>
<p>National Trips Treasurer John Dickie Two trips since last NC meeting; CIC which made a £100 loss, and Feshybridge, a £100 surplus.</p> <p>The new Trip Treasurer form to go onto current website,</p>	<p>Dave D</p>
<p>National Trips Secretary, Becky Bates Written Report February Trips - people enjoyed the CIC trip and this may lead to another trip being planned for next year. Easter - 10 booked to go to Crianlarich Skye - Filing up nicely.</p> <p>2013 - A week at CIC in January, February or March is proposed, Nick Kempe to organise. May to Naismith, Sarah Bates to orgasnise. Re charges, we currently pay around £8/£9 for huts pppn and anything above this should be charged at a multiplier (most often 1.2x or 1.5 banded rate) This allows for more flexibility</p>	<p>Rebecca B</p>

	with bookings.	
	<p>Membership Steve W Presented current membership by band and region. Current membership 311. 68 new members this year. The number of expired members participating in events is still worrying. The regional contacts receive a list of expired members monthly, should contact expired members to encourage prompt renewal. From the membership listing there are 6 members in the west of Scotland; a separate group for them was discussed. Action – Steve to discuss with Fiona (current RR regional rep) before taking forward.</p>	<i>Steve</i>
	<p>Bulletin editor Dave S Not present, but gave a written report The next bulletin has been printed and should arrive on a doormat in the next couple of weeks. Disappointed by the shortage of submissions, which has resulted in a smaller edition. It would be a good idea if each NC meeting resulted in a 350-ish word summary for the bulletin, to be sent not more than a month later. Dave has paid a fee of £10 to each of 2 non-member artists for artistic contributions as a good will gesture. The NC agreed to reimburse Dave the £20, and proposed a £50 annual limit in future for non member artwork.</p>	<i>Sherry</i>
	<p>MIS Editor Mark Wallis Not present and nothing to report. It is noted that the MIS is now on the website.</p>	
	<p>IT Officer. David Doody. Nothing specific to report. Has put MIS on the web. Has been contacted by the Scottish Independent Hostels for a website link; NC agreed to this, Dave has already actioned.</p>	
	<p>Training Officer. Mike Hargarden Not present, written report attached. Mike concerned about navigation standards in RR, and proposes giving a 2 hour navigation training session at the next NC. In response the NC thought a better time would be at the AGM – a larger audience and with more time. Adrian to propose this to Mike.</p>	<i>Adrian</i>

	<p>Mike has provisionally booked a 1st aid 2 day course 26 & 27 May 2012 at Hafren forest near Llanidloes, cost £104 per person for 8 people. NC agreed a course should in principle go ahead, but requested Mike to explore alternatives to compare costs, and book the cheapest. Adrian to relay request to Mike The course to be publicised in the MIS and Bulletin</p>	<p><i>Mike</i></p>
	<p>BMC Contact Chris D Nothing to report, other than supporting Shelagh Clarke's request to attend the forthcoming Learning and Leading course at Plas y Brenin</p>	
	<p>Publicity Janet said she would take on the role of Publicity officer again for the time being. Funding is not available for printing flyers, but has now applied for web funding.</p> <p>Dave has redesigned the poster for Lockerbrook. The text is similar to Barbara's proposal, which was based to a fair extent on Janet's leaflet. It will be something like 100 cm high x 140cm wide. Approximate printing cost £10 each. Could use one for the stall at the Ramblers AGM, and our own AGM, as well as Lockerbrook.</p>	
	<p><u>Ramblers / Campaigns Report Don K</u> To represent RR as an affiliated organisation, it is proposed to send a RR voting delegate plus several observers to the Ramblers AGM , 21/22nd April, Leicester. There will be a RR stall both days at this event. Cost estimated at £180 for 2 people over 2 days. NC agreed this would be funded from the 'Action Fund'. Adrian, Steve, possibly Barbara to help out on the stand. Don requested any RR merchandise any member may hold for the stand: Steve has some car stickers, will pass over to Don. RR motion to the Ramblers AGM – to allow members to opt out of BUPA emails via the Ramblers.</p>	<p><i>Steve</i></p>
	<p>Gear Coordinator Adrian O'C Not present and no report or discussion.</p>	

