

**Red Rope:  
Minutes of NC Meeting**  
Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2014  
Quaker Meeting House, 16 Queens Road, Leicester. LE2 1WP

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.), Don Kinnibrough (Ramblers & Campaigns officer), Rebecca Bates (Nat Trips); Viv Shah, Leicester group.

Item No	Minutes	Action
1	<b>Welcome, Introductions and appoint minutes taker</b> Chair –Dermot/Steve W Minutes - Adrian	
2	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Barbara Segal (Hut and Bristol/South-West), Dave Symonds (Bulletin), Chris Drinkwater (BMC Rep).	
3	<b>Minutes of last NC meeting June 2014 Nottingham</b> The minutes of the last NC meeting were accepted	
4	<b>Matters Arising from previous minutes (unless on this Agenda)</b> None	
5	<b>Reports from officers:</b>	
5a	<b>National Secretary</b> Adrian J See below AGM 2014	
5b	<p><b>National Treasurer (admin)</b> Sherry Mc Circulated accounts to November 2014; income to November 2014 is £1565, of which £1555 is membership. Expenditure £2330. Budgeted income year 14/15 £8250, budgeted expenditure £8753. It was agreed last NC that unspent monies from 13/14 (£80 publicity, £300 training) be carried forward to 14/15. There is also £860 BMC grant in this year's budget.</p> <p>Action fund currently £1888; NC agreed this be used to fund attendance to BMC AGM and BMC 'Clubs Committee' (see BMC below)</p> <p>AGM 2014 made a net loss of £20.54</p> <p>Regional support was briefly discussed. Regions Constitutionally to supply regular annual accounts before being considered for any support at all.</p> <p>Group shelters have been purchased. Being distributed.</p>	

	Need more proactive auditing of national accounts in future; Auditor sought from the RR membership (pref not anyone from NC).	
5c	<b>National Trips Treasurer John Dickie</b> There is £1971 in the national trips account (21 <sup>st</sup> November) so we do have some 'cushion' if trips make loss. Concerned that trip charges have not yet increased this year, this is because of the ongoing banding review which didn't get to the 2014 AGM. Realistically we need to allow £10 for hut fees /£5 for food per night; compare to the current break even E band charge £13 (£11.70 with EBD) putting us at risk of significant financial loss. John/Becky to review trip fees, see item 12 below.	John/Becky
5d	<b>National Trips Secretary, Becky Bates</b> Five 2015 national trips are in MIS plus training trips. February is full, 6 on waiting list, tried to find more bed space nearby but no luck. It is possible that a few people may camp as the hut allows this and has space inside. Easter is full or nearly full. Arran and Onich are half full. Rosedale Abbey over the August bank holiday does not yet have an organiser. This was booked in response to comments about a lack of summer trips so should be popular. Has booked Crianlarich for Feb 2016, 18 places. Skye and/or Torridon have been requested for May 2016.	Becky
5e	<b>Membership Steve W</b> Presented 6 reports from the Membership System. We have 287 members (November 2014) (last year at this time we had 304, but at the time of the last NC meeting we only had 283). Membership distribution is very similar to that previously reported. West Yorks regional representative, Geoff K has resigned so a replacement is sought.	
5f	<b>Bulletin Editor Dave S</b> written report Very little to report. Nothing yet received for next bulletin, deadline end of January. Particularly needs something up to date on the LMC/Hut	Dave S
5g	<b>MIS Editor Mark Wallis</b> Not present and nothing to report. Still some concern over occasional late MIS publication date; the November MIS is not yet (22 <sup>nd</sup> November) published. Becky to contact Mark to discuss.	Becky
5h	<b>IT Officer. David Doody.</b> Nothing specific to report.	
5i	<b>Training Officer. Dermot Mckibbin</b> 1) Has circulated details of BMC/MCOFS courses within the club; details in the MIS; and the RR Training Subsidy Policy (website). The Mountain Skills Course has been booked and advertised in the MIS, 4 bookings so far. Will apply to the	

