

**Red Rope:
Minutes of NC Meeting
Saturday 28th February 2015
Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL**

Present: Dave Doody (IT Officer), Dermot Mckibbin (Training), Sherry Macliver (National Treasurer), Adrian Jones (Nat. Sec.), Janet Saunders (Publicity), Steve Wright (Membership Sec.), Don Kinnibrugh (Ramblers & Campaigns officer), Rebecca Bates (Nat Trips); Barbara Segal (Hut); Phil Smith (Bristol/South-West Regional Rep), Dave Symonds (Bulletin).

Item No	Minutes	Action
1	Welcome, Introductions and appoint minutes taker Chair –Dermot/Dave S Minutes - Adrian	
2	Apologies for Absence Chris Drinkwater (BMC Rep).	
3	Minutes of last NC meeting November 2014 Leicester The minutes of the last NC meeting were accepted except amendment item 5b para 5 (Regional support – ‘Constitutional requirement’ not ‘reasonably expected’)	
4	Matters Arising from previous minutes (unless on this Agenda) 5j : Sherry is now on the BMC Clubs Committee 9 : AGM 2015 – Don has written a Gradbach Mill article for the Bulletin; and Sherry has drafted, but not yet published, an AGM questionnaire	
5	Reports from officers:	
5a	National Secretary Adrian J See below AGM 2015	
5b	National Treasurer (admin) Sherry Mc Circulated accounts to February 2015; income £4612, of which £4602 is membership. Expenditure £6052. Budgeted income year 14/15 £8250, budgeted expenditure £8753. The BMC have published their “Insurance Guidelines” (terms of policy). Sherry to circulate to NC.	Sherry
5c	National Trips Treasurer John Dickie £1900 currently in the trip accounts. February Trip accounts analysis to illustrate typical current trip budgeting. Transport: Members paid £876.27. Drivers reimbursed £810.84, insurance £97.12 and parking/tolls £22.30 so	

	<p>overall cost to the trip £930.26; less £876.27= £53.99 deficit.</p> <p>Food and accommodation costs £1225.82, less members payments £1266.05 = £40.23 surplus (but includes two lost deposits)</p> <p>Food cost £ 343.82 = £3.51 pppd</p> <p>Overall deficit £13.76 Banding: 6 below E, 6 above E, 3 at E</p> <p>National Trip Charges Not necessary to raise current overnight charges before the 2015 AGM. Based on a 3:1 ratio, £15 pppn to cover hut, food and additional car insurance costs and EBD; proposed charges for the new 5 bands: P £8 Q £12 R £16 S £20 T £24 10% discount for early booking to be retained</p>	
5d	<p>National Trips Secretary, Becky Bates The February 2015 trip was successful. Enthusiasm to return. Future trips. Crianlarich booked February 2016, The Ling Hut for week beginning May 28th, 2016. Mill Cottage for February 2017. There are two spaces on the Easter trip this year, but Arran and the Alex Mac trips are full - 52 bookings in 2015 for week long trips. However, the August bank holiday 3 day trip Yorkshire Dales only has one booking and no organiser so probably will be cancelled. Confirmed a week long national trip in October this year, Swarthbeck House, Ullswater is available at £920/w for 14 (just over £9 pppn).</p> <p>Trip Organisers Pack A cancellation option still needs to be added and an item on hut etiquette eg being tidy, heaters turned off, windows shut etc when going out. Becky to reissue to NC</p>	Becky
5e	<p>Membership Steve W Presented 6 reports from the Membership System. We have 294 members (February 2015).12 new members since last report. Membership distribution is very similar to that previously reported. 10 still receive MIS by post; (none have an email address).</p>	
5f	<p>Bulletin Editor Dave S Latest Bulletin 16 pages, significant contributions received. Trying to contact Mark</p>	Dave S

