

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
RED ROPE SOCIALIST WALKING AND CLIMBING CLUB
LOCKERBROOK CENTRE, DERBYSHIRE 2nd October 2010

PRESENT: 33 members

Jean Luce, Jake Jackson, Jonathan Bridge, John Dickie, Becky Bates, Dave Doody, Colin Knowles, Chris Drinkwater, Don Kinnibrugh, Sherry Macliver, Dave Symmonds, Barbara Segal, Pat Durrant, Dave Jefferies, Liz Pickles, Steve Wright, Janet Saunders, Angela Benham, Peter Goffin,, Olive Bowers, Gerry Matthews, Gill Cox, Adrian Jones, Linda Goss, Val Johnson, Arthur Bowling, Bob Steel, Hugh Rowan, *Pauline Appleton*, Edward Carver, Andy Bateman, Uta Prackett, Gill Platt

APOLOGIES: Jan Lancaster, Julian Knoble, Dermot Mckibblin, Titch Kavanagh

1. Colin Knowles was nominated as Chair first session, second session, Jake Jackson. Colin confirmed that the meeting was quorate.
2. Adrian Jones – minute taker
3. Running order of the meeting was accepted.
4. Apologies were received and accepted
5. Minutes of the 2009 AGM (circulated extensively and posted on Web site) Accepted unanimously.

1. OFFICERS REPORTS:

a. National Secretary.

Principle tasks for the year have been, as usual, facilitator for the National Committee, and this has include organising the three National Committee Meetings, updating the Regions and NC Contact Sheet, and keeper of the Constitution. All committee posts have been full over this year, although some posts become vacant as of this AGM so new officers will need to be appointed later in this meeting. (*Detailed report attached*).

b. Membership.

The total membership remains at it's fairly stable level (over the past 3 years) of 301. The largest membership is London (77) followed not very closely by Sheffield (42) and the South West (40). Most regions (there are 13 regions - two Scottish ones with a combined membership of 24) seem to have an average of 20 members. Over the year 80 members have lapsed but presumably we have gained about the same number. So turnover is quite high. (Dave Jefferies added that we are still losing long term members)

Pat wishes to retire at this AGM from the Membership Secretary role. Many thanks to Pat for all her work over the years at this task.

c. Administration Treasurer. (see attached report)

Sherry circulated copies of the accounts, which are attached.

Income to year ended June 2010 was £8066 (mainly subscriptions, secondary amounts being donations and AGM income).

Total outflow was £8051, being broken down to affiliation fees (£3665), publicity (£1550), AGM (£1415), and National Committee costs (£848).

At June this year, the current account stood at £9128, the Action Fund at £2394, Hut Fund at just over £6000, but the later has risen to just over £10,000 to date from donations, and potential gift aid.

There was also a £310 club development grant from the BMC.

Attention was drawn to the RR discount at Cotswold Outdoor and Ciscero

c. National Trips Secretary.

All Scottish trips this year were full and lucky with the weather. Good snow and ice enabled winter skills practise in Glencoe in February and there was more snow at Easter in the Cairngorms. Most members on the May Crianlarich trip used public transport and this worked reasonably well thanks to the efforts of the organisers.

Next year we have booked 4 trips to Scotland, including two winter trips. It is encouraging that interest in winter skills has grown again. We have started a review of the trip organiser's pack and plan to include a section on winter safety.

The Easter trip to Strawberry Cottage is a repeat of the trip last year but with an additional weekend at a youth hostel on the coast and this trip along with the May trip to Torridon will offer adventurous high level walking.

Date of the Easter trip changed to fit in with Humphreys final Munro gathering – because of the two bank holidays it will now be possible to have 11 days in Scotland with only 4 days off work! The trip will now start on Good Friday and continue over 7 nights.

This year there have also been two weekends organised as national trips. Enthusiastic participants on the excellent navigation skills trip to the Lakes in April organised a follow up weekend for November which is full with a reserves list. A family weekend in the Peak District was successful and is to be repeated in June 2011.

Comments that the 2011 Scottish programme is limited to high level walking is noted and although there are opportunities on all the trips for lower level options 2012 will be more varied. This does depend on ideas and organisers coming forward.

