

Minutes of the National Committee meeting

Held in London, Somers Town Community Centre, Saturday 28 February 2009 at 10:30am

Present: Andy Bateman Colin Knowles Jan Lancaster
 Barbara Segal David Symonds Arthur Howarth
 John Dickie Steve Wright Pam Case
 Dave Doody Pat Durrant (2 London members: Polly and)

Apologies: Pam Case, David Barnes, Janet Saunders, Gill Platt, Adrian O'Connor, Becky Bates, Pravin Patel, Yvonne Gilligan

Chair: Colin Knowles

1. Minutes of the meeting held in Nov 08 in Leamington Spa were approved
2. Reports from Officers:

Treasurer: Thanks to Arthur for producing Net Costs (attached).

BMC has increased membership dues by £2 per per. In exchange, BMC is looking into decreasing costs in future and trying to be more in contact with clubs. We have received a £300 subsidy from BMC for publicity – and Lancs Mtng Club has approached them for financial assistance re hut in North Wales. We are around the 10th largest club in BMC, so have some clout.

We get access to huts and insurance from BMC – invaluable.

MIS to be sent to more members by email to save costs.

Bulletin – 400 copies produced – agreed to continue with that number so that they could be given to prospective new members etc.

Pam Case assured meeting that there was no big problem at the moment – our year end is June.

AGM will be more expensive this year due to good premises being booked.

Banding might to be reviewed/ increased to help with increasing costs.

We have got a £300 subsidy from BMC

ACTION: **Pravin:** Could the NC get a periodic BMC report containing:

- a. Summary of important policy issues
- b. Is the insurance 'blanket' or does it cover individual members by name?
- c. Can we stop magazine going to disinterested members – and save costs.

d. Could we invite BMC member to a NC meeting – in July?

ACTION: Pat D.

Because MIS is too expensive to do on a monthly basis, can we put request for email address for receiving MIS on renewal/membership form in order to encourage more people to get an MIS?

- Does the email registration for MIS work? Dave D says yes.

ACTION: Jan L

- Will contact all Regional Reps to ask them to request their members to either: (a) register to get MIS by email or (b) obtain permission their regional members to send email addresses direct to Mark.

ACTION: AGM:

Members only web site – this could be worth doing; MIS could be placed on this site.

Trips Treasurer:	No Report
Membership:	298 members – Pat will send list of new members monthly to all reg contacts.
Bulletin	400 usually run off – continue that.
MIS	No report. See earlier notes re future action re email MIS.
IT	Minutes of AGM and NC meetings on web. Also updated travel charges. Web site should be updated – including a. Members only site b. Financial matters.

ACTION: NC MEETING IN JULY 09. Tabled for further discussion and action.

ACTION: Sub committee Steve; Dave D and David S will prepare.

Training Officer:	No report. Thanks for his hard work.
BMC	No report – see earlier Action notes
RA Rep	No report
Archivist	Stepping down in September. New space required - approx 3 metres in dry place. <u>ACTION: Andy B</u> will submit article for Bulletin.

Short Break:

Other Agenda items.

6. Hut John Dickie took over the Chair while Colin K presented his report and survey.

3 sections to report: (a) LMC

(b) the survey

(c) Steps we need to take.

a. Lancashire Mtning Club – are pressing on with development of site. Building costs have been requested. They have approached BMC re funding. Have become an organisation that can receive donations – and reclaim tax. They have spoken to other organisations re sharing hut with them and they may consider selling time shares in hut.

b. Survey: Has been amended after comments received from NC members. It was decided at the AGM 08 that we needed a survey. Becomes clear that we need more info to understand our members. Survey divided into 3 parts – general info, activities and pragmatics of RR.

Used a ‘free’ survey – so have to put up with how it is formatted.

Janet S cleaned it up – thanks. There is a word and a web version.

Questions: Can we skip answers?

Highlight questions that must be answered.

Amend title to RR Opinion and Hut Survey 09.

End with ‘Open Ended Comments’ . **ACTION: Barbara S will collate and circulate to all NC members and put comments on web site –**

Anonymous.

How do we deliver – Mid March

When do we close it - Mid April

ACTION: Barbara S will organise printing and envelopes. Bristol group will stuff and post.

Web site will open as survey is posted.

Results will be brought back to NC meeting in July.

c. Steps to be Taken

ACTION: Colin K: Can RR become an organisation that can accept tax efficient donations.

ACTION: Jan will look into separating Club and personal liability.

7. Constitutional Amendments:

Report from Jan Andy and Adrian. Cleaning up the Constitution in line with Motions passed at AGM 08.

ACTION: Jan will circulate revised Constitution to all NC members (by end of March).

ACTION: July NC – discussion re where funds would go if RR wound up.

8. Standing Orders:

Dave J says it is too difficult to do – problem if we change annual dues. CK says other clubs had used SO as method of payments. Would Direct Debits be better?

Agreed: That SO is enacted in order to try and keep members, increase ‘loss’ of members.

Break for Lunch

9. Transport Rates:

Trip Treasurer informed meeting that there is £2000+ in the account.

Becky B had sent in a report and raised some questions for discussion;

1. **Nightly charges:** Costs of huts going up – we need to increase nightly charges?

We need real figures. How much are we paying out to regions – need trip data from regions. £9.50 too low; £12 too high. Regions can use a multiplier if they need to.

Will look at evidence of this at July meeting. **Action: Becky/ Pam C – Regional Treasurers to supply info.**

Food costs to be looked at separately.

2. Trip org. has to decide on transport arrangements to suit the situation. Trip Org. Can make ad hoc arrangements to suit a trip. NC would back the Trip org. Trip org can request info. /support from Trip Treasurer.

3. Train and Cars: Guidelines are on website – Trip org’s discretion.

4. Overnight charges: Should every member must pay a deposit for the whole trip?

We need guidelines re when/why deposits will be refunded?

5. Agreed that we would pay drivers for 3 when only 2 in car for next 4 trips. **Can be reconsidered at July NC**

(item 9 on agenda was deleted unanimously)

10. Publicity:

Janet S had got two quotes – agreed to accept Harris quote - £500 for £132. To be delivered to Pat D. **Action:** - Jan will send order and cheque.

ACTION: Jan to contact Pravin to ensure that BMC grant will pay for this.

11. Regional Subsidies:

Arthur had done work on this and looked closely at the two claims from 2 regions. Ultimately he agreed that they were not entitled to the funds.

Agreed that if a group is having financial problems, they can apply to top up to Band E levels.

ACTION: Pam will send a letter to all regions as per constitution re subsidiaries/admin costs.

12. Future meetings dates.

David S put forward suggestion that we reduced no of NC meetings; Barbara S suggested electronic meetings. Agreed by NC that we would continue to established pattern of 2 city meetings; AGM and one weekend meeting.

13. AGM. Lockerbrook in Derbyshire has been booked. Costly but good premises. Will accommodate many people for the meeting. We might use the multiplier to cover additional costs. Fun Quiz in the evening. Any other ideas to Jan.

Any Other Business:

Neither National Secretary will be standing again.

Date of Next Meeting: 3,4 and 5 July at Tyn Lon, Nant Peris Hut again (by the side of the pub, on main road). Organiser: Becky Bates – please send booking forms. 197 Queens Road, Leicester LE2 3FN.

These NC minutes were read back to meeting and agreed.

March 2 09.

Jan Lancaster

National Secretary.

