

**Red Rope:
Minutes of NC Meeting held in Manchester on 27 February 2010**

Present: Sherry McIver (Admin Treasurer), Dave Doody (IT Officer), John Dickie (Trip Treasurer), Adrian Jones (Secretary), Pat Durrant (Membership secretary), Dave Jeffries (Sheffield), Gill Platt (Manchester), Colin Knowles (Hut Officer), Barbara Segal (Bristol/SW), Dave Symonds (Liverpool), Steve Wright (training), Janet Saunders,

Item No	Minutes	Action
1	Welcome, Introductions and appoint minutes taker John Dickie and Adrian Jones were appointed to chair the meeting and Adrian and Barbara to take minutes.	
2	Apologies for Absence David Barnes, Dermot McKibbin, Rebecca Bates	
3	Minutes of NC meeting Leicester 14 November 2009 The minutes of the last NC meeting November 2009 were adopted.	
4	Matters Arising from previous minutes (unless on this Agenda) Previous minutes Item 11. Dave Jeffries has circulated to the NC a draft 'regional group annual feedback form' which it is proposed be sent to each regional group in say May every year - to remind them to have a local AGM, returning the feedback form with details and contacts of new officers and their annual accounts within 10 days following their local AGM. Suggested the forms be returned to the National Secretary as first point of contact. National Secretary to send out to form.	Adrian J
5	Reports from officers:	
	National Secretary Adrian J Constitution reformatted see discussion under item 18 below.	
	National Treasurer (admin) Sherry Mc Income received £3478; mostly membership fees. Expenditure - £420 National Committee travel, £375 National Committee admin expenses, £375 affiliations, first aid course £150 Funds Current account £9,600, Hut fund £6091, Action fund £2526,	
	National Trips treasurer John Dickie The treasurer has now received the accounts and payments from the June 2009 trip to Scotland Elphin/Dundonnell Currently £2700 in the national trips funds Various minor changes were proposed by the NC to John's 'Transport – Frequently asked questions'. John to revise to suit and forward to Dave D for the website. It was confirmed that the Regional Groups can adopt their own transport pricing structure should they decide to do so, although are encouraged to use national rates.	John Dickie
	National trips secretary Becky Bates 2010 trips (3 to Scotland, navigation training weekend and family weekend) all full or nearly full. 2011 trips include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 10 places for 7 nights at Laggan • Easter 12 places for 5 nights at Strawberry cottage then 3 nights at Ratagan SYHA to be at normal rates due to cheap 	

	<p>hut</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whitsun 12 places for 7 nights at Ling hut <p>Currently booking second Feb trip for date outside of half term holiday to be organised by Malcolm. Demand has been consistent for past 3 years with a Leicester group hiring an overspill bungalow in Onich.</p> <p>Glencoe trip went well. There were organisational difficulties in planning activities with the bungalow group but some activities were shared. We were hoping for more contact as the group included 2 new members in their 20's!</p> <p>The new route card prompted lots of discussion around safety, HS to report on outcome. We hoped all the discussion hadn't put off some newer/younger members and need to ensure policy/planning etc does not dominate conversations on trips.</p> <p>All on the trip were suitably equipped for winter mountaineering but a few had limited experience. There was some skill sharing for use of crampons and ice axe and this should be developed for future trips with skill sharing on the first day of the trip.</p> <p>One climbing group had a long day and although they remained in phone contact there was concern as the group included a novice - an experienced summer climber. He coped well with the conditions (clear, cold and still) and all 3 in the group expressed that they did not feel themselves to be in any danger. One of the group did however comment the next day that the safety officer should be stricter.</p> <p>Points for discussion, possibly at next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should there be a separate safety officer for climbing groups. Current practise can mean that the officer lacks the knowledge and skills to give advice Route cards should be filled in on the previous evening as they indicate the time needed to complete the route in daylight and therefore an appropriate start time. Safety on winter mountaineering trips should include starting and finishing early Meals should not be late as this gives little rest and planning time <p>The general feeling was that the Feb trip is an important one for giving members the opportunity to develop skills but can also be very demanding requiring a higher level of attention to safety.</p> <p>Other points for discussion or inclusion in trips organisers pack: Should we check that at least one person in cars has full 'relay home' cover. Full driving licenses are needed plus other proof of address for car hire in the event of a serious breakdown or accident.</p>	
	<p>Membership secretary Pat Durrant</p> <p>Pat reported current membership at 308. List of expired members has been produced, Pat to circulate to regional reps for action</p> <p>The membership turnover has increased of late and significant numbers are failing to renew after 1 or 2 years membership although the reasons for this are not clear. The development/recruitment sub committee should address this as well as attracting new members.</p>	<p>Pat Durrant</p> <p>Dermot/ Barbar</p>
	<p>Bulletin editor Dave S</p> <p>Nothing major to report</p> <p>Pre AGM Bulletin will be issued end of August. It was agreed the motions would be printed separately from the Bulletin, and would be</p>	<p>Dave S</p>