Mill Cottage in the Cairngorms is booked for February, a plan to return to Crianlarich for Easter and possibly Skye for May.

Rebecca is happy to continue with the role of Trips Secretary into 2011.

d. National Trips Treasurer. John Dickie

Trips have generally gone well with a surplus of £253.75 over the year. Note this figure includes 140 awaited from the First Aid trip.

The new rule from AGM 2009 of full price payment on booking system seems to be going OK. The Crianlarich trip was overwhelmingly by public transport and people seemed happy - the trip did lose money but this was mostly due to low banding and it coming under the old trip rates. In any event it worked well enough to proceed to another 'largely public transport trip'.

Internet access to the account is available and anyone interested would be welcome to audit the accounts properly.

Balance at 2/9/09 was 2609.90. One year on balance is £2763.68. The 140 owing largely explains the discrepancy between the surplus of £253.75 and the balance increase of only £153.78 (the rest of the discrepancy is variable 'forward deposits' paid i.e. for 2010 trips in 2009, and for 2011 trips in 2010). The balance looks like a lot of money but remember some huts require £800 payment a year in advance.

Trip summaries:

Glencoe - winter: +£274.40

Feshiebridge - spring: +£171.18

Crianlarich - summer: -£329.09 (largely due to low banding and being under the old trip rates).

First aid trip - spring: +£180.01

National Committee - summer: -£8.95

Family trip - summer: +£47

Navigation trip - spring: -£220.80 (this figure does not include the missing £140).

e. IT Officer. Dave Doody

Work has continued this year with ongoing routine maintenance of the website, keeping contacts up to date on the website list, and posting NC meeting minutes .

f. Ramblers and Campaigns. David Barnes

To assist David, Don Kinnibrough attended the Ramblers Association AGM in Surrey in April this year. Don submitted a detailed report to the National Committee after this event and confirmed that the Ramblers Association are favourably disposed to Red Rope and open to comments.

David Barnes wishes to retire at this AGM.

g. BMC. Chris Drinkwater

Chris suggested that the BMC is becoming more responsive to clubs and to members whose prime interest is not technical climbing. This is with reference to the key findings of the BMC member survey, such as, that 62% of members said that hill walking was their top activity.

The origins and work of the BMC Clubs' Committee was outlined and Chris quoted a paragraph from the Chair's end of year report. (I also drew attention to the approaching Huts and Clubs Seminar).

h. Training. Steve Wright

November 10/11th – First Aid Training weekend in mid-Wales, designed specifically for outdoor enthusiasts. Seven Red Rope members attended, several there to enhance their Mountain Leadership credentials. It was run on our behalf by CRT Medical, with training provided by a former Army medic, experienced in expedition and remote area medicine. A very full and comprehensive session. The weekend cost us £600, of which trip fees covered £524. The remainder was subsidised by Red Rope.

April 24/25th – Navigation training weekend, aimed at improvers was held In the Lake District. This was organised for us by Malcolm Donne, with the training led by Andy Godfrey, a professional mountain skills trainer and a new member of Red Rope. It was a well conceived and presented course and that all attendees were pleased with the outcomes. The training and organisation was provided free of charge, so the cost of hiring the hut for the event was covered by the trip charges paid.

A further navigation training weekend has been organised by Michael Haargaden and Jeremy Abraham in conjunction with the National Trips Secretary, November 12/13th, Derbyshire. This course is aimed at navigational beginners/novices and those who wish to refresh their existing skills. Course members will pay standard national trip charges.

It has been suggested that in future single-day navigation training sessions be provided in the regions, either instead of or as well as the weekend trips. These would be aimed at members who walk regularly, but are unlikely to come on weekend trips, especially if they involve a lot of travelling.

i. MIS. Mark Wallis

No report received from Mark Wallis. But MIS editions came out regularly over the year by email and hard copy and on time.

j. Bulletin. David Symonds

This year's pre-AGM bulletin was considerably easier to put together than last year's, principally because the motions were not included and the schedule was more convenient.

