

Red Rope:

Minutes of NC Meeting held in Sheffield 25 th June 2011

Present: Adrian Jones (Secretary), Dave Jeffries (Sheffield), Colin Knowles (Hut Officer), Don Kinnibrugh (Ramblers), Barbara Segal, Sherry Mc (National Treasurer), Rebecca Bates (National Trips), Dave Symonds, (Bulletin), Dave Doody(IT)

Item No	Minutes	Action
1	Welcome, Introductions and appoint minutes taker Chair – Dave Jeffries(am) Colin Knowles (Pm), Minutes Adrian	
2	Apologies for Absence Janet Saunders,(Publicity), Steve Wright (Membership Secretary) John Dickie (Trip Treasurer), Chris Drinkwater(BMC Rep), Mike Hargaden (Training).	
3	Minutes of NC meeting Leicester 26th February 2011 The minutes of the last NC meeting were accepted, subject too: Pam Case is a signatory to the National current account	
4	Matters Arising from previous minutes (unless on this Agenda) Equipment list – Adrian made contact with Adrian O'Connor to request equipment list for the website. Nothing has arrived so far, Rebecca/John Dickie to chase.	Rebecca/John Dickie
5	Reports from officers: National Secretary Adrian J See below AGM National Treasurer (admin) Sherry Mc Accounts year to June 2011 Current Accounts – Income to date £7094, Total expenditure to date £7466 – membership income up 27% on this time last year – affiliation fees up 12% – NC costs and subcommittees costs reduced to less than half of last years Cost of paper MIS still a concern AGM Accounts – Income £977, Expenditure £1197, loss of £220 Hut Funds – Currently £10,240.82; £10,000 pending transfer to the LMC – Action Fund currently £2076, £410 paid out to Ramblers AGM attendance Bank Account – transfer finally completed – to make transfer quicker, cancelled standing order to ANL, after this years payment had been made – initiated enquiry into use of PayPal Affiliations – updating membership more regularly – in discussion with BMC re payment Defunct regions	

<p>– no progress</p> <p>Job description of Trip Treasurer</p> <p>– draft tabled, see attached and discussion below.</p> <p>Trip Treasurers form in progress, outline trialed on Torridon trip, seems ok</p> <p>Affiliations Contact with BMC; confirms that it is the individual RR member that is affiliated, not RR as such. BMC need a quarterly update in order to revise their affiliation list.</p> <p>Trips Treasurer Job Description Sherry drafted Trip treasurer’s job specification (attached).</p> <p>Item 6 discussed. NC agreed revise to ‘transfer funds to main bank account when National trips bank a/c exceeds £2000.’</p> <p>Subject to item 6 amendment, NC agreed the job specification. To be incorporated into the Constitution Appendix. (AGM vote not required, but it will be announced.)</p>	
<p>National Trips Treasurer John Dickie written report</p> <p>Most trips making a surplus on travel. New deposit system working well, cancellations much reduced particularly those cancelling one month before the trip, (who loose payment in full).</p> <p>Fort William February 2011. £150 surplus on travel, £169 surplus on overnight stays.</p> <p>Easter 2011. Trip to Glen Afric made a £113 surplus on travel, £104 loss on overnight stays.</p> <p>Torridon made a £460 surplus on travel (suggests travel is being overcharged) and £120 on overnight stays.</p> <p>Current balance in National Trip accounts £2600</p>	John D
<p>National Trips Secretary, Becky Bates</p> <p>2011 - ok so far, all 4 Scottish trips full and less cancellations. Finances ok - just breaking even at E band but huts need to be priced below £8. it was agreed at the meeting that multipliers would be used in the future for cottages and youth hostels - but not for huts. Food costs working out at £3.00 to £4.50. No shortage of offers to organise, drive, shop, cook but safety officer role less popular, feel that this role may be better shared by all on trip.</p> <p><u>trips coming up:</u> A family trip A navigation weekend A lakes trip - exclusive use of the hostel</p> <p><u>2012:</u> Feb: Feshiebridge and CIC - the same week Easter: Crianlarich - car free? May - Skye</p> <p>Training on national trips could be an area for development otherwise happy with how things are going</p>	Rebecca B

