

**Red Rope:
Minutes of NC Meeting**

Saturday June 22nd 2013 Manchester

Present: Dave Doody (IT Officer), Sherry Macliver (National Treasurer), Adrian Jones (Nat. Sec.), John Dickie (Trip Treasurer), Rebecca Bates (Nat Trips), Dave Symonds, Dermot Mckibbin (Training and London Regional Rep) .

Item No	Minutes	Action
1	Welcome, Introductions and appoint minutes taker Chair - John Dickie, Dermot Minutes - Adrian	
2	Apologies for Absence Janet Saunders (Publicity), Chris Drinkwater (BMC Rep.), Steve Wright (Membership Sec.), Don Kinnibrugh (Ramblers & Campaigns officer), Barbara Segal (Bristol/South-West),	
3	Minutes of NC meeting Nottingham February 2013 The minutes of the last NC meeting were accepted	

4	<p>Matters Arising from previous minutes (unless on this Agenda) Trip booking form to be amended to say "Non members to pay overnight stay at E band +50%; transport at E band; and no early booking discount".</p>	
5	<p>Reports from officers:</p>	
5a	<p>National Secretary Adrian J See below AGM 2013 and Constitution Update</p>	
5b	<p>National Treasurer (admin) Sherry Mc Sherry circulated a set of accounts to June 2013. Finances mostly as expected. Income to June, £7819; expenditure £5375, and within budget. The hut fund stands at £300 (mainly recent donations) and it was agreed this would be donated to the Hut, specifically to be used to purchase something appropriate to RR. Ideas welcome. The 'donation to Hut Fund' to be removed from the membership renewal form. The Action Fund stands at £2000. This will be used to fund attendance at future Ramblers AGM's Unspent 2013 training budget to be carried forward to next year</p>	

5c	<p>National Trips Treasurer John Dickie (Written report)</p> <p>Balance in account is about £2k at the moment. Hut booking costs for next year (2014) need to be covered so no proposal to transfer anything to national account at the moment.</p> <p>Arran in May made a small surplus but the account is not quite finalised yet</p> <p>No need to raise charges this year.</p>	
5d	<p>National Trips Secretary, Becky Bates Written Report</p> <p>Arran was a success but a major logistical challenge for Dermot and Barbara - very experienced trip organisers.</p> <p>Two more trips this year – the First Aid course and August to the LMC Lakes hut. (This has been low on bookings and last year had to be cancelled). 2014 - confirmed 2 winter trips, and two May/June trips, so 4 weeks in Scotland with Red Rope possible! Skye trip needs an organiser.</p> <p>Trip Organiser's Pack is being revised to include new guidelines on transport, updated food list, for a weekend for 10 or 12 people, and and camper vans. It will also shown the rates for non members on National Trips (travel at E band, with overnight stay at E +50%.</p> <p>A 'hut feature' for the Bulletin is being drafted - Alex Mac this time and possibly Cae Ysgubor next. Hoping this will encourage individual bookings.</p>	
5e	<p>Membership Steve W</p> <p>There are now 302 current members. In addition there are 48 lapsed members on record (membership due for renewal up to 12 months ago) of which 4 had membership due for renewal just 2 months ago. Most of these latter and a small number of the remainder may be expected to rejoin in the next few months. At this time last year we had 313 current members and in 2011, 316. So it does seem that there has been some decline in membership numbers, albeit not too great.</p> <p>G & H band combined contribute about a third of the membership numbers but well over half of the revenue.</p> <p>We have successfully moved almost all members with email address to receive MIS by email. There are now 296 persons registered on the Yahoo Group.</p>	
5f	<p>Bulletin Editor Dave S written report</p> <p>Material for the next Bulletin is required by the end of June (publication late August). Particularly, any articles about Arthur Howarth.</p> <p>The August Bulletin will enclose the AGM Motions.</p>	Dave S

