

**Red Rope:
Minutes of NC Meeting**

Saturday February 23rd 2013 Nottingham

Present: Dave Doody (IT Officer), Steve Wright (Membership Sec.), Sherry Macliver (National Treasurer), Adrian Jones (Nat. Sec.), Don Kinnibrugh (Ramblers & Campaigns officer), Barbara Segal (Bristol/South-West), John Dickie (Trip Treasurer)

Item No	Minutes	Action
1	Welcome, Introductions and appoint minutes taker Chair - John Dickie Minutes - Adrian	
2	Apologies for Absence Janet Saunders (Publicity), Chris Drinkwater (BMC Rep.), Rebecca Bates (Nat Trips), Dave Symonds.	
3	Minutes of NC meeting Birmingham November 2012 The minutes of the last NC meeting were accepted	

4	Matters Arising from previous minutes (unless on this Agenda) None	
5	Reports from officers:	
5a	National Secretary Adrian J See below AGM 2013	
5b	National Treasurer (admin) Sherry Mc Sherry circulated a set of accounts to February 2013. Finances mostly as expected. RR income to February 2013 has been £5246, against a total expenditure of £ 3878. Deposit to AGM 2013 paid to The 'Big Moss' camp on Dudmaston Estate near Brignorth (National Trust)	

5c	<p>National Trips Treasurer John Dickie (Written report) Travel for the Arran trip may 2013 is proving expensive, and the trip organisers have been given discretion to vary the trip rates to suite the overall income to the trip. Trip charges generally to be discussed at the next NC (insufficient time or briefing to do this NC). Proposals to be discussed by email beforehand, by sub committee (John, Barbara, Steve, Sherry, Janet)</p>	John, Barbara, Steve, Sherry, Janet
5d	<p>National Trips Secretary, Becky Bates Written Report Both recent winter trips had bad-ish weather with the January trip having to abandon the hut after 2 days. Interest in the winter trips has grown steadily over the past few years so hoping the rain and wind hasn't put off the 20 members involved this year.</p> <p>The Arran trip May 2013 is fully booked and grateful to Dermot and Barbara for putting so much thought into the arrangements. The Blea Tarn August Bank Holiday weekend is in MIS. Considering a 4 night October trip to the new hut at Beddgelert. Bristol are booking the hut for Easter 2014. John Dickie would be happy to organise the October trip and feel that there will be interest. The concern is that the hut may not be fully ready/officially open. Richard Toon LMC is booking in weekends for their club on the understanding that it may be sleeping mats on the floor and camping cookers. He is happy for us to do the same. Have asked for ideas for 2014 winter trips so will be making bookings soon. We will apply for Skye in late May unless there are other suggestions.</p> <p>Gear Although we know the whereabouts of the walkers rope and walkie-talkies the group shelter is missing. <i>Does anyone have it?</i> Trip Organisers Pack Second draft was circulated with simplified and updated information.NC to comment</p>	All
5e	<p>Membership Steve W Current membership – 307 up a little from last time (299) but down from this time last year (311). New members (since 24/11/12) – 11. Members who did not rejoin since 24/11/12 and are now not current members – 4 Members who have yet to rejoin (since 24/11/12) but are still current members (until 1/3/13) – 23.</p> <p>MIS by email – has been successful, 40 more signed up; approximately 2/3 of the club are now receiving MIS by email. New Northampton Branch Prospective member, Roger Rees, asked about setting up a Northampton branch of Red Rope. Abstraction of members from neighbouring regions could be a possible problem. However Steve has consulted these (Coventry & Leicester) and both regions happy about having another near neighbour or of Northampton being a sub-group of either. So suggested Roger joins now and then finds more local prospects. Subject to these new members materialising, propose that a Northampton & District region be established in due course with all the usual rights and responsibilities.</p>	

