



	<p><i>you be prepared to help you club by changing this to receive MIS by email? If so, you need only send a blank email to <a href="mailto:RedRopeMISDeliveries-subscribe@yahoogroups.com">RedRopeMISDeliveries-subscribe@yahoogroups.com</a>. This will initiate the process to enable me to validate your subscription and change your MIS delivery method”.</i></p> <p>A further letter will be included in the next paper MIS to initiate a process to automatically add members with email addresses not receiving MIS by email to the eMIS database in Yahoo.</p> <p>2) Non Members attending RR events. Various rules were agreed at the AGM. This now needs implementation and monitoring. For National Trips – policy to be stated in the trip organisers pack. Trip Treasurer/Trip Organiser to monitor/action.</p> <p>For Regional Events – The Regional Reps are to be advised of the policy via website, email to regional reps and the Bulletin. Steve to draft the text.</p>	<p>Barbara &amp; Steve</p> <p>John Dickie</p> <p>Steve</p>
5	<b>Reports from officers:</b>	
5a	<b>National Secretary</b> Adrian J See below AGM 2013	
5b	<b>National Treasurer (admin)</b> Sherry Mc Sherry circulated a set of accounts to November 2012. Finances mostly as expected. RR income to November 2012 has been £2412, against a total expenditure of £ 412. For the year 2012-13, total estimated income is £8000, with estimated expenditure of £6620.  AGM 2012 costing was break even. The sock exchange raised £100, the bar £29, both a good contribution to the event.	
5c	<b>National Trips Treasurer</b> John Dickie (Written report) Nothing major to report, the account had £ 1,158 in it as of last bank statement. Standard balance for this time of year, certainly no 'surplus' there to be transferred out. The NC requested that in future John advise an estimate of likely financial movements going forward.	John
5d	<b>National Trips Secretary, Becky Bates Written Report</b> Not much done in last few months other than giving Dermot advice on applying the ferry rule for the Arran trip. All 2013 national trips popular - either full or nearly full. Did consider another trip but decided against it. A first draft of revised trip organisers pack was given to the meeting to decide on action with it. Quite a lot has been taken out to simplify it. Deferred to next NC meeting	

5e	<b>Membership Steve W</b> Current membership 299. Other membership statistics essentially unaltered on previous records.	
5f	<b>Bulletin editor Dave S</b> The NC suggested the next (February) issue of the Bulletin might have an article on alpine trekking. Deadline for submission would be end of January. The July issue of the Bulletin will focus on UK climbing, David will invite contributions in the February issue. The deadline for that issue will be 30 June.	Dave S
5g	<b>MIS Editor Mark Wallis</b> Not present and nothing to report.	
5h	<b>IT Officer. David Doody.</b> Nothing specific to report.	
5i	<b>Training Officer. Vacant</b>	
5j	<b>BMC Contact Chris D</b> Not present but nothing to report.  The NC notes that the BMC have disbanded their Regional Clubs Committee. The NC (action via AJ) requested Chris to contact the BMC to ascertain how therefore they propose in future to liaise positively and proactively with their associated clubs.	Adrian Chris
5k	<b>Publicity. Janet</b> Written report A detailed note on the AGM Publicity Discussion is attached to these minutes. Ideas included setting up a facebook Group, keeping an eye on branding for leaflets to give the appropriate feel to RR, keeping Lockerbrook Woodcraft Folk supplied with Bulletins, preparing a CD data base of posters etc that can be circulated to the regions for printing off publicity for local distribution; fostering new RR regions; and Youngers members events. Darsham Woodcraft folk was discussed as a publicity target – Don to develop this via his London RR contacts. The NC asked Janet to make the CD of posters as suggested. Prompted by Pauline Appleton (London RR) family friendly trips were discussed, to bring awareness of RR to younger, and hopefully, future, adult members. Family events though seem to have lapsed lately and the NC thought there is little demand. Don to ask Pauline on her views and report back to next NC. Pauline to organise a family event?	Janet  Don
5l	<b>Ramblers / Campaigns Report Don K</b> <b>1. Ramblers General Council ('AGM') 2013</b> Saturday / Sunday <b>13th – 14th April</b> at the University of Warwick (Rampal Building, Coventry). It would be good if several RR's could attend as usual. Adrian and Steve offered to help, and being	

