

**Red Rope:  
Minutes of NC Meeting held in Birmingham 27 November 2010**

Present: Sherry Macliver (Admin Treasurer), Dave Doody (IT Officer), John Dickie (Trip Treasurer), Adrian Jones (Secretary), Steve Wright (Membership secretary), Dave Jeffries (Sheffield), Colin Knowles (Hut Officer), Don Kinnibrugh (Ramblers), Mike Hargaden (Training), Chris Drinkwater (BMC)

Item No	Minutes	Action
1	<b>Welcome, Introductions and appoint minutes taker</b> Chair - Colin Knowles (am), John Dickie (pm) Minutes Adrian (am) Sherry (pm)	
2	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Rebecca Bates, Janet Saunders, Dave Symonds, Barbara Segal	
3	<b>Minutes of NC meeting Nabs End 26 June 2010</b> The minutes of the last NC meeting were accepted.	
4	<b>Matters Arising from previous minutes (unless on this Agenda)</b> Future of the Action Fund (added as agenda item to this meeting)	
5	<b>Reports from officers:</b> <b>National Secretary</b> Adrian J See below under Regions and NC meetings <b>National Treasurer (admin)</b> Sherry Mc Current hut fund £9646, with possible gift aid of £199 For year 2010-2011, to November 2010, total income has been £2951, with expenditure of £1495 (affiliations £480, printing £710, NC £ 270 and Committees , £ 34) <b>Regional Accounts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Received from Coventry, East Scotland, London, Manchester, Sheffield, and South West.</li> <li>- Not yet received from Leicester, Merseyside, North East or West Midlands.</li> <li>- None in the prescribed format for claiming regional subsidy except London</li> </ul> <b>Regional Subsidy</b> Conditions - It was suggested that a guidance note or example be circulated to regional treasurers, demonstrating how the accounts should be presented (and in order to claim both annual and trip subsidy).  London are claiming £520. London group have presented conforming annual accounts and it was proposed they be awarded their annual subsidy. This was agreed by the meeting  <b>Bank Account</b> –propose moving account from Santander to Co-operative Bank for ease of operation, and for ethical stance. Also, signatories revised (up to £250, 1 No; over £250, 2No). This was agreed by the meeting.	Sherry

<p><b>BMC</b> – It was agreed the relevant NC officer would report back to BMC on use of spending grants  <b>Archives</b> – have taken delivery of all available historical data.</p>	
<p><b>National Trips treasurer</b> John Dickie  Still analysing the recent training trip accounts, nothing else to report</p> <p>There is currently no job specification in the Constitution for National Trips Treasurer. John D/Sherry to draft by email for presentation to the next NC</p>	<p>John D, Sherry</p>
<p><b>National trips secretary</b> Becky Bates – written report  Not much to report</p> <p>2011 trips all more than half full  Family trip booked for June to the Peak District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2012 trips booked for Feb to Cairngorms and Easter to Crianlarich to use up our £100 credit. Will try for Syke in May.</li> <li>• We have been asking for post dated deposits (3 months before trip) so they can all be paid in together and this is working</li> <li>• We have noted the higher risk of financial loss on transport for training and family trips due to their location. On Scottish trips journeys to pick up points are a small proportion of the total journey but can be a significant part of trips to the Lakes or Peaks. There can also be difficulties arranging car sharing. Wherever possible the 3 to a car guideline should be followed with public transport to pick up points.</li> <li>• The use of public transport for the May trip was generally successful and now feel positive about extending its use. Members do need to know that the cheap fares become available about 3 months before and so the trip organiser needs to start finalising transport arrangements at this time</li> </ul> <p>On-trip transport needs to be discussed but it is considered that all journeys should be part of the trip treasuring. It is understood the current rule is that the fare is divided by the E band charge then that number multiplied by the banded charge. Is this what others have been doing? Updated trip organisers pack will need to include this information and should be ready for the next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trip treasuring form needs changing - nightly charge and deposit columns not relevant now that the full nightly charge is paid in advance</li> <li>• postpone any discussion around revised trip organisers pack till next meeting</li> </ul> <p>John D offered to review the trip organisers forms on the website</p>	<p>Rebecca  John D</p>
<p><b>Membership secretary</b> Steve Wright  Current membership – 298  Since taking over as Membership Secretary, the following has been put in hand by Steve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A rigorous system for advising regional contacts of a new member and their band.</li> <li>• Annual membership fee renewal notification – to be 1</li> </ul>	