5f	<p>Bulletin Editor Dave S written report February 2013 bulletin is bigger than usual at 16 pages and contains a lot of interesting material. Extra copies ordered to provide for the RR stand at the Ramblers AGM, an additional 40 prints over the usual 350 agreed.</p>	Dave S
5g	<p>MIS Editor Mark Wallis Not present and nothing to report.</p>	
5h	<p>IT Officer. David Doody. Has set up a Red Rope Facebook page at this URL - http://www.facebook.com/RedRopeWalkingAndClimbingClub A blog for Red Rope climbers has been set up at Colin Knowles request.</p>	
5i	<p>Training Officer. Dermot Mckibbin has taken up this role. The NC agreed a 1st Aid course should be provided soon. NC requested Dermot to review suitable courses, and advise costs. NC would approve £200/per course person subsidy.</p>	Dermot

5j	<p>BMC Contact Chris D Not present but nothing to report.</p>	
5k	<p>Publicity. Janet Written report Janet is getting some colourful and 'on-brand' business cards printed nationally for distributing to regions for networking, leaving in cafes, etc. (Maybe using images from Dave's poster). This could be done very cheaply - a quick check on Vistaprint online shows they will do 1500 @ just under £60, and can adapt from many templates. That would give us over 100 per region, and they could be blank on the back for local contact to write. If there could be a nominal budget for this then Janet is prepared to look into it and discuss by email over coming quarter. Cards are very portable on walks - more so than leaflets. NC agreed the £60.</p> <p>Other issues: 1) Reacted to the 'London Mountaineer' booklet and have asked BMC to update our listings in all their material to include the word 'socialist' – Janet has received some promising email replies from them, and also passed their regional officer over to London group people to make some contact. 2) No action on Darsham. 3) Jan Lancaster has ensured that the Manchester blogspot that was out of date has been taken down - Thank you Jan 4) Have done nothing about a publicity CD for regions - on the list of things to do.</p>	Janet
5l	<p>Ramblers / Campaigns Report Don K The venue for this year's Ramblers Association G.C., Sun April 13th/14th, is the University of Warwick's Ramphal Building, Library Road, Coventry CV4 7AL. Several of RR will be able to attend again this year, to run the stall and help raise Red Rope's profile within the Ramblers Association.</p> <p>The Cost Both days (inc coffee, lunch, tea plus Saturday dinner) £100 Saturday only (including coffee, lunch, tea) £50 Sunday only(including coffee, lunch, tea) £45 Total cost (one person both days plus two people for one day each, as last year) £200(N.B Ramblers members from Warwickshire Area pay £35 for Saturday and £30 for Sunday)</p> <p>Program: <u>Saturday a.m.</u> 11 am– 1.0 pm. Hour-long workshops on various subjects, including 'How to use the Social Media' and 'Campaigning for the 2015 General Election.' First Council session starts 2.0 pm on Saturday. Final session ends 1.0 pm Sunday. Submitting a motion from Red Rope to the RA AGM was discussed. No motion to the meeting, but Don to chase actions following last year's RR motion. (Last year's RR motion criticising the Ramblers' 'commercial partnership' with BUPA received a lot of support and was passed with a substantial majority.). It was also agreed RR would oppose National Trails as a club and therefore would vote in support</p>	

	<p>of any motion opposing them.</p> <p>Adrian and Barbara to attend to assist Don in generally promoting RR at the event, manning the stall etc</p>	<p>Adrian Barbara Don,</p>
5m	<p>Gear Coordinator Adrian O'C Not present and no report. Becky has requested the whereabouts of the RR shelter – anybody know?</p>	<p>All</p>
5n	<p>Archive Barbara has visited the Working Class Movement Library (home designate for the archive) They're looking forward to getting the RR archive, which will tie in with the Benny Rothman archive, and material on the Clarion Cycling Club, which they already host. Bulletin article - Barbara.</p>	<p>Barbara</p>