	<p>local this will keep costs down. The 2012 (non-resident) conference fees were as follows, and will probably be similar in 2013:</p> <p><u>Both days</u> including lunch, Saturday dinner, tea and coffee £86  <u>Saturday only</u> including lunch, coffee, tea £57  <u>Sunday only</u> including lunch, coffee £38  The deadline for submitting (policy) motions will be <b>Saturday 2nd March.</b></p> <p><b>2. Red Rope's 2012 motion on BUPA.</b>  This motion, which RR proposed, criticised the Ramblers' Board's decision to enter a commercial partnership with BUPA Healthcare which would offer Ramblers members BUPA health insurance as a 'member benefit' and called for the partnership agreement cancellation at renewal. The motion was passed by about 59 votes to 43 with some abstentions.</p> <p>However, it is still not known whether or not the Ramblers Board of Trustees intend to end the partnership as requested by the motion. The May Board meeting noted that the the BUPA agreement was a rolling agreement with no end date, but there was a three month notice period. The Board agreed to review the figures of the BUPA partnership at their September meeting - minutes of this meeting not yet published.</p> <p>The May meeting also 'noted that negotiations for the first corporate membership, BUPA Cromwell Hospital, were almost complete,' offering 700 BUPA staff discounted membership of the Ramblers. 'The Board noted,' (from the minutes) 'that as this motion had been agreed in principle before General Council it should be honoured. So it appears that the Ramblers Board may still be deciding whether or not to act on the Red Rope motion passed by GC, but in any case expect to retain at least part of the BUPA partnership.</p>	Don
5m	<p><b>Gear Coordinator</b> Adrian O'C  Not present and no report or discussion.</p>	
5n	<p><b>Archive</b>  Andy Bateman no longer able to accommodate to archive material. Julian Batsleer has offered to organise the material and various museums of working class history have been suggested as possible homes for the archive. Barbara to contact the museums in Salford and Manchester and liaise with Andy and Julian to take this forward.</p>	Barbara
5o	<p><b>Web development Committee</b> Written report, (Colin Knowles)  1. The Design phase of the new website has reached a conclusion. A review will be held with 3 of the Bristol group meeting Janet/Steve on December 4th, but no major modifications are expected.  2. A package of key documents is being put together prior to advertising for a Developer to undertake the development work.  3. Discussions have taken place with GreenNet about the costs</p>	

	<p>of hosting the new data-driven site. 4. The Development phase will require recruitment skills and review/rework skills. These are available in Bristol 1 those involved at the Bristol end are now suffering from project fatigue.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>a) The cost of a Drupal-powered data-driven website hosted by GreenNet is £350+VAT per year. We recommend going with that from 1st January 2013, paid out of recurrent expenditure. b) As we have not yet any bids from developers for the work package the following is recommended:</p> <p>a. That £1500 be allocated now for expenditure against this cost.  b. That should the bidding cost exceed £1500 then another £500 be available if required.  c. That these funds come from grants and savings  d. That should the developer require the use of a development site on GreenNet itself, the additional cost £85+VAT will be payable from these allocated funds.  e. That if the developer develops on their own Drupal installation we accept a transfer cost levied by GreenNet of £60/£120+VAT for the transfer over to be payable from these allocated funds.  f. That should the lowest worthwhile bid exceed the allocated budget then the Web Development Group will assess the options The £1500 requested spend (plus £500 provisional) not approved by the NC at this stage, and the NC also raised concerns that the web hosting they are proposing is much more sophisticated than what we need and an annual cost of £500pa definitely out of the question. Steve and Janet requested to explore this with them at the meeting , planned 4<sup>th</sup> December ; to report back to the next NC afterwards so a decision on expenditure can be made.</p>	Steve/Janet
5p	<p><b>Regional Reps</b></p> <p>No regional Reps present at the meeting other than Barbara and NC officers representing their home region. This is something that needs to be encouraged in future to raise the profile of NC and its decisions.</p> <p>The NC will in future email a summary of NC meeting minutes to each Regional Rep, for local group information and update. AJ to action.</p> <p>Steve to contact Regional Reps to prompt local publicity initiatives, such as posters, flyers etc about their local activities</p>	Adrian  Steve
6	<p><b>LMC /Hut. Dave Fisher (report attached).</b></p> <p>A detailed progress on the Beddgellert hut construction is attached. This is progressing well and internal fitting out has started.</p> <p>The LMC have asked for more money to fund the remaining work. The NC have clearly stated nothing more would be forthcoming from RR. It is understood the LMC will be seeking extra funding from the WDA or similar,  Barbara is now the bednight booker; and the necessary changes</p>	