	<p>month in advance, 1 month after and 2 months after; at which point membership is terminated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For each NC meeting, give national and regional membership numbers and a turnover report since previous meeting. For the AGM, the data will be annual.</li> </ul> <p>Will apply the 15 month membership for the 50 or so who have joined this year and adjust their renewal dates pro rata.</p> <p>To check all AGM delegates are paid-up members</p>	Steve
	<p><b>Bulletin editor</b> Dave S written report</p> <p>The next bulletin is due to be sent out at the end of February with the March MIS. Plan to send it to the printer's in early February, and would like contributions by Monday, January 10 - earlier if possible. It will be unusual in that it will be in black and white, a suitable winter edition. Members may have interesting photos from last winter's snows, or the forthcoming Christmas period, which they may like to submit with accounts of their associated adventures! The success of the bulletin is dependent on members' submissions, Finally, as a regional contact, Dave would find it useful to have some copies of the publicity sheet that Janet designed. My impression was that they would be available to regions, and not simply be distributed with membership cards.</p> <p>On a different topic, concerned about the Red Rope email list. It plays an important role as a medium for the exchange of information, and more generally as a way of members keeping in touch. However, at times I think it gives a poor impression of the club, particularly when individuals use it provocatively. It would be useful for the NC to post a message on the list highlighting the relevant code of conduct: <i>'This is the Red Rope national discussion list. All members are expected to treat each other with tolerance, dignity and respect.'</i></p> <p>Would also like some clarification as to what might happen if someone feels that the code has been broken.</p> <p>The list often contains messages to one person. Sometimes it may well be that the sender has no other way of making contact, but I think it would be helpful for users to be encouraged to send personal emails whenever possible so that others are not inconvenienced – there's enough spam as it is.</p> <p>Circulate London Red Rope email guidelines to NC</p> <p>Agenda item for next NC meeting</p>	Sherry Adrian
	<p><b>MIS editor</b> Mark Wallis</p> <p>No report, MIS seems to be running soundly</p>	
	<p><b>IT Officer.</b> David Doody.</p> <p>Various minor updates eg trip mileage costs and removal of former trip form; will remove reference to the 15 month extended membership by end of December 2010; nothing else to report.</p> <p>Web site commercial links – Web Sub-Committee to issue guidelines for commercial links and present to next NC meeting.</p>	Dave D Dave J
	<p><b>Training officer.</b> Mike Hargaden</p> <p>Since joining the NC as training officer, Mike has organised and delivered a navigation skills training weekend on 12-14 November</p>	

	<p>and produced a proposal for future training activity for the NC meeting. A report on the training weekend is attached to these minutes. It was well attended and praised by all who were there.</p> <p>NC members expressed an interest in attending future events.</p>	
	<p><b>BMC Contact</b> Chris D Nothing specific to report</p>	
	<p><b>Publicity</b> Janet S written report <b>Lockerbrook/Woodcraft Folk</b> Recently sent around a copy of note from Sean at Lockerbrook, re. Woodcraft folk. Their exec committee have received copies of our welcome leaflet and want to work with us. We have been asked to put together a notice board display for Lockerbrook - still waiting for some more info from them about size etc. I will be making that happen in the New Year; waiting for something from their Exec committee - will chase it if no more response.</p> <p><b>Publicity Leaflet</b> Janet advises we should take steps to circulate a number of copies to regional contacts - however we need to get them to the right person in each region who will use them. A short letter needs to go with them to encourage people to make use of them, or we could make phone calls. Steve agreed to action this.</p> <p><b>Badges</b> Brief discussion as to how many we have and where they are. Adrian has several in a National Secretary's file. Making and selling more to be an agenda item for the next NC meeting.</p>	<p>Janet</p> <p>Steve</p> <p>NC agenda AJ</p>
	<p><b>Ramblers Campaigns officer</b> Don Kinnibrugh Don proposed a revised Job Description – see item 15 below</p> <p>As a follow up to the Ramblers AGM attended in April 2010 – suggests two people attend the Ramblers AGM in future (estimated cost £150 per person plus travel). This was agreed by the NC</p>	
	<p><b>Hut Officer</b> Colin K See Agenda item below for hut update</p>	
	<p><b>Gear Coordinator</b> Adrian O'C No report</p>	
	<p><b>Development and Recruitment sub-group</b> - Barbara Segal written report. No opportunity to do much about this, suggested defer until the next NC meeting. Don Kinniburgh has expressed an interest in working on this sub group.</p>	Barbara, Don
	<p><b>Others who may attend/Regional Reps</b> None</p>	
6	<p><b>Hut update</b> Colin K Foundations have been laid. Lancs MC have spent 2 weekends on construction and plan another in December. Hut fund stands at £9846 . Noted that regions fundraising has been modest, but that small sums could now make a significant difference</p>	