	<p>Safety Officer on trips Some discussion on broadening the Safety Officers role to include general hut related safety, not just route cards; no time to discuss in detail, moved to next NC.</p>	
	<p>Membership Secretary Steve Wright, written report Presented a membership report, with banding, region by region. Continuing to send out monthly membership list to each region, and list of recently expired members.</p> <p>Current total membership – 316, compared to 285 this time last year.</p> <p><u>Views on Lapsed and Non Members</u> We want to encourage people to join walks, climbs and trips, but would like them to join RR after a reasonable number of times trying us out. Non- and ex- members shouldn't be able to get the same benefits as full members. So proposes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) National trips and training sessions only open to members; non members not allowed or need to join before trip. <u>NC agreed this</u> 2) Regional trips currently charge non members E + 20% Suggested revisions:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) E band + 50% b) H band + 20% <u>NC agreed on 1st trip to be charged to non members as E band, second and subsequent E band + 50%. Effective from 1st January 2012.</u> <p>[Note to minutes – agreement to item 1 (non members are excluded from national trips) implies item 2 can only now apply to <u>regional trips</u>]</p> 3) All activity and event leaders (regional and national) to be members – being a non member has insurance implications; <u>NC agreed to this</u> 4) Activity day event non-member participants get the first 2 or 3 free to find out what our events are like. After that they should pay (say) £5 for each subsequent event. <u>NC agreed</u>, but details to be a local decision. 5) Encourage equipment shops to check membership cards are current for members claiming a discount. <u>Not agreed by NC</u>, it is up to the retailers to action this <p>Item (1, 2,3) above to be revised on the website and booking forms</p> <p>Items 1 – 4 to be reported in Bulletin.</p> <p>NC expressed thanks to Steve for his efforts in updating generally the membership database and presentation of statistical information.</p>	
	<p>Bulletin editor Dave S written report Nothing major to report. The next Bulletin issue will be August, and will have inserted the Motions for this year's AGM. Plenty of material</p>	

<p>for the next bulletin is available.</p>	
<p>MIS Editor Mark Wallis No written report, MIS seems to be running soundly.</p> <p>MIS on the web-site: Mark Wallis has produced a prototype of the MIS with all contact details in a third column. Most NC members who viewed the prototype at our last NC meeting found it satisfactory.</p> <p>After discussion the NC authorised</p> <p>(1) the conversion of the MIS to a three-column structure, where the names, and personal contact details (except “@redrope” email addresses) are in the 3rd column.</p> <p>(2) MIS to be put onto the Website, minus the 3rd column.</p> <p>Dave Doody has confirmed willingness to delete the last column on each website MIS.</p>	<p>Mark Wallis</p> <p>Dave Doody</p>
<p>IT Officer. David Doody. Nothing specific to report. Will put MIS on the web.</p>	<p>Dave Doody</p>
<p>Training officer. Mike Hargaden – written report</p> <p>1. Introduction to Navigation Skills about to hold the second of two training sessions in July covering basic navigation skills - Mandale House in the Peak District has proved a suitable venue and continued use of it will reduce the work for trainers and the need to produce new materials. The feedback to the first weekend was very positive.</p> <p>2. Taster Sessions Has delivered a short (1 1/2 hour) taster session on navigation skills here on Merseyside and one planned for Sheffield in July. It uses the new route card.. the aim is to clarify what is meant by 'using a map and a compass' and how can people can develop/improve their skills. Mike happy to attend the NC meeting after this one and deliver a taster session (1 1/2 hours) to the NC.</p> <p>3. Local Training Sessions The session held on Merseyside has led to 7 people requesting a version of the introductory skills course be delivered over several evenings with the Merseyside September weekend trip to Little Langdale being used by participants as the practical. This is perhaps a model other regions may be interested in using.</p> <p>4. Information to Yahoo Groups has circulated emails to the RR Yahoo discussion groups to promote the stance adopted by the BMC that '<i>Being able to read a map and find your way around the hills is an essential skill for all mountain users.</i>'</p> <p>5. Existing Members with Skills Mike needs to be advised of RR members skilled in navigation (ML or thereabouts), or if you know someone who does, trying to get some idea of the level of skills in the club.</p>	