5o	<p>Web development Committee Written report (Colin Knowles) The work package for the new website has been advertised on three freelancer websites, for quotes. Steve and Janet have met with Mike, Mai and Colin and felt reasonably happy to recommend their action and trust them to pick a good developer (minutes attached). The NC have agreed £1000 for the freelance fees. If the quote exceeds that amount, either RR will have to accept it if not excessively over budget, or the website scope will have to be reduced.</p> <p>The NC agreed the web committee can proceed – Steve to action with Colin (Colin must advise the NC when the quote is received)</p>	Steve, Colin
5p	<p>Regional Reps No regional Reps present at the meeting other than Barbara and NC officers representing their home region.</p>	
6	<p>LMC /Hut. Dave Fisher (detailed report attached) The LMC have been awarded, in principle, a grant of £47 955 by the Welsh Assembly to complete the Welsh hut. The major items still to do are connection to the grid for electricity; internal works (electricity and plumbing etc); the sewage disposal system; water supply; and the stone cladding. The grant has to be spent in the next 12 months and becomes available from April 1st. Confident that the hut will be fully operational by the autumn of 2013.</p> <p>Reminder on booking for LMC huts. Becky to take bookings for national trips to all LMC hut and Beddgellert. Barbara Segal for regional trips only.</p>	
7	<p>AGM 2013. The 'Big Mose' cottage and bunkhouse on Dudmaston Estate near Bridgnorth (National Trust) Visited by Steve and Gill Cox on Friday December 21st. All parts of property excellent, modern condition on single self-contained site. Basecamp and Cottage have adjoining door on first floor. Site contains parking space for 10-15 vehicles and large grass paddock for camping if required – also fruit orchard which we may pick for immediate consumption (not to take away!)</p> <p>Accommodation Basecamp - 20 bunk beds, 8 in downstairs dormitory (normally used by men), and 2, 4 & 6 in upstairs rooms (normally used by women). 1 bathroom upstairs with 2 showers, 1 bathroom outside with 3 showers, 2 loos Cottage – 10 beds 2 twin bedded rooms 6 bunk beds; Bathroom with 1 shower, 2 toilets. Camping Large flat grass space available – could fit at least a dozen tents with ample space around.</p> <p>Cooking/Dining facilities Basecamp – Dining Area for 20 (cosy) Kitchen – cooker with oven & 4 hobs. Hot water boiler. Double sinks. Adequate cooking utensils, except no big pans (Gill has offered to provide these) Crockery for 20</p>	

	<p>plus a few extra. Cottage – adequate kitchen, utensils and crockery suitable for 10</p> <p>Meeting Room – could seat 30 - 40 (with tables from rest of property). Kitchen only suitable for drinks for this number. (plus see below)</p> <p>Lounges in Basecamp and Cottage</p> <p>NT Administrator has advised that we could use the Meeting Room for Saturday evening and Sunday meeting for price for 1 day. She's happy to let us use Meeting Room for dining/entertainment. Normally we would need to 'check-out' by noon on Sunday but if no one coming into property same day then we can take our time.</p> <p>Gill and Steve were both impressed with facilities – far superior to either Lockerbrook or Hathersage. Good walking opportunities in immediate area. Even better at Wrekin, Brown Clee Hill, Wenlock Edge, Ironbridge, Shropshire Hills and Long Mynd. Climbing not so available but warden suggested Nesscliff (beyond Shrewsbury).</p> <p>Sherry agreed to take bookings. Barbara to design the booking form.</p> <p>RR West Mids to organise catering and the various activities.</p> <p>AGM MEETING WILL BE ON THE SUNDAY MORNING</p>	Barbara
8	<p>Forming an Eastern Region.</p> <p>From Becky - Red Rope East Anglia (their preferred title) are due to hold their first meeting in late February. Regional rep Sarah. The three existing RR Norwich members have found others interested in joining and are keen to have their own group rather than remain part of Leicester Red Rope. They intend to plan Sunday walks and, with Norwich so far from the hills, 4 day trips. Will forward their minutes to the NC.</p> <p>NC agreed to send the group £100 from national funds to help set the regional up, and some RR publicity.</p> <p>Dave to set up eastangliaregion@redrope.org.uk on the website.</p>	Sherry, Dave
9	<p>Life membership</p> <p>Briefly debated. Considered too difficult to administer, not considered further.</p>	
10	<p>Decision Making</p> <p>The Constitution to be updated to incorporate some NC and AGM decisions, Steve/Barbara to action.</p> <p>It was decided that each committee member to be responsible for their own 'part ' of the Constitution, if applicable.</p> <p>NC decisions to be put in the bulletin, along with a summary of the minutes</p>	Steve/Barbara