The next Bulletin will be delivered in late February. Copy by late January is required, preferably earlier and this fits in with the 2 monthly MIS schedule. It will be a black and white edition with a winter theme, as mentioned in the last bulletin and would welcome submissions. The edition will cost £70 less than the usual colour plus black and white format. However, a poem is being included which involves a publisher's £30 copyright fee. Dave would appreciate having more material to work from. Most the editions produced have included either all, or nearly all, of what has been submitted.

Putting the Bulletin on the website was discussed, but the 36MB size made this difficult (Dave Jefferies suggested a low resolution format may help).

Dave has enjoyed the challenge of assembling the bulletin, and would like to do at least another 4 editions, taking his total to 10, although if anyone is keen to take over would still be happy to contribute on the design side.

k. Hut Officer. Colin Knowles (detailed report attached)

Since the AGM in 2009 significant strides have been made in support of the hut-sharing agreement.

A Draft Agreement has been drawn up between Red Rope and the Lancashire Mountaineering Club (LMC), which has reached the stage where it could be signed by both Red Rope and the LMC. The BMC have been invoked as in the agreement as the adjudicator in the event of dispute between Red Rope and the LMC.

The plans for the Cae Ysgubor hut had been agreed by the local council planning authority. The planning agreement is secured and building foundation construction work has commenced.

Red Rope members were asked to contribute towards the Hut Fund. Many members have responded in a most generous fashion,. A breakdown provided by the National Treasurer is included in the Hut Officers detailed report attached, but is currently £9,416.46; possible gift aid should raise this to over £10,000.

By discussion it was agreed by the meeting that no legal advice would be sought on the RR/LMC Agreement, and will proceed on the basis of trust.

m. Gear Co-ordinator.

Adrian O'Connor. No report, gear was safe.

n. Publicity Officer - Janet Saunders

The following has been undertaken this year

New Group help - Responded to a request from Olya Bowers for poster templates for the new group in the North East.

New Members Leaflet - Member retention after the first year is a problem. A New Members Leaflet specifically aimed at new joiners to tell them all about Red Rope, how things work, and encourage them to get involved has been designed – to be issued, along with the membership card each year. This was well received by the NC, and decided to print 1000 of them and make them available for use to give to prospective members as well. Cost £232. They have been printed. How we use them will be a task for the coming year.

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o Archivist. Andy Bateman

All the information collected in the archive has been collated. Work now needs to be carried out to make it available to all. A major task.

Andy wishes to stand down as archivist this year (will though store the archive until a new archivist is found).

p. Web Review Team

A 'Powerpoint' presentation was given by the team. They have looked into the site structure and prepared a site map for general review, also done some initial page layout sketches, which are available here for feedback.

A Grant of £310 has been obtained from the BMC for funding website work. The Website Review team will be able to recommend how it is spent at a later date – some will certainly help in paying for a slight increase in hosting cost.

Following a suggestion from Bristol members, the welcome content on the current web site has been reworded to advertise our diverse activities better and appeal more to younger people.

THE MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED THE ABOVE REPORTS AND GAVE THEIR THANKS FOR ALL THE HARD WORK DONE BY ALL OFFICERS.

2 NOMINATIONS FOR NATIONAL COMMITTEE

All standing officers were re-elected, except those standing down, who are

Pat Durrant – Membership Secretary
Steve Wright – Training Officer
David Barnes – Ramblers/Campaigns
Andy Bateman - Archivist.

Voting of the new officers was unanimous and was as follows

Steve Wright was elected Membership Secretary
Don Kinniburgh was elected as Ramblers/Campaigns Officer
Mike Hargaden was elected as Training Officer
Post of Archivist left vacant (Andy Bateman agreed to retain the archive for safekeeping until a new archivist is found)

Short break.

3. MOTIONS TO THE AGM

1 Hut Sub Committee (Colin Knowles, Sherry Mcliver, Adrian Jones)

1a The club notes that:

- the draft agreement with the Lancashire Mountaineering Club (LMC) allows for “three weekends per annum plus a flexible arrangement of 200 bed nights per annum”.