	<p>BMC for funding for this course. Another course for more experienced walkers has been booked for the week-end of 13-15 March (Mike Hardegan organiser).</p> <p>2) Lupine Outdoor Adventure were reluctant to offer mixed ability training for the February Winter Trip. However the national trips secretary has agreed that some written guidance (good practice for winter walking, safety etc to all trip participants would be a good idea .</p> <p>3) Dermot attended the Austrian Alpine Club AGM. For the second successive year, the club offered free training to participants on GPS and first aid so a training event for the RR annual gathering in September 2015 is suggested; plus possibly a talk on the Saturday evening from the local Mountain Rescue Service eg Mountaineering Accidents.</p> <p>4) Has had limited feedback from club members about the new training policy. More feedback is required, (NC were requested to raise this with their local groups at the June NC meeting).</p> <p>5) The new training policy will be written up in the Spring Bulletin but more frequent communication with members is needed for the training opportunities being offered to become really effective. Dermot requested NC to consider the issue of more regular communication with club members; eg a more frequent electronic version of the bulletin for example?</p> <p>6) Suggestions from NC members about other training events are requested and also volunteers to organise training events.</p> <p>7) Navigation training is likely to be most popular training type within the club. Dermot to assess demand within club members for a 'training the trainer' course so that we could run our own navigation courses for RR. In the future it would be possible for the club to affiliate to the national navigation awards scheme so that experienced RR members could run navigation courses at bronze and silver level for RR trainees.</p> <p>8) Would like to see the club asking members for details of training they would like to receive or could offer. A training needs survey is also a possibility, although a trial on London members generated just one reply.</p> <p>9) We should have a club procedure for dealing with major incidents where there are mountaineering accidents, eg dealing with press and media enquiries as well as friends or relatives requesting information. As the club does not have any policy on this area, we should draw up some guidelines; Dermot willing to help with this.</p> <p>Proposed the following:</p> <p>a) The National trips secretary /NC produce written guidance for issue to all members booking on all winter walking trips. Becky is actually doing this; will circulate to the NC before publishing.</p> <p>b) The training officer organises a training event for the annual gathering 2015 and investigates the costs of a local mountain rescue service talk . NC Agreed</p> <p>c) The club agrees in principle that when the membership system is renewed that consideration is given to compiling</p>	<p>Dermot</p> <p>Becky</p>
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	<p>information from club members about training they require can offer. Action – Dermot to prepare list of questions for Steve to incorporate.</p> <p>d) NC to consider ways of more effective communication with club members. Action - E Bulletin and short priority emails discussed (using the membership email list). No firm conclusion.</p> <p>e) To draw up policy and procedures for dealing with major accidents on club trips; national treasurer to take a lead with help of other NC members. Action - Agenda item NC February 2015.</p>	<p>Dermot</p> <p>Dermot</p> <p>Sherry</p>
5j	<p><b>BMC</b> Colin Knowles (Representative from the BMC SW Area and attends the BMC National Council) suggests if the NC were to put forward someone to join the BMC Clubs Committee then that application would be most welcome by the BMC; Sherry volunteered and will contact the BMC.</p> <p>The BMC propose forming a 'hill walking' board. RR is supportive of this. Dermot to follow up.</p>	<p>Sherry</p> <p>Dermot</p>
5k	<p><b>Publicity. Janet</b> Activities this quarter have been: All regions have now received the RR 'business cards' and several have responded very positively. Redesigned the Red Rope A5 Flyer to include a QR code and all local website details, facebook etc Redesigned a special version of the A5 flyer just for London Region with their own contact details for them to use in their current recruitment campaign Created the same flyer as an A4 poster for London to laminate and use on notice boards. Approached Red Rope Bristol to clear up confusion with their two Facebook pages, and the owner has kindly renamed the page titled 'Red Rope' that it won't show up now as the official Red Rope page.</p>	
5l	<p><b>Ramblers / Campaigns Report Don K</b> The Ramblers Association AGM 2015 will be in Cambridge, Robinson College, over the weekend 28/29 March. Adrian and Don to attend plus others from the E Anglia region if possible, to man the RR stand. Any motions to the Ramblers AGM from RR, send to Don Kinnibrugh before February 14th. Don to coordinate.</p>	<p>Don</p>
5m	<p><b>Gear Coordinator</b> Adrian O'C No report</p>	
5o	<p><b>Regional Reps</b> No reports</p>	

