

<b>Red Rope:</b>
<b>Minutes of NC Meeting</b>
30th June Mandale House. Bakewell, Derbyshire.
Present: Dave Doody (IT Officer), Steve Wright (Membership Sec.), Sherry MacLiver (National Treasurer), Adrian Jones (Nat. Sec.), Don Kinnibrugh (Ramblers & Campaigns officer), David Symonds (Bulletin Editor), Barbara Segal (Bristol/South-West)

Item No	Minutes	Action
1	<b>Welcome, Introductions and appoint minutes taker</b> Chair -Steve Wright,1 <sup>st</sup> half, Barbara 2 <sup>nd</sup> half. Minutes - Adrian	
2	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Shelagh Clarke (London Red Rope Rep), Janet Saunders (Coventry and Warks.), Chris Drinkwater (BMC Rep.), Mike Hargarden (Training officer); Rebecca Bates (Nat Trips), John Dickie (Trip Treasurer).	
3	<b>Minutes of NC meeting Leicester 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2012</b> The minutes of the last NC meeting were accepted.	
4	<b>Matters Arising from previous minutes (unless on this Agenda)</b> Receipts still awaited from Gill Cox for the 2011 AGM food. Trip treasurers form – complete, still to go to website. Steve W still to liaise with Fiona Scott re a West Scotland Group. Steve and Janet to visit Bristol to discuss website development progress – still to do. New Eastern Region set up– Janet still to send a procedural statement.	
5	<b>Reports from officers:</b>	
5a	<b>National Secretary</b> Adrian J See below AGM	
5b	<b>National Treasurer (admin)</b> Sherry Mc Sherry circulated a set of accounts to end of June 2012. Finances mostly as expected. But cost of posting out the MIS is very high, so members must be encouraged to take by email where possible. Hut sub committee travelling expenses very high (visited Lancaster to meet with LMC (£150). This must be avoided in future. £65 training grant for Shelagh Clarke to attend training course ‘Learning and Leading’ course at Plas y Brenin – Shelagh still to feedback training to RR. £350 grant from BMC – Janet has received confirmation from the BMC, but money not received yet. Sherry/Janet to action. Sherry has contacted Nick Kemp, W Scotland treasurer – to close outstanding bank account. <b>Regional Accounts</b> – have made contact with all regions but not yet issued guidelines. <b>Ramblers Holidays</b> – have registered with ‘Ramblers Partnership’ – link now on website.	Shelagh  Sherry/Janet
5c	<b>National Trips Treasurer</b> John Dickie £1260 in account, no further transfers to national accounts planned at the moment. Scottish trips all roughly broke even this year. Sadly the Lakes summer trip has been cancelled due to lack of numbers, and half the hut cost was paid and lost. Next year has cut down trips to lessen risk, two trips in Feb, no Easter trip, then one in May to Arran (small	

	<p>deposit paid).</p> <p>Members cancellation policy needs to be clarified, also cut off dates for final payment. To be inserted onto the trip organisers pack.</p>	John
5d	<p><b>National Trips Secretary, Becky Bates Written Report</b></p> <p>Has booked two winter mountaineering trips and a Whitsun week on Arran, all 3 in MIS. No booking for Easter 2013 as numbers have been lower at this time of year and there are often clashes with regional trips. Summer lakes trip has been cancelled due to low numbers - deposit was lost. Dave D has details.</p> <p>Has drafted trip organiser pack changes John will circulate.</p>	John
5e	<p><b>Membership Steve W</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Total membership stands at 313 as at June 27th (311 in March)</li> <li>2) We've lost 19 members since last meeting, with another 4 who have yet to renew. We've gained 22 new members - so holding about steady.</li> <li>3) However new members over the last 12 months is 10% down on this time last year</li> <li>4) Regional trends since Jan 2010:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Manchester has declined slightly throughout this period</li> <li>b. Merseyside has declined from a high in Feb/March 2011, after a significant rise</li> <li>c. Sheffield has declined since March 2011</li> <li>d. South West has increased fairly steadily to new peak of 57 (from 45 in Jan 2010)</li> <li>e. West Midlands increased fairly steadily to April 2012 but may have fallen back slightly since then</li> <li>f. Of the dormant regions, West Scotland has increased to 6 current members but West Yorkshire has almost vanished with just 2 remaining. Cumbria stays at just 1!</li> <li>g. Other regions fairly steady</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>Mentoring – Janet and Steve have had some conversations with Regional Contacts/Representatives about what works and what does not. Janet will report on this next NC. In brief, word-of-mouth seems to be the only truly effective medium. Flyers in libraries in West Midlands generated a few new members, flyers in gear shops in Bristol didn't. We need to consider our overall strategy for recruitment. Hanging on to existing members needs to be our top priority (that should be easier than constantly finding new ones). Then perhaps encouraging existing members to recommend us to their friends and relations.</p>	Janet
5f	<p><b>Bulletin editor Dave S</b></p> <p>Next Bulletin will be large, 12 sides, publication late August, to be issued with the MIS and AGM motions. It will include a summary of the June NC meeting minutes, and a report from Don on the Ramblers AGM in March.</p> <p>NC meeting minutes summary will in future be inserted into the bulletin.</p>	Dave, Don
5g	<p><b>MIS Editor Mark Wallis</b></p> <p>Not present and nothing to report. It is noted that the MIS is now on the website.</p> <p>Steve propped sending all non electronic MIS receivers (who have email) the following –</p> <p>“One of our over-riding costs is that of sending the Monthly Information Sheets by post, especially with the recent increase in</p>	