	<p>in reaching the goal of £10,000. A small contingency fund would be desirable. Agreed that an appeal letter would be sent to renewing members, and a different appeal letter to newly joining members.</p> <p>The two clubs agreement has been sent to BMC. BMC has agreed to act as arbiter. Letter confirming this and their approval of the agreement is imminent.</p> <p>Agreed: Hut Sub-Committee has authority to transfer £10,000 to Lancs MC subject to BMC letter having been received, there being £10,000 in the Hut Fund, and Lancs MC provide a letter specifying the source of the two components of the amount (7for, 1 against, 2 abstaining)</p> <p>Flexible bed-night bookings: Hut Sub-Committee to draw up scheme, involving some consultation, in 2011. Hut Sub-Committee then to be restructured for engaging with Lancs MC and administration of the scheme</p>	
7	<p><b>AGM 2011</b> Adrian J Agreed on last weekend of September Need to decide location of 2011 AGM. Gradbach Scout Camp suggested, Adrian to obtain prices and availability. Anybody any other ideas of where to go?</p> <p>An organiser is required; Gill Platt did an excellent job last year and it was felt unreasonable to ask yet again, (unless of course Gill wants to). Nat Sec to organise/delegate! A request for assistance is made to all NC and regional reps. Sheffield to be formally thanked for catering for two years</p>	<p>Adrian</p> <p>Adrian</p> <p>Adrian</p>
8	<p><b>Future NC meetings:</b> Adrian J It was proposed that future NC meetings be just day events (no weekend meetings, these have proved too costly). There will continue to be three meetings a year – last Saturday in November, February and June respectively (a week either way may be necessary depending on availability of a room). It was agreed for the next 12 months they will be rotated as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birmingham (November)</li> <li>• Leicester (February)</li> <li>• Sheffield (June) (possible overnight stay for walking on Sunday)</li> </ul> <p>NC meeting programme attached.</p>	<p>Adrian</p>
9	<p><b>Membership/data protection</b> Steve W, Dave J Paper presented. Recommendation 4 amended to read “The membership application form should be updated with a statement that the information will not be shared with any other body except for mountaineering bodies for affiliation and club insurance. Noted: CK to look at time-scale for anonimisation – possible future legal implications Dave J agreed to undertake data protection monitoring for 2011. To be re delegated annually as necessary.</p>	<p>Dave J</p> <p>Colin</p> <p>Dave J</p>
10	<b>RR Regions</b> Adrian J	