5g	<p>MIS Editor Mark Wallis Not present and nothing to report. Some concern that the MIS has been late to issue recently. Adrian to speak to Mark, and ascertain if he needs any assistance.</p>	Adrian
5h	<p>IT Officer. David Doody. Nothing specific to report. Hopes to continue to service the new website as he has been doing on the existing. NC to urge the Bristol group to provide some training to David on how to load/amend/remove content from the Drupal content management system.</p>	
5i	<p>Training Officer. Dermot Mckibbin has taken up this role.</p> <p>A first aid training course has been booked for 15 September. Only 2 bookings so far and no other enquiries to date. Details of the course have been circulated to all regional contacts, it is listed in the MIS and will be publicised in the Bulletin. May need to postpone this unless more interest is shown. Intending to organising a training programme to start in Spring 2014.</p> <p>Has obtained a grant from the BMC for £150 towards a one day course on navigation for London region; will try to organise other regions as part of the bid to the BMC for instructor support in 2013.</p> <p>Attended BMC seminar in June on instructing new members in outdoor skills. This was helpful.</p> <p>Plan to raise awareness within the club about funding opportunities outside the club. This will include BMC training courses. These cost only £75 per person per week-end for accommodation and hire of the instructor. Under the 'Future Leaders Fund', depending on where you live Plas y Brenin will pay up to 75% of the cost of training if attendees want to study for a 'Single Pitch Award for Climbing', 'Climbing Wall Award', 'Summer Mountain Leadership' and 'Walking Group Leader Award'.</p> <p>The BMC have previously offered to attend the forthcoming RR AGM to host an orienteering event. Dermot to remind them and see if their offer still stand; and how much they would charge. Sherry to attend the BMC Club's seminar, in October (one day event).</p>	<p>Dermot</p> <p>Dermot</p>

5j	<p>BMC Contact Chris D Not present but nothing to report.</p>	
5k	<p>Publicity. Janet Written report Janet has overhauled posters etc RR have and sent a CD of publicity material to the new East Anglia region – and can do more of these, if other regions want them. Organised printing of more car stickers for the membership secretary to use. Bulletin replacements have gone to Lockerbrook Applied for funding – asked for £500 and got awarded £400 for websites and newsletters – it is up to RR to decide whether to spend any of this on another colour bulletin, because that was included in the request. Also sent in our feedback form re. last year's Publicity grant to the BMC. Planned project An action to get a 'business card' designed and printed (to be more attractive than our membership card)</p>	Janet
5l	<p>Ramblers / Campaigns Report Don K Attended this year's Ramblers AGM April 13th/14th, University of Warwick. Adrian attended to assist Don in generally promoting RR at the event, manning the stall etc. The Red Rope stall received quite a lot of interest and RR leaflets and Bulletins taken. Following Red Rope's motion passed last year, calling on the Ramblers to end their commercial partnership with BUPA, it was confirmed the BUPA contract has now been cancelled. The focus of the conference was on 'domestic' issues, particularly on reversing the Ramblers' decline in membership. <u>Campaign for National Trails</u> Despite representations from the Ramblers, the Government's review on the future management of National Trails did not include plans for a National Trails Trust to take over Natural England's co-ordinating role. However the government agreed to set up a new group to recommend on the future stewardship of these long-distance paths (* 'The New Deal – Management of National Trails in England from April 2013' published by Natural England 28/3/13 www.naturalengland.co.uk). At the last NC it was proposed that a sample letter could be emailed to RR members asking them to write to their MPs on the future of National Trails. At the conference the Ramblers campaigns director, Nicky Philpott, suggested waiting till a time when such letters could have most impact –she would let us know.</p>	

5m	<p>Gear Coordinator Adrian O’C Not present and no report. It is suspected much of the equipment is now obsolete and may not be safe to use. John D to get a list and status from Adrian Oc and report back to next NC. If the equipment is no longer useable, it may be disposed of and the Gear Coordinator position will lapse.</p>	John D
5n	<p>Archive Barbara has taken some material to the Working Class Museum. Barbara requested to prepare an article for the Bulletin.</p>	Barbara
5o	<p>Regional Reps Dermot attended as London Regional rep; no other regional Reps present at the meeting. Karin Burnett replaces Barbara as Bristol/SW Regional Representative</p>	