	<p>postal charges. Clearly sending as many MIS's by email as possible would save the club a significant amount of money each year. Not only that but those taking the MIS by email receive one every month, whereas those by post are only sent every other month. It appears that you receive our MIS by post although you have recorded an email address with us. Would you be prepared to help you club by changing this to receive MIS by email? If so, you need only send a blank email to <a href="mailto:RedRopeMISDeliveries-subscribe@yahoogroups.com">RedRopeMISDeliveries-subscribe@yahoogroups.com</a>. This will initiate the process to enable me to validate your subscription and change your MIS delivery method".</p> <p>This will also form the basis of an AGM motion.</p> <p>Not all regional events are reaching the MIS, it appears to be selective. Local reps to be prompted</p>	<p>Steve/NC</p> <p>Adrian</p>
5h	<p><b>IT Officer.</b> David Doody. Nothing specific to report. Has put MIS on the web.</p>	
5i	<p><b>Training Officer.</b> Mike Hargarden Not present. Mike has decided to stand down from the NC as Training officer. This NC post is now vacant, and will be publicised as such for the AGM.</p>	
5j	<p><b>BMC Contact</b> Chris D Nothing to report. The BMC offer a number of good training courses. Barbara to draft a list for the Bulletin to make this aware to RR membership</p>	Barbara
5k	<p><b>Publicity. Janet</b> A RR display has been put up in Lockerbrook. It consists of Dave's poster plus some other material from recent bulletins, to illustrate RR; also some of the new publicity leaflets in the rack next to the display. There is still some space on the Lockerbrook board, so it would be easy to send something by email to add to the display. It would be good to send Lockerbrook a few Bulletins for their magazine rack.</p>	
5l	<p><b>Ramblers / Campaigns Report Don K</b> Don represented RR (as an affiliated organisation), at the Ramblers AGM , 21/22<sup>nd</sup> April, Leicester. There was also a RR stall both days at this event. The RR motion to the Ramblers AGM – to allow members to opt out of BUPA emails via the Ramblers – was passed. Full report attached. Don to write a paragraph for the next Bulletin.</p>	Don
5m	<p><b>Gear Coordinator</b> Adrian O'C Not present and no report or discussion.</p>	
5n	<p><b>Web development Committee</b> Written report, Mike Demenis There has been a little adjustment of the group due to changing priorities from some members, while this was unclear productivity slowed temporarily. The new design sub-team have made a good impact on the work, and are not too far from having a full set of templates to work as a selection of canvases for actual content to be put into. Once these designs are finalised we will begin to contract some of the more technical components of making a picture into a web format to a third party, the scale of work we're talking about will not take long/be difficult for an experienced professional but would strain our in house workforce. Will then start looking at copywriting some of the actual content and building some of the global/national pages (we will probably have to</p>	

