

**Red Rope:  
Minutes of NC Meeting held in Leicester on 14 November 2009**

Present: Sherry McIver (Admin Treasurer), Dave Doody (IT Officer), John Dickie (Trip Treasurer), Adrian Jones (Secretary), Pat Durrant (Membership secretary), Dermot McKibbin (London), Dave Jeffries (Sheffield), Gill Platt (Manchester), Colin Knowles (Hut Officer), Becky Bates (Trip Organiser), Barbara Segal (Bristol/SW)

Item No	Minutes	Action
1	<b>Welcome, Introductions and appoint minutes taker</b> Dave Jeffries and Colin were appointed to chair the meeting and Barbara and Pat agreed to take minutes.	
2	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Steve Wright, David Barnes, Janet Saunders, David Symonds	
3	<b>Minutes of NC meeting Nant Peris July 4th 2009</b> The minutes of the last NC meeting July 4th 2009 were adopted.	
4	<b>Matters Arising from previous minutes (unless on this Agenda)</b> There were no matters arising from the July 2009 meeting, other than those covered elsewhere in this meeting	
5	<b>Reports from officers:</b>	
	<b>National Secretary</b> Adrian raised some questions about the incorporation of new policy into the constitution. It was decided that pre-2009 changes, currently shown in coloured text, should be incorporated, with changes arising from the 2009 AGM being included in colour, so as to make them clear to members. The constitution would also be reformatted as single column text, which would be easier to follow, and the distinction between principles and policies/procedures would be clarified. Following these changes the constitution would be reviewed to see whether further work was needed to make its content clearer to members. Barbara repeated her offer from the AGM to help Adrian by taking on discrete tasks if needed, thanks to Barbara were expressed for that offer.	Adrian J
	<b>National Treasurer (admin)</b> Sherry reported that the handover was still in progress. The July NC meeting had made a loss, but the AGM had unexpectedly made a small surplus. In view of the latter it was agreed that we should return to Lockerbrook in 2010.  Discussion Gill Platt volunteered to organise the 2010 AGM and would approach Lockerbrook to check on availability for the last weekend in September. It was felt that the charges for members attending just for the Saturday had been a bit low and agreed that these would be reviewed for next year.	Sherry Mc  Gill
	<b>National Trips treasurer</b> John reported that the timings for the introduction of revised trip	

<p>charges and booking arrangements had been causing confusion, as some members had signed up for trips on the assumption that the former rates and procedures would apply. It was agreed that in the case of national trips the new charges and the requirement for up-front payments <b>(the latter effective for trips starting on or after 1 March 2010)</b> would only apply to trips first advertised after the AGM. Regions would be told to use their discretion in respect of trips which had been advertised before the AGM, but were taking place after the new rates and procedures had been introduced.</p> <p>John's motion on offering reduced charges to members who brought a person on their first trip was defeated, and the meeting was reminded that we already had a policy (adopted at the 2008 AGM) whereby people attending their first trip would be charged E band as a maximum.</p> <p>John will write an article for the forthcoming bulletin clarifying all the issues above and will also prepare a clear statement for the website. In the meantime, trip organisers of the trips affected should be informed. It was agreed that we should aim to minimise confusion in future by avoiding the introduction of further complexity into trip charging mechanisms and ensuring that adequate notice is given to members before any changes are implemented. Web-site and Bulletin information should include a reminder about charging of people on their first weekend trip.</p> <p>It was pointed out that the online trip treasurer's spreadsheet could no longer deal with the complexity of the overnight and transport charges, and that it had therefore been removed from the web-site. Barbara agreed to liaise with Humphrey over the possibility of incorporating the changes.</p> <p>The treasurer had still not received the accounts or payments from the February 2009 trip to Scotland Elphin/Dundonnell. He was given two weeks to try and get these from the trip treasurer, after which the trip treasurer would receive a formal letter (from the secretary) requesting that these were handed over forthwith.</p>	<p>John Dickie</p> <p>Barbara/Humphrey</p> <p>John D(Adrian )</p>
<p><b>National trips secretary</b></p> <p>Three trips for 2010 had been advertised. In addition arrangements were underway for a navigation training trip in the Lakes in April, with training to be undertaken free of charge by Andy from Lupine Adventure Coop, who is now a member of Red Rope. Jeremy and Mike Hargaden had also offered to organise a navigation training weekend. It was agreed that there was probably room for two of these, at different locations/levels. – Becky to take forward with Steve W. and the members who had offered to run it. Malcolm was organising a family trip for June 2010.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>In view of an issue that had arisen in connection with the proposed February 2010 trip to Scotland there was some discussion as to the powers of the trip organiser in ensuring that trip activities were safe for the particular members participating, and also the circumstances in</p>	<p>Becky Bates/Steve W</p>