6	<p>Web development Committee Written report (Colin Knowles)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Design and Specification phases of the project are complete following a review meeting with monitoring team Steve Wright and Janet Saunders. 2. Design and Specification documents were developed into a Work Package by Mike Demenis. 3. Advertisements were placed on three free-lance developer web sites - about 30 bids were received. The team chose the developer 'Hongbin Liu', based in the USA, on agreement that the work is to specification. The charge is \$600 (+transaction charges(this has been paid out of the £1000 budget agreed at the last NC) 4. Hongbin Liu made an early version of the website which was broadly compliant with the work package (see http://stewie.med.yale.edu:8888/.) It was circulated to the committee for inspection. <p>Greenet are recommended by the web team as their preferred ISP. They quote £350+VAT per year. Janet and Steve have agreed going with Greenet for this first year, in the interests of time and that they are a trusted supplier, although the NC should monitor the progress of the service and value for money, and review some other options in later years.</p> <p><u>Based on the above recommendations, the NC agreed the use of Greenet and the web team were asked to proceed on that basis</u></p> <p>The website team are asked to prepare a short article on the website progress for the next Bulletin</p>	<p>Colin Knowles</p> <p>Web team/Colin Knowles</p>
7	<p>LMC /Hut. Dave Fisher (written report)</p> <p>General</p> <p>The LMC intend to set up the Hut Management Committee soon, as agreed as part of the Hut Sharing Agreement.</p> <p>The Hut</p> <p>The fitting out work is progressing well. The internal staircase, most of the studded walls and the slate floor are complete. The electricians have done the first fit. The water supply contract will be let out soon and the planning process is completed for the bio-treater and it is expected to let out that contract work soon.</p> <p>In February 2013 the LMC lodged a grant application with the Welsh Assembly for funding. This has been successful and the first tranche of this grant money has been received. A further grant application has been made to Sport England, which is intended to enable completion of the building to a very high specification. The outcome of the application is expected at the end of July.</p> <p>There is still work to be carried out so it is unlikely the hut will be available for general use by the Autumn of this year as was hoped. It is advised that we should hold a moratorium on booking until we hear that the situation has changed.</p>	

8	<p>AGM 2013. (at the 'Big Mose' cottage and bunkhouse on Dudmaston Estate near Bridgnorth. Sherry is taking bookings and the application form is on the web site. Notification is in the MIS and forthcoming Bulletin Steve requested to help coordinate transport to site from nearest railway station if anybody needs RR West Midlands lead by Gill Cox have agreed to organise the catering. Barbara, Dave Symonds and Arthur Bowden to organise Saturday night entertainment, bar and sock exchange. Walks will be organised by the west Midlands Regional Group and anyone else interested. Possible BMC orienteering event on the Saturday.</p> <p>Requests have been made to the Regions/members via the Regional Contacts for any AGM Motions, deadline end of July and 18th August for any amendments. One AGM motion has been proposed by the NC (Trip Travel Charges). Composition of the motions will be Saturday evening prior to the Sunday AGM (no other time likely to be available). It was confirmed the AGM meeting will be on the Sunday morning 9.30am -12.30pm .</p>	<p>Sherry Steve Gill Cox Barbara, Dave Symonds and Arthur Bowden</p>
9	<p>Trip Charge Sub Committee The sub committee propose to modify the ratio of transport charges between different bands, to bring them into line with the overnight charge bands. This will result in significant reductions in transport costs for people in the highest bands. Sherry to alter the transport charge matrix to suite. This wouldn't need ratification by an AGM although it will be discussed/explained at that meeting</p> <p>AGM motion - to cover people making their own travel arrangements, either using public transport or needing to travel separately by car for personal reasons. (As is the case now, the trip organiser will need to ok any such arrangements.) The Motion was discussed; some changes proposed, Sherry / Barbara to action</p>	<p>Sherry / Barbara</p>
10	<p>Eastern Region Up and running, 12 members to date</p>	

11	<p>Constitution Update The Constitution to be updated to incorporate relevant NC and AGM decisions, Steve/Barbara/Adrian to meet up and action hopefully before the AGM.</p>	Steve/Barbara/Adrian
12	<p>Additional Banding/Relative Proportions. It was agreed banding to be rationalised to probably no more than 5 for simplicity. Sherry/Steve to draft a 5 band structure to be taken as a proposal in principle to the forthcoming AGM (for implementation/Constitution change at the September 2014 AGM, giving 12 months to sort the details out).The 5 band structure would apply to overnight stays, membership and travel; relative banding proportions for each will be the same.</p>	Steve
13	<p>Any other business. None</p>	
14	<p>Next NC Meeting Type: National Committee Date: Saturday 9th November 2013 11am Venue: Birmingham Friends of the Earth The Warehouse 54-57 Allison Street Digbeth Birmingham B5 5THTel: 0121 632 6909</p>	<i>all</i>