	<p>relay to/from NC on some of the details/wording of specific content) but are hoping to prioritise building the Bristol regional pages and information, with these live we can publish them to other regions as a thinking point and ask them to start thinking about how they'd like to present their regional info and so this process can begin while we tidy up the rest of the site. There is still quite a bit to do but are in a good position moving forwards and now with a clear plan and path.</p> <p>Steve/Janet asked for sight of the proposed website contents and will chase the web team for this.</p> <p>Janet applied for a 'Web Development Grant' from the BMC and this was successful, RR have been awarded just over £350. This has not yet been received from the BMC, Sherry/Janet to chase.</p> <p>Sherry again requested a breakdown of spend of the £1000 web development budget, and a budget estimate for a copywriter.</p>	<p>Steve/Janet</p> <p>Janet/Sherry</p>
6	<p><b>LMC /Hut. Dave Fisher (report attached).</b></p> <p>The Bedgellert hut construction is now progressing well. The walls are erected to half height, and it is likely the roof will be on this summer, enabling fitting out to continue over winter.</p> <p>Dave Fisher, as LMC liaison officer, attended a liaison meeting with the LMC in May. Some items given in the original Hut Sharing Agreement document were reviewed during the meeting. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development of a sharable electronic hut booking system, which has not currently been achieved.</li> <li>• Five keys together with security access codes (universal access system applicable to all of the LMC huts) were handed over to the RR Hut Booker.</li> <li>• The bed rate per person per night payable to LMC remains at £4.00.</li> <li>• The Cae Ysgubor Hut Management Committee has yet to be convened (awaiting construction of the hut.)</li> </ul> <p>A precise of Dave's report will appear in the next Bulletin</p>	<p>Dave Symonds</p>
7	<p><b>AGM 2012</b>  <u>Dates, Accommodation.</u>  Thorpe Farm bunkhouse, Hathersage, is booked, 28/29<sup>th</sup> September.  AGM dates are in the MIS and booking form is on the website.  Request for motions etc – have been made via regional contacts.</p> <p>Offers of help:</p> <p>Catering - Lynne Newark (Sheffield) has offered to help organise the food, but will need assistance.; other catering, Gill Cox?  Walks Leader – Dave D  Bookings - Sherry  Bar - Barbara Segal  Quiz – Arthur and Jan (Dave Symonds to prompt both)  Orienteering day event - Dave Gefferies.  Possible First aid Course.  All activities to be listed in the Bulletin.  Music – Dave Symonds to bring audio equipment and some suitable music to play.</p>	

	An informal post AGM meeting for all those interested was suggested, to discuss RR recruitment and for the NC to pick up any good ideas to assist in this.	NC
8	<b>Subsidising Training Courses</b> Shelagh Clarke has attended the 'Outdoor Leaders' course at Plas Y Brenin; NC agreed to subsidise the balance, over 2 x band rate. Shelagh still to give feedback to RR.	Shelagh Clarke
9	<b>Forming an Eastern Region.</b> Deferred to next NC, no action since previous NC	Janet
10	<b>Additional Banding</b> Deferred to next NC – Sherry to consult with Janet, who has a lot of background knowledge on banding	Janet/Sherry
11	<b>Any other business.</b> Ratification of NC decisions since last AGM. Compile a brief list/summary of NC decisions over the previous 12 months and circulate at the AGM and AGM agenda item. Agreed.	
12	<b>Next NC Meeting</b> Type: National Committee Date: Saturday November 24 <sup>th</sup> 2012 Venue: Birmingham Friends of the Earth The Warehouse 54-57 Allison Street Digbeth Birmingham B5 5TH	

**Report on Ramblers General Council ('AGM'), Leicester University, 21st/22<sup>nd</sup> April 2012** *(Red Rope's motion passed!)*

Three Red Ropers attended this event: Adrian Jones and Steve Wright (Saturday); Don Kinnibrugh (Saturday and Sunday).

Actually an annual delegate conference and the Ramblers' policy-making body, General Council was attended by about 250 people of whom 135 were delegates with voting-rights.

Red Rope's well-stocked stall and displays received a fair amount of interest during tea, coffee and lunch breaks, and most of the Bulletins and leaflets were taken. Thanks to Steve and Adrian for getting this set up and going.