	Wallis re posting, but no response. AJ to contact Mark by phone/email also to check he is also willing to continue with MIS production	Adrian
5g	MIS Editor Mark Wallis Not present and nothing to report.	
5h	IT Officer. David Doody. Nothing specific to report.	
5i	<p>Training Officer. Dermot Mckibbin</p> <p>Since the last meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Started discussions with the Membership Officer about how to capture training needs information from members. 2) Article in the current Bulletin on the club training policy and the Mountain Skills Course in May. 3) Circulated information within the club via the email lists about training opportunities. The MIS now contains details of BMC training courses. There has been one enquiry from a club member for a training grant and who is booked on a climbing course. This could result in expenditure of £40 to the club to subsidize this member. 4) The 13-15th March (week-end) training course for experienced members has 7 out of 8 available places booked. The trainer cost the club £360. The training income from club members will produce £165 with possibly more as there is still one place left. The income is composed of £20 for 1 band C, £60 for 2 band H, £25 for 1 Band F, £60 for 4 band A-B. 5) The Mountain Skills Course has only 2 current bookings despite much publicity. The training costs £360; the club agreed to charge £20 for this course and to reimburse club members of the £20 cost of registering with Mountain Training. So no income to the club from this trip. Lupine has confirmed that 2 places are viable for the course to go ahead but have also offered the club 2 places on their Mountain Skills Course in Ambleside on 17 May. <p>The options seems to be:</p> <p>³⁵/₁₇ Cancel and lose £360 plus accommodation deposit and Mountain Training registration of £20 times 2 (£40).</p> <p>³⁵/₁₇ Transfer to Lupine Course on 17 May for 2 people</p> <p>³⁵/₁₇ Continue with the current booking. Apply to the BMC for a grant. Run the risk of some financial losses. We only pay for the number of bed spaces used.</p> <p>Not encouraged about the level of debate within the club on training and hopefully there will be more interest from club members once the new bulletin hits the doormats!</p>	Dermot
5j	BMC Chris Drinkwater Has enquired to the BMC about any spaces left on the BMC Walkers' Working Group, how RR can best be keep informed about the group and express points of view. Also requested to be included on any mailing list about the group and its work and about any future	

	walker-centred events. BMC Huts Committee – we need input to this and opportunity to express our views. Next meeting 14 March, Manchester. NC asks Chris Drinkwater if interested in going (alternatively Peter Kos). Barbara to action	Barbara
5k	Publicity. Janet No more work has been put into general publicity since the last meeting.	
5l	Ramblers / Campaigns Report Don K The Ramblers Association AGM 2015 will be in Cambridge, Robinson College, weekend 28/29 March. Adrian and Don to attend to man the RR stand. Ramblers AGM Motions include a Constitutional Amendment (regional officer elections by ordinary members and Affiliated Organisations). Suggested RR present a Motion 'affiliated organisations votes pro rata to annual membership fee (single member £30, RR affiliation £150 so RR would have 5 votes on this basis). Don to write a short article for the Bulletin re Ramblers AGM, and possibly something on the CRWA. Donation - £50 to Open Spaces Society (150 th anniversary) – NC agreed	Don Don
5m	Gear Coordinator Adrian O'C No report	
5o	Regional Reps No reports	
6	Web Development Committee Making some progress on the website, but slowly because Janet has other commitments. Bronwen Reid (Coventry Group, helping) has been busy at work, so unable to progress the Members area, hosting or working out Paypal ideas Janet offered to develop. How we show the MIS entries is also unresolved, and it will probably just be a download PDF initially. Most of the key content is now transferred, and several Regions responded and their pages have been completed, but there are several sections outstanding. Some content still required from Regions and NC. See http://redrope.nicenewwebsite.com for progress. We should discuss ways of 'training up' other people to take over the content updates for their areas once it is released. On line D/D payment of Membership Fees; Paypal charge £1/transaction. An alternative is "Gocardless" charge 1% and very easy to use. Janet to investigate although not a priority at the moment. RR Yahoo discussion group will remain separate but with a link from the new website. Payment to the Drupal site has ben stopped.	Web team/Janet