	<p>Scotland East and West are for the time being amalgamated, to just 'Scotland'(contact as for Scotland East).</p> <p>West Yorkshire currently has no clearly identifiable regional committee or contacts, all enquiries are being directed via the National Secretary to Sheffield and Manchester. Attempts will be made to revitalise West Yorkshire (there are 7 or 8 members who do actually live in that area).</p>	Adrian
11	<p><b>Proposals for Training</b> Mike Hargaden</p> <p>Mike presented a comprehensive training proposal document - attached to these minutes. It was well received by the NC as detailed and very useful. Future training programmes will be built around this policy.</p>	
12	<p><b>Charging - Housing Element With Respect To Housing Benefit.</b></p> <p>Sherry Macliver/London Region</p> <p>To suggest that a sub-committee review the new banding policy, particularly with respect to the effect of housing benefit on 'income'. DJ offered. Nat Sec to ask for volunteers to join (including Pauline?)</p>	Adrian
13	<p><b>Public Transport on National trips</b> Sherry Macliver</p> <p>Deferred, Agenda item on June NC meeting</p>	Adrian ,Sherry
14	<p><b>MIS on the Web/Private</b> contact details</p> <p>Dave Doody/Dave Jefferies/John Dickie</p> <p>John Dickie to develop a prototype scheme which addresses the technical issues and explains the layout. To prepare prototype and process for next NC meeting (Agenda Item)</p> <p>Would be good to have articles on trips on the website</p>	<p>John D</p> <p>Adrian (agenda)</p> <p>Dave S?</p>
15	<p><b>Ramblers/campaigns officer</b> – job description Don Kinnibrugh</p> <p>Don suggested revising the following main objectives for this post as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To maintain Red Rope's profile within the Ramblers Association</li> <li>• To encourage within Red Rope active participation in the Ramblers and in their campaigns.</li> <li>• To publicise current access issues within the club, especially via the Bulletin.</li> <li>• To encourage participation in national and regional access campaigns which meet Red Rope's aims.</li> </ul> <p><b>1. To maintain Red Rope's profile within the Ramblers</b></p> <p>This would be primarily by the attendance of a Red Rope delegation at the Ramblers 'General Council' (AGM), held in April at a different location each year. In 2010 it was at Royal Holloway University in Egham, Surrey and in 2011 the venue will be Keble College Oxford. As an affiliated organisation (along with the Long Distance Walkers Association, The Camping and Caravanning Club and the Open Spaces Society) Red Rope has one vote. However, additional members can attend as observers. Having a delegation of two or more members (Red Rope used to send 5 or 6 in the 1980s and 90s) would be better than a single representative. Speaking on motions, running a stall, selling Red Rope merchandise and publications and talking to as many attendees as possible are all easier with several Red Ropers present. Red Rope participation in future (infrequent) meetings of the lobby group within the RA 'Concerned Ramblers' would be another possibility.</p>	

	<p><b>2. To encourage within Red Rope active participation in the Ramblers and their campaigns</b></p> <p>The Ramblers current campaigns include local lobbying against the massive cuts in local authority footpath staff; and campaigning for the introduction of definitive rights of way maps in Inner London boroughs (where they are not currently required by the legislation). Clearly, not all such campaigns would be suitable for Red Rope to get involved in. However, an access issue looming in the future will be the ConDem government's proposed sale of Forestry Commission land, with inevitable resulting loss of access. Another area would be participation in footpath work alongside local ramblers volunteers (clearing obstructions, building stiles and bridges etc)</p> <p><b>3. To publicise current access issues within the club, especially via the bulletin.</b></p> <p><b>4. To encourage participation in national and regional access campaigns which meet Red Rope's aims</b></p> <p>Not all such campaigns are organised by the Ramblers; e.g. an active local group have been organising 'access days' in the new South Downs National Park, where certain landowners have been allowed to exclude the public from whole blocks of land shown as access land on the map.</p> <p>Don's revised Job Description was agreed by all. Don to draft a proposal to be presented to the next AGM.(to be ratified in advance at the June NC).</p>	
16	<p><b>'Camp Site Exemption Certificates'</b> Don Kinnibrugh To be applied for</p>	Don
17	<p><b>Any other business.</b></p> <p>Action Fund: To propose at AGM that the club become more overtly politically engaged. Possible pre-AGM Forum? Bulletin article?</p> <p>Dormant bank Accounts: attempt to locate West Scotland and West Yorks</p>	<p>Adrian</p> <p>Sherry</p>
	<p><b>Next Meeting:</b> Type: National Committee Date: Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2011 Venue: Quaker Meeting House Leicester - TBC– John Dickie to book</p> <p>Future programme attached</p>	

## RED ROPE NAVIGATION TRAINING WEEKEND

A report on the Navigation Training weekend which took place on 12 – 14 November 2010.

