

**Red Rope:
Minutes of NC Meeting
Sunday 29th June 2014 Nottingham**

Present: Dermot Mckibbin (Training) Rebecca Bates (Nat Trips), Sherry Macliver (National Treasurer), John Dickie (Trips treasurer), Adrian Jones (Nat. Sec.), Janet Saunders (Publicity), Steve Wright (Membership Sec.), Don Kinnibrugh (Ramblers & Campaigns officer)

Item No	Minutes	Action
1	Welcome, Introductions and appoint minutes taker Chair – Steve W Minutes - Adrian	
2	Apologies for Absence Dave Symonds (Bulletin), Chris Drinkwater (BMC Rep). Dave Doody (IT Officer), Sue Williams, (Bristol Rep)	
3	Minutes of last NC meeting November 2013 Birmingham The minutes of the last NC meeting were accepted, subject to corrections : Training course funding – Training will be subsidised for all, subsidy banding portioned but up to a limit of £50; limit of 1No subsidy per person per year for external courses; written report not required. Trip charges to non members – E band +50% confirmed.	
4	Matters Arising from previous minutes (unless on this Agenda) Barbara still to find a venue for November 2014 NC meeting. 3 No grants awarded to RR by the BMC	
5	Reports from officers:	
5a	National Secretary Adrian J See below AGM 2014	
5b	National Treasurer (admin) Sherry Mc Sherry circulated a set of accounts to June 2014.Total income £7978, (budget £7775). Expenditure £ 6246, (budget £7620) Finances mostly as expected. Some comments: Most MIS now by email, printing costs well down on last year £860 grants from BMC. £1000 printing/posting for the Bulletin, which is high. NC travel costs very high; needs to be taken into consideration when planning meetings. £500 unspent training budget to be carried forward to next year.	

	Unspent publicity funds to be carried forward to next year.	
5c	<p>National Trips Treasurer John Dickie (Written report) Trips this year all went off reasonably, except CIC February which had bad weather a for second year. Bank balance last statement was £800 but some cheques to go in shortly. Propose for AGM this year raising E band charge to £15 (£13.50 now) and others proportionately for all trips after 1 January 2015. Average hut cost now £9, with average £3.50 food spend, gives £12.50. Most national trips tend to fill with 'early bookers' so that would give one pound to cope with inflation over next 3ish years.</p> <p>This year nothing at all in MIS for August BH and maybe in 2015 we should have a national trip to Wales or Lakes?</p>	John
5d	<p>National Trips Secretary, Becky Bates Thinking about ways forward with the trip transport issues. Understand NC resistance to taking transport out of the banded system but transport is becoming a problem. Two of the Scottish trips this year have been extremely challenging requiring many emails, phone calls, lots of negotiation and some upset. These difficulties are not only putting people off organising these trips but also from joining them. The main areas of difficulty are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - fewer offers to drive - a feeling that drivers reimbursement is too low - pressure to allow others to drive cars - worry over safety and having to join cars whose drivers are not known - general downsizing of cars - inflexibility making it impossible for people wanting to extend their trip. <p>Concerned about probable transport issues for Arran next May. Therefore Arran will be a public transport trip so there will be no need to reimburse drivers. This seems a good opportunity to see how a public transport trip could work independently. So, propose that the Arran trip is independent of transport rules - People would sort out their own transport. This will be discussed at the AGM and bring to the AGM the proposal that the Arran trip be independent of transport rules.</p> <p>Plans for 2015 These trips have all been booked in response to requests and offers to organise so its looking healthy. February 14th - 20th Mill Cottage, Feshiebridge, Cairngorms</p>	Becky

	<p>April 4th - 10th, Scottish hut tbc. Balgowan is first choice but will look elsewhere if not bookable.</p> <p>May 23rd - 29th Corrie Bunkhouse, Arran</p> <p>May 30th - June 5th Alex MacIntyre Memorial Hut, Glencoe</p>	
5e	<p>Membership Steve W</p> <p>Membership data sheets distributed. Current membership 283, roughly static. West Yorks now has a regional representative, Geoff.</p> <p>Membership system needs updating, it needs someone with software 'Access' experience; alternatively we need to buy a new web based management package.</p>	Steve
5f	<p>Bulletin Editor Dave S written report</p> <p>Not much to report. There's a certain amount of material for the next bulletin, and some more has been promised. Has asked for a paragraph or so explaining in more detail how the recent BMC grants could be used. It might also be interesting to say something about the new BMC approach to clubs in general; as yet no one has volunteered to write such a piece.</p>	
5g	<p>MIS Editor Mark Wallis</p> <p>Not present and nothing to report.</p> <p>Adrian to email AGM Agenda and Motions by mid August for next MIS</p>	Adrian
5h	<p>IT Officer. David Doody.</p> <p>Nothing specific to report. Hopes to continue to service the new website as he has been doing on the existing.</p>	
5i	<p>Training Officer. Dermot Mckibbin</p> <p>1) The recent training trip to Nant Peris with Lupine Outdoor Adventure was well received by the 10 participants. In future for navigation courses numbers to be limited to 8 if there is only 1 trainer. The trainer cost £352, the accommodation £200. Obtained a grant of £200 from the BMC to cover the cost of the course; payments from participants came to £324 and the training surcharge raised £150. This meant that the training budget had to find £2 (leaving £498 of this year's training budget yet to be spent)</p> <p>2) Propose running the Mountain Skills Course May 2015 in Snowdonia for a 3 night trip. Details circulated to NC members and have asked for expressions of interest from club members via regional contacts. This course is aimed at walkers with a reasonable level of fitness who are interested in applying their countryside walking skills to the mountain environment. See the Lupine Outdoor Adventure website and Mountain Training (www.mountain-training.org) for more details.</p>	Dermot