	<p>6. Route Card Has made some minor changes to the route card. Is using this new version in the taster sessions.</p>	
	<p>BMC Contact Chris D Nothing specific to report.</p> <p>The latest BMC news letter mentioned that all their affiliated clubs are concerned about recruitment and retention of their members. So this is not A particular problem to RR.</p>	
	<p>Publicity Janet S written report <u>Good ideas that have happened this year</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaflet for Ramblers Conference April 2011 • The Bristol Group have produced a business card, and a poster <p>Woodcraft Folk and Lockerbrook. We still have an open invitation to put up a display about RR at Lockerbrook, this is still to be actioned. We should also try to link with them in otherways eg Facebook.</p> <p>Facebook - it would be useful to set up a RR Facebook page for all members to use. It was agreed this would be useful and at no cost. Colin agreed.</p> <p>Web Development. No further work recently. The Web team need to reconvene to take this forward. The hosting issue is particularly important now.</p>	<p>Janet</p> <p>Website Development team</p>
	<p><u>Ramblers / Campaigns Report Don K</u></p> <p>1. Ramblers General Council (AGM) – Oxford April 16th This was attended by Don Kinnibrugh (both days), Steve Wright (Saturday) and Barbara Segal (Sunday). See report under item 9 below.</p> <p>2. Encouraging Red Rope participation in the Ramblers’ and other access campaigns Here little has been achieved so far. Unlike in the years of campaigning for a right to roam, culminating in the CROW Act, (not to mention the England and Wales coastal footpath created by the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009), today there are few Ramblers’ national or regional demos or campaigning events for Red Ropers to participate in. (One exception has been the series of well-publicised events in Sussex over access in the new South Downs National Park. These have been well-supported by London Red Rope members. This, however, is not a Ramblers’ campaign!)</p> <p>The most urgent Ramblers campaign at the moment is that against local authority cuts to rights of way budgets. Some local actions – demos outside town halls, publicity walks etc – have taken place up and down the country, some with a degree of success. But these have been grass roots actions, the details of which have not appeared on the Ramblers national website till after the event, so Red Rope members could have only have found out about them locally.</p> <p>Don to write an ‘Countryside Access’ paper for insertion into the Bulletin</p> <p>Another area of Ramblers’ work at local level in which interested Red Rope members might want to become involved, are practical work</p>	<p>Don</p>

	days – ie stile and bridge-building, footpath clearance etc.	
	Hut Officer Colin K Report under ‘hut update below.’	
	Gear Coordinator Adrian O’C No report. It was discussed last NC that a gear list be prepared and put on the web site; not yet received. John Dickie will send him an email to request this, Nat Sec to back this up also.	Adrian Oconnor, John D
	Development and Recruitment sub-group - Barbara Segal No action since previous NC	
	Others who may attend/Regional Reps None	
6	<p>Hut update (Colin K) Red Rope, LMC and BMC have signed the Hut Sharing Agreement The three-way agreement between Red Rope, the Lancashire Mountaineering Club and the BMC has been signed by all three organisations. This clears the way for Red Rope to start using LMC’s Blea Tarm Hut and their static caravan at Tyndrum as if we were honorary members of the LMC.</p> <p>Hut Sub-Committee lay down rules and publish FAQs The National Committee, meeting in Sheffield on June 25th, have accepted a set of rules drawn up by the Hut Sub-Committee, for the booking and use of the LMC huts. The way is now clear for members to book the LMC huts either via normal weekend hut bookings or as individuals. To help with bookings some FAQs have been produced. Both are attached to these minutes and will also be on the club’s web site. Members are advised to read these with great care.</p> <p>Regional hut bookers should take no action currently until notified by the National Secretary of the year which their region gets a priority booking.</p> <p>Please note that only members of Red Rope can use the LMC huts under this scheme.</p> <p>The new Welsh hut hits a planning glitch As previously announced LMC had made great progress with laying the foundations of the new Beddgelert hut – Cae Ysgubor. Work has been stopped by the senior Planning Officer from the Snowdonia National Park, due to an objection on their part over the laying of their foundations. At a meeting on June 17th LMC put forward well-researched objections to the National Park’s action. The National Park will announce its decision towards the end of July. Red Rope has pledged full practical support to the LMC, and should the objection be upheld, will work with the LMC to determine what practical support we can provide to help them with an official appeal. It was agreed by the NC that the Hut sub committee will write to the LMC pledging encouragement. LMC have advised RR that no payment of the £10 k is required yet due to this delay but that RR can nevertheless proceed to use their existing huts on the basis and at the rates as agreed.</p> <p>Gill Platt has agreed to undertake the bookings. Gill will need an assistant eg for when she is away. The booking team will require a 4 week notice period, to organise keys, paperwork etc</p>	Gill Platt