	sent out with the Bulletin, MIS or separately, depending on when the various things were available – so ensuring that motions were circulated in time, while saving on postage if possible.	
	MIS editor Mark Wallis No report	
	IT Officer. David Doody. Various minor updates eg trip mileage costs and removal of former trip form; nothing else to report	
	Training officer. Steve W The first aid training weekend trip costs now sorted and costs to RR minimised. Navigation training weekend , April 2010, now nearly full. Steve to liaise with Mike Hargedon re Mike’s proposed navigation training course.	Steve W
	BMC Contact Chris D Chris currently updating the BMC with our membership list. Non listed members are not covered by the BMC public liability insurance therefore a quarterly update will in future be sent to the BMC; Pat to action as keeper of the membership list.	Pat D
	Publicity Janet S Janet has put together a leaflet about the club for new members. It was approved by the NC and agreed it would be sent out with each renewal and to new members. Janet to obtain a quote for the printing. Also requested any good photographs the NC may have to further improve the leaflet.	Janet S
	Ramblers Campaigns officer David B Written report submitted. Reconfirmed willing to continue as this officer. He has been working on defining his role. He has attempted to contact Geoff Birch from Bristol who has also expressed an interest in helping with this role. Agreed someone should attend the Ramblers Association AGM, but cannot go himself (see discussion below).	
	Hut Officer Colin K See Agenda item below for hut update	
	Gear Coordinator Adrian O’C No report	
	Archivist Andy B No report	
	Development and Recruitment sub-group - Dermot/ Barbara Barbara proposed a subcommittee to develop a Recruitment strategy. Also requested a single point of contact to implement, nobody appointed as yet. To be discussed at next meeting.	Dermot/ Barbara
	Others who may attend/Regional Reps None	
6	AGM 2010 Gill Platt Date revised to first weekend in October this is the only suitable weekend the hostel at Lockerbrook can offer. Gill to continue to organise .	Gill Platt
7	Hut update Colin had circulated an annotated version of the latest draft agreement with LMC. He informed the meeting that work would start on the foundations for the new hut in March, within the timescale required by the planning regulations. This reduced the time constraints on finalising an agreement. Red Rope has received recent donations of £600 to the hut fund, bringing the total now available (with expected	Colin K and hut sub committee

annual interest) to approx £6,200. While considering the agreement to be generally acceptable, a number of concerns were expressed, in particular:

- the administrative load on Red Rope of managing individual bookings for bed nights;
- future financial commitments for the club;
- the lack of an exit clause from the agreement should things not work out in practice.
- the wording and robustness of the agreement in legal terms

In light of the above it was agreed that the hut sub-committee should pursue negotiations with LMC, subject to the following principles, some of which have implications on the wording of the agreement with LMC (see below) and some of which would govern Red Rope management of hut use:

- In the first instance, the ‘flexible’ nights on offer would be packaged by Red Rope into a number of blocks which would be operated as normal national or regional trips. (Members wishing to book individual nights could join LMC or use the huts under the same arrangements as members of other BMC-affiliated clubs)
- Charges to Red Rope members on trips to LMC huts would be banded, and would be set at rates that would be lower than the standard banded charges, while aiming to ensure that Red Rope would collect sufficient money to cover the nightly charges due to LMC, with any surplus going to a maintenance fund. Red Rope will endeavour to raise the £10,000 required to seal an agreement, but should not commit to contributing to future re-investment or refurbishment of the LMC huts (though we do not rule out financial help with these, subject to the success of the partnership and our own finances).

Specific points in respect of the latest draft of the agreement (V3):
(Numbers refer to paragraphs in the agreement)

5. To note: The lease with National Trust on the Loft/Byre will be for 10 years, not 25. It is likely that the new building will be operated by LMC as two separate spaces – one for members only, one available for bookings by other clubs.

5/6. The agreement should make clear that Red Rope has no responsibility for expenses incurred in respect of the LMC hut(s) at Blea Tarn or the caravan in Tyndrum.

10 & 12. To allow for flexibility the wording of this paragraph should remain as it is, but it should be made clear to Red Rope members that in practice the bed nights would be packaged by Red Rope into blocks

suitable for normal national or regional Red Rope trips, organised in the usual way.

16. Red Rope would urge LMC to install code pad entry systems on the new developments, in preference to keys, and ask them to investigate the possibility of installing such systems on the existing hut and caravan.

18. Given that all Red Rope use of the huts will now be subject to formal trip arrangements the relevant sentence in this clause should be modified, so as to allow for non-members on trips. Suggested rewording to be along the following lines: "RR members will not be able to introduce non-RR guests to the huts except when these guests are part of formally organised RR trips"

21. 'routine' in the first line to be replaced by 'all', in line with earlier drafts of the agreement.

22. Needs rewording to make it clear that RR members participating in maintenance weekends are exempt from hut fees and that the bed nights involved do not count against our allowance of 200.

25. Needs rewording to allow for non-members on RR trips, in line with paragraph 18.

26. Needs rewording to make clear that there is no obligation for RR to contribute to such costs (though this will be open to negotiation at the time).