6	<p><b>Web development Committee</b></p> <p>Janet demonstrated the new website (<a href="http://redrope.nicenewwebsite.com">http://redrope.nicenewwebsite.com</a>) to illustrate and explain work undertaken to date. The new website has been recreated in 'Wordpress' format, helped by Coventry member Bronwen Reid, and the site is now making good progress. We will soon be in a position to drop the Drupal site and rearrange hosting, and the new site will be cheaper.</p> <p>Major effort in the next few months must be focused on the web site development, and it will need other NC members to help in providing content and checking draft content. The site is still under construction, still working on the 'Members Area' in particular. There remains content to be written, particularly to the regional pages, and a Training page. Expected to be live by end of January 2015.</p> <p>The members area can be enabled for payment of membership fees via Paypal (although they do charge for this). To discuss practicalities of a Paypal system at the next NC</p>	Web team/Janet
7	<p><b>LMC /Hut.</b></p> <p>Neither Barbara nor Pete Kos has heard from anyone in LMC since Pete attended the opening of Cae Ysgubor in October.(Barbara has emailed John Toon about next year's RR bookings and has not received a response.)</p> <p>It seems the hut is still not ready for use (at the time of the opening one of the dorms was still not habitable (it was being used as a tool store!) and there were inspections pending.</p> <p>Pete to contact Richard Toon LMC for up-to-date information on the state of the hut and a date for a RR/LMC meeting to discuss the list of issues in the current hut-sharing agreement that need to be sorted out.</p>	Barbara/Pete
8	<p><b>AGM 2014.</b></p> <p>Brecon Bunkhouse, Talgarth, was a good venue, weekend went well but AGM poorly attended, not quorate, only 24 there. Both AGM Motions (trip refunds, and childcare costs allowance) passed over by the AGM to the NC for consideration and voting at AGM 2015 if appropriate.</p> <p>NC decided to defer discussion on the trip refunds motion to NC June 2015; the childcare costs allowance motion was referred to the banding committee for a view/action.</p>	Banding committee
9	<p><b>AGM 2015</b></p> <p>25/26 September 2015. Decided on a return to Gradbach Mill, Derbyshire. To book the 'Farmhouse'</p>	Don/Sherry

	<p>only, (36 beds) £760/weekend. Camping is allowed so any numbers in excess of 36 can be accommodated. Don to draft an article on Gradbach Mill for the next Bulletin.</p> <p>A questionnaire to survey RR members AGM preferences re location and format was proposed. Sherry to draft a survey form a circulate to NC for approval</p>	<p>Don</p> <p>Sherry</p>
10	<p><b>Trip Organisers Pack</b> John/Becky presented the revised TOP; all previous comments incorporated. Any final comments to John/Becky by end 1<sup>st</sup> week December.</p>	John/Becky
11	<p><b>Constitution Update</b> Presented the revised constitution to the meeting. Mainly a reorganisation and tidy up. Any clauses which may be different in content (as opposed to mere wording) from the present one were highlighted for discussion. Policies document still in progress. Actions for Steve/Barbara from discussion Disciplinary/expulsion procedures to be reviewed, possible wording revision. Clause 7 'Collective responsibility'. Wording review, presented to next NC Clause 8 'financial Year' Delete a-k, replace with a single catch all sentence. Dissolution – needs expanding. 2/3 vote at a Quorate AGM. Advice from BMC sought on protocol here.</p> <p>Check also Constitution states 'ordinary paid up members can attend an NC meeting and vote'.</p> <p>Final version for 2015 AGM.</p>	Steve/Barbara
12	<p><b>Banding Revisions</b> Work in progress on re banding membership fees.. Efforts to minimise increase in annual membership fee to lower band members continue, and child care allowance to be incorporated if possible. NC still happy with the basic elements of reband structure so far. The basis of the £227,266 cost of raising a child as presented to the 2014 AGM was queried by Sherry, noting it includes University fees plus 1<sup>st</sup> car. The application of child care allowance in banding will need careful judgement. For the moment, year 2014/15, childcare is not to be included, the RR 'relevant income' will remain unchanged.</p> <p>Trip Fees – John/Becky to review trip fees and restructure on a 5 band basis to align with membership fee restructuring. Target is a proposal to the next NC</p>	<p>Steve/ /Sherry/Don</p> <p>John/Becky</p>

	February 2015, for approval at AGM 2015	
13	<b>Any other business.</b> None	
14	<b>Next NC Meeting</b> 11am 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2015 Conway Hall (Artist's Room), 25 Red Lion Square, London, WC1R 4RL 0207 405 1818	all
15	<b>June 2015 NC Meeting</b> Currently Saturday June 20 <sup>th</sup> Birmingham Friends of the Earth is provisionally booked - but to discuss possible weekend away	