	<p>Web development Committee Written report, Ian Cutts</p> <p>Hosting The hosting platform is running on a Bytemark Virtual Machine (VM) in a UK datacentre.</p> <p>Content Management System (CMS). Drupal has been selected as the CMS. During an early phase it was decided the site should be mobile friendly and anticipate additional time configuring and styling the mobile template. Consideration has been given to security permissions which Drupal is well suited to handling.</p> <p>Design. The report contained a link to the final homepage design to demonstrate what is proposed. The web team have not applied for the BMC funding for an external party to convert the design to HTML at this stage, but would rather adapt an existing template. Jerzy is nearing completion of the conversion - complete with logo, slideshow and two columns of content. The next design stage is to set out the top level pages according to their container blocks. This means starting to adapt the home page to set out the next level of the website's menu system and content. They aim to get the look and feel imagery for the next layer agreed and up by end of March.</p> <p>Structure. The structure has been adapted from files supplied by Janet. It will include such information as tags to easily index files and short names to make them search engine friendly. The top level navigation is set at: HOME REGIONS ACTIVITIES ADMIN JOIN</p> <p>Content. Several members of the team raised concerns over the size of the task for 'content management'. It was requested that we use some budget to pay for a copywriter. There will need to be a content provider for each regional area of the club along with administration documents provided by committee members.</p> <p>Steve and Janet proposed going down to Bristol to liaise with the web committee to discuss the development; the NC authorised this meeting.</p> <p>Trip Treasurer form must go onto the new website – web team to be reminded,</p> <p>Sherry requested a breakdown in their spend of the £1000 allocated, and a budget estimate for a copywriter.</p>	<p>Steve and Janet</p> <p>Janet/Steve</p> <p>Ian Cutts</p>
	<p>Others who may attend/Regional Reps Shelagh Clarke (London Red Rope Rep) attended,</p>	

6	<p>LMC and the Hut</p> <p>The hut sub committee meet March 8th . Principally to clarify the roles of each party and discuss promotion of the LMC facilities within RR. Minutes of meeting attached.</p> <p>Dave Fisher to write a paragraph for the MIS (repeated every edition); Gill confirmed she will be booker for the 200 bed nights and the booking system was clarified with her. National trips organiser to book the one BH weekend, regional trip organisers to book the remaining 2 weekends.</p>	
7	<p>AGM 2012</p> <p><u>Dates, Accommodation.</u></p> <p>Thorpe Farm bunkhouse, Hathersage, is booked, 28/29th September</p> <p>Suggested helpers were:</p> <p>Catering - Becky/ Leicester offered to organise the evening meal; other catering, Gill Cox?</p> <p>Walks Leader – Dave D</p> <p>Bookings Sherry agreed to do this</p> <p>Bar - ?</p> <p>Navigation Training session – Mike Hargarden</p> <p>Other events organisers - /leaders needed</p> <p>Adrian to request volunteers for any of the above activities via Regional Contacts, see what interest this generates. The NC to ask around as well.</p> <p>AGM dates/details to be inserted in the MIS and booking form onto the website.</p> <p>Request for AGM Motions – to be made via regional contacts nearer the local AGM’S as previous years.</p>	
8	<p>Subsidising Training Courses</p> <p>Shelagh Clarke to attend the course at Plas Y Brenin; NC agreed to subsidise the balance, over 2 x band rate. Travel to be at E band.</p> <p>An annual budget of £200 a year was agreed for funding attendance at courses.</p> <p>One condition of attendance would be feedback to RR to ensure a wider audience benefits – a report in the Bulletin, presentation to the local group etc</p>	
9	<p>Forming an Eastern Region.</p> <p>Eastern Region members are keen to form a new region, and are waiting to hear from the NC about how to do this. Janet to send a procedural statement to assist, Becky to let Janet have Sarah Bates' contact details.</p>	Janet

10	<p>Payment by non members Was discussed again as clarification has been requested by the regions <u>National Trips</u> NC agreed 1st trip to be charged to non members as E band, second at E band + 50% (and subject to space being available – paid up members take preference at all times) Only 2 trips allowed for non members , after that they must join. <u>Regional events</u> Regional day events - non-member participants to be charged a nominal amount, (amount of charge - local decision.). Maximum of 2 allowed before joining Regional Trips: charging as for non members on national trips . Maximum of 2 allowed before joining. Steve to draft an advice note to Regional reps on this.</p> <p>An AGM motion proposed to support this.</p>	Steve
11	<p>Additional Banding Carrying on from previous proposal for widening out the banding, Sherry to develop an H band split for NC review. Steve cautioned over introducing greater complexity and what may result in an overall loss of income.</p>	
12	<p>Any other business. None</p>	
13	<p>Next NC Meeting Type: National Committee Date: Weekend 29th- 30th June Venue: Mandale House. Bakewell, Derbyshire.</p> <p>(also discussed, November NC – Manchester, PH ‘Old Contemptibles’ – this has been used for previous NC’s (in which case, need to cancel provisional November booking at FOE Birmingham)</p>	