	to booking procedures made on the website. She has had only one enquiry to date.	
7	<p><b>AGM 2013</b> Date set to 27-28 September 2013, subject to availability of a suitable base. The 'Big Moss' camp on Dudmaston Estate near Bridgnorth (National Trust) is proposed. Substantially cheaper than recent venues the cost of hiring the accommodation for the 2 nights would be £440 although only sleeps 30 (but camping permitted). Steve to visit and check it over for suitability. Limited public transport would be a problem, though in practise it seems few members chose to travel this way so might not be such an issue. Steve to report back to NC soonest so a booking can be made if suitable (understood to be currently available for the weekend 27-28 September) .</p>	Steve
9	<p><b>Forming an Eastern Region.</b> No response from the prospective group to the guidance sent by Janet. Steve to ask Janet to prompt them.</p>	Steve/Janet
10	<p><b>Additional Banding</b> No time to discuss, deferred to next NC</p>	Sherry
11	<p><b>Any other business.</b> <b>Future NC meetings</b> Locations discussed. To be day events, no more weekends as too costly. Next meeting (Saturday 23/2/2013) to be Manchester to hopefully bring along more Manchester/Merseyside representation. AJ to organise. Summer NC meeting - Saturday 22 June 2013, Sheffield. AJ to organise (help from Sheffield Rep?)</p>	Adrian Adrian
12	<p><b>Next NC Meeting</b> Type: National Committee Date: Saturday 23 February 2013 Venue: Manchester if suitable venue, otherwise elsewhere</p>	

## **Progress**

**Figure 1** is a recent photograph of the hut giving a general impression of the latest state of development.



**Figure 1** gives a general impression of the state of development at the time of the last report.

In actuality, progress is slightly in advance of the photograph. For example, the scaffolding has already been removed, and work has been undertaken on final installation of all windows. Whilst one of the external doors is also to be (or possibly has already been) fitted, the other doors will be temporarily blocked up until a more advanced state of internal work has been achieved. It is presumed that this will occur early in 2013. In the meantime the LMC has achieved their stated objective for 2012 of providing a water-tight building by the end of autumn.

## **Finance**

It is reported by LMC that they have spent £44K to date. This sum includes the Red Rope contribution of £10K. The LMC anticipate that a further £50K approx. is required to enable the hut's completion. Toward this end, a grant application has been submitted by the LMC to the Welsh Assembly. It is expected that news regarding this matter should be received within the next couple of weeks. Should this application prove unsuccessful then LMC plan to make an alternative application to Sports England early in 2013 (preparatory work for application has already commenced.) Conversely, if the Welsh Assembly grant application is successful, the Sports England application will still go ahead but with the intention of securing funding for enhanced facilities. These items being, for example, a telephone land-line, and mains water, and other items not currently budgeted for.

The aims stated at that time for further work were: installation of wooden rafters for the first floor; laying of temporary flooring to enable construction of supporting walls for steel

girders; commencement of work entailed with construction of the roof; achievement of a fully sealed structure by year's end.

**Figures 2, 3 and 4** give an indication of the further progress that has been achieved over the Summer of 2012 and up until the end of August 2012 (date of receipt of photographs).



**Figure 2. External View of Hut as at August 2012.**



**Figure 3. View of Internal Structure and Roof Detail as at August 2012.**



**Figure 4. View of Internal Structure and First Floor Construction Detail.**

It is evident that the external walls have now been completed up to the level of the eaves and ridges on all parts of the building structure. Roofing timbers have been installed on the two storey section. The single storey section is ready to accept roofing timbers. The steel supporting beams are now fully in place, and the internal walls are at an advanced state of completion (obviously awaiting finishing and decoration at a later date.) The first construction of the first floor also appears to be well advanced. In all it looks as though the stated aim of achieving a fully sealed structure in this current year is achievable.