<p>which a trip organiser could be asked to stand down (by the Nat Trip Secretary) due to the way in which the trip was being organised.</p> <p>It was agreed that Chris should be asked to approach the BMC to find out about the club's liability in the event of accidents arising as a result of trip participants engaging in inappropriate or unsafe activities against the advice of the trip organiser or safety officer.</p>	Chris
<p><b>Membership secretary</b></p> <p>Pat reported that the membership form still contained a box that people could tick in order to receive the MIS by email, but that as the two databases did not interact, and there was no mechanism for someone to subscribe another member to receive an eMIS, it was not possible for her to act on the opt-ins. It was agreed that this option should therefore be removed from the form – Dave D and Pat to ensure that this was done.</p>	Pat /Dave D
<p><b>Bulletin editor</b></p> <p>Dave had submitted an email report. He had some material outstanding from the pre-AGM Bulletin but would welcome more, in particular a summary of the motions passed at the AGM, a brief report from this NC meeting, and a clarification of trip charges and procedures (already being done by John D). His request for the print-run to include 30 copies for distribution to new members etc. was agreed.</p>	John D
<p><b>MIS editor</b></p> <p>No report. The meeting noted that the number of members receiving the MiS by email was still relatively small and that the mechanism for opting in to this was not necessarily obvious. Dave J agreed to email all members not currently receiving the MIS by email, and for whom we had email addresses, urging them to opt in and providing instructions for doing so. As a last resort, members who had not responded, and those for whom we have no email addresses, would be telephoned by members of the NC . Dave will compile a list, which would be divided amongst NC members at the February meeting (Also see report from membership secretary)</p> <p>Discussion Box requesting members to sign up for MIS by email to be removed from membership form.</p>	Dave J  Pat & Dave D.
<p><b>IT Officer.</b></p> <p>Dave reported that the subgroup set up to review the web-site had met and that a report on the meeting had been compiled by Mike Hargaden and circulated to the NC. The group was meeting again in December in Liverpool. Colin reported that the recent Bristol AGM had expressed strong support for the introduction of a web-based means of joining the club and renewing membership. The sub-committee was asked to consider this. Dave J. also reminded them that they would need to investigate the charges related to hosting any new site.</p>	

<p>It was noted that the new Yahoo default for dealing with email attachments by including only links to a web-site repository was causing some problems. It was agreed that we would change the national and NC lists to the former method of including attachments in the emails. Dave to action.</p>	<p>David D, David S.</p>
<p><b>Training officer.</b>  Steve had circulated a report by email. The First Aid course was attended by 7 Red Rope members and had collected £524 in trip charge out of a course fee of £800. Barbara reported that the course had been a great success. The trainers were excellent and all participants had learnt a lot and had a great time. The navigation trip referred to in Becky's report was currently being organised.</p> <p>Discussion  Arrangements for training trips on navigation to be taken forward by Becky &amp; Steve.</p>	<p>Steve Wright</p> <p>Becky &amp; Steve.</p>
<p><b>BMC Contact</b>  (Chris Drinkwater). No report received but the Committee expressed thanks for the proactive way in which Chris had taken on his role.</p> <p>Discussion  Information needed from BMC on club's liability in the event of accidents arising as a result of trip participants engaging in inappropriate or unsafe activities. Chris to contact</p>	<p>Chris D</p>
<p><b>Publicity</b>  (Janet Saunders). Janet had circulated a written report. She was still planning to put together a leaflet about the club for new members. Dave J suggested that it would be useful for the club to produce some 'business cards' to hand out to potential members or leave in appropriate venues. He passed round an example from his local Humanist group. It was agreed that this was a good idea and that Janet would be asked to look into it.</p> <p>Discussion  The production of business cards as a way of contacting new members should be explored. Adrian to contact Janet.</p>	<p>Janet S</p> <p>Adrian</p>
<p><b>Ramblers Campaigns officer</b>  Dave was not at the AGM but had subsequently confirmed that he was willing to continue in the role. He had experienced some ill health but had been working on defining his role. It was agreed that Dave should be asked to write a Bulletin article on the new proposals for a continuous UK coastal and marine path.  Geoff Birch from Bristol had also expressed an interest in taking on this role, and it was agreed that there could be enough work for two people. Adrian would contact both Dave and Geoff to suggest this.</p>	<p>David B</p> <p>Adrian</p>
<p><b>Hut Officer</b>  (See item 7)</p>	