**RED ROPE
HUT SUB COMMITTEE MEETING
1ST March 2012
Draft minutes**

No	Item	Action
	Present : Adrian Jones Nat Sec, Dave Fisher Hut Liaison officer, Sherry Mc Nat Treasurer, Gill Platt bednight booker	treasurer
1	<p>Progress at Beddgelert LMC express their thanks for the RR £10,000 contribution which they now have in full. Foundations and ground floor slab are built. Aim to erect walls and roof this year. That will leave fitting out for next year 2013 (to be covered by a Welsh assembly grant).</p>	
2	<p>Current Booking Arrangements – A reminder of where we are at present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles of those involved (sub committee, booker etc) • Review/clarification of current booking arrangements <p>Summarised current plans for benefit of Gill Platt and Dave Fisher to bring them up to speed <u>BOOKER (200 bed nights)</u> Gill Platt is booker for the 200 bed nights . Email bednights@redrope.org.uk to link to gill.platt@aol.com Payments of £50 deposit plus booking fee to Gill by post. Gill will post out the key. Gill to have a bank account paying in book for the cheques she receives; and keep relevant accounts Sherry to pay LMC (Gill to advise Sherry the amounts) Gill to liaise asap with LMC secretary to set up a joint booking spreadsheet (excel ? then can email across) BH weekend – National Trips Secretary via the RR regions(not Gill) to agree a date/book with LMC but Gill to be kept informed The 2 other weekends – regional reps to book, but keep Gill informed</p> <p><u>LMC Liaison officer</u> Overall review of performance of the systems Ensure financial viability/RR charges still recover RR costs Ensure the RR/LMC Agreement is complied with Organise meetings Monitor progress at Beddgelert</p>	
3	<p>Schedule for regions to book the agreed weekend trips</p> <p>Bristol, London 2012 Scotland Manchester 2013</p> <p>Leicester Mersey 2014</p> <p>W Midlands Coventry 2015</p>	

	Sheffield 2016	
	Alocations not taken up can be passed on. Regional contacts to be advised	
4	<p>Promoting availability of LMC facilities to RR membership Take up to use the LMC Blea Tarn and Tyndrum caravan is weak at present, needs much more vigorous promotion and awareness. We must promote the LMC facilities more. RR have paid for this so lets use it.</p> <p>Dave to draft a short paragraph for the MIS, summarising what is available, and how to book. This will be repeated in every MIS, Mark Wallis to select an appropriate location so it stands out. Trip report RR Blea Tarn august ? 2011 . Was there a trip report (Dave Doody to advise/obtain). Trip report to Bulletin, plus photos</p>	<p>Dave F</p> <p>Dave Doody, Dave Symonds</p>
5	<p>Keeping in contact with the LMC - arrange a meeting Dave Fisher to contact LMC and arrange a face to face meeting with them. He will attend the first meeting, Gill by proxy possibly at subsequent meetings as she is local (Dave is in Bristol)</p>	Dave F
6	<p>Involvement of Red Rope Members in the hut construction process LMC have organised initially 3 long weekends in 2012 for work weekends 22-25 March 26-29 April 24-27 May. Others weekends to be arranged later in the year. LMC request anybody able to help – skilled/unskilled – to come along and help Contact chris.walker032@btinternet.com tel 01942 831 924 to help</p> <p>Accommodation - camping, bring your own kit. Tools provided. The site has a water supply. Check with Chris Walker, other facilities.</p>	RR
7	AOB	

Training Report March 2012. Mike Hargarden

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1. Proposal for a session for the NC
2. First Aid Training
3. Requests for financial help for training

1 Proposal for a session for the NC

1.2 Purpose of the report

- a) I am proposing presenting a 2 hour session at the next NC meeting that would outline modern navigation techniques for planning activities, following routes and responding to changing conditions.
- b) *I ask the members of the NC to ask would it really be too much to spend a couple of hours on the next NC meeting to examine the issues around navigation techniques in terms of safety, enjoyment and individual and 'collective responsibility' given the importance of this topic to the clubs core activities?*