	In support of the LMC, all rules especially use of cars etc to be adhered too. Gill to attach Blea Tarn rules when she sends out keys to parties booking in.	
7	<p>Motions for AGM, Organisation of Business, Agenda Committee Adrian J</p> <p>Regional Groups have all been emailed reminding them to call a regional AGM, and to forward any Motions for the national AGM they may decide upon to the National Secretary. Deadline end of July.</p> <p>Agenda Committee – Adrian, John Dickie, Steve Wright – will review any Motions received, and format if needed. To be copied to Dave Symonds for insertion into the summer edition of the bulletin. They will also be copied to the website.</p> <p>Running time – AGM discussion time for each Motion to be allocated in advance and strictly adhered to in order to ensure every motion is discussed and voted on.</p>	<p>Adrian, John, Steve</p> <p>Dave Symonds</p> <p>Adrian,</p>
8	<p>AGM Logistics <u>Dates, Accommodation.</u> Nights of Friday 30th September and Saturday 1st October. Sole use of the ‘Old Shippon’ and ‘The Byre’ Thorpe Farm, Hathersage, Hope Valley, Derbyshire. S32 1BQ (SK223824). http://www.thorpe-bunk.co.uk/shippon.html. Total sleeping accommodation 46 Owner Mrs Jane Marsden Tel : 01433 650659. It has been booked, and the deposit paid.</p> <p>There are camping sites in or near Hathersage for those preferring camping. Campers to make their own camping arrangements.</p> <p><u>Notification</u></p> <p>Dates/accommodation to be inserted into MIS [Mark Wallis]</p> <p>AGM invitation to be publicised in The ‘Bulletin’ [Dave Symonds] with a short paragraph giving dates, times, activities etc as described below.</p> <p><u>Booking</u> Barbara has offered to take bookings and release her home phone number for those needing to discuss etc. Booking form will be put on the website [Dave Doody]. Use last years form suitably modified?</p> <p><u>Programme Friday</u> Evening arrivals at the bunkhouse. No specific activities</p> <p><u>Programme Saturday</u> 10am - one or more than one of the following outdoor activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Walk somewhere local (outdoor) leader to be decided • Navigation Training [Mike Hargarden] • Introduction to Climbing Safety [Colin Knowles] <p>2 pm Tea</p>	

	<p>AGM 2.30pm – 6.30 pm with tea break approx 4.30 pm - 4.50 pm</p> <p>Any Motions for the AGM have now been requested from the regions (ex their local AGM's) and the NC - to be received by end of July latest. Motions subcommittee Adrian/John Dickie/Steve Wright (Dave, Steve is this ok, as per last year?)</p> <p>Dinner 7pm – 8.30 pm</p> <p>Quiz [Dave Symonds]</p> <p>Sock Exchange</p> <p><u>Programme Sunday</u> Day walks, commencing 10 am [Dave Doody plus other leader(s) depending on how many walks are required, probably sort out on the morning, usually plenty of ideas]</p> <p><u>Catering</u> Gill Cox has offered to organise this. It is a large task and clearly will need help from others – anyone interested let Gill know. (It was felt unreasonable to ask Sheffield Group yet again this year having worked so hard in previous years). Barbara to liaise with her to take this forward.</p>	
9	<p>Ramblers AGM, Oxford, 16th-17th April Don K.</p> <p>Don reported on the RR attendance at the Ramblers AGM. Three members attended this years AGM at Keble College Oxford – Don Kinnibrugh (both days), Steve Wright (Saturday) and Barbara Segal (Sunday). The main aim of our involvement, 'to maintain Red Rope's profile within the Ramblers' was certainly achieved: the Red Rope stall was well stocked and received plenty of interest. (The only regret was that none of us took a photo of it for the Bulletin!) Barbara and Don both spoke in the Sunday morning debate on policy motions.</p> <p>A main theme of the conference was the familiar one of how to reverse the Ramblers' decline in membership. This, which had stood at 140,000 in 2003, had fallen to around 122,000 at the end of the last membership year and the latest figure was 116,000.</p> <p>Last year the Ramblers' leadership were heavily criticised for a shift in their traditional emphasis on campaigning for access to less radical, non-traditional activities (e.g. accepting government funding for promoting 'walking for health'). This year nine out of sixteen motions submitted were on access issues, and the chair reaffirmed in his closing remarks that 'footpath and access work are in the Ramblers' DNA'. A £250K legal fund had been set aside for access work.</p> <p>However in the debate on the Government's abandoned proposal to sell off Forestry Commission land, a call for 'a strong policy of opposition to any future proposals for the sale or lease of Forestry land' was deleted in an amendment from the Ramblers' Trustees.</p>	