### 1. Aim of the training

An introduction to navigation skills for people new to using a map and compass, a refresher for everyone else. A fun weekend working together to plan a walk, find our way around in the countryside and the hills, and sort out what to do when we get misplaced (aka lost).

To provide participants with the knowledge, skills and confidence to plan and lead a group on a walk in the countryside (below 500m) with their friends or local walking group.

Confidence is a very important feature of navigation as part of a group activity.

### 2. What was covered

- Planning a walk
- Using the Red Rope route map as a template for planning a walk in terms of using a map and compass to find Grid References – measure distance, height gained, compass bearings and estimated time.
- Identifying features in the landscape to help you follow a route – handrails, tick points, catch features and contours.
- Other skills included pacing.

Navigation techniques are an end to a means, the end being to lead a group on a walk.

Leading a group on the walk you have planned (see appendices 1 and 2) requires confidence and involves communications between the person who has planned the walk and the group and share the navigation with them.

### 3. How was it covered

The programme was designed to start where participants were in terms of their existing skills and build up their skills and confidence over the weekend to a point where they have the capacity to plan and lead a walk.

We sought to make the weekend fun and enjoyable.

- a) Pre workshop self assessment: Participants were asked to complete a questionnaire asking them about their experience and skills and send back to me.
- b) **Friday night** - Introductions – ice breaking exercise involving participants in finding information on a range of different types of maps.
- c) **Saturday morning** – learning the navigation techniques and practicing them in a workshop setting in order to plan the walk for the afternoon.
- d) **Saturday afternoon** – Two groups complete a walk with a trainer practicing their skills and each leading a part of the walk.
- e) **Saturday evening**  
Before dinner – debrief and feedback from the walk.  
After dinner – plan the walk for Sunday & trip finance
- f) **Sunday** complete the walk planned in groups without the trainers being present but available to help if required.

### 4. Who participated?

- There were 5 people from London, 1 from Manchester, Nottingham, Bristol and Norwich.
- The trainers were Mike Hargaden and Liz Turner Liz's contribution was invaluable – she is knowledgeable – cheerful – understands modern training methods and is keen to share her skills and very supportive of participants. People came back from the walk with her on the Saturday buzzing with enthusiasm.

### 5. Feedback

- **Participants feedback:**
  - People were very positive about the course with the following comment being typical of feedback.

‘Thank you very much for organising the weekend – I really enjoyed it, and will definitely try and use the compass soon before I forget it. ...I thought the programme for the weekend worked well – instruction on the Saturday morning followed by a walk etc.’

‘It was an inspiring weekend.’
  - Suggestions for improvements included completing the section on the route map for compass bearings. The fact there was only 1 bloke on the workshop was raised – why is this?
- **Feedback on the hut:** It was just about fit for purpose as the heating was quite limited (not a hut for a Christmas trip) - there being only one toilet created a bit of a challenge but was manageable
- **Trainers Feedback:**
  - By the end of the weekend all participants were able to apply the relevant navigation techniques when planning and when out on a walk.
  - Working with the group was very easy as they recognised that was something to learn i.e. that there was something they didn’t know, but and were keen to learn. Everyone was happy to participate and ‘have ago’

Comment by participant: ‘I love learning new things’
  - It was interesting to see how hard people worked when planning the walk on the Saturday night for the walk on the Sunday (and this was after a very good dinner and some wine). For me it was interesting to see how adept the group had become at completing the route card in such a short time as completing the route card seems to be a challenge for many members on several trips I have been on. The group were very supportive of each other which helped create an environment conducive to learning.
  - **Venue:** The room was Ok for the workshop session (subject to the comment about the heating).
- **Improvements for the future:**
  - Make it clear in the pre-workshop information the level of fitness required
  - Keep the roles of trip organiser and trainer separate (it’s too much work for one person).
  - Hold any future workshops in the same area but see if there is alternative accommodation (but don’t rule out Mandale Hse).
  - Encourage participants to print off and bring any handouts required with them to keep costs down
  - Invest in some maps of the area.
- 6. **Endnote** ‘Go back to your regions and prepare to ....lead a walk!’
  - Practice your navigation skills whenever you can and think about doing a more demanding course that involves ‘off path’ routes, night walks and micro navigation.
  - Do a reccé as part of your planning.
  - Be aware the approach you have learnt may be new and challenging to even quite experienced people and so try to engage people in sharing the navigation with you.
  - Offer to share your navigation skills with others.
  - If you do want to share your skills feel free to contact me and I will see if I have any materials which you could use.