1.3 Background

- a) Red Rope is 'run by collective responsibility on an income sharing basis', it 'welcomes as members all socialists, whatever their abilities,' its values are focused around it 'socialist, anti-racist and anti-sexist nature'.
- b) Since I first joined the club 30 years ago the world of mountaineering has changed and many of the values that Red Rope adopted all those years ago are now common currency although the language used may be different. Mountaineering activities are now more accessible to people from a variety of backgrounds. Many of the country's top mountaineering instructors are now women and my experience is that many women are keen to develop their hill walking skills there are often more women than men on courses.
- c) Also during this time mountaineering skills have been identified and documented to assist walkers and others to plan to develop their skills. The BMC consider navigation skills are 'essential for all mountain users' and although Red Rope would not want to make training compulsory it is surely only commonsense that members who walk regularly should have access to develop and apply these 'essential' skills in practice.
- d) Navigation skills are, in many ways, the basis for developing other relevant skills such as walking with groups with the emphasis nowadays on 'situational leadership' in which positive communication and a more facilitative approach involving team work are adopted rather than the macho approach and, at times, extreme individualism of the past. Things which our club saw itself providing an alternative to.

1.4 The Problem

- e) From my observations I see little evidence in recent years that mountain navigation (and other topics related directly to hill walking) is an issue for the club – If it were I would expect to see it referred to in agenda/minutes of formal meetings, to hear it featured in informal discussion and see more members deploy and use the basic tools (map, compass and route card) and modern techniques in preparing for or during a walk.
- f) The navigation strategy for many members seems to be to follow someone else who has 'offered' the walk.
- g) As someone with many years professional experience of assessing skills through observation and attending and delivering training (including training on hill walking

skills) I am fairly confident that my findings are accurate – I know what I see (and don't see) and what I hear (and don't hear).

h) 'Why have you got your map and compass out when we know where we are?' The effect of navigation issues being ignored is to maintain a culture where such mountaineering skills are seen as unimportant and irrelevant. From feedback I have received this raises barriers to involvement in the club by those members wish to contribute to the club in relation to other than administrative issues. Some feel that the culture in the club is not amenable to people who do want to apply modern good practice by, for example, following the BMC advice:

'As with many mountain skills it is best to practise when making an error will not have serious consequences. So get your map out on your next sunny walk and take some time to learn how to use it. (Navigation - BMC).

- i) Other members who may wish to develop their skills may not even be aware of the possibility of doing things differently and in ways that are arguably more enjoyable than following others. Spending a day absorbed in planning and following a route with others is a great way of leaving the demands of day to day life behind and getting to know other members of the club.

1.5 The Solution.

- a) Space in the clubs activities should be found for people to develop and deploy the 'essential' and other skills required for hill walkers. This is less an issue of training but of promoting accepted good practice in the clubs core activity of walking in the countryside and hills.
- b) The solution is not to make anything compulsory – if people want to follow someone else on a walk and avoiding any responsibility the club is not in the position to stop them, nor would we be inclined to do so. However the club should make it clear that the 'ideal' situation is that members should try and develop the basic navigation skills that will help them find their way if required to. The club should also advise members on good practice in relation to navigation and assist them to develop the basic skills and to apply them in practice while participating in the clubs activities.
- c) The NC can play a leadership role by sending an important message to members that they see navigation (and other relevant skills) as important and they are not above learning new techniques themselves. They can do this by agreeing to the proposal for a 2 hour session as outlined above.
- d) Finally the NC should give serious consideration to making the promotion of good practice in hill walking a higher priority and therefore devote more of its time to this issue. It may be that this requires spending less time on other issues.

2 First Aid Course –the NC asked for a 1st Aid course

- CRT who delivered the 1st Aid course a couple of years ago are offering a 2 day course 26 & 27 May 2012 – with the same instructor as last time on the edge of the Hafren forest near Llanidloes – includes accommodation and food and instruction– provides the qualification required to undertake formal mountaineering qualifications e.g. Mountain Leadership.
- Cost: £104 per person for 8 people – this seems reasonable - . Normal night rates would

not cover this cost with an E band paying £26 for the weekend. Do you have a simple way of applying a banding of charges Apparently the club made a £100 donation to the cost of the course 2 years ago but this would cover the charge.

- I have told the suppliers that I will get back them shortly after the NC meeting on 3/3 so a decision on that day would be appreciated as they are holding those dates for us.

3. Requests for financial help for training

- I have been approached by members on several occasions with requests for financial help with the cost of courses. Members making the request argue that they will bring the skills they have learnt back into the cub to share with other members.
- There is no budget to cover such a cost.
- Where the course appears OK my response is to ask the member to write to the NC to ask for a donation to cover the cost and to include in their request a proposal for a session/workshop/walk (or whatever) where they will share their new skills with other members. I will then support such a request. However no one has not got back to me with a request/proposal so none have gone to the NC via me.

Mike Hargaden Training Officer

2/27/2012