11	<p>Membership of multiple clubs affiliated to the BMC Any club members who are in more than one BMC affiliated club are entitled to claim a multiple affiliation refund from the BMC ie cost of any additional BMC membership fees paid. The BMC provide a refund claim form, see their website</p>	
12	<p>Additional Banding/Relative Proportions. It was agreed banding to be rationalised to 5 or 6 for simplicity. Sherry to draft a 5/6 band structure. This to be discussed (plus trip charges) by SKYPE sub committee – Barbara, Steve, Janet, Sherry (Barbara to help set up Skype) then for agreement at the next NC and to be taken to the next AGM (implementation September 2014).</p> <p>The current relative banding proportions for each of membership, overnight and travel to be brought into line. This will be incorporated into the new banding structure.</p>	<p>Sherry Barbara</p>
13	<p>Non Members On Trips It was summarised National and regional trips will give priority to members; non members will be placed on a waiting list and only accepted 6 weeks before the trip, subject to space. Training events will be for members only. Confirmed national trips will charge non members accommodation plus food E band (with any trip specific multiplier if applicable) plus 50%. Transport to be at E band. Maximum of 2 trips only before joining. The regions are expected to apply similar rules for their trips.</p> <p>Regional day events – regions to apply their own rules, but the NC recommend these be free to non members for no more than 2 events. After that, non members to be charged, recommended at £3-£5 /event. All event leaders, regional and national, must be members – no exceptions. Summary to be inserted in the next Bulletin</p>	<p>Steve</p>
14	<p>Any other business. Membership Development / Publicity - to be discussed at the Skype sub committee meeting (as 12 above), provisionally week before Easter, arrange by Doodlepoll. Convenor – Janet. Don also interested.</p>	<p>Janet, Don</p>

15	Next NC Meeting Type: National Committee Date: Saturday 22 June 2013 11am Venue: Methodist Central Buildings Central Hall Oldham Street Manchester LAN M1 1JQ	

Hut Liaison Report – February 2013

D.A.Fisher

General

Red Rope is informed that the last Lancashire Mountaineering Club (LMC) Committee meeting decided to increase the hut bednight fees to £5 per night per member (and to £8 per night for guests). Obviously this will also apply to Red Rope Members wishing to use the facilities. The increase is to take immediate effect.

The caravan at Tyndrum in Scotland is not currently operational.

LMC await a renewed lease for the Loft from the National Trust.

CaeYsgubor

During 2012 all works for construction of the Cae Ysgubor for was completed to the intended LMC plan. That is the building was made watertight for the worst of the Winter months. Work has already re-started in the current year. In particular this concerns work to the internal floor, the radioactive gas membrane, insulation, screeding and slate floor surface.

The next part of the work is intended to complete the downstairs and upper floors, install the internal staircase, fit the internal walls and to start on the electrical installations.

Email correspondence to this Officer As of December 2012 reported that this work plan would completely use up the LMC's available funds for the year, leaving some work outstanding.

However, a grant application was at that time being pursued with the Welsh Assembly, and a contingency plan was in place for Lottery funding to be submitted early in 2013. An update on the situation was communicated to Red Rope in February 2013 stating that the LMC have in principle, been awarded a grant of **£47 955** by the Welsh Assembly for completion of the hut. This grant is subject to certain provisos:

- i) The LMC have to sort out all work details and get quotes for all the jobs.
- ii) The grant has to be spent within 12 months and becomes available from April 1st (possibly it needs to be clarified whether the 12 months commences in February or April?)