## Publicity Discussion AGM - September 2012

### Summary - Good ideas to implement – publicity and NC as a whole

Facebook group – We really have to do this folks! Perhaps we should advertise for someone (does not have to be, but could be a younger member?) to set it up? Perhaps get some tips from Bristol about how they manage theirs?	<i>Action NC discuss</i>
Keep an eye on ‘Branding’ for a national feel to all our leaflets and online presence	<i>Publicity</i>
Darsham Woodcraft could maybe host some permanent publicity	<i>Action publicity?</i>
Ensure a supply of latest bulletins is sent to Lockerbrook and keep in touch about supply of leaflets	<i>Action publicity?</i>
Publicity CD of posters and good ideas – send copies out to regions	<i>Action publicity</i>
Sort out the Manchester blog (someone look after it or take it down, it’s so old! – it could at least have an updated section referring people to the main web-site nb. We could re-use the copy for a Manchester regional web page?)	<i>Action Manchester?</i>
Family friendly trips – NC to ensure there are some in the pipeline?	<i>Action National Trips? But needs a family person to organise or initiate?</i>
NC to play a role in Fostering New or floundering regions	<i>Membership and Publicity officers action?</i>
Should the NC discuss having a ‘younger members’ meet event?	<i>Action NC discuss</i>

Some general comments from the discussions

#### **How we use online social media - From PeteKos:**

Examples from

- the Rucksack MC - have Web Forum / Facebook Group / Emails
- And the Innominata MC - have the same

The Facebook group in particular has revolutionised involvement and participation and communication, plus a new sense of community.

**Website based forum and email** - these are used for more confidential discussions, trip-booking, discussion and committee matters

#### **Facebook**

The Facebook Group is used for:

Regular communication – spontaneous events (trips, parties, socials)

Banter – hilarity!

Photo-sharing!

Sense of community!

Suggestion – Co-opt a younger member to set this up and moderate it (accept friends etc)

### **General Discussion From the Group**

#### ***1) Where do we get our members from?***

Do we use Left-wing publications? – e.g. Morning Star carries an occasional advert – we don't know how – this may have been set up by Jan Lancaster some years ago

Leaflets – Olya found this drew lots of response in Newcastle, Bristol found it not much use

Remove Barriers to membership – e.g. it must be very easy to Join

e.g. Julian as a regional contact suggested that sending membership form out with an email in response to an enquiry made it more likely that people would use the form –

Make it Easy for them

Posters at climbing walls could emphasise our nurturing and skill-sharing aspect, our outdoor emphasis and that we welcome novices (NB. This only applies when you have climbers in the region, Janet)

London's yahoo group gets enquiries

Bristol Red Rope – have had a joint event with Stroud Labour party

#### ***2) Age***

This is seen as a barrier to using the networking and word of mouth method we have relied on so much. Our friends are also old – this will limit our activities and the range we cover as time goes on.

We could try a section for younger people, a meet-up with younger members group – but some people felt this would be wrong and against our ethos

#### ***3) Methods and resources***

Leaflets and their design

- Jules said he thought regions knew best about their own regions
- Barbara said she felt the 'National' perspective had been lost and there was a need for national branding
- Andy said 'regionalism' could be divisive

#### ***Regional vs national?***

NB. Janet's view – regional activities and emphasis tend to be very different, to do with where they are based, what members want to do, climbing/walking members, facilities and transport links in the region, distances between members, to name a few factors, even though the club ethos as a whole is the same. National branding is a good idea though for consistency across website / Facebook?/ leaflets

Woodcraft links – Pauline mentioned the facility at Darsham could also host an exhibition and we should make links with them

We should plan family friendly trips

For sharing ideas – we need a CD of stuff to send out to regions, easier than hosting it on a file system with a password – probably good to have both

#### ***4) How can NC help regions?***

Steve – role could be to help foster regions in areas with few members?

Also discussed the national mailing list – which was an open list

Also reminded people there was a way of reaching all regions via:  
regionalcontacts@redrope.org.uk

**5) *Welcoming Culture***

We should emphasise the nurturing culture of the club, it is special

Be explicit about us and our ethos

Make it clear you can go on other regions trips

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