	<p>3) Lupine charges £100 for participants to attend their Mountain Skills Course excluding accommodation and transport costs. There is a registration charge of £20 with mountain training. This covers a new online log book for recording experience and a BMC safety booklet. Numbers are limited to 8. Lupine have quoted £400 to supply a trainer. It is spread over 2 days with an evening session. Therefore proposing a 3 night course over a bank holiday week-end. An application would be made to the BMC in April 2015 to defray part of the cost. The trip would be run as a national trip and would be aimed at club members who have little mountain experience. A female trainer would be used. There would be a flat rate contribution of £20 (?) to cover the cost of the training. (Accommodation would cost £10 per person per night). This would bring in £160 with a possible grant from the BMC. If the BMC awarded say £200 the club would have to pay £40 towards the cost of the trainer. We should apply to the BMC for an equipment grant to supply every participant with a copy of Carlo Forte's 'Navigation in the Mountains' as published by Mountain Training. (Cost £15.99. 20% discount at Cotswold Outdoors). If necessary the club should make up the shortfall between the grant and the purchase.</p> <p>4) The formula to implement the subsidy decision made at the last NC meeting will be announced at the annual gathering in September and then publicise the new policy in the MIS and on the club website.</p> <p>5) It would be helpful if regional groups could discuss the new training policy and consider possible regional training events at their meetings.</p> <p>The training budget is about to be set for the new financial year and propose carrying over the current underspend to next year and setting next year's budget at the same rate as for this year. NC Agreed .</p> <p>Decisions required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * to run the proposed Mountain Skills course as a 3 day national trip on a May Bank holiday in 2015 for 8 club members with a female trainer from Lupine Outdoor Adventure. NC Agreed * to require club members to pay an extra £20 for 	<p>Dermot</p>
--	---	---------------

	<p>the training element of the course and to register with Mountain Training as a condition of attending the course. NC Agreed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * to apply to the BMC for a grant to defray the cost of the course. NC Agreed * that the cost of the training element of the course will come out of the training budget irrespective of the outcome of the BMC grant application. NC Agreed * that the club applies for funding to the BMC to buy each participant a copy of the book Navigation in the Mountains and that the club makes any difference between the grant and the book purchase. NC Agreed <p>³⁵₁₇ To ask the organiser of the February trip to Scotland to consider in consultation with the training officer and the club treasurer the feasibility of hiring an outdoor instructor for day's winter skills training. Action to Becky</p> <p>³⁵₁₇ To provide support to the training officer to implement the decision at the last NC meeting to subsidize club training. NC Agreed</p> <p>³⁵₁₇ To ask all regional groups to discuss training within the club and possible regional training events prior to the November NC meeting and to report back these discussions to that meeting. Dermot to email all regional contacts</p> <p>³⁵₁₇ To agree to carry forward this year's training budget underspend to next year. NC Agreed</p> <p>³⁵₁₇ To write to the BMC to let them know that we support the club training events and ask that such training be further developed. Dermot to action</p> <p>The subsidy for club members attending training events agreed as Bands A , B 55% Bands C,D 40% Bands F,G 20% Bands H 10% and max £50 all bands</p>	<p>Becky</p> <p>Dermot</p>
5j	<p>BMC</p> <p>RR has been awarded £860.00 from the BMC, the breakdown of this amount is :</p>	