In a fairly non-controversial agenda, two motions in particular aroused heated discussion. The first was Red Rope's motion criticising the Ramblers Board's decision to enter a 'commercial partnership' with BUPA Healthcare and calling for this not to be renewed. (The Inner London Ramblers had already protested separately to the Board over this, and they seconded the motion.) Some people present expressed ethical objections to this 'partnership', while others feared that such a withdrawal could be seen as a 'political act'. The motion was finally passed by c. 56 votes to 43 with 11 abstentions.

The second (emergency) motion strongly criticised the Board's decision to replace Ramblers Worldwide Holidays as their main commercial partner with HF Holidays Ltd, and the way this change had been handled. Despite the fact that the former had donated many millions of pounds to the Ramblers over the years, they were not informed of the decision till late in the day, and at the very last moment were barred from having their usual stall at the AGM. This motion too was passed.

It should perhaps be noted that both of these decisions were taken last year, since when the then Ramblers' CEO Tom Franklin has moved on. The new CEO, Benedict Southworth, has a strong campaigning background having worked with 38 Degrees and Amnesty International, so hopefully we may see more sensitive leadership and a stronger lead on campaigns from the Ramblers in future.

The current main campaigning issue is the delay in implementing the 2009 Marine and Coastal Access Act – ie the creation of an all-England coastal path. (The completion of the Welsh coastal path this year was celebrated over the May Day bank holiday weekend.)

One of our reasons for attending – to raise Red Rope's profile in the Ramblers - was, I think, successfully achieved this year.

Ramblers Holidays 'Walking Partnership' is continuing to provide money to Areas, Groups and affiliated organisations of the Ramblers, whose members book on their holidays (£10 – 30 per person booked, depending on holiday location), though not to their Central Office. Perhaps Red Rope could allow advertising to the extent of announcing the scheme in the Bulletin, and giving contact details for obtaining a Ramblers Holidays brochure?

'Ramblers Routes' This is a new database of of British walking routes which the Ramblers are setting up on the internet. It was demonstrated in a workshop. It is intended to be the

largest of its kind and national in scope. Hopefully Red Rope should be able to both use and contribute to it.

It can be accessed at: <http://www.ramblersroutes.org/>

# Hut Liaison Officer's Report to National Committee

June 2012

D.A. Fisher

## Introduction

On the evening of 30th April 2012 a meeting was convened between representatives of the Lancashire Mountaineering Club (LMC) and Red Rope (RR) to discuss the shared hut arrangement existing between the two parties. Present at the meeting for the LMC was Richard Toon (Chair of LMC Club Fundraising Committee), Gillian Platt (RR Hut Bookings Officer), and David Fisher (RR Hut Liaison Officer.) Key aspects of discussion were the on-going progress at the Cae Ysgubor (Bethgellert) hut development, and general issues relating to use of the huts at Blae Tarn (Lake District), and the Tyndrum caravan (Scotland.) Since the time of the meeting an updated progress report has been received (06/06/2012) regarding the Bethgellert hut. The meeting also gave general consideration to costs incurred so far in relation to the hut, and to future funding activities.

## Progress at Bethgellert

At the time of the meeting a comprehensive set of photos were displayed via laptop depicting progress made on construction of the hut during the current year (2012). Starting from the foundations, which were completed toward the end of 2011, external walls had been erected up to the level of the tops of window and door frames. These walls are of cavity construction and both inner and outer "skins" had been erected to the same level. The images shown in **Figures 1 and 2** provide a general impression of the state of progress to end of April.



**Figure 1. Cae Ysgubor (Bethgellert) Hut Progress.**



**Figure 2. Cae Ysgubor (Bethgellert) Hut Progress.**

The construction of the walls included installation of cavity wall insulation batts, and supporting lintels above the window and door frames. At this level the wall had been temporarily sealed to prevent environmental damage due to water ingress, prior to further construction work.

In the progress update received since the time of the meeting it is reported that the first of the steel roofing beams are now in place, and that the internal walls are now partly built. **Figure 3** shows an image of one of the first beams being installed.



**Figure 3. Installation of Roofing Beam**

In addition to the work involved with the main construction it was also reported that a significant amount of site preparation and landscaping had been undertaken. This included provision of a temporary compound and storage site for building materials etc. and also an area intended for camping provision (to be used once the hut is up and running.) Security of the site and materials has been provided by erection of temporary security fencing.