7	<p>LMC /Hut. Notes from the hut team <u>Hut Key Fobs</u> The proposed LMC policy of allowing individual key fobs (£20 refundable deposit) for RR is ok and on a par with LMC members, as regards ease of booking the hut.</p> <p><u>Individual Bed-Night Payments</u> Individual bed-night payments (on a sliding scale) to be paid to Barbara (who keeps track (Running Total) of our allocated 200 bed-night quota). She has a RR bank a/c paying-in book, so will pay in all received monies, communicating this to National Treasurer who will then pay LMC the amount owed for said number of nights.</p> <p><u>RR Group Trip bookings payment & KeyFob protocol.</u> Exactly as LMC would do to any other club or organisation requesting to hire the Hut: it is only reasonable & practical that LMC post out a returnable key-fob to the Trip's Organiser. All Group Trip bookings for LMC huts still via our Bed-Night Booker Barbara - only she is allowed to consult with LMC re hut availability. Both Regional and National Trips: the Trip Organiser to furnish their address to Barbara, so LMC can mail a key-fob to them. Payment: Regional Trips can send cheque payment to LMC, as per usual hut protocol. (National Trips Treasurer doing likewise for National Trips.)</p> <p><u>Easter 2015 Cae Ysgubor Hut Trip .</u> LMC have recently advised that the Hut 'should' be ready by Easter but some persistent doubt exists within RR and bookings for the Trip are very low. So the group trip is revised to an individual bed night basis.</p> <p>Peter Kos wishes to stand down as 'Hut Liaison Officer' at Easter; replacement sought.</p> <p>A formal RR/LMC meeting re the Agreement still planned - tbc</p>	Barbara/Pete
8	<p>Suggested Quarterly Electronic Newsletter to replace Bulletin Debated practicalities and options of a quarterly 'E Bulletin' , replacing the current printed Bulletin. Possibly a mini Bulletin at the back of the MIS say every 3rd or 4th issue; or insert news articles as text to the monthly MIS email . The E Bulletin in this form will need an editor (title 'Communications Editor'?). Action - Article for the Bulletin with Job Specification and requesting a</p>	

	volunteer (action allocated?)	
9	<p>AGM 2015 25/26 September 2015. Decided on Gradbach Mill, Derbyshire. To book the 'Farmhouse' only, (36 beds) £760/weekend. Camping is allowed so any numbers in excess of 36 can be accommodated. Saturday evening - agreed try for an entertainer, and a quiz. Booking form – Adrian Entertainer – try Naomi Paul – Adrian to chase Quiz – Dave Symonds, (will liaise with Arthur) Catering – try Gill Cox – if not, alternative Manchester Group. Adrian to chase</p>	<p>Adrian Dave Symonds Adrian</p>
10	<p>Trip Accident Procedures No action to date. Sherry/Dermot to draft something for next meeting</p>	Sherry/Dermot
11	<p>Constitution Update Has now revised and circulated the draft 'Policies' document to NC. Views requested on its content, wording and anything else. Has made a start on the Appendices but needs individual NC comments about specific duties, documents and web pages. Dissolving the club - has asked the BMC for their guidance but no response as yet so has reviewed paragraphs from others eg Charities Commission, for broad ideas. Final version for 2015 AGM.</p>	Steve/Barbara
12	<p>Banding Revisions Still work in progress. Target AGM 2015. Trip Fees – John/Becky have reviewed national trip fees and revised to a 5 band basis to align with membership fee restructuring, see National Trip treasurer's report above.</p>	Steve/ /Sherry
13	<p>BMC Grant Applications BMC grants procedures for 2015/6 will be on the BMC website in early February with a closing date of 2nd May. Bid for equipment (climbing ropes; and mountain skills training books) - Sherry Bid for Training Grant - Dermot</p>	Sherry Dermot
14	<p>Any other business. Bristol Climbers Have raised general issues concerning attracting and retaining climbers in RR; and their representation within the club. At the very least they need a space on the new website (while noting there is already on the existing site which can be copied over). NC agreed. Winter Walking Guidance Notes With Becky. Will forward to Sherry for some amendments/additions then to website</p>	Becky

15	Next NC Meeting 11am 27 th June 2015 Quaker Meeting House, 16 Queens Road, Leicester, LE2 1WP	all
16	November 2015 NC Meeting TBC	