	<p><b>Gear Coordinator</b> Verbal report that Adrian O'Connor was compiling an inventory, ongoing.</p>	Adrian O'C
	<p><b>Archivist</b> Verbal report that the archive was growing in size. Adrian Jones had received a lot of material from Jan, some of which would go into the archive.</p>	
	<p><b>Others who may attend/Regional Reps</b> No specific reports other than those raised elsewhere. Barbara suggested that the NC might do more to encourage local reps to attend the meetings, and that perhaps one meeting a year could focus on regional attendance and input. Cost was an issue though.</p>	
6	<p><b>Motions not discussed at AGM Sept 2009</b> The committee expressed its regret that not all motions had been discussed and agreed that this was unsatisfactory. Although not supporting proposals for a specific time slot, eg 15 minutes, for each motion, it was agreed that procedures were needed to ensure that – as far as possible – all motions could be adequately discussed. This would be an item on the agenda for the February meeting. In respect of the specific motions:</p> <p>a) <b>a) AGM Item J – Free 3 month Membership deal from the likes of trade Unions and Woodcraft Folk</b> It was agreed that 15 months membership for the price of 12 months would be offered to all new members joining in 2010, our 30th anniversary year. Adrian would email local reps to inform them of this and John would incorporate it into his articles for the Bulletin and the web-site. Dave J will modify the membership database so as to implement this policy. Regions could approach appropriate organisations in their areas with this offer, as appropriate. Adrian to inform Geoff Birch (proposer of the motion);</p> <p>b) <b>b) AGM Item D – Club Development (Development and Recruitment sub-committee)</b> It was agreed that a sub-committee would be set up to make proposals for development and recruitment. Barbara and Dermot agreed to draw up a framework for the sub-group and report to the February meeting.</p> <p>c) <b>AGM Item H – Recruitment</b> The specific proposal in this motion was dealt with under the Trip Treasurer's report.</p> <p>Procedures for improving the organisation and coverage of AGM motions were needed and would be discussed at the February meeting. Adrian to include in agenda for next NC meeting.</p>	<p>Adrian, Dave J</p> <p>Adrian</p> <p>Barbara and Dermot</p> <p>Adrian</p>

7	<p><b>Hut update</b></p> <p>Two reports were presented by Colin, as discussed and agreed with Sherry Macliver and Adrian Jones.</p> <p>Report one was initial guidelines for negotiations with LMC (Lancashire Mountaineering Club). It was agreed that weekend trips to the hut would be organised by Regional Trip Organisers but the individual bed-nights would be organised by the Hut Officer. The report was then unanimously accepted.</p> <p>Report two on 'regulating the LMC Time Share' was felt to be premature and was postponed for future discussion.</p> <p>Hut Finance - It was agreed that the Hut Fund (and the Action Fund) should be put into separate accounts.</p> <p>It was agreed that fund-raising for the Hut Fund could be one of the foci of activities to mark Red Rope's 30<sup>th</sup> year (2010).</p>	Colin K       Sherry
8	<p><b>Guaranteed time and time slots for AGM Motions</b></p> <p>This followed the failure to discuss 3 motions at the AGM in September. John Dickie proposed that there be time limits decided for items in the future but agreed to leave this issue until the February or July NC meetings, Adrian to put on agenda.</p>	Adrian
9	<p><b>Constitution amendments</b></p> <p>The constitution would be modified to incorporate changes from recent AGMs. It would be reformatted as a single column document and the distinction between principles and policies/procedures would be clarified. Following these changes the constitution would be reviewed for clarity.</p>	Adrian
10	<p><b>Website - Old /new trip booking form and new charges/deposits start up</b></p> <p>Dave Doody reported that there had been one meeting and another organised for December and progress was ongoing. There were requests for more on-line facilities including membership renewal/joining payments.</p>	
11	<p><b>Relationship between Regions and the NC and West of Scotland Group</b></p> <p>Communication with the Regions is poor. The West of Scotland Group may not even be members and could risk giving the club a bad name. To remedy this, Dave Jefferies proposed sending each region an annual feedback form every May. This will remind them to have a local AGM and then return the feedback form with details of new officers and accounts within 10 days following the AGM. This was agreed.</p>	Dave Jefferies
12	<p><b>Cotswold Discount</b></p> <p>The National IT officer will find out more accurately the organisations which offer discounts to RR members by asking local secretaries. This information could be made more available in a folder on the RR</p>	David S.

	website. The National Treasure will negotiate with the Cotswold group. BMC discounts to be investigated and publicised on RR website.	Sherry
13	<p><b>Any other business.</b></p> <p><b>a) The MIS by e-mail:</b> In order to increase the numbers of members taking the e-mail MIS, Dave Jefferies will send the NC the phone numbers of those members still not currently getting it and the NC will divide them up and so personally contact those members to encourage them.</p> <p><b>b)30<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of RR:</b> Colin suggested we should emphasise our anti-fascist image during the next year and various other ideas were put forward. This will be on the February NC agenda.</p> <p><b>c)The July NC meeting:</b> This will now be in June in the Peak District and will be organised by Dermot McKibbin. There will be a focus on Regional issues and interests and special efforts will be made to encourage all regions to attend this meeting.</p> <p><b>d) 2010 AGM</b> 2010 AGM will be held at Lockerbrook, subject to availability. Gill to check. Day charges for AGM to be reviewed</p>	<p>Dave Jefferies</p> <p>Dermot McKibbin</p> <p>Gill</p>
	<p><b>Next Meeting:</b> Type: National Committee <b>Date: 27<sup>th</sup> February 2010</b> Organiser: Manchester Group/Gill Platt Location : Manchester TBA</p>	Gill Platt