	<p>Website & Newsletters £500.00 Mountaineering Equipment £160.00 Instructor Support £200.00</p> <p>BMC require evidence of the services and products that have been purchased by RR with these monies and therefore request RR submit copies of all purchase orders, invoices, receipts etc. and a feedback form.</p>	Sherry
5k	<p>Publicity. Janet Business Cards: Ordered and received 500 of these to see how the vistaprint quality was - at £40.36 a very good deal, quality not great but acceptable. Will post to regions.</p>	Janet
5l	<p>Ramblers / Campaigns Report Don K Ramblers AGM 2014 was attended on behalf of Red Rope by Don, Adrian Jones and Dave Symonds The main objective was to maintain Red Rope's profile within the Ramblers and in this we were reasonably successful. A Red Rope stall was run as usual during the morning and this received plenty of interest. As before, the literature being distributed consisted of current and past copies of the Bulletin, together with Red Rope publicity leaflets. (It would be useful if in future a wider selection of literature is available) As regards the conference, fewer motions submitted than usual – only seven, including no constitutional motions and most dealing with footpath issues rather than campaigning issues on which Red Rope could have an input. Two possible activities on which RR local groups could in the future get involved (if members are so inclined) are: (a) identifying local footpaths that exist and are walked but have not been included on the local definitive rights of way map, working (probably with local ramblers groups) to get them included before the 2026 cut-off date. (b) The Ramblers 'Pathwatch' Project being introduced next spring and aims to involve walking every one of Britain's paths, to survey them and report on the condition.</p>	
5m	<p>Gear Coordinator Adrian O'C Not present and no report.</p>	
5n	<p>Regional Reps None present</p>	
6	<p>Web development Committee Janet, Steve W News here is not so good - we made reasonable progress with the pages and content until a bug was discovered in creating pages, which is a bit of a show-stopper, together with many essential but cosmetic changes needed. Have approached two contractors to fix the site. But one is too busy at the moment, the other turned out to not really be Drupal experts but have nevertheless given a quote for WordPress redesign/code of £1500 (which</p>	

	<p>seems high). Colin, Janet, Steve to have a meet about it in July and decide way forward.</p> <p>NC agreed a budget of £2000 to bring the website to completion.</p>	Web team
7	<p>LMC /Hut.</p> <p>LMC are now very confident of having a fully operational hut in time for the formal opening in October. Will be installing an electronic lock in the main door soon, with small plastic fobs to operate it. These will be distributed to LMC, Red Rope and external users in the coming months.</p> <p>LMC have increased their fees recently(now £7ppn) so the following revised RR fees for individual bookings were proposed by Barbara and were accepted by the NC:</p> <p>Bands A-C £5 Bands D-F £7 Bands G-H £9</p> <p>For National and regional trips, 90% of band rate. NC requested Barbara prepare a short article for the bulletin</p>	Barbara
8	<p>AGM 2014.</p> <p>26-28 September 2014, at the Brecon Bunkhouse, Talgarth, Brecon, Powys LD3 0EG www.brecon-bunkhouse.co.uk.</p> <p>Sue Williams (Bristol/SW Region) agreed to coordinate all catering; Adrian to contact to check this still ok Booking form is on the website; Sherry to add travel details, Adrian to check public transport availability to the hostel buses. Propose Colin Knowles to give a picture show of his recent overseas trips – Adrian to ask Dermot or Chris Drinkwater to ask Carey Davis BMC for an evening talk No quiz this year Barbara agreed to run the bar Walks – Dermot on Saturday; also Becky /John if required Steve Bonham caving? (Becky to ask)</p>	<p>Adrian</p> <p>Sherry Adrian</p> <p>Adrian</p> <p>Chris D</p> <p>Becky</p>
9	<p>Complaint - Julian</p> <p>Response still wanted from Julian and others on the trip. Work in progress. John/Janet to report back to NC should anything further come of this.</p>	John/Janet
10	<p>Trip Organisers Pack</p> <p>Completed, but file lost so needs to be re typed. Sherry to review Treasurers section when available.</p>	John/Becky/Sherry

11	<p>Constitution Update Still work in progress, but hoping the new document can be presented to the 2014 AGM.</p>	Steve/Barbara
12	<p>Banding Revisions Circulated a draft 5 band proposal (P,Q,R,S,T, R being the neutral band) showing the annual fee from £10 (P) to £48 (T) for discussion. The basis is: Total income yield to be at least the same as the present scheme Band P to be set according to job seekers allowance Band T set according to income threshold for 40% tax ie £599/week Band R income threshold set according to median income for the UK ie about £400/week after deducting tax and NI Max membership fee to be less than £50 The fee increase between successive bands should escalate so that mark up from P to Q is less than Q to R etc R as datum, each band's fee ratio with regard to band R should be inline with income ratio Ratio of annual fee % to be the same as the nightly charges General discussion and was noted that the weekly incomes used in the calculations includes housing benefit. Some revisions to be made, final version will be circulated to the NC and will be taken to the AGM with provisional band rates for discussion.</p>	Steve/Sherry
13	<p>Any other business. Some general discussion on NC meeting places. London should be used 1/year as so many NC live there; although Birmingham is the cheapest venue overall bearing in mind travel costs; and need to encourage more regional reps to attend.</p>	
14	<p>Next NC Meeting 11am Saturday 22nd November 2014 . Quaker Meeting House, 16 Queens Road, Leicester. LE2 1WP All regional reps invited as usual (and possible 'social' lunch to which all local ie Leicester members would be invited)</p>	
15	<p>March 2015 NC Meeting Feb/March 2015 London</p>	