27. In addition RR would raise the issue of an exit clause, which would allow one or other partner to withdraw from the agreement in the event of serious difficulties arising once it has been concluded (though it is not expected that RR would require repayment of our financial contribution were this to happen).

28. To note: There is currently no other partner club in the frame.

RR should get the final agreement reviewed by a lawyer; Chris Drinkwater to investigate this with the BMC and a family member.

Updating Red Rope members

The draft letters to RR members asking for pledges to the hut fund were reviewed, and it was agreed that a letter should be circulated as soon as possible, subject to the following changes to the pledge form:

- Members would be asked to send cheques, which would not be banked until a firm decision had been taken to go ahead with the project, and a final agreement signed with LMC.
- The deadline for the return of pledges would be set at 30th June, thus enabling the NC to review progress at the July meeting.

A covering note summarising the way the agreement is expected to work in practice, and the advantages to members, would be included

	<p>with the mailing and the latest version of the agreement would be available to members on request.</p> <p>Actions: Hut sub-committee to progress negotiations, organise fund-raising letter to members, and produce related background information for circulation to members.. Chris D to investigate possibilities for legal scrutiny of the final agreement.</p>	Chris D
8	<p>Guaranteed time, time slots and running order for AGM Motions; agenda committee - organisation of business for the AGM</p> <p>It was agreed that an agenda sub-committee of the NC would be constituted with the aim of ensuring effective use of time at the AGM. The duties of the sub-committee would include the scrutiny of motions, liaising with proposers over any clarification or compositing, and scheduling business on the day, so as to ensure that all motions were considered. The composition of the sub-committee, and details of its role, would be decided at the July NC meeting.</p> <p>The final list of motions for debate would be separate from the Bulletin, and would be circulated with the MIS, Bulletin, or independently, so as to ensure that constitutionally laid down deadlines are met, while reducing costs if possible.</p>	John Dickie
9	<p>Insurance Cover /joint and several liability</p> <p>Public liability insurance with BMC covered by Chris above on the issue of NC committee members individual liability was considered warranted.</p>	
10	<p>New North East Regional Group</p> <p>A North-East group already exists formally, though it has been non-functional for some years. The 'new' group is now listed on the club web-site, with Olya Bowers as contact. We need to ensure that Olya is aware of all individual members in the region and vice versa.</p>	Pat Durrant and Adrian Jones
11	<p>West of Scotland</p> <p>The NC is not currently aware of an active contact in for the region. The secretary will write to all members asking them whether they are the contact, and if not, whether they'd be interested in taking on the role. If no contact emerges the possibility of combining the two Scottish regions will be considered. To be followed up at the next NC meeting.</p>	Pat D and Adrian J.
12	<p>Red Rope Route Card</p> <p>Discussion deferred until the next meeting. The latest version needs to be recirculated.</p>	Rebecca Bates
13	<p>Welcome letter and Joining instructions</p> <p>This had now been completed by Janet Saunders, subject to inclusion of some newer photographs. Once printed, the sheet would be included with all membership cards, including renewals.</p>	David S., Janet S., Pat D.
14	<p>RR attendance at Ramblers National Conference, Haslemere, April 11/12</p> <p>It was agreed that the Action Fund would be used to fund Don Kinniburgh to represent Red Rope at the conference, and that we would also fund Chris Smith, should he be able to attend. Our representative(s) would be asked to report back to the July NC meeting. Pat Durrant will contact both members.</p>	Pat D.
15	<p>Establishment of a blog on the Web-site for discussion</p>	

No further discussion

	John Dickie suggested this as a way of removing discussions from the national mailing list, which could then be reserved for important announcements and information to members. The web-site redevelopment sub-group would be considering how best to structure different aspects of RR communication; in the meantime it was agreed that John should explore an ad-hoc solution, such as linking to a blog outside the site.	John D.
16	Publicising the extra 3 months membership offer Regions should be reminded of this by the Secretary and asked to use it to further recruitment, particularly from organisations with which we have affinity, such as trade unions and the Woodcraft Folk. Janet and Barbara would ensure that details of the offer are included in their draft publicity article on Red Rope (see item on Development and Recruitment sub-group) and ensure that drafts of the article go to regional contacts.	Adrian J, Janet S, Barbara S.
17	Cotswold Discount Details of this, as well as of other discounts, are now on the web-site. The Cotswold discount number is included in the welcome leaflet.	
18	Constitution update and amendments Discussion of this was deferred until the July meeting. In the meantime Barbara will put together a draft version taking on board Janet's recent email and incorporating decisions made at the 2009 AGM.	Barbara S.
19	NC meeting June 2010 – logistics The venue is somewhat isolated and may be difficult to find or to get to on public transport. Dave Jefferies volunteered to check out buses etc.	Dermot McKibbin as organizer, Dave J. – transport timetables
20	Any other business. There was no other business and the meeting closed at 4.00.pm	
	Next Meeting: Type: National Committee Date: Friday 25 and Saturday 26 June 2010 (two nights) 2010 Organiser: Dermot McKibbin Location : Peat District Nab End	