	<p>Instead, a complicated list of five ‘politically neutral’ tests of the effect on access is to be applied to future proposals for forest land-sales. It is proposed the event will be attended again next year.</p>	
10	<p>Public Transport for National Trips</p> <p>NC are not in favour of removing trip transport calculations from the banded system and seek to maintain a fair means of calculating charges to members.</p> <p>NC support the principle of developing the use of public transport for trips. Recent National trips have used a mix of cars and trains successfully. Taking bikes has proved popular and has reduced reliance on cars for days out. Huts at Crianlarich, Onich, Feshiebridge could be accessed by train and bike offering plenty to do within easy cycling range.</p> <p>Some trips will continue to need cars and the trip organiser will decide on the minimum number needed for 'on-trip' transport. A trip for 12 people could manage with two cars if bikes were taken. With 3 or 4 in cars for main journeys this would allow up to 6 members to get the train.</p> <p>Members could be given the opportunity to express a preference for the train on booking forms.</p> <p>Arrangements for main journeys by public transport :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trip organiser approves use of public transport 2. Members book tickets at own risk - no refund from club on cancellation 3. Members are reimbursed fare up to E band for miles travelled 4. Members are charged for miles travelled at banded rate <p>Arrangements for other journeys by public transport (to pick up points, on-trip), 'the ferry rule'</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trip organiser approves use of public transport 2. Members book tickets and pay fares at own risk 3. Fare is reimbursed and mileage is calculated by dividing fare by E band mileage rate to give 'notional' miles travelled. <p>Examples using E band rate of 7p:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) ferry at £7 paid for at banded rate for a 'notional' 100 miles b) bus to pick up point at £5 paid for at banded rate for 71 miles c) train to Bridge of Orchy from Crianlarich for day out at £8 paid for at banded rate for 114 miles <p>The 'ferry rule' system will also be used experimentally for main journeys on the Easter 2012 Crianlarich trip.</p> <p>Current reimbursable mileage rates for drivers are considered too high and NC agreed to reduce them by 20% with immediate effect, Sherry to action. To be published in the bulletin and Website.</p> <p>Meanwhile a new mileage rate spreadsheet will be prepared by Barbara , for the next (November) NC.</p>	<p>Sherry</p> <p>Barbara</p>
11	<p>National Trips Treasurer Job Specification</p> <p>See Specification attached; item discussed under National Treasurer’s report.</p>	
12	<p>Charging - Housing Element With Respect To Housing Benefit.</p>	

	<p>No further action on this since last NC. Dave Jefferies to stand down from this sub committee due to commitments elsewhere.</p> <p>London have a proposal to be considered, possibly as a Motion to the AGM.</p> <p>Sherry has been drafting a proforma to help RR members calculate their disposal income; still in preparation</p>	London Group
13	<p>information required for claiming the Regional Subsidy</p> <p>No time to discuss this, will be moved to next NC meeting</p>	Nat Secretary
14	<p>Any other business.</p> <p>Colin proposed all NC Minutes in future be sent by email to every registered RR member. Steve W holds the email addresses so best to action.</p>	Adrian Steve W
	<p>Next Meeting:</p> <p>Type: AGM Weekend</p> <p>Date: Sept 30th/October 1st 2011</p> <p>Venue: Thorp Bunkhouses Hathersage</p> <p>Next NC Meeting</p> <p>Type: National Committee</p> <p>Date: Saturday 26th November 2011</p> <p>Venue: Friends of the Earth, Alison Street, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 5TH</p>	