In the update it was reported that the ditch for the main drain and the trench for the water pipe are now partially completed, and that the campsite is ready for grass seed.

The next stage of work will include installation of the wooden rafters for the first floor, and laying of temporary flooring to enable the final walls to be completed ready for two more steel girders. Work entailed with construction of the roof can then be undertaken. Overall, the objective to be achieved by the end of this year (2012) will be a fully sealed and water-tight building. Commencement of the internal floor is expected in 2013.

During the meeting some review of previous issues arising from the hold-up of planning permission experienced in 2011 was given. This was associated with conflicting detailed requirements for the building foundations, as requested by the two different local authorities that govern planning control for the site. This issue was resolved in November of 2011, and has hence allowed continuation of the construction to take place.

Paper documentation, e.g. architectural drawings, and a detailed plan of the hut's internal layout were presented during the meeting. This information is readily available online at the "[Lanctsmc.org/huts](http://Lanctsmc.org/huts)" webpage. The original specifications may be subject to some relatively minor modifications, such as:

- \* Cement rendering of the external facework (as alternative to the currently proposed stone facework.)
- \* Repositioning of window locations to provide aesthetic balance to the design.
- \* Repositioning of the Drying Room within the internal layout for improved convenience.

Currently, the proposed internal mezzanine floor is subject to planning consideration (by local council department) and requires final assent. It is felt that gaining assent should prove to be a formality.

### **Blae Tarn Hut**

An overall description was given of the area surrounding the Blae Tarn hut with directions by road etc. and a review was made of the access arrangements to the hut itself. It was reported that the lease for the building known as the "Loft" is currently being renegotiated with the National Trust, whilst the building known as the "Solitary" has been knocked down.

Preliminary work has started on the "Byre" (situated in the same structure as the Loft but at a lower level) to incorporate shower facilities and cooking arrangements. Planning permission has been granted for this work. The Byre is not currently in use other than for storage.

### **Tyndrum Caravan**

The caravan at Tyndrum (Scotland) has to be moved from its current site by September of 2012. This is to allow redevelopment of the caravan park (to include aspects such as road lighting etc.) as required by the local council. LMC are attempting to find an alternative site. In the meantime, it is encouraged that good use is made of the caravan facility up until September 2012. LMC will keep RR updated on progress in finding an alternative site.

### **General Issues**

Some items given in the original Hut Sharing Agreement document were reviewed during the meeting. These are:

- \* Item 13 – The development of a sharable electronic hut booking system, which has not currently been achieved.
- \* Item 17 - Five keys together with security access codes (universal access system applicable to all of the LMC huts) were handed over to the RR Hut Booker.
- \* Item 19 - The bed rate per person per night payable to LMC remains at £4.00.
- \* Item 30 - The Cae Ysgubor Hut Management Committee has yet to be convened (awaiting construction of the hut.)

### **Financial Review and Future Fund Raising**

A broad outline was given of monies so far spent on the hut development together with description of fund raising activities for on-going and future costs as undertaken by the LMC membership. These include:

- \* 200 Club - a monthly prize draw offering a third of the monthly draw monies as the prize, currently around £80 for the winning pay-out. Entry to the draw is available to any RR member wishing to participate. It was explained that the LMC has CASC (Community Amateur Sports Club) status, which allows certain beneficial tax and vat exemptions.
- \* Virtual Balloon RACE - A novel (rubber-free!!) computer-based race linked to real-time met-office weather data. The entry fee will be £5 per balloon. There are four substantial prizes. Balloons will be sold from mid-2012 and the race run at the end of the year. Further details will be sent to RR.
- \* Grant Applications - various submissions have been made to relevant funding bodies. The LMC intends to make future application for National Lottery funding.

### **Conclusion**

Overall, substantial progress has been made at Bethgellert. An early technical issue that delayed progress during last year i.e. the hut's foundations, has been satisfactorily resolved. At the current time, there does not appear to be any issues arising that should impact unduly on the time to completion. It is to be noted that progress to date has been achieved during working weekends undertaken mainly by LMC club members. Future involvement of RR members has been warmly invited. The facilities at Blae Tarn and Tyndrum are all currently available, though the latter may be temporarily out of use from later this year. The LMC has maintained financial control over the development of it's huts and is active in securing future funding.