Mike Hargaden - Red Rope Training Officer - 19/11/2010 **Appendix 1. Leading a Group.**

Individuals are ultimately responsible for themselves but someone proposing a walk will find people looking to them for information & advice. So you find yourself required to

- Plan the walk..
- Inform e.g. what the walk involves and other things you know about (see Briefing a group before the walk below).
- Offer advice e.g. 'I wouldn't go that way because it is a much longer route'.
- Facilitate discussion:
  - What are you proposing? Show us on the map?
  - An alternative route? Do you have a plan?
  - What do other people think?
- Contact the emergency services.
- You can inform and advise but never instruct or order others.

### **Appendix 2 Briefing a group before the walk.**

There is usually a 'people issue' in any activity where a few people are involved. It very useful to agree the parameters of the walk with members of the group in a similar way we did at the beginning of the workshop. This reduces the chance of problems arising later in the day.

- The walk will be 12km, involve an ascent of 400m and I estimate that it will take 4 ½ hours including a break.
- It's neither a forced march nor a race but we will be walking for the full 4/12 hours with a short break for lunch, we need to walk about 3km an hour and climb over a number of styles. So you need to be up for this.
- Our escape route will be .....
- Can we agree to.....
  - Stick together – within earshot.
  - If you at the front check people at the back are not being left behind.
  - Communicate with each other about stopping, starting again.
  - If some people wish to form a faster/slower group then we agrees it as a whole group i.e. don't just race off.
- Is everyone comfortable with that?

## RED ROPE TRAINING STRATEGY

### 1. Summary

This report proposes that Red Rope encourages members to develop their ability to take responsibility for themselves (and look out for others) while engaged in the clubs activities. The club will provide training to assist people to learn how to use navigation techniques to plan and follow a route when walking in and to share their knowledge and skills with other members (see Skills Sharing Appendix 2).

### 2. Walking with Red Rope

- 'Red Rope is a Socialist Club run by collective responsibility on an income sharing basis. Members undertake to share skills and meet the needs and abilities of the membership.' (Red Rope Constitution)
- Most walking in the club is done in groups. group (see Walking in a Group Appendix 1)
- When booking on trips all members agree to *'recognise that hillwalking, climbing and mountaineering are activities which carry a risk of personal injury or death. I accept responsibility for my own actions and involvement in these activities.'* This requires the club to provide guidance to members on what it means to take responsibility for their own actions.
- For the most part Red Rope members walk in three main types of conditions.
  - **Countryside:** Low level (below 500m) following paths possibly over some uneven terrain.
  - **Mountainous terrain** (not winter): Above 500m over rough and steep terrain in areas where conditions can change rapidly and walks may be off path and may be part of a multi day expedition.
  - **Winter conditions:** Walking in winter conditions in mountainous terrain.

### 3. Skills required by members of the club.

The focus in this paper is on the need for members to be able to look after themselves as this is ultimately about member's safety and wellbeing.

#### 3.1 Looking after yourself (and looking out for others)

Members need to do the following in order to look after themselves

- Use a map and a compass to plan and follow a route so you can find your way.
- Be suitably equipped for the environment you are going into and know how to use the equipment.
- Be able to move effectively over the terrain.
- Be able to identify risks and deal with emergencies.
- Know what weather to expect and how to prepare for it.
- Do all of the above within the group you are sharing the experience with.
- Decide whether you can meet the demands any proposed activity may make

#### 3.2 Priority

As with most voluntary walking clubs there is a need to encourage members to develop the ability to take responsibility for themselves when out walking as defined in para 3.1.

Two areas of particular concern are members who lead walks and members who go on walks in extreme conditions (Scotland in the winter) and who do so without a map or a compass and presumably without the ability to use them.