Trip Treasurer Job Description
Proposed by National Treasurer

It is proposed that the Job Description of the Trips Treasurer should mirror that of the National Treasurer and cover the following:

- 1) Administer the National Trips bank account and appoint co-signatories who are required to countersign cheques. The National Trips banks account is for banking members' trip charges and making payments for hut charges and other trip charges as necessary.
- 2) Liaise with trip secretary, trip organisers and trip treasurers for smooth running of national trips
- 3) Produce regular analyses of trip treasurers accounts to provide data for annual review of trip rates and transport charges
- 4) Produce financial reports for the NC and for each AGM, to be certified annually by the National Treasurer
- 5) Propose to each AGM the trip rates for the forthcoming year
- 6) Transfer funds to the main bank account when the National Trips bank account exceeds £2000.

Red Rope Framework and Rules for the operation of the Hut Sharing agreement with the Lancashire Mountaineering Club

Essential background information

In March 2011 Red Rope (RR) entered into a Hut Sharing agreement with the Lancashire Mountaineering Club (LMC), whereby in exchange for a donation of £10,000 towards the building of a new hut, Cae Ysgubor, near Beddgelert, Snowdonia, RR members would be able to use the LMC hut at Blea Tarn, Cumbria, the static caravan¹ at Tyndrum, West of Scotland and Cae Ysgubor (when completed) as if they were members of the LMC subject to a maximum usage i.e.

- 3 weekend bookings per calendar year, of which one would be a Bank Holiday
- 200 individual bed nights

and also subject to:

- RR pays LMC for each used bed night (weekend and individual) at the rate that LMC members pay at.
- **Only RR members** may use the LMC Huts under this agreement. No guests/non-members are allowed under this agreement.

The full text of the agreement is available from the National Secretary or the Hut Officer.

For further current information about LMC huts see lancsmc.org/Huts/index.php.

The text below describes the operation of the scheme within Red Rope up until August 31st 2012, when these rules and procedures will be reviewed by the Hut Sub Committee.

1. Payment:

- Members attending a national or regional weekend booking will pay a nightly trip charge of 0.8 times the current RR nightly trip charge i.e. if the current charge is £13 for a Band E member that member would instead pay £10.40.
- Members using individual bed nights will pay as follows²:
 - membership band A-C £2.50/night
 - membership band D-F £4.00/night
 - membership band G-H £5.50/night
- At the end of a period agreed between the RR National Treasurer and the LMC Treasurer, funds will be transferred to the LMC equalling the number of (weekend + individual) bed-nights used times the current LMC bed-night rate.³

2. Weekend bookings:

- The Bank Holiday weekend booking will be made by the National Trips Secretary on a rolling basis several years in advance by arrangement with the LMC Hut Booking Secretary.
- Regions will be allocated the year in which they can next make a weekend booking by a process⁴ determined by the Hut Sub-Committee (HSC) and then must make that booking with the LMC Hut Wardens.

¹ Henceforth referred to as a Hut (as that is its purpose and usage).

² These are the rates for 2011. Naturally the rates will vary over time, with the principle that the D-F Bands will pay the same rate as LMC members, whilst the A-C bands and G-H bands pay proportionately less/more in scale with the Nightly Trip Charge.