The National Committee recognises that:

- the 200 flexible bed-nights represent a tremendous resource for the spontaneous activity of our members;
- currently there exists no practical experience or method for administering bed nights and so it may prove taxing to administer these bed-nights unless they were offered as week-long trips
- that developing a fair method of allocating flexible bed nights may take some years

The club resolves that either:

- a. The 200 flexible bed nights will freely available for the spontaneous use of members

or:

- b. The 200 flexible bed nights will be offered as week-long trips

and:

- c. Whichever of a. or b. is chosen, the policy will be reviewed and a new or unchanged policy will be presented to the AGM in 2013
- d. The Hut sub-committee will immediately draw up an interim scheme for the administration of the flexible bed nights
- e. Members will be consulted as to their views on fair methods of allocating flexible bed nights

Procedural note:

It is intended that parts a. and b. are set in contradistinction, and once one of those is chosen by the AGM, the full motion is in effect amended to delete the unsupported section.

1b The club notes that:

- A draft Hut Sharing Agreement with the Lancashire Mountaineering Club (LMC) has been provisionally finalised, subject to approval by the BMC as the third party arbiter;
- Fund-raising to meet Red Rope’s contribution to the agreement has been successful.

The club resolves that:

- The agreement with the LMC may be signed by Red Rope representative(s) subject to any alterations proposed to the draft agreement necessitated by the BMC’s response being regarded as reasonable and proportionate by the Red Rope National Committee.
- If any revised draft contained a substantially increased risk to Red Rope, then such a revision would not be signed but brought to a subsequent AGM.

1c The club notes that:

- The Hut sub-committee is an interim structure, existing in its current form to bring about a successful outcome in negotiations with other mountaineering clubs

The club resolves that:

- In the event that the agreement with the Lancashire Mountaineering Club (LMC) is agreed by all three parties, the current Hut sub-committee will identify key roles that will be needed to maintain the practical elements of the relationship with the LMC and with Red Rope's use of the LMC facilities, and draw up proposals for a new structure for the Hut sub-committee such that it will become a permanent sub-committee of the National Committee.

Amendments to Hut Sub-Committee Resolution 1 (a, b and c)

Amendment 1 to Motion 1a - Proposed Dave Jefferies, Seconded Barbara Segal
Delete section 1a and replace it with:

The club notes that:

- The draft agreement with the Lancashire Mountaineering Club (LMC) allows for "three weekends per annum plus a flexible arrangement of 200 bed nights per annum".

The National Committee recognises that:

- The flexible bed-nights represent a tremendous resource for the activity of our members;
- Currently there exists no practical experience or method for administering bed nights and so it may prove taxing to administer these bed-nights unless they were offered as week-long trips
- That developing a fair method of allocating flexible bed nights may take some time

The club resolves that:

- a. The Hut sub-committee will examine the feasibility of and draw up an interim scheme for the administration of the flexible bed nights to be presented to the first National Committee in 2011
- b. Regions will be consulted as to their views on fair methods of allocating flexible bed nights

**This amendment was not accepted by the mover of the original motion, (Colin Knowles on behalf of the Hut Sub Committee) and was subject to vote by the AGM; in favour 20, against 3, abstain 10
Motion carried in favour of amendment**

Amendment 2 to Motion 1a - Proposed Barbara Segal, Seconded Dave Jefferies
Add the following to the end of Motion 1a:

This club confirms that:

Charges to members for all bed nights, either as part of a national or regional trip or individual use, will be banded. The hut sub-committee and NC will define an appropriate set of banded charges for use of the timeshare huts.

This amendment was accepted by the mover of the original motion (Colin Knowles on behalf of the Hut Sub Committee). The amended Motion was then unanimously accepted by the AGM.

Amendment to Motion 1b (the main changes in wording are highlighted in bold italics)

- Proposed Dave Jefferies, Seconded Barbara Segal

Delete the paragraph:

- If any revised draft contained a substantially increased risk to Red Rope, then such a revision would not be signed but brought to a subsequent AGM.