From the positive response to the recent training weekend there a significant number of members who are keen to learn navigational (and other relevant) skills and to use these skills to plan and lead walks. This practical training programme was designed to ensure people enjoyed the weekend as well as learn some useful stuff. Participants were very positive about the training, expressed a desire to share their new knowledge and skills.

### **Strategy**

Over the next 3 years the club takes steps to maximise the number of members in the club who can look after themselves as defined in para 3.1..

Over the next year the club provides at least two navigation training course as outlined in Appendix 4. in which participants are asked and helped to cascade their skills in their regions.

The implementation of the strategy should reviewed in November 2011.

### **Points to note**

- Attendance on any other training should be voluntary.
- Members of the National Committee will be invited to attend the next weekend as a means of demonstrating their commitment to developing their navigational skills to other members.
- When it appears that there are a sufficient number of people completing the basic course training at the next level will be offered i.e. See appendix 3 and the paragraph on Mountainous terrain (not winter).
- All training courses should seek to prepare people with the ability to share their skills with members

## Appendix 1. Walking in a group

Walking in a group is different from walking alone. In any group a mutual dependence develops between members. Red Rope was formed partly as an alternative to the extreme individualism common among some mountaineers and widespread in the 'me' culture that dominates our society. So while everyone is responsible for themselves, in Red Rope:

- We look out for each other as any group of friends would do.
- We communicate to each other as friends.
- We share information and possibly offer advice (although we cannot instruct people to do anything).
- If someone in the group is in difficulty we see if we can help.
- We engage members in planning and following a route

## Appendix 2 Skills Sharing

Skills sharing exercises can follow the format of the basic navigation skills training but it can also take place when skilled group leaders lead by example.

So every activity can be seen as having a learning aspect to it.

Leading a walk is an opportunity to engage people in a learning activity.

Inviting people to plan a walk with you is a good way of cascading your skills to other.

## Appendix 3

Environment	Skills
<b>Countryside:</b> Low level (below 500m) following paths possibly over some uneven terrain.	Use a map and a compass when planning and while out on a walk to <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• take a grid reference.</li><li>• Measure distance and height gained and calculate the time it will take.</li><li>• Develop a strategy for your walk using the landscape as a navigational aid.</li><li>• Find your way if you become misplaced.</li><li>• Communicate with other members of your group.</li><li>• Contact the emergency services.</li><li>• Check the weather.</li></ul>
<b>Mountainous terrain</b> (not winter): Above 500m over rough and steep terrain in areas where conditions can change rapidly and walks may be off path and may be part of a multi day expedition.	Do all of the above accurately and quickly, on difficult terrain, off path in poor visibility and in extreme weather conditions and have a good grasp of the other issues referred to above i.e. use appropriate equipment and manage risks etc.
<b>Winter conditions:</b> Walking in winter conditions in mountainous terrain.	Do all of the above but to a much higher standard i.e. navigate in a white out.

The level of these skills required increases in line with the type of environment you are walking in and are skills are accumulative in that it is hard to see someone starting to learn navigation skills at the level required for Mountainous terrain.

## Appendix 4 Outline of Course

### Basic Navigation Training

**Aim:** To provide participants with the knowledge, skills and confidence to plan and lead a group on a walk in the countryside (below 500m) with their friends or local walking group.

Programme of the Weekend

- g) Pre workshop self assessment: Participants were asked to complete a questionnaire asking them about their experience and skills and send back to me.
- h) Friday night - Introductions – ice breaking exercise involving participants in finding information on a range of different types of maps.
- i) Saturday morning – learning the navigation techniques and planning the walk for the afternoon using the RR route card.
- j) Saturday afternoon – Two groups complete a walk with a trainer, practicing their skills and each leading a part of the walk.
- k) Saturday evening
  - Before dinner – debrief and feedback from the walk.
  - After dinner – plan the walk for Sunday & trip finance
- l) Sunday complete the walk planned in groups without the trainers being present but available to help if required

Throughout the course participants are encouraged to think about sharing their knowledge and skills with people in their regions.

The training also looked at how walk leaders could use their new knowledge and skills in the context of leading a group.