³ The balance left in the Hut Fund following the payment of £10,000 to LMC, receipts for bed-night usage and payments to LMC for bed-nights will be accounted for separately in the annual accounts under the heading "Hut Sharing Fund"

⁴ The initial process allocated bookings in order of frequency of weekend trips organised by each region on a two-year basis ending at March 2011. Should a region fail to make a booking then their allocation is passed to the next preferred region that has not yet made a

3. Bed nights:

- The booking of bed nights is undertaken by the Bed-night Booker⁵. The Bed-night Booker (BB) manages a spreadsheet shared with the LMC Hut Wardens. The Hut Wardens will maintain the expected occupancy figures for each hut, and the BB will enter figures for bookings made by RR members and groups.
- RR members or groups wishing to use bed nights must contact the BB by post enclosing full advance payment no less than four weeks in advance of the required usage and not more than 3 months in advance. In addition, a separate payment of £50 deposit is required for the key. A booking cannot be accepted without the deposit.
- Members making bookings must list all the members covered by the booking. The BB may check with the Membership Secretary to ensure that all those booking are members in good standing. Bookings **will be refused** if this is not the case.
- When a booking is confirmed the key will be sent to the booker in advance of the booking. **The key is the property of the LMC.** The booker is responsible for the key. The penalty for the loss of the key is the £50 deposit. The key must be returned to the BB by the first post following the end of the booking; on receipt of the key the £50 deposit will be returned. Late return of the key will lead to the booker losing the right to use bed-nights for two years in the first instance. Further infractions of this simple rule will lead to more draconian penalties.
- If take-up of bed-nights is high, individual members will be limited to 14 bed nights per year. When take-up is low the BB will rule if a member is judged to be using an excessive number of bed-nights.
- Any member attempting to use one of the huts as a temporary residence will have their membership of Red Rope revoked with immediate effect.

booking under the scheme. If they are unable to make that commitment the unused booking is offered to all regions on a first-come, first-served basis.

⁵ The Bed-night Booker is one of the members of the HSC. A proposal will go to the AGM in September 2011 that the HSC will consist of the National Secretary, the National Treasurer, the LMC Liaison Officer and the Bed-night Booker.

The Hut Sharing Agreement with the Lancashire Mountaineering Club

Advice to members on the booking of the Lancashire Mountaineering Club (LMC) Huts

Q. What huts are there?

A. In 2011 the LMC had a hut at Blea Tarn, Langdale in the Lake District and a static caravan at Tyndrum in the West Highlands. These two can be booked currently by Red Rope and Red Rope members. The LMC are building a hut at Beddgelert, Snowdonia which we will also be able to book, but we don't know when it will be completed.

Q. Who can make bookings?

A. The National Trips Secretary, Regional Hut Bookers or individual Red Rope members.

Q. What sort of bookings can we make?

A. Red Rope can book one Bank Holiday weekend a year, which is done by the National Trips Secretary. Each year particular Regions are allocated the right to book two non-Bank Holiday weekends a year from a wide choice of dates. Up to 200 individual bed-night bookings can be made for any time of the year, including weekend nights.

Q. Do we contact the LMC to make Regional or individual bed night bookings?

A. No. You need to contact the Bed-night Booker. <HOW?> She liaises with the LMC over bookings, and can advise when a booking can be made for either the Blea Tarn hut or the Tyndrum caravan.

Q. How do we pay for these bookings?

A. On the Bank Holiday or Regional weekend trips you pay in the usual Red Rope way i.e. in full in advance in accordance with your band. However the booking is cheaper – 80% of your normal rate.

For individual bookings the charges currently are:

- i. membership band A-C £2.50/night
- ii. membership band D-F £4.00/night
- iii. membership band G-H £5.50/night

which is a very nice price! You need to send your booking to the Bed-night Booker (BB) enclosing full payment more than a month in advance. We know that making advance bookings takes a bit of forethought, but once we've been doing this for a while we should be able to streamline the system.

Q. This all sounds straightforward. Are there any restrictions?

A. Certainly. You need to bear in mind that these rules apply to fully paid-up Red Rope members only. **No guests are permitted.** Also, there are only a limited number of keys, and so when a key is sent out it is your responsibility to return it, so the BB will also require a separate deposit in advance of £50 to cover any losses. There are some other rules, but you will be sent them when you make your booking. As you are using the LMC huts as an honorary member of the LMC please behave in a thoughtful and responsible manner whilst you are on your booking.

Q. Who's responsible for running the Hut Sharing scheme?

A. Red Rope has a Hut sub-committee, which will include the BB, the National Secretary and Treasurer and the Liaison Officer. The BB works with here opposite number in the LMC, whilst the Liaison Officer will sort out any issues that arise.

If you have any particular enquiries, please contact hut@redrope.org.uk