And replace it with:

- If ***the National Committee finds that*** any revised draft contains a substantial risk to Red Rope ***or is not acceptable for any other reason***, then such a revision would not be signed but brought to a subsequent AGM ***or voted on at specially called Regional General Meetings if an earlier decision is needed.***

This amendment was accepted by the mover of the original motion (Colin Knowles on behalf of the Hut Sub Committee). The amended Motion was then unanimously accepted by the AGM.

Amendment to Motion 1c (the main changes in wording are highlighted in bold italics)

- Proposed Dave Jefferies, Seconded Barbara Segal

Delete the paragraph:

- In the event that the agreement with the Lancashire Mountaineering Club (LMC) is agreed by all three parties, the current Hut sub-committee will identify key roles that will be needed to maintain the practical elements of the relationship with the LMC and with Red Rope's use of the LMC facilities, and draw up proposals for a new structure for the Hut sub-committee such that it will become a permanent sub-committee of the National Committee.

And replace it with:

- In the event that the agreement with the Lancashire Mountaineering Club (LMC) is agreed by all three parties, the current Hut sub-committee will identify key roles that will be needed to maintain the practical elements of the relationship with the LMC and with Red Rope's use of the LMC facilities, and draw up proposals ***to be agreed by the National Committee*** for a new structure for the Hut sub-committee such that it will become a permanent sub-committee of the National Committee.

This amendment was accepted by the mover of the original motion (Colin Knowles on behalf of the Hut Sub Committee). The amended Motion was then unanimously accepted by the AGM.

4 SUPPLEMENTARY HUT MOTIONS

Proposer John Dickie, seconded Pete Goffin

The Donation Option

Whereas the Club wants the issue of the hut resolved with speed,

"This AGM resolves:

that the National Committee has authority to authorise a donation of money up to 10,000 pounds from the RR hut fund to the Lancashire Mountaineering Club for the building of a hut at Beddgelert, as long as RR's liability in

pursuance of that donation is expressly limited to the initial transfer of the said money from the RR hut fund."

The Contractual Option

Whereas the Club wants the issue of the hut resolved with speed and with particular benefits to accrue to the Club,

"This AGM resolves:

that the National Committee has authority to authorise payment of money up to 10,000 pounds from the RR hut fund to the Lancashire Mountaineering Club for the building of a hut at Beddgelert in exchange for such number of bed nights at LMC huts as the NC deems appropriate as long as RR's liability in pursuance of that exchange is expressly limited to the initial transfer of the said money from the RR hut fund, and further that such exchange shall become a contract only on the transfer of the said money."

Following the amendments to the Hut Committee Motions, and discussion, the Motions 'Contractual Option' and 'Donations Option' were withdrawn.

Motion from Leicester Group for AGM 2010

Whereas:

A contribution to raising the profile of Red Rope, and making more public the scope and style of our activities, would be to make available the MIS on the Red Rope website for public viewing - in a way that does not breach the privacy of members who have volunteered to lead walks etc.. This may assist the recruitment drive.

Be it resolved that:

"This AGM resolves that the MIS be made available on the website, if practical and without making public member's names, addresses, phone numbers etc, for viewing by members and non members alike, by August 1st 2011."

Discussion followed and it was agreed NC to examine the practicalities of putting the MIS on the web in a way that does not breach the privacy of members (names, addresses and emails not to be put on the website).

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED: 30 votes in favour, 3 against

The meeting closed at 7.00.pm.

**RED ROPE AGM OCTOBER 2010 LOCKERBROOK
OFFICERS REPORTS
Where not reported in full above**

National Secretary's Report

Overview

Principle tasks for the year have been, as usual, facilitator for the National Committee, and this has include organising the three National Committee Meetings, updating the Regions and NC Contact Sheet, and keeper of the Constitution. All committee posts have been full over this year, although some posts become vacant as of this AGM so new officers will need to be appointed later in this meeting.

To Summarise

Activities

Despite some concern over membership numbers, Red Rope continues to deliver walking and climbing and camping activities at both local(regional), and national level

National Committee and NC Meetings.