If awarded in full the grant will allow connection to the mains electricity supply, completion of all internal works (electrical and plumbing etc), installation of the sewage disposal system and water supply, and completion of the external surfaces of the hut with stone cladding. On this basis the LMC are extremely confident that they will have a fully operational hut by the autumn of 2013.

In addition to the funding source outlined above further activity has been undertaken to raise funds e.g. the LMC's Christmas balloon race.

The LMC intends to use the hut for a club meet (June 28th - 30th) during the Summer and in Autumn (Nov 1st - 3rd.) At these times the facilities will still be very basic. In particular there will be no bunks, no toilets, and no electricity. Any users at those times will have to provide camping stoves for cooking, and source water from an external supply i.e. the nearby stream.

Red Rope members are advised of the possibility that they would also be able to use the hut for a club meet, from the Summer onward. This use would be subject to accepting that the hut would still be in an unfinished state and that the facilities would be somewhat primitive. Red Rope is asked to discuss any requirement for this and inform Richard Toon of LMC in the first instance.

LMC also plan a working weekend meet in Wales (April 19th - 21st) and Red Rope members would be most welcome to attend this event.

Red Rope Website Replacement

Meeting December 4th 2012 – Development Progress & Future Plans

Present: National Committee – Janet Saunders, Steve Wright

Development Team – Colin Knowles, Mike Dementis, Mai Wong

Overview: Main topics discussed were:- Financial constraints, Website framework proposed, Future actions.

1) Finance

NC representatives stressed that development costs of no more than £1000 had been allowed for. The development representative explained that, once a detailed development work package had been documented, bids would be sought to undertake the actual development. Whilst these might well fall within the stipulated budget, equally it could exceed it. We agreed that the team should proceed as planned and report back to the NC on the bids received and one recommended. The NC would then make the decision about proceeding.

2) Website Framework

We reviewed the various display formats (for home page and different versions of sub-pages - each aimed at a different purpose), as presented at the last AGM, and agreed that all were appropriate for intended purposes. The general appearance was liked, with some details to be changed:-

- a) Red Rope logo to be placed in top left of all pages and sub-pages
- b) Menu heading to be in initial capitals, not full capitals
- c) Prefer photo background to pages rather than block colour approach
- d) Reduce transparency of top layer of displays to make easier to read text on top of picture background
- e) Sub pages side menu text to be darker blue
- f) Side menu headings in bold or larger point size to differentiate from menu items
- g) Remove bullet from side menu headings.

We noted that, to keep costs within limit, this phase will not include on-line applications, interactive events diary (*or members only section ?*). However the ability to add these later will be incorporated. It is anticipated that the templates proposed will allow for regional pages, trip reports and a photo 'gallery'.

It was also noted that using *Drupal* as the website Content Management System, although more expensive than, say, *WordPress*, is necessary to enable the future interactive components desired.

3) Action Plan

1	Development Team to produce detailed work package.	Mike
---	--	------

2	Amplification of cost components.	Colin
3	Work package précised/key elements extracted for distribution to NC members for comment as required. Plus amplification of cost components.	Janet & Steve
4	Comments from NC noted and incorporated as appropriate	Dev Team
5	Invitations to tender for development placed via internet	Dev Team

6	Bids received and evaluated as to value for money. Due diligence of suppliers undertaken. Preferred developer recommended.	Dev Team
7	Recommendation and notes circulated to NC for agreement (short deadline for agreement, say 14 days)	Janet & Steve
8	Development undertaken	Supplier
9	Alpha testing	Dev Team

1 0	Beta testing	Selected users
11	Training key Red Rope members in data management, system maintenance.	Dev Team
1 2	Implementation	Dev Team & members of NC

|