There have been three NC and regional representative meetings since the last (September 2009) AGM; these were

November 2009 (Leicester), 11 attended

February 2010 (Manchester), 12 attended

June 32010 (Longnor, Peak District), 10 attended

There has been some discussion by the NC as to the frequency and venue of NC meetings, some rationalisation may be put in hand, mainly to reduce costs and encourage more to attend, especially the regional representatives

All committee posts have been full over this year. Several committee members are however proposing to stand down at this AGM, and the following posts therefore become vacant

Training (Steve Wright standing down)

Membership secretary (Pat Durrant standing down)

Ramblers and Campaigns (David Barnes standing down)

Archivist (Andy Bateman standing down)

Nominations for the posts of Training, Membership Secretary, and Ramblers and Campaigns have been received – election of officers will be dealt with later on in the meeting.

Major tasks of the NC Committee over the year

(not an exhaustive list by any means)

The Hut – the Hut subcommittee has held discussions and worked to formalise an agreement with the Lancashire Mountaineering Club for joint use of LMC facilities, that will be discussed later in the AGM

Website – a website subcommittee has worked to generate proposals to reformat the website – they will report to you later in the meeting

A publicity sheet has been produced by the Publicity Officer (Janet), and it is hoped this will be a contribution to attracting new members

There is concern about the apparently falling membership. Therefore a Membership Development subcommittee has been suggested, tasked to generate new membership.

A start has been made reformatting the Constitution into something more readable

Regional Groups

Most regional groups remain busy and continue to deliver a varied day and weekend activity programme. West of Scotland and West Yorkshire Group, despite having RR members (albeit small in numbers), have ceased local activities and are temporarily without any local committee. Attempts will be made to rectify this.

Tasks for the future

Reformat the Constitution – draft already prepared, for the NC review

Generate new members, arrest decline in membership

Thanks

Thanks to the members of the NC who have helped me over this difficult 1ST year; especially Gill Platt in organising the AGM. Barbara Segal drafting minutes, , Janet, Dave Jefferies. Something of a surprise to me how much work goes on in the background throughout the year – telephone calls, emails, etc . It all takes time.

Adrian Jones

30th September 2010

Report from the Hut Sub-Committee by the Huts Officer

Since the AGM in 2009 significant strides have been made in support of the hut-sharing agreement:

1. A Draft Agreement has been drawn up between Red Rope and the Lancashire Mountaineering Club (LMC), which after several rounds of discussion and an overview by a legal advisor appointed by British Mountaineering Council (BMC), has reached the stage where it could be signed by both Red Rope and the LMC. The BMC have been invoked as in the agreement as the adjudicator in the event of dispute between Red Rope and the LMC. No official request has yet been made by the LMC to the BMC to establish if they are willing to act as adjudicator, though the LMC officer expects to do this very shortly.
2. The plans for the Cae Ysgubor hut had been agreed by the local council planning authority subject to work having started by October of 2010. The site was cleared in the late April. Investigations took place and Building Control ruled that piling needed to be installed to provide suitable foundations on part of the site. The piling work was carried out in the summer, and shuttering and the laying of the foundation slab are taking place currently. Thus the planning agreement is secured. No further building work is expected during the winter. LMC are planning to draw up a schedule of works that could involve members from both clubs for the coming spring/summer/autumn of 2011.
3. Red Rope members were asked to contribute towards the Hut Fund. Many members have responded in a most generous fashion, both in direct giving and

by supporting fundraising activities. A breakdown provided by the National Treasurer is below.

		£	£
Hut Fund			5,494.46
2 donations		600.00	
Fund raising	31 members	2,355.00	
	2 regions	285.00	
	CK hair project	682.00	
	total		3,922.00
	TOTAL in fund		<u>9,416.46</u>
possible gift aid on	members donations		827.40
possible gift aid on	CK hair		190.96
			<u>10,434.82</u>

Whilst the target of £10,000 has not been reached directly, there is every expectation that the majority of individual donations will be 'gift-aided'. It was the National Committee's hope that a figure in excess of £10,000 would be raised, so as to allow some money to be held back as a contingency. Thus the Hut Sub-Committee would urge all regions to organise some kind of fund-raising event, as a figure in the region of £12,000 would provide a useful £2000 contingency fund.

Colin Knowles, Hut